



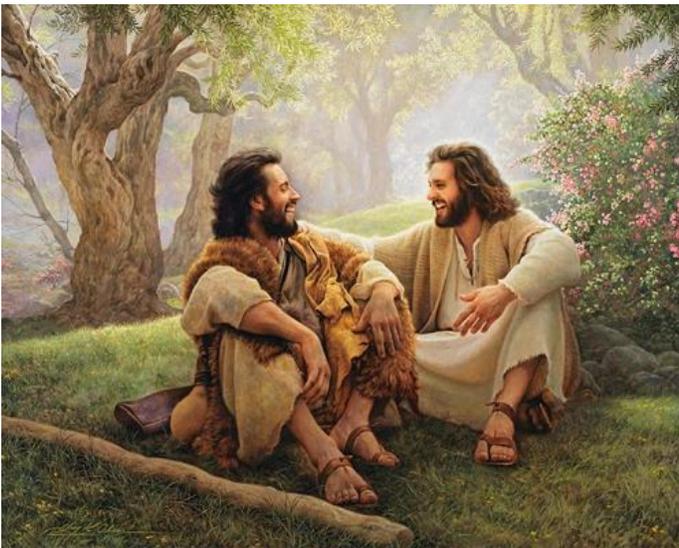
ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

"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 12 & Beyond

A Good Reason for Boasting



Boasting does not look like a good habit. When someone is always boasting about personal traits or achievements, or about possessing big amounts of money or material wealth, it may be irritating indeed!

It is even worse when someone boasts about spiritual achievements or moral stature. That is often accompanied by bigotry and judgmental attitudes which hide themselves behind the guise of making others better if they only rise to the “heights” of the boaster (but the boaster has already secretly decided that they hardly ever attain this goal).

A boaster will always attribute whatever achievement they boast of to their own efforts—or good luck if they are boasting of inherited wealth or winning the lottery.

However, when you feel genuinely joyful and grateful for attaining something that has been freely given to you, out of pure love, and not because you believe you have earned it, then your boasting can be legitimate, and it will surely be appreciated as something positive to be emulated by all.

This is the boasting St. Paul is referring to in his letter to the Romans. In chapter 5, he affirms that because we have been justified by faith, and through Jesus Christ obtained access to His grace, we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God.

Notice that Paul is making it perfectly clear that what we have obtained is not the result of our own doing, but is the outcome of God's unconditional love expressed through the self-sacrifice of His beloved Son.

Furthermore—and this may seem paradoxical—Paul states that we also boast in our sufferings.

Why should anyone boast in their sufferings?

It is not a matter of idealizing suffering and making it a goal in our lives. We have not been created for suffering, but for joy. Nobody should strive to suffer. But in Paul's time many who followed Jesus' Way—including Paul himself—were suffering because of their convictions and relentless proclamation of Jesus' Good News of salvation.

Suffering for the best of causes; that is, for sharing in God's glory, is more than worthwhile. And this suffering, as Paul says, produces endurance, which in turn produces character, and this character produces hope.

Paul is not talking about a vainly invented hope, but about the hope that does not disappoint us, "because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us."

As we journey into the Season of Lent this year, we need to go deeper into the understanding of the real dimension of God's love for us all. In the chapter of the letter to the Romans we have referred to he gives us a picture of the greatness of Christ's loving sacrifice for us in the following way:

"For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us."

In other words, we are the recipients of undeserved, immeasurable, grace filled love!

This is a good reason for boasting. It is the only good reason for boasting, and the most legitimate one!

Rev. Carlos Expósito

Readings for The Third Sunday in Lent

Exodus 17:1-7 Romans 5:1-11 Psalm 95:6-11 John 4:5-26, 39-42

CALENDAR

Note: We continue worshipping in our historic church. The service will also be on Zoom. The service time is 10am. Tuesday Noon Mass and Friday The Great Litany at 11:30am; Via Crucis at Noon in All Saints' Church.

SUNDAY March 12, 2023 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

Christian Formation Meets this Sunday, March 12 in the

Rector's Office. Lenten Study: The Three Conversions of the Christian Life

TUESDAY 12:00pm Mass St. Mary Chapel

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

FRIDAY 11:30am The Great Litany; Noon Via Crucis in All Saints' Church

SUNDAY March 19, 2023 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 Meets next on March 26 at Noon in the Rector's
Office. Lenten Study: The Three Conversions of the Christian Life

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