



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 — March 20 & Beyond

"Repentance and God's Grace"



When confronted with the reality of our tendency to fall back into our old habits and addictions, even when we have already experienced the blessing of embracing Jesus' Way of Love and decided to follow Him, we may feel particularly angry with

ourselves, or even hopeless and unworthy of God's love.

However, Jesus and His first followers, who were grounded in the Old Testament tradition, were well aware of this human tendency, and warned about the need to embrace a repenting attitude at all times.

Repentance is what takes us back to what is most authentic within us: our true nature in God.

Authentic repentance is a truly transforming process. It starts with a deep feeling of regret for what we have realized that separates us from God's Way of Love, but it must not stay at this primary stage. If it does, it may become a hindrance rather than a tool that enables us move forward into redemption. A heart full of regrets, hopelessness and guilt, and will not help us in our movement towards a transformed life.

We should not think, as Paul makes clear in his first letter to the Corinthians, that God is willing to put us to tests we cannot endure so that we inevitably fall back into sin.

What Paul insists on is that we should be on the alert for the temptations to fall back into the old ways, and also assures us that the tests we go through in life will never be too much for us to overcome with the help of God's grace.

The cycle of repentance can only be completed when we have left the old ways behind and have changed our mindsets and habits, broken away from the addictions that enslaved us, and have made retributions, when needed and possible, to those whom we have hurt.

Repentance is possible because of God's loving grace to restore us to a close relationship with Him. This restoration implies forgiveness, and we need to forgive ourselves also if we are to move forward in this relationship.

Forgiving ourselves does not mean that we forget our wrongdoings or pretend they never happened. What it does mean is the conviction that God's grace restores us to a loving relationship with Him and with one another, and that we are now free and guilt-ridden, ready to bear the fruits of love our Creator has always intended us to bear.

In this Sunday's Gospel reading, Jesus stresses the need of repentance in our lives, but He also assures of God's loving grace, which will always give us a new opportunity, even when our lives may seem totally devoid of the fruits of love, and with the Holy Spirit's help, dig up and fertilize, in the hope that next time the fruits will be there for all to savor and be blessed with.

Fr. Carlos E. Expósito, Rector

Readings for this Sunday – The Third Sunday in Lent

Exodus 3:1-15 Psalm 103:1-11 1 Corinthians 10:1-13 Luke 13:1-9

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 during Lent Friday 11:30am in St. Mary Chapel The Great Litany followed by the Stations of the Cross

SUNDAY The Third Sunday in Lent

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

1:00pm Mass in Spanish St. Mary Chapel will be held on the first, second, fourth (and fifth) Sundays. Everyone is welcome.

TUESDAY: Noon Mass in All Saints' St. Mary Chapel followed by a fellowship snack in the Flower Room.

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

FRIDAY The Great Litany, at 11:30 am followed by the Via Crucis (the Stations of the Cross) at Noon in St. Mary Chapel

SUNDAY The Fourth Sunday in Lent

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 at 11:30am *Studying Sacred Earth, Sacred Soul* by John Philip Newel – Rector's Study

1:00pm Mass in Spanish St. Mary Chapel will be held on the first, second, fourth (and fifth) Sundays. Everyone is welcome.

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