



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 — July 2, 2023

“Life-giving Death”



Some of the tenets of our Christian faith seem contradictory to many and can only be grasped in the light of our sacred scriptures and traditions.

Death is seen as the greatest enemy of humankind, and all forms of higher life in general. We dread our own death and that of our loved ones. We know it is a reality, but most of the time would rather keep it away from our conversations and prefer to use euphemisms to refer to it.

We, unlike people from earlier times, have placed our burial places as far away as possible from our living quarters. For hygienic reasons mainly? Perhaps...

Nowadays it is uncommon to have our loved ones dying at home, surrounded by all family members. Instead, people are taken to hospice places, where they receive palliative treatment to make their passing as peaceful and painless as possible, but in most cases their loved ones are not present at the precise moment of passing.

There are exceptions to this practice, to be sure. But generally speaking, modern society prefers to keep death out of sight, and out of mind.

The Christian faith also considers death as a foe to be defeated. The ultimate hope of our faith is that neither decay nor death will have a place in the resurrected life, and this includes not only human life, but the whole of God's creation.

Nevertheless, New Testament writers often make a use of the term *death* that differs from the mere physical cessation of life.

One of the terms used is the *second death*, which refers to the death of the soul; in other words, the state in which the soul has been totally separated from God's life, by its own will. This is the death that true Christians avoid at all costs.

A true follower of Christ will not fear physical death because there is the sure hope of the resurrected life in Christ. It does not mean that we do not mourn the physical loss of our loved ones—that would not make sense—, but that even while suffering we always have the inner joy of the assuredness of God's infinite love, which defeats even death.

But death is also used in a positive way by New Testament writers. First and foremost, we have Christ's death as a redeeming death for us all. It was through His death that Jesus Christ our Lord conquered the dark powers of death and sin, and opened for us the way of resurrected abundant life in Him.

Jesus' death is also seen as a symbol of our own death to sin—the death of our old self, which is then transformed into the new glorious self in Christ's resurrected life.

This is what our Christian baptism means for us.

When we are immersed in the waters of baptism (or this water is poured on us when baptism by immersion is not practical), this act constitutes the death of our old sinful self, and when we come out of the water, we are reborn to our new life in Christ.

This is the life-giving death all Christians must constantly long for. It is enacted once in our lives during our baptism, but baptism is in fact an initiation rite. It marks the beginning of this death and rebirth, but this is a life-long process (or even one that extends beyond our physical death).

As followers of Christ, we must strive to put an end to our slaving sinful tendencies, so that our lives may be transformed into the full stature of Christ's glorious life.

In his letter to the Romans, St. Paul states this idea in an unmatched way. In chapter 6, he says, “For if we have been united with Him in a death like His, we will certainly be united in a resurrection like His.”

And he continues by stating, “The death He (Christ) died, He died to sin, once for all; but the life He lives, He lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.”

Fr. Carlos Espósito

Readings for The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 2:10-17 Romans 6:3-11 Psalm 89:1-4,15-18 Matthew 10:34-42

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 July 2, 2023 The Fifth Sunday after 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 Sunday July 9 and 30 at Noon in the

Rector's Office. Book Study: “God's Secretaries: The Making of the

King James Bible” by Adam Nicolson

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

SUNDAY July 9, 2023 The Sixth Sunday after 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

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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