



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 22 & Beyond

Diversity Is Not Division



Diversity has become a fashionable term in the last decades, especially in democratic societies like ours, and it has always been a foundational principle of this nation, expressed in the Latin motto “e pluribus unum”, meaning “out of many, one”.

The faith we profess is based on the One and Only God in three Persons, which also reminds us of diversity in unity, but at the same time we are constantly reminded that it is One and the Same Spirit that bestows all the diverse gifts on the believers, and that Christ is One and the Same yesterday, today, and always.

As Paul himself points out in his letters, particularly in 1 Corinthians 12, there is a vital need for the diverse gifts that the Spirit gives to different members of Christ's church, because only through this wonderful diversity can the different ministries be carried out efficiently for the proper growth and development of Christ's body on earth.

To make this idea clearer, Paul uses the image of the human body with its different parts, and how all these parts work together in harmony to make it up and enable it to function properly. He somewhat hilariously points out how inadequate and absurd it would be if the whole body were made up of only one part.

In the same way, we as church members need to understand the blessing of diversity, and how vital it is to have people with varied gifts, vocations, and talents, so that the different tasks can be carried out harmoniously and efficiently for God's glory and the good of His people.

But diversity and disunity should never be confused. Diversity leads to an abundance of ministries and blessings. Disunity and division lead to the weakening, and eventually the death of a congregation.

To keep our unity, we must first and foremost clearly understand who our Great Shepherd is, and who we must turn our eyes to and keep our eyes fixed on, at all times: Jesus Christ our Lord. If we forget that, we are prone to fall into the traps of disunity.

For a good reason the name of the evil one (Satan) literally means "the adversary", "one who is opposed". His main strategy is always to divide us from God and from one another, to split us apart so that harmony ceases and chaos ensues.

Disunity has subtle ways of creeping into congregations. The evil one is sly indeed and does not often present division as a clear goal, but as a way of defending a certain position or idea, which may look good indeed, even from the Christian standpoint.

One of the ways in which disunity is created is through the exclusive following of certain leaders, who seem to us as the ones who are doing things in the right way, or whose personalities are more in sync with ours.

One of the reasons why it is healthy for a congregation to change priests after a certain number of years is precisely that. It teaches them to look at things from different perspectives from time to time, and it also teaches them who the real shepherd of the flock has always been, is, and will be: Christ Our Lord.

Priests come and go, but the church remains, because it is Christ's church, not this or that leader's church.

The danger of division has been with the Church since its earliest times. In 1 Corinthians 1 Paul addresses this problem in the recently founded church at Corinth.

Starting at verse 10 he addresses the Corinthian converts with these words: “I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose...” And then he uses some good irony when he says, “What I mean is that each of you says, ‘I belong to Paul’, or ‘I belong to Apollos’, or ‘I belong to Cephas’, or ‘I belong to Christ.’ Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?”

Diversity is great, but divisiveness can totally destroy a congregation, and even worse, become an obstacle for the spreading of Christ’s News of Salvation.

If those who have not received the Good News see that we, who present ourselves as the proclaimers of this News, are divided among ourselves, will they even consider listening to us? Think.

Rev. Carlos Expósito

Readings for The Third Sunday after Epiphany

Amos 3:1-8 1 Corinthians 1:10-17 Psalm 139:1-11 Matthew 4:12-23

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 January 22, 2023 The Third Sunday after 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 Meets at Noon in January on the 29th
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 Morning Prayer in St. Mary Chapel

SUNDAY January 29, 2023 The Fourth Sunday after 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

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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