



# 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 —January 1 & Beyond

### The Name above Every Name



Coming from a country where Spanish is spoken (Cuba) it has always called my attention that in English-speaking countries it is not the custom to name anyone Jesus, while in Spanish-speaking countries Jesús is an extremely common name.

It seems that the rationale behind not naming anyone Jesus in English-speaking countries has to do with the recognition that this name is the holiest of names, and no one is deserving of it. This comes from the Christian tradition, of course, but even nowadays it has been perpetuated by custom.

The fact is that in Jesus' time this was a common name. It was actually the same name of the sixth book of the Bible (Joshua), which means *God saves*. To be sure, our Savior shared his name with many other people in the region, though perhaps not with so many in Nazareth, which was a rather small town, and for this reason he became popularly known as Jesus of Nazareth.

Names for the Jewish people were not just a way of identifying persons and distinguishing them from others. They were supposed to define the person, to specify the character and even the mission of that person in life. We can see examples of this throughout the Bible, when God even changed a person's name for the new mission that person was to accomplish: Abram to Abraham, Jacob to Israel.

Though traditionally names were repeated within families, to signify that the persons in that family had similar traits and missions in life, there were times when the tradition was broken, mainly when it was God's given mission for that person. Everyone was surprised in Zechariah's family when Elizabeth and Zechariah insisted on naming the child John (graced by God), because that was not a name that ran in that family. But this name had been given to the child by God Himself through an angel that appeared to Zechariah before Elizabeth got pregnant.

Our Savior also got His name before He was born, when the angel appeared to Mary before she had conceived from the Holy Spirit and announced to her what her mission and this child's mission would be. The angel reiterated this name to Joseph when he appeared to him in a dream and assured him that he should marry his betrothed one because what was conceived in her was from the Holy Spirit.

The name given to our Savior clearly showed His main mission—to save us all from the slavery of sin and death—but it is obvious that in His time this name was not exclusive to His person.

In his letter to the Philippians, the Apostle Paul, in chapter 2, refers to Jesus' name in different terms. He says that God gave Him “the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

It is evident that Paul is not referring to the mere meaning of the name—God saves—but is using the word *name* with a deeper meaning, pointing to the very essence and being of Jesus as God's beloved Son.

And in pointing to this essence, Paul is exhorting Jesus' followers to imitate Jesus' attitude. The passage we have as the second reading for this Sunday (Philippians 2: 9-13) begins with the word *therefore*, so in order to fully understand why the writer states

that God exalted Jesus to the highest place and gave Him the name that is above every name it is essential to read what comes before.

Here, Paul writes this about Jesus' attitude:

“Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made Himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled Himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross!

This is the essence of Incarnation, what we celebrate at Christmas time. In theological terms it is known by a Greek term—*kenosis*—which means *self-emptying*. In other words, it means that God poured Himself out in love for us in the person of Jesus Christ.

Apart from all other linguistic considerations, this is the real reason why Jesus' name is the holiest of names, and why, according to Paul in this same text, we need to “continue to work out our own salvation **with fear and trembling**, for it is God who is at work in us, enabling us both to will and to work for His good pleasure.

The Rev. Carlos Expósito

Readings for The Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus

Exodus 34:1-8    Philipines 2:9-13    Psalm 8    Luke 2:15-21

## 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 Mass at 10:00am are held in All Saints' St. Mary Chapel.

**SUNDAY    January 1, 2023    The Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus**

**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**

**Christian Formation Meets at Noon in January on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>**  
**Topic: Communicating with God--Meets in the Rector's Study**

**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 Mass in St. Mary Chapel**

**SUNDAY First Sunday after Epiphany**

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

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

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### **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)