



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 9, 2023

“Setting the Mind on the Spirit is Life and Peace”



In his Letter to the Romans, chapters 7 and 8, the Apostle Paul deals with the constant battle between what he calls “the flesh” and the Spirit of God that indwells us.

To make this contrast, St. Paul does not use a third person, as if he himself were no longer involved in this constant battle. Instead, he refers to himself in the first person singular and in all honesty declares, “Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!”

This strong declaration, coming from St. Paul’s very heart, clearly acknowledges how hopeless it would be to count on our own strength only for this ongoing battle in our inner selves.

Only in Jesus Christ and His Spirit of Truth can we find the needed help to come out victorious from such a battle. And the reason for this is that Jesus Himself defeated the dark forces that lead us astray from God’s Way of unconditional love and into our self-centered complacency and interests.

By becoming flesh in Christ our Lord, and by dying and being raised again, God was able to defeat the same forces that keep us slave to sin. Thanks to this self-giving sacrifice, Jesus Christ has freed us from the oppression of the law that punishes us for our constant transgressions.

This does not mean that Jesus Christ condones our transgressions. He is willing to forgive them, as long as we show true repentance in our lives though.

What St. Paul calls “the flesh” is not so much the physical part of our being—God called all that He created *good*, and this certainly includes our bodies—but the tendencies in the physical part of our being that make us prone to self-satisfaction only, without regarding the rest of humankind and creation.

Paul contrasts the physical part with the mind, as something superior and with a closer link to the Spirit. However, the mind can also become “fleshy” in the sense that it is filled mainly with self-centered thoughts.

As St. Paul himself clarifies later in this text, what makes the difference is where you set the mind on. The mind itself cannot save us from sin. It needs to be trained to become obedient to God’s law of love.

Having the mind of Christ is what will really save us. And while He was on this planet, Christ’s mind was always occupied in doing God’s will: performing acts of loving service wherever He went.

It is true that by His loving self-giving sacrifice Christ has opened for us the way to salvation, and that by our own efforts only we will never defeat the “fleshy” part of our being. But it is up to us to set our minds on the right aim. This is a voluntary act, and God, who created us in perfect freedom, will not violate the freedom of our minds.

As St. Paul puts it, then, “To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.”

Fr. Carlos Espósito

Readings for The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Zechariah 9:9-12 Romans 7:21-8:6 Psalm: 145:8-14 Matthew 11:25-30

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 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

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

Christian Formation Meets this Sunday July 9 and on July 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 16, 2023 The Seventh 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 30 at Noon in the Rector's Office. Book Study: "God's Secretaries: The Making of the King James Bible" by Adam Nicolson

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