



# 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 — August 11, 2024**

## **God's Imitators**



Imitating God may sound like a presumptuous phrase, given that we humans are mortal and limited creatures, and the

Creator of all that is, cannot be grasped by the human mind."

As Christians, however, we have Jesus Christ our Lord as the perfect human image of God, and the imitation of His person has always been the main goal of the faithful throughout the centuries.

When we think of imitating Christ, we may feel inadequate and hopeless at times, since we know through the reading of the New Testament that He is the epitome of self-giving love, to the point of self-sacrifice.

Our human nature undoubtedly reflects God's image in the expression of human love in its purest forms, but it is also tainted by self-centeredness, which is often the polarization of our natural animal self-preservation instincts.

We may wonder why these conflicting tendencies are in constant struggle within ourselves, and St. Paul himself reflected on this in his Letter to the Romans, where he writes, “For the good that I want, I do not do, but I practice the very evil that I do not want.”

The fact is our human nature, though reflecting God’s image, still does it imperfectly, and by our own efforts only we cannot overcome the tendencies to serve our selfish interests over our neighbor’s well-being.

It is only when we are filled by God’s and Christ’s Holy Spirit of self-giving love that we can overcome these tendencies and become better imitators of God. This can only be achieved if we are willing to let our lives be transformed by Christ’s love.

God created us as free beings, and freedom implies making decisions responsibly. When we freely and willingly embrace Christ’s Gospel of Salvation, we are making the first step towards our transformation (or transfiguration) into a closer image of God.

This is what the New Testament refers to as “believing”. We must understand that for the Christian faith, believing is not a matter of opinion or intellectual acrobatics. It is, above all, a matter of true and deep conviction that leads to a totally transformed way of living.

It is like a 180 degree turn of your lives back to where it should always have been: the imitation of God’s self-giving love for all. It is a radical change that turns our lives away from our self-centeredness towards an ever-growing legitimate love for our neighbors, which manifests in loving care and service for everyone, and for the whole creation, as the main token of our lives.

After all, we do have Jesus Christ as the example to follow, and although we may find it hard at first, as in all things, perseverance and practice, together with constant prayer that God’s Spirit may fill us and help us, will eventually lead us to the new life in Christ.

As St. Paul himself puts it in his Letter to the Ephesians, chapter 4, “Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.”

Fr. Carlos E. Expósito, Rector

Readings for The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost: Deuteronomy 8:1-10 Psalm 34:1-8  
Ephesians 4:25-30-5:2 John 6:37-51

## CALENDAR

Note: We worship in our historic church. The service will also be on Zoom. The Sunday service time is 10:00am, Tuesday Noon Mass, and Friday 10:00am Morning Prayer.

**SUNDAY August 11, 2024 The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost**

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

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

Recording of Mass available 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

**Adult Christian Formation** will not meet in August, but resumes in September

**TUESDAY Noon Mass in St. Mary Chapel**

**THURSDAY** Spanish classes will not be held during the remainder of July and will resume on Thursday, August 15th.

**FRIDAY 10:00am Morning Prayer in St. Mary Chapel**

**SUNDAY August 18, 2024 The Thirteenth 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 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

**Adult Christian Formation** meets next in September

## **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