



# 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 16, 2023**

**“Children and Joint Heirs with Christ”**



Understanding that we are our Creator's children may not require a great intellectual exercise. After all the first Book of the Bible makes clear that human beings were created in God's image and likeness, and Jesus was certainly not the first Jew who called God "Father", although perhaps He was the first

one who called Him "Abba" (Dad).

Jesus did encourage His followers to cultivate the close relationship that He enjoyed with the Creator, and when talking to the disciples He often referred to God as "my Father and your Father". When requested to provide a model prayer by His closest disciples, He began the prayer with the words "Our Father."

The New Testament writers preferred to reserve the title of Son to Jesus Christ, in line with the Messianic prophecies that called the Messiah "God's beloved Son."

That does not mean that we are not all God's children.

The Christian doctrine that evolved in the first centuries and is reflected in the Creeds, refers to Jesus Christ as God's "begotten, not created Son". We are created by the Father, whereas God's uncreated Son, who became flesh in Jesus, was begotten by God.

St. Paul uses the image of adoption to refer to the way in which, by God's grace and power, we become true children of God.

It is important to remember that in Jesus' time, and centuries before and after, being adopted by someone as son or daughter conferred the same status as being a natural child.

Nowadays people feel there is a certain difference between being an adopted child and a natural one, even though there are families who provide adopted children with the same care and love as if they were their own children. And that is the way it should ideally be.

I have never totally agreed with St. Paul's idea of being adopted children, not because I do not understand that in his mind it would confer us the same rights and benefits, but because it gives me the impression that human beings had not been God's children before.

I do not think that is what Jesus had in mind when He taught his disciples to pray "Our Father".

St. Paul was probably stressing the idea that it is through God's Spirit and Christ's saving grace that we become God's real children, in the sense that we are then willing to fulfill God's will and follow Christ's Way of Love.

St. Paul claims in his letter to the Romans that we have received "a spirit of adoption", which now enables us to cry, "Abba!", just like Jesus did.

He also reminds us that if we are children, "then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ."

This is the Christian promise. What St. Paul reaffirms here is what Jesus promised His followers, and even if it may sound "too good to be true", we know it to be true because we believe that God incarnate cannot and will not lie.

It will be our true fate, if, as St. Paul states, “we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.”

Fr. Carlos Espósito

Readings for The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 55:1-5, 10-13    Romans 8:9-17    Psalm: 65:9-14    Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

## 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    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](http://www.allsaintschurch.org)

Recording of Mass available before noon at [www.allsaintschurch.org](http://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

**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 23, 2023    The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost**

**10:00am Mass in All Saints’ Church**

Join Zoom Meeting from our web site at [www.allsaintschurch.org](http://www.allsaintschurch.org)

Recording of Mass available before noon at [www.allsaintschurch.org](http://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