



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 — December 26 & Beyond

"The Turning Point"



Christmas is almost here now, and this year I have heard on the radio statements like these: "This has to be a doubly special Christmas."

I suppose what they mean is that after all we have been through this year, with the Covid-19 pandemic killing so many, and disrupting everyone's lives, together with other social injustice issues that we have had to face, we all need to be "merry and bright" for a while.

There is nothing wrong with being "merry and bright", with the social gatherings, the presents, the beautiful decorations, the family meals, etc. The problem is that when we focus only on these we may lose sight of the main thing.

What Christmas celebrates is actually the greatest turning point ever. There is a perfectly good reason to feel not only "merry and bright" but overjoyed and exultant in the highest degree.

The writer of the Letter to the Hebrews in Chapter 1 makes this point perfectly clear when he states:

“Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, Whom He appointed heir of all things, through Whom He also created the worlds.”

What the writer is saying is that God’s Word, the Son of the Father of all, by Whom all that is came into being, has come to live with us in flesh and bones.

Some of the prophets, like Isaiah, had already mentioned that a son of God would come to us as a child, and even if the prophet was not referring to the Messiah, but to an earthly king who would reign with justice and peace, the fact is that New Testament writers saw in these references a prefiguration of the Christ.

What the writer of Hebrews refers to here is what theologians call the great mystery of God’s Incarnation. And this is what the Christmas celebrations are really about.

What we celebrate is a wonderful mystery indeed. It is God Himself coming to live with us humans. God made flesh in the womb of the Virgin Mary by the power of the Holy Spirit and being born, according to St. Luke the Evangelist, in the town of Bethlehem (The House of Bread), which was the same town where David had been born and raised.

Never before had God become so approachable, so tangible, so close to us. His revelation was now made perfect for us. The Light that had before shone in His glorious deeds of liberation, and in His words communicated to the people through the prophets, was now shining in the face of a human baby who would become the man known as Jesus Christ.

And this Jesus Christ would show forth God’s Light in His words and deeds, and in His unconditional love towards humankind and the whole of Creation, which would demand His self-sacrifice on the cross.

After this happened, those who have heard or read the Good News of salvation, handed down from generation to generation by the New Testament writers, can no longer claim that they do not know who their God is. God has made Himself known to us in human form, and He has shown us the Way of Love as the true way to life everlasting.

We can choose to follow this Way of Life or reject it, but we can no longer claim ignorance. His Light has been clearly revealed to us.

So Christmas is the time of the greatest joy and exultation, a joy that surpasses our understanding and is certainly a million times more than being “merry and bright”. It is the time when we celebrate the greatest turning point in human lives.

Fr. Carlos E. Expósito, Rector

Readings for this Sunday – The First Sunday after Christmas

Isaiah 61:1-6, 9 Psalm 147:13-21 Galatians 3:23-25, 4:4-7 John 1:1-18

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 after Christmas

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

1:00pm Mass in Spanish St. Mary Chapel

TUESDAY Noon Mass in St. Mary Chapel

WEDNESDAY Spanish Classes from 5:30pm to 7:30pm in the Rector's Office taught by Fr. Carlos Expósito

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

SUNDAY The Second Sunday after Christmas

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

1:00pm Mass in Spanish St. Mary Chapel

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