



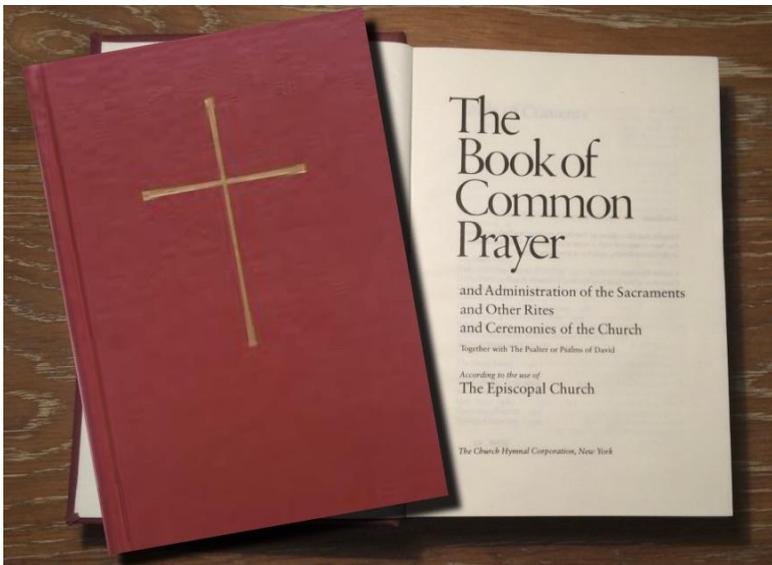
ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

"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 —September 18 & Beyond

"Praying for Those Who Govern?"



In the different editions of the Book of Common Prayer of the Episcopal Church, as well as in the other Books of Common Prayer in the Anglican Communion, going back to the first one composed by Thomas Cranmer, there have always been collects and prayers for persons of all sorts and conditions,

but also special prayers for those in government positions, including monarchs and presidents.

Although there may be some people who may object to the practice of praying for those in charge of government, particularly when it is someone whose policies they find contrary to Christian principles, this practice has been and continues to be an essential part of the Catholic tradition of the Church.

I remember that while living in Cuba and serving as a priest there, I tried to avoid praying for the president of the nation, mainly because I found his government tyrannical, and I knew that he himself was a confessed atheist who would have been happy to see Christianity blotted away in that nation.

Even so, though I struggled with my personal feelings deep inside, I prayed for him out loud (though not in private, I need to confess) because I knew that by doing so I was following the practice of the Church throughout the centuries.

Where does this practice come from?

In his First Letter to Timothy, chapter 2, the Apostle Paul begins with these words: “First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all goodness and dignity. This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.”

So we can see this practice was highly encouraged by the Apostle Paul himself. It is, therefore, a foundational apostolic practice, and departing from it can only mean denying the apostolic faith we have received.

Can we be led to think that Paul encouraged this practice because he was convinced that the rulers of the nations in his time were true representatives of God’s rule?

It would be naïve to think so. In Paul’s writings we can always notice the opposition that he makes between God’s rule and the rulers of this world. He was well aware that unjust rulers had put Christ and many of His followers to death. He Himself had been unjustly imprisoned by the rulers of his time, so he clearly understands the injustice and inadequacy of such earthly rulers, even though he does advise in his Letter to the Romans that we must submit to civil authorities.

His advice to submit to civil authorities is based on the fact that if we act properly in society according to our true conscience, there should not be any contradiction with the authorities that enforce the laws that make peaceful interactions possible in society.

However, Paul himself was outspokenly opposed to these civil authorities when they proposed that he stop spreading the Good News of Salvation in Jesus Christ's name. Praying for everyone everywhere is an intrinsic part of our faith. We should earnestly wish deep in our hearts that salvation may come to each human creature created by God, even when they harm us. Jesus Himself urged us to pray for our enemies.

Praying for those in government positions should have a special place in our Christian practice, simply because these persons' attitudes and behaviors not only affect them personally, but have a direct impact on thousands or millions of people on this planet, and can even determine whether there is peace or war in some parts of the world.

When we pray for people in government positions, we should honestly pray for their souls, that they may be touched by the Holy Spirit, and can receive God's saving grace, but also that their hearts and minds can be so transformed that they may become instruments of God's government of peace, justice, harmony, and love.

Now more than ever we need to pray incessantly for persons of all sorts and conditions, and especially for those in government positions, that this hurt and mad world may be transformed into a closer version to God's intended good world for all His creatures.

Fr. Carlos E. Expósito. Rector

Readings for The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Amos 8:4-7 1 Timothy 2:1-8 Psalm 138 Luke 16:1-13

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 Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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 every second and fourth Sunday of the month at

11:30am Topic: Communicating with God Rector's Study

A Spanish Mass will be held on the first, second, fourth (and fifth)

Sundays each month at 1pm. Everyone is welcome.

TUESDAY Noon Mass in St. Mary Chapel

THURSDAY Spanish Class 1:00pm to 3:00pm in the Flower Room. Taught by Fr. Carlos

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

SUNDAY The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

10:00am Mass in All Saints' Church

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

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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