



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 —March 5 & Beyond

Faith in God's Loving Grace



Rationalism made faith outdated to a great extent. In the eyes of rationalists, faith was perceived as something irrational, based on belief only, with no basis or foundation.

Even so, humanism somehow conceded that it was positive to have "faith in humankind", but this was mainly as a result of the evidence of what humankind had been

able to achieve in the field of science and technology, even if these advances were not always ethically commendable.

Our faith—the Christian faith—is not purely rationalistic. It is based on the premise that our loving God has created all that exists—including us, and that He not only created us but cares for us and all of creation, and is continually calling us back to a harmonic relationship with Him, with one another, and with the whole of creation.

This faith simply cannot be rationalistic, because the God we believe in transcends all human concepts on which reason is founded. However, we do not consider it to be irrational, because we believe our God endowed us with reason so we can make good use of it throughout our proper discernment.

Even so, pure rational logic cannot always lead us to the understanding of God's plans filled with loving grace.

Think of Abram, who later became known as Abraham—meaning the father of many nations. Was God's command to him logical? God was telling him to leave the land he was familiar with, the culture he belonged to, the people he called his own, with a promise that God would make of him a great nation, and he would be a blessing for all.

Had Abram used pure logic, he would have rejected this command hands down. How could he at the age of 75 be thinking of having offspring with his elderly wife? But Abram had faith. He somehow knew this to be the truth, since it came from God.

Why would Abram consider that what was being promised to him would be granted to him? Was he deserving it in any way for something outstanding or special he had done? But he was sure it would be granted to him if he only obeyed, and so he did.

This was given to Abram not because he had earned it in any way, but out of loving grace. True faith, based not on pure logic but in a deep conviction that God's promises will become a reality, is hard for many. Even harder is the acceptance that we will be granted the most wonderful graces out of pure love, simply because He is love.

In chapter 4 of his letter to the Romans, the Apostle Paul deals with the issue of faith as the basis for justification, as opposed to the Law. It is clear that Abraham's earthly life preceded the Law given to Moses by centuries, so it is clear that what was counted as righteousness for Abraham was not his subjection to the Law, but his faith in God's plan, so that he did not hesitate in carrying it out.

Paul uses this argument to defend the view that it is not through the flesh that we are all Abraham's descendants (as the Israelites used to believe and so boasted of being God's only chosen people) but through the righteousness of faith.

He writes, "For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the Law but through the righteousness of faith..." "For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents to the Law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham."

So the promise of becoming the true children we were always meant to be, sharing in God's loving presence, and in true harmonious life with one another and creation, stands firm for all, and the foretaste of what this really means has already been revealed and manifested to us in the life and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

How irrational does this sound? Can any rationalistic logic defeat this graceful loving faith?

Rev. Carlos Expósito

Readings for The Second Sunday in Lent

Genesis 12:1-8 Romans 4:1-5, 13-17 Psalm 33:12-22 John 3:1-17

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 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

Ages 5-12 in the Parish Hall from 10:00am-10:45am

Christian Formation Meets next at this 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

SATURDAY Societies of Mary Day of Devotion

11:00am The Rosary St. Mary Chapel

11:30am Mass St Mary Chapel

Noon Potluck Lunch in the Flower Room

SUNDAY March 12, 2023 The Third 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 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