



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 — October 27, 2024

Going on toward Perfection



In absolute terms, only God can be perfect. By this we Christians mean that only our Heavenly Father, the Creator of all that is—together with the other two Persons of the Holy Trinity—holds the attribution of a goodness that cannot be surpassed.

How come, then, that Jesus, St. Paul, and also the writer of Hebrews encourage us as followers of Christ to move towards perfection?

In Matthew 5:48 Jesus says to His disciples, “be perfect as your Father in Heaven is perfect.” Was Jesus being unrealistic when He said this?

We need to take a closer look at what words actually mean before jumping to conclusions. Both the Hebrew and the Greek terms used in the Bible that have been translated as “perfect” actually mean “whole, totally evolved, mature, full of righteousness.” So to have a perfect heart in the Old Testament means to have a heart that is undivided and faithful to God, to have a righteous heart.

Both St. Paul and the writer of Hebrews use the terms “perfect” and “perfection” in their exhortations to the new converts to the New Way. They understand human weakness because they experience it in themselves, but at the same time they realize that only by aiming at becoming more Christ-like, the followers of Jesus’ Way of Love will mature in their faith.

Aiming at perfection for Christ’s followers is, then, going beyond mere repentance from dead works and having some faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, as the writer of Hebrews clearly states

in the 5th and 6th chapters of his letter. He encourages his addressees “to go on toward perfection, leaving behind the basic teachings about Christ.”

By “leaving behind” he by no means implies abandoning the basic teachings because these are the foundation, but moving beyond them to a greater degree of maturity.

In a way the writer of Hebrews sounds a bit reproachful or perhaps disappointed when he says, “for though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic elements of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food...But solid food is for the mature, for those whose faculties have been trained by practice to distinguish good from evil.”

In these words, it is easy to notice how the writer of Hebrews connects the idea of perfection to that of righteousness. Perfection in absolute terms is unattainable in this mortal life, but striving towards righteousness by practicing Jesus’ Way of Love is certainly a must for all of His followers.

The writer of Hebrews must have realized that he had been harsh on his readers, for he later on changes his reproachful tone when he writes, “Even though we speak in this way, beloved, we are confident of better things in your case, things that belong to salvation. For God is not unjust; He will not overlook your work and the love that you showed for His sake in serving the saints, as you still do.” And he finishes this part of the letter with an exhortation that is as pertinent for us today as it was for his readers then: “And we want each of you to show the same diligence so as to realize the full assurance of hope to the very end.”

So aiming for perfection in our faith should always be our goal, clearly understanding that there is no false pretentiousness involved, but an ardent and ceaseless urge to become faithfully mature and righteous in following our Lord.

Fr. Carlos E. Expósito, Rector

Readings for The Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost: Isaiah 59:9-19

Hebrew 5:12-6:1,9-12 Psalm 13 Mark 10:46-52

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

SUNDAY October 27, 2024 The Twenty-third 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 this Sunday, October 27
at noon in the Library

TUESDAY Noon Mass in St. Mary Chapel

THURSDAY 1:00pm in the Rector's Office -- Devotional Service followed by a Bible Study session based on the readings for the Sunday of that week.

SUNDAY **November 3, 2024** **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 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 on Sunday, November 10

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