



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 26 & Beyond

God's Free Gift for All



As we start the Season of Lent, many of our thoughts go to our transgressions, and the need to repent, to turn to God, to transform our lives so as to align them better with God's will.

However, we should never miss the main point of our faith, which has to do with God's loving grace.

Grace is a gift. It is freely given to all those who willingly take it. It does not depend on our merits or what we deserve, nor can it be bought or negotiated in any possible way. It is simply given out of pure and all-embracing love. But it cannot be forced upon us either.

God's amazing grace was epitomized in the person of Jesus Christ, His beloved Son.

After giving His people the commandments that would help them order their lives in accordance with His will, after all the calls and warnings to turn to Him through the

prophets, after all the wisdom shared with His people through writers inspired by His Holy Spirit, God became incarnate in the person of His beloved Son, Jesus Christ Our Lord, to reveal Himself to us in the most tangible form.

What Jesus revealed in His perfect humanity was God's divine unconditional love for all. He showed in His person the perfect obedience to God's will, which is, in turn, the greatest of freedoms, because it casts away all fear, and all bondage to sin.

Jesus' Way of Love is God's will for all His creatures. God cannot be defined in human terms because He transcends all human concepts. The only way we can somehow get to know God is through loving Him and showing His love to the others in our own lives. That is why John the Evangelist simply says in his First Letter, "God is Love."

As we enter into this Lent Season, a season calling us to repentance, to become a better version of what we already are essentially--true children of our loving God--we should always keep in mind that God has loved us first, with His infinite and all-inclusive love, whose most tangible expression is Jesus Christ Himself.

God's immense love and grace is hard for us humans to understand because we have been made to believe that love needs to be earned and deserved (except for the love that good parents feel for their children). We have also been made to believe that for someone to be loved or appreciated more, someone else has to be loved less. So we spend our lives trying to fit into others' expectations about us, competing with others to gain people's acceptance.

But real love, the one that God showed us through His beloved Son, goes against all human logic. In our logic, when something is given out it diminishes as it is divided into more and more people. So the more people receive something, the less each one receives.

But it is just the opposite with God's loving grace. It multiplies and grows as it is given out to all who willingly accept it. And so it happens when we imitate Our Lord in giving out love to the rest of the world.

In his Letter to the Romans, chapter 5, which is quite a complex comment about sin, death, the Law, and God's grace, the Apostle Paul says, "for the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification."

Apart from the fact that following Paul's thoughts here is quite a challenge, the main point he is making is that God's free gift (His Grace) greatly supersedes all the condemnation that sin can entail.

Let us joyfully embrace this free gift in our lives, and make it known to the rest through our loving words and deeds, so that all can embrace it and have their lives transformed into their real identity in God.

Rev. Carlos Expósito

Readings for The First Sunday in Lent

Genesis 2:4b-9, 15-17, 25-3:7 Romans 5:12-21 Psalm 51:1-13 Matthew 4:1-11

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 February 26, 2023 The First 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 at Noon on Sunday, March 5 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 5, 2023 The Second 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

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Christian Formation Meets 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

An Anglo-Catholic Parish in the Episcopal Diocese of San Diego

www.allsaintschurch.org