



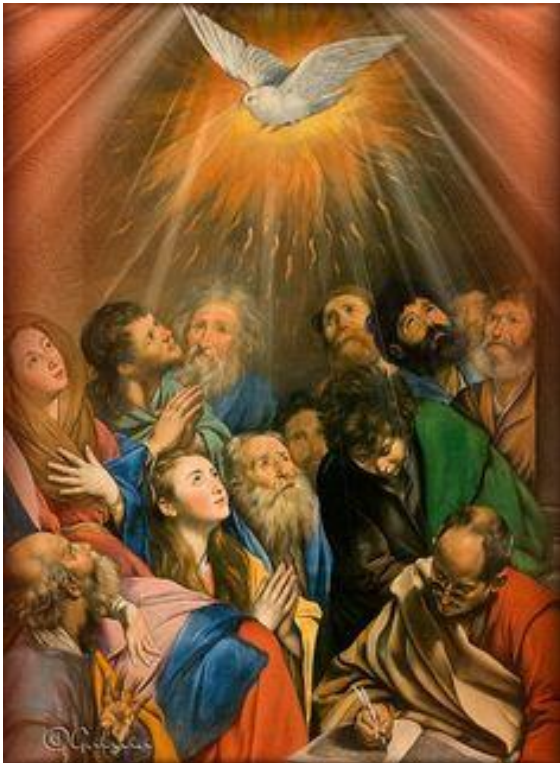
ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

"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 — May 28, 2023

“Manifestations of the Spirit for the Common Good”



The Feast of Pentecost brings to mind the exuberant manifestation of the Holy Spirit among the first followers of Jesus after His resurrection and Ascension. Most pictures depict the tongues of fire over each of the disciples gathered in one place, and the disciples proclaiming the message of salvation to all who listened to them.

This depiction follows what the Book of Acts says in chapter 2. The narrative tells us that they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak in other languages, “as the Spirit gave them ability.”

The speaking in tongues here is not the same phenomenon that Paul mentions in some of his writings, which is characterized by speaking in unintelligible tongues (the so-called Angelic tongues) which need to be interpreted if others are to benefit from the message.

What happened on Pentecost Day, according to the Book of Acts, was that the people gathered in Jerusalem from different nations were all able to hear the disciples speak

“about God’s deeds of power” in their own languages. The phrase “God’s deeds of power” is not explained here, but it is only logical to assume it refers to God’s plan of salvation for all through Jesus Christ, which was obviously the disciples’ main preaching theme.

The Pentecost event has been described as the antithesis of what happened in the Tower of Babel. In the Babel narrative the people who spoke a common language started to speak different tongues and were no longer able to communicate with one another. It is as if the disconnection with God’s loving purpose—symbolically shown in their ambition to build a tower reaching the heavens—had also brought about the same disconnection among them, thus creating chaos and confusion.

The plurality of tongues in the Babel story is a synonym of disunity and chaos.

However, the plurality of tongues in the Pentecost experience is just the opposite. It is this plurality that enables each of the listeners to hear God’s wondrous deeds of salvation in their own languages. We can assume the most of these people were able to understand Aramaic or Greek, which served as common languages in the region at that time, but hearing the divine things spoken in the language of one’s heart is a totally different experience!

The speaking in tongues was not given by the Spirit to the disciples as a gift to attest that they were filled with the Holy Spirit. It was not a mere show off. It served a specific purpose. It served the common good.

One of the Spirit’s gifts mentioned by St. Paul to the Corinthians in his First Letter, chapter 12, is the discernment of spirits. Just as it was then, it is nowadays essential also to discern the spirits. People claiming to be inspired by the Holy Spirit abound now more than ever, even in social media.

One good test of authenticity for the Holy Spirit is the question, “Does it serve the common good?” As St. Paul himself states in this part of the letter, “To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.”

It is One Spirit that sustains all of Christ’s followers, and this One Spirit gives each of us particular gifts that are to be put to the service of the common good.

When someone manifests a gift that serves only self-centered interests, we can immediately discard that the Holy Spirit is at work in this person. God’s essential feature is unconditional and all-inclusive love, and His Holy Spirit is the Spirit of unity,

enabling us, through His inspiration, to make ourselves useful to pursue the common good.

Fr. Carlos Espósito

Readings for The Day of Pentecost

Acts 2:1-11 1 Corinthians 12:4-13 Psalm 47 John 20:19-23

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 May 28, 2023 The Day of Pentecost

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 May 28 at Noon in the Rector's Office. Book Study: The Three Conversions of the Christian Life

San Diego Coterie Concert – "The Sound of Music" sing-along

2:30pm-- All Saints' Parish Hall with soloists, Emily Ortlieb, Martha Jane Weaver and Dennis Williams

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

SATURDAY 10:00am Rosary in St. Mary Chapel

10:30am Mass in St. Mary Chapel

Following Mass Potluck Lunch in Flower Room

SUNDAY June 4, 2023 Trinity 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

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