



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 26, 2023

The Right Obedience



Obedience has always been a trait of civilized societies. There can be no true civilization without the people obeying certain laws and regulations that make human interactions possible in a climate of peaceful coexistence.

Moses gave the Jewish people the Ten Commandments as the premise of the new relationship that through the Covenant they were establishing with their Creator and with one another. These Commandments set up the basic rules for being faithful to their God, and for living in a way that would show that the real God of the World was their ruler.

Even more primitive societies had some kind of intrinsic rules taught to the young so they knew how to behave in that society.

When certain individuals decide to rebel against the established necessary rules, they only create chaos and confusion in the society, and these individuals are normally restrained by the law,

Unfortunately, throughout history some rulers have used the right to establish obedience in the wrong way, exacting from their subjects submissive behaviors that ensure their personal benefit and their stay in power.

This has given rise to justified rebelliousness, which in turn has given rise to the wrong idea that obedience in itself must be rejected,

As a result, rebels have been idolized by society, particularly in the last decades.

The sad truth is that, by refusing the right sort of obedience, so-called rebels are only being obedient to the wrong causes.

The word *obey* in English is ultimately derived from the Latin *oboedire*, which means “in the direction of + to hear.” In other words, to obey is to move in the direction of what you hear and act accordingly. If you choose not to hear what is right and good for the rest of society and for yourself, you will only do so by choosing to hear what opposes this good obedience.

Does unjustified disobedience actually give you any real freedom? Not in the least. It is the worst form of slavery possible, because it makes people slaves of sin, and the result of sin is real death—being separated from the living God, the source of true life.

Modern society has grown suspicious of good obedience, especially when it comes to obedience based on biblical authority.

It is true that many a false pastor and prophet has made a wrong use of the Bible to justify their personal interests and gains. May the Almighty have mercy on them! But overgeneralizations are never good. There are still religious leaders and followers of Christ who truly believe in what they preach and use God’s inspired Word for the good of the people they serve.

But let us see what the Apostle Paul himself said in relation to the topic obedience to God’s will.

In his letter to the Romans, in chapter 6, he addresses the issue of the pretended freedom of those who oppose God’s will in these terms:

“When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. So what advantage did you then get from the things of which you are now ashamed? The end of those things is death. But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the advantage you get is sanctification. The end is eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

It is certainly worthwhile to cling firmly and obediently to this free gift, isn't it?

Rev. Carlos Expósito

Readings for The Fifth Sunday in Lent

Ezekiel 37:1-14 Romans 6:16-23 Psalm 130 John 11:18-44

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 26, 2023 The Fifth 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 this Sunday, March 26 in the

Rector's Office. Lenten Study: The Three Conversions of the Christian Life

TUESDAY 12:00pm Mass St. Mary Chapel

THURSDAY Spanish Class in recess until April 13

FRIDAY 11:30am The Great Litany; Noon Via Crucis in All Saints' Church

SUNDAY April 2, 2023 Palm Sunday

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 on April 16 at Noon in the Rector's Office. Book 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