



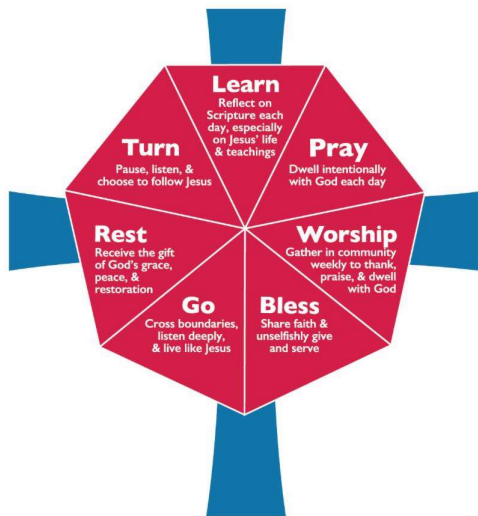
ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

"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 — February 12 & Beyond

“Mature In Christ”



THE WAY OF LOVE *Practices for Jesus-Centered Life*

Discipleship for followers of Christ involves a lifetime of learning and maturing in our faith, in Jesus' radical Way of Love, which is the perfect reflection of God's all-embracing love for all His creatures.

From the moment a person embraces this faith, a new path opens up for this person to grow and mature, to become more Christ-like, and to be the pure image of the Creator that they have always been meant to be.

Regaining our true identity as God's children can only be achieved in a gradual and persevering process, and each person travels this path in their own unique way.

One thing is certain though, we cannot achieve this goal by our own efforts only. We need God's help and grace, which He is willing to give to us, if our desire for Him is genuine.

This process requires that we become obedient to God, that we follow what God commands, and do His will through our words and actions, which stem from our thoughts.

Obedience is one of those qualities which has lately been disregarded as something positive for humans in the last decades. It has been equated to subserviency, which is a great mistake.

One should certainly not be obedient to those who demand something from us for their own sake. Tyrants demand obedience from those under their governance, but their only concern is how to get the most out of those they govern.

When parents ask their children to obey them, in most cases they do so out of love, because they know their children are still not capable of making mature and sensible decisions for themselves, and want to protect them as much as they can.

Our heavenly Father, likewise, guides us through commandments that help us to avoid unnecessary suffering and mistakes in our relationships with Him and with one another. This is why commandments were given to the people through leaders like Moses.

But our God also wants and needs us to mature. When parents see their children grow in physical stature and strength, they also want them to grow morally and spiritually. They have already instilled in them valuable principles that will guide them throughout their lives, and let them make their own choices based on them. This is how a person matures and becomes independent.

In the same way, our Father in heaven loves to see His children mature in spirituality. As Jesus Christ Himself taught, all the commandments can be summarized in the Law of Love, because when we are guided by true unconditional love, which is the perfect expression of God's love, nothing can go wrong.

In the Book of Ecclesiasticus, 15: 11-20, the writer clearly expresses the idea of how it would be totally absurd to blame our Creator for our wrong choices. Having been created free in His infinite love, we are free to choose to follow God's loving commands or not, but it will be up to us to face the consequences.

As the writer of Ecclesiasticus puts it, "He has placed before you fire and water; stretch out your hand for whichever you choose. Before each person are life and death, and whichever one chooses will be given."

Referring to the immaturity shown by the converts in Corinth when they claim to belong to one Apostle or another, instead of acknowledging their belonging to Christ only, the Apostle Paul says in 1 Corinthians 3, "Brothers and sisters, I could not speak to you as spiritual people, but rather as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for solid food."

So let us pray that, through His infinite grace and help, God's Holy Spirit enables us to grow and mature in our faith, each passing day, so that we may eventually reach Christ's stature, and partake of His graceful love in our thinking, which will show forth in our words and deeds.

The more we mature in Christ, the closer heaven is brought to earth for all.

Fr. Carlos E. Expósito, Rector

Weekly Calendar Sunday, February 12, 2023 to Saturday, February 18

Note: We will continue worshipping in our historic church, except on Tuesdays and Fridays when the service is held in All Saints' St. Mary Chapel. The Sunday service will also be on Zoom. To join the Zoom Meeting click [here](#).

SUNDAY: The Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany

10:00am Mass in the church

Join Zoom Meeting Click [here](#).

10:00am to 10:45am — Christian Formation and First Communion Instruction for children ages 5-12 in the Parish Hall taught by Lucretia Locke.

11:30am -- Christian Formation will meet this Sunday, February 12 in the Rector's office.

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

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

FRIDAY: 10:00am Morning Prayer in All Saints' St. Mary Chapel.

To activate Zoom you need to click on the link and zoom will download and put you in the meeting. If you have a camera and microphone they can interact in the meeting. The meeting is setup to not auto turn on your camera. You will need to make that decision.

Otherwise it will be on Facebook - a video and you can listen and watch. Easy access to All Saints' Facebook page via our web site at www.allsaintschurch.org