



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 — April 16, 2023

“An Imperishable Inheritance”



Easter Day was only last Sunday and what most people in our nation and the world probably remember is the festivities: the meals shared with family and friends, the children having fun with egg hunts and special treats.

Those who are affiliated to a Christian church will likely remember a lovely and memorable service with beautiful white and multicolored flowers and resounding joyous hymns, and, in some cases, an interesting sermon as well.

But is that all there is to Easter?

The celebration of Christ's resurrection is and will always be the most relevant one in the Christian year, simply because the whole Christian faith is dependent on the Easter event.

Had it not been for Jesus Christ's resurrection, history would perhaps remember a master of philosophy and religion who was born in Judea more than 2000 years ago, who left a valuable legacy of sage sayings and good advice to live a virtuous life, and who gave a great example of virtue in his own life, by showing his great love for humankind.

Thanks to Jesus' resurrection, however, there was a total transformation in the world of His time, which has had the greatest impact in the history of humanity even in our days.

By being raised from the dead by God, Jesus Christ proved to His followers that the victory of the dark forces of evil and death over Him, who had given Himself up in unconditional love for all, was only temporary, and that God's powers of life and love always have the last word.

Moreover, it showed to all of His followers then, now, and in the future, that we can all be partakers of His victory, so that death and evil are no longer to be feared, because He has already conquered them for us.

Peter, the disciple who denied his beloved master three times during His arrest and trial, but whom Jesus Himself restored to a loving relationship with Him after His resurrection, boldly proclaimed to all the truth about His risen Lord, in the face of great opposition from the Jewish authorities.

In the Book of Acts of the Apostles we find some of Peter's eloquent addresses to the Jews, and we also read how he and the other apostles were threatened and imprisoned on several occasions for proclaiming Jesus' resurrection and His saving power.

In his First Letter, chapter 1, verses 3 to 9, Peter refers to the impact that Jesus' resurrection has had on them and on those who would follow on His Way of Love, in these unmatched clear terms: "By His great mercy He (God) has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."

So according to Peter it was the Easter event (Jesus' resurrection) that has brought about this new birth for all who follow Him in faith. Without it, none of this would have been possible.

Peter was also aware that, like him and the other apostles, all those who genuinely decided to follow the resurrected Jesus in faith would experience trials and persecutions at the hands of those who opposed God's love and truth.

He compares these trials with the testing by fire that gold has to undergo, but declares that the faith of those who follow Jesus' Way is even more precious than gold.

He ends this passage by describing what it means for Jesus' followers to believe in Him, even if they can no longer see Him with their physical eyes. In Peter's words, the true believers "rejoice with an indescribable joy", for they are "receiving the outcome of their faith, the salvation of their souls."

May we truly believe in Jesus' resurrection—the foretaste of our own resurrection—and also receive the salvation of our souls.

Fr. Carlos Espósito

Readings for Second Sunday after Easter

Acts 2:14a, 22-32 1 Peter 1:3-9 Psalm 111 John 20:19-31

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 Morning Prayer at 10:00am are held in All Saints' St. Mary Chapel.

SUNDAY April 16, 2023 Second Sunday of Easter

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 April 23 at Noon in the Rector's Office. Book Study: The Three Conversions of the Christian Life

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 April 23, 2023 The Third Sunday of Easter

10:00am Mass in All Saints' Church

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

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Office. Book 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