



# ALL SAINTS'

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## 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 — January 16 & Beyond

### "The Joy of Union"



The Second Sunday after Epiphany in Year C always brings us John's Gospel reading with the account of the wedding at Cana. This is referred to by the Evangelist as Jesus' first miracle or sign that prompted his closest followers to believe in Him.

For the Jewish people weddings were a major event that lasted several days, and the joy and merriment of the participants, including the groom and bride, presupposed the abundant drinking of wine. There had to be a good provision of wine so that people kept on dancing and laughing, expressing their joy for the union of two people who would be starting a new family in the community.

It is known that excessive drinking of wine is not a healthy practice, but I think we may excuse the newly-wed couples and their relatives and friends for doing it during these particularly special occasions.

What the bride and the bridegroom celebrated together with the accompanying relatives and friends was the most intimate of unions, what the first book of the Bible describes as "becoming one flesh." The verb used in Hebrew to refer to the physical intercourse between two persons is the same as for "knowing". That means that during this intercourse the two persons become as one and really get to know each other.

So for the Hebrews marriage was of paramount importance. It was sacred and blessed by God Himself. This intimate union between two persons was like a symbol of the union of God to His people, and the union that God's people were expected to have with one another.

God's favor towards His chosen people is depicted in the Book of Isaiah as the delight that the bridegroom has in the bride, and the way he rejoices over her.

When Jesus was invited to this wedding at Cana with His mother and His disciples, and they ran out of wine, Jesus' mother immediately realized that this could put an end to the rejoicing, and to the celebration itself. This was no minor issue. It was something that needed to be remedied at once.

Mary used her motherly influence, in spite of Jesus' protests, to prompt Him to avert the disaster. And Jesus turned the water into wine. But not just any wine, but the best wine, according to the chief steward in the party.

Jesus may not have been ready to show His life-giving powers yet. But deep inside He knew His mother was right. The rejoicing at the intimate union of these two persons could not be marred. It had to be saved. And it was done in the abundant and excellent way that only God's Son could make possible.

There is great joy both on earth and in the heavens when two souls are united because union based on love is the essence of our true being in God. May we always greatly rejoice in these unions, and may we strive for the greater union of all souls in love, which is the final goal of creation.

Fr. Carlos E. Expósito, Rector

Readings for this Sunday – The Second Sunday after The Epiphany

Isaiah 62:1-5 Psalm 96:1-10 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 John 2:1-11

## 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 Second Sunday after the Epiphany

**10:00am Mass in All Saints' Church**

Join Zoom Meeting from our web site at [www.allsaintschurch.org](http://www.allsaintschurch.org)

Recording of Mass available before noon at [www.allsaintschurch.org](http://www.allsaintschurch.org)

**Christian Formation and First Communion Instruction for Children**

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

**TUESDAY** Noon Mass in St. Mary Chapel

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

**SUNDAY** The Third Sunday after the Epiphany

**10:00am Mass in All Saints' Church**

Join Zoom Meeting from our web site at [www.allsaintschurch.org](http://www.allsaintschurch.org)

Recording of Mass available before noon at [www.allsaintschurch.org](http://www.allsaintschurch.org)

**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

An Anglo-Catholic Parish in the Episcopal Diocese of San Diego  
[www.allsaintschurch.org](http://www.allsaintschurch.org)