



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 — February 13 & Beyond

"The Cornerstone of our Faith"



We all love Christmas with its wonderful decorations and carols, and the feeling of goodwill and love it entails, apart from the fact that the real message it conveys—that God has become man in Jesus—is one of the main tenets of the

Christian faith.

However, whether we like to admit it or not, it is not Christmas but Easter that is the real cornerstone of our faith. In fact, Christmas celebrations were a much later addition to the traditions of the Church, whereas from the very beginning Jesus' followers gathered for the weekly commemoration of Christ's death and resurrection in the Eucharist, and it soon became a tradition to celebrate His passion, death, and resurrection yearly, with Easter as the core of all Christian life.

When we read the Gospels we realize that the four evangelists dedicated a lengthy part of their writings to narrate the events leading to the crucifixion and resurrection of our Lord. There is no real good news without Jesus being raised from the dead, and without the promise that His followers would share in the same resurrected life.

The Christian hope can be put in a nutshell by referring to Christ's resurrection as the "first fruit of those who have died", as Paul puts it in his first letter to the Corinthians. So what we hope for is what was manifested in Jesus Christ after God raised Him from the dead. A totally new life, an abundant life in perfect communion with the Creator,

with our fellow human beings, and all of Creation. A life filled with authentic joy, love, harmony, where justice and peace kiss each other, where decay, sickness, injustice, and death have been done away with.

This is only possible through God's infinite loving grace. We have not earned this as a reward for our righteousness. It is through God's all-encompassing love, made manifest in Jesus' self-sacrifice that we will inherit this promised new life in our resurrected bodies.

Resurrection poses lots of problems to human reasoning and logic. How can this be? How does it happen? What kind of body is a resurrected body? How can a joyful life be lived out of one's own time frame? Can we be happy sharing our lives with those who wronged us and those we wronged? Can we be happy sharing our lives with those who are different from us?

Obviously there has to be a deep inner transformation in us so that this promised new life can really be a joyful one for us. Only through the transforming power of the Holy Spirit can we learn to forgive and be forgiven, to include those whom we see as "different" or "alien", to open up our hearts and minds to what goes beyond our preconceptions modeled after our cultural patterns, and to begin to model our lives after Jesus' radical Way of Love.

For some, even within our churches, the problems seem unsurmountable, and there is a tendency to disregard resurrection as a reality and replace it with some other more "logical" notions, like "a life lived in love", "becoming part of the infinity of the universe", or some others.

As promising as these or some other alternatives may sound, even if they contain some part of the reality of resurrection, this is not the true Christian hope.

In his first letter to the Corinthians, Chapter 15, Saint Paul is adamant about this. He clearly states, "If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain.

...If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied."

When it comes to resurrection, there are no middle grounds. Resurrection, as Paul points out, is either real and the very core of our faith, or false and the vainest of hopes.

Are we Christians to be pitied, or are we the ones who have the assuredness of the greatest of all lives as our true hope?

Fr. Carlos E. Expósito, Rector

Readings for this Sunday – The Sixth Sunday after The Epiphany

Jeremiah 17:5-10 Psalm 1 1 Corinthians 15:12-20 Luke 6:17-26

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 Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany

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

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

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

SUNDAY The Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany

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

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