



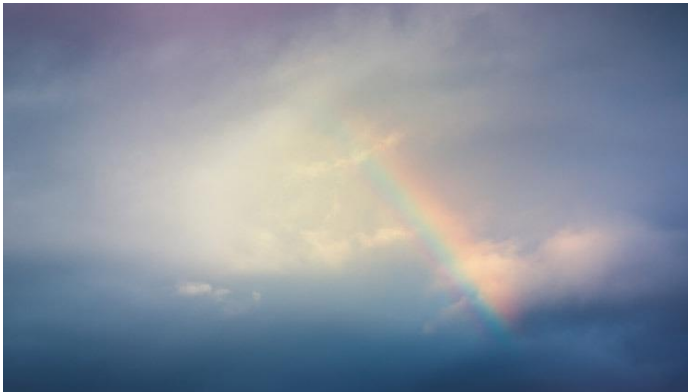
ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

"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 — November 12, 2023

"Grieving in Hope"



As we mature and get older, the reality of death strikes us in the innermost recesses of our beings, whether in the form of the death of our dearly beloved ones, or as an announcement of our own death.

Children and young adults do not usually think of death, except in cases when they have lost a parent, grandparent, or sibling, or a dear friend who has prematurely died. Even so, they do not normally think of death as something happening to them in the near future, except in some cases when they suffer from serious diseases, and if they ever do, they usually dismiss the thought as something alien to them, and go on with their lives.

Modern society has tried to put the thought of death away from people as much as possible. Unlike ancient societies, where people buried their loved ones as close to them as possible, and made them a part of their daily lives by honoring their memory in different ways, modern societies put their burial places as far away as possible from living premises, based on hygienic concerns, but there is also an untold element of avoidance here.

It is undeniable that death—whether that of our loved ones or our own—brings us grief. As natural and unavoidable as we may reason it to be, the fact is that there is something that seems unnatural and devastating about it when it touches us at a personal or communal level.

We humans have been created as beings that necessarily enter into mutual relationships. This mutuality generates strong attachments in our lives. We feel attached to our parents, siblings, spouses, children, and friends. If we are part of a church congregation, we feel attached to the other members of our church. This is what makes the feeling of love grow in our lives. This is how we start to understand how God loves us all equally, and eventually learn to imitate His unconditional love for us all.

Our Christian faith teaches us that just as Christ died and was raised from the dead to everlasting life in communion with the Father, so will we be raised if we follow in His Way of Love.

The doctrine of the Communion of Saints also reminds us that in God's love we are all living, and that when God is all in all at the consummation of the times, we will all be reunited with Christ and with one another in this perfect communion.

Some say that it is unchristian to grieve when a loved one dies, or that we should not feel grief for leaving our loved ones behind when we are aware of our imminent death, because our faith gives us true hope in the resurrected life.

However, it is precisely because we love one another that we feel the grief. If we do not feel anything it simply means we are unable to feel affection for anyone.

There is a time for grieving the ones who have passed, and in fact, that grief never totally goes away. We do not forget our loved ones; we simply learn that we need to move on, and that their love for us is such that they would not want us to continue grieving for them.

True love is not selfish. When we gradually learn to love like Christ does, we also learn that letting go of the grief is part of love. We want to remember our loved ones, and feel their love, but not lamenting the fact that they have passed, because that is irreversible, but bringing to mind the wonderful loving moments spent together, and the good examples that they left us as a cherished legacy in our lives.

In our prayers, we always keep them in God's light, and we feel their love and their constant prayers for us. But above all, we do not grieve their absence "as those who do

not have hope”, as St. Paul says in his First Letter to the Thessalonians, but as those who firmly believe that “through Jesus, God will bring with Him those who have died.”

Fr. Carlos

Readings for The Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Amos 5:18-24 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 Psalm: 70 Matthew 25:1-13

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 November 12, 2023 The Twenty-fourth 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 at noon in the Rector's Office

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 November 19, 2023 The Twenty-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

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

Christian Formation Meets on November 26th at noon in the Rector's Study and the Library

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