



ALL SAINTS'

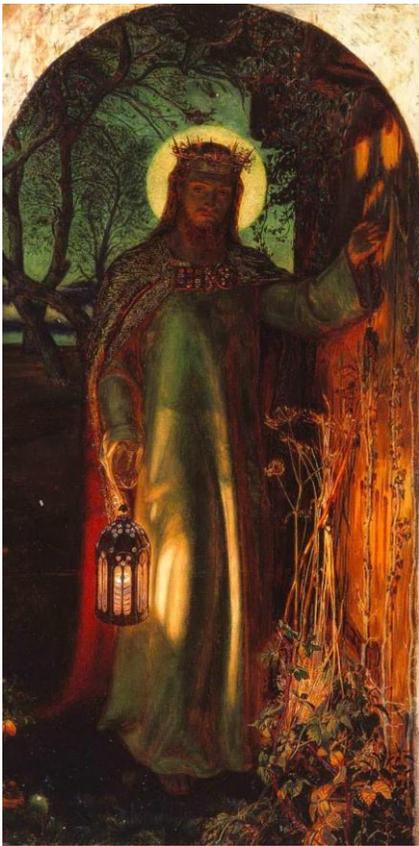
CHURCH

"Our mission is to bring the good news of Jesus Christ's love to our entire community through traditional Anglo-Catholic worship, fellowship, outreach, and Christian formation."

Our Vision: *"We strive to be a haven of healing, reconciliation, joy and peace in service to our wider community and beyond, so that our example in prayer and practice may reflect Christ's love for us all."*

THIS SUNDAY — November 28 Beyond

Putting on the Armor of Light



As November comes to its end and the last month of the year approaches, what comes to most people's minds in our society is that the Christmas holidays are at hand.

The stores are already full of Christmas decorations and themes, radio stations broadcast Christmas carols and songs, and people are encouraged to buy presents for family and friends. "It's the most wonderful time of the year" as the well-known song proclaims.

But what is actually wonderful about it?

First of all, what our modern secularized society has done is de-Christianize Christmas. In schools and public places it is much more common to hear "Happy holidays" than "Merry Christmas". The explanation for this is that in a multicultural society as ours people from other religious (or non-religious) backgrounds may feel uncomfortable with the imposition of a Christian celebration on their lives.

The fact is that Christmas, despite the obvious overlapping of dates and some traditions with pagan religions, IS a Christian celebration. For Christians it is the

celebration of God's incarnation on this planet. That is the real wonderful news that Christmas conveys. All other notions of "a time to be reconciled and live in peace and harmony" are directly derived from the wonderful mystery that Our Creator emptied Himself of His glory and became flesh as the baby Jesus.

Moreover, Christmas is a season that comprises 12 days, from December 25 to January 5. The well-known English carol "The Twelve Days of Christmas" attests to this fact.

So we are not in the Christmas season yet. We are starting the Christian year with the season of Advent, a season that comprises four weeks.

The season of Advent is mainly a season of expectation and preparation for the mystery of Incarnation. As such, it may be thought of as a joyous time, but it also implies a penitential aspect that has often been overlooked in the last decades.

The readings for Advent, however, are clear in pointing out to us Christians that this is a time in which we need to "cast away the works of darkness and put on the armor of light" as the collect for this first Sunday of Advent says.

As we get ready to celebrate the wonderful mystery of God made flesh, we are also preparing to receive Him in our own lives, and look forward to a time when He will be the absolute ruler of the world.

This is the triple past-present-future perspective of Advent, which must in fact be the constant perspective in our lives.

But there can be no true preparation without purification. The rooms of our lives need to be decluttered and cleansed, if we are to receive Him who is light and life made flesh.

So let us take the reading of scripture seriously, pray, meditate, and do good deeds for our neighbors, so that with the aid of the Holy Spirit, we may leave behind what keeps us away from God's love and from the love of one another. Only after we have tried our best to do so, can we come to the Christmas season with the genuine feeling that it is actually "the most wonderful time of the year."

Fr. Carlos E. Expósito, Rector

Readings for this Sunday – The First Sunday of Advent

Zechariah 14:4-9 Psalm 50:1-6 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 Luke 21:25-31

CALENDAR

Note: We are worshipping in our historic church. The service will also be on Zoom. The service time is 10am. Tuesday Noon Mass and Friday Morning Prayer are held in All Saints' St. Mary Chapel.

SUNDAY The First Sunday of Advent

10:00am Mass in All Saints' Church

Join Zoom Meeting from our web site at www.allsaintschurch.org

Recording of Mass available before noon at www.allsaintschurch.org

Christian Formation and First Communion Instruction for Children

Ages 5-12 in the Parish Hall from 10:00am-10:45am

Christian Formation gathering at 11:30am in the Rector's study

TUESDAY Noon Mass in St. Mary Chapel

WEDNESDAY Spanish Classes is on hiatus and will resume on December 1 from 5:30pm to 7:30pm in the Parish Hall taught by Fr. Carlos Expósito

FRIDAY 10:00am Morning Prayer in St. Mary's Chapel

SUNDAY The Second Sunday of Advent

10:00am Mass in All Saints' Church

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Christian Formation and First Communion Instruction for Children

Ages 5-12 in the Parish Hall from 10:00am-10:45am

OUR CORE VALUES:

- Welcoming strangers like old friends
- Embracing the Anglo-Catholic tradition
- Being dependable members of a caring community
- Respecting each other's differences
- Being faithful stewards of God's gift
- Remembering that God loves everyone unconditionally

An Anglo-Catholic Parish in the Episcopal Diocese of San Diego
www.allsaintschurch.org