



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 — September 15, 2024

Works of Faith



For Christians faith is not simply a belief or an opinion. It is not even a proclamation of what one believes, as in the case of a Creed. It is a deep conviction of what is not immediately perceived by the senses, but even more than all this, it is a concrete way of living.

Faith in Jesus Christ Our Lord is what moves us Christians, day by day, to read and study Holy Scriptures prayerfully, to meditate on what God's Word means for us at each and every moment, to pray that the Holy Spirit gives us discernment to make vital decisions in our lives that are aligned with God's will, and to follow Jesus' Way of Love in our thoughts, intentions, and actions, so that our lives may be filled with the genuine joy of serving Him.

It is this faith that serves as a shield against the forces that oppose God's unconditional love in the world. To think that we can be saved from these forces by our own efforts only is foolishness. Only by being filled with God's Spirit of Truth, and with the mind of Christ, can we counteract our self-centered tendencies, which, if left unchecked, will turn us into selfish and ambitious people, serving only our own interests, without concern for the rest of humanity and God's creation.

In his letters, St. Paul always insisted that no good works of ours by themselves can save us. We should never do good works thinking that God will reward us, or so that others may see them, and give us praise and recognition. Jesus was always clear in this respect. St. Paul insists on how salvation comes through faith only, and he is right to do so.

St. James has been criticized because in his letter proclaims that faith without works is dead. What St. James actually means is that saying that you have faith alone, and not acting accordingly, will save no one.

The examples he gives in the second chapter of his letter are quite clear. First, he refers to those who show favoritism in the congregations towards those who possess more wealth or wear finer clothes. Even if those people confess their faith in Jesus Christ out loud, their behavior clearly shows they are not real followers of Jesus' Way.

Then he refers to those who say they have faith but do not do anything to help the hungry and the needy. What kind of faith is this that is only on one's lips but gives no real fruit in one's life?

Real authentic faith in Jesus Christ will always produce the fruits of compassion and willingness to help those who are in need. This is what St. James wants to stress in his letter.

There is no real contradiction between Paul's claim that only faith saves, and James' assertion that faith without works is dead. A faith that produces no fruits is not real, it is only feigned. Real faith will never fail to produce the fruits of compassion and loving service in our lives.

Fr. Carlos E. Expósito, Rector

Readings for The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost: Isaiah 50:4-9

Psalms 116:1-8 James 2:1-5, 8-10, 14-18 Mark 8:27-38

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 September 15, 2024 The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
10:00am Mass in All Saints' Church
Join Zoom Meeting from our web site at w.allsaintschurch.org
Recording of Mass available at 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 meet next in October

TUESDAY Noon Mass in St. Mary Chapel

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

SUNDAY September 22, 2024 The Eighteenth 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 at www.allsaintschurch.org
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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