



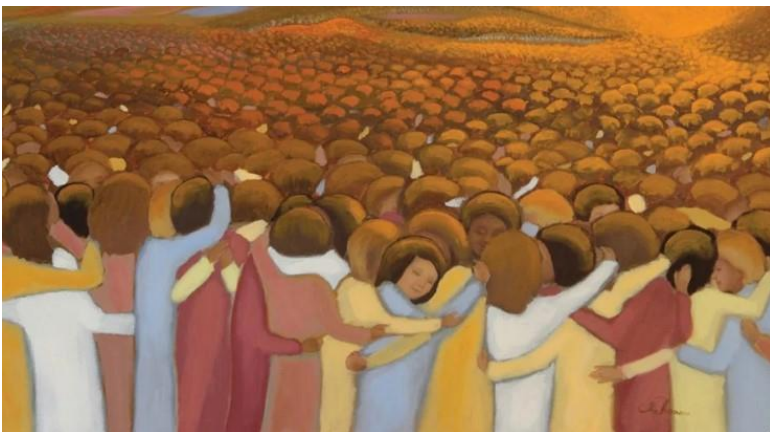
ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

"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 3, 2024

A Great Multitude That No One Could Count



When we think of the Saints, we tend to visualize a rather small number of people with exemplary and extraordinary qualities. Some of them are martyrs of the Christian faith, and others have led lives of ceaseless self-sacrifice and total commitment to following Jesus' Way of Love. These are the people whom we commemorate in our Christian calendar throughout the year.

It is significant, however, that the writer of the Book of Revelation in chapter 7, using the symbolic and theatrical language which is characteristic of the Apocalyptic genre, when referring to those who "are in the throne of God, and worship Him day and night within His temple"—i.e., the Saints—uses the expression "a large multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes, and peoples and languages."

Large multitudes are described in the Bible in different ways. Sometimes the writer uses multiples of 12 in thousands, as in the case of this same passage, just a few verses before, when the number of those sealed from the tribes of Israel is 144,000. Other times the writers use figures like 5,000 or 4,000, as in the case of the feeding of the multitude by Jesus.

The expression “that no one can count”, or one with a similar meaning, is used to refer to extremely large numbers, as when God asks Abraham to attempt to count the stars, and then tells him that the number of his descendants would be as numerous.

Such an expression obviously refers to a multitude that we would normally describe as “innumerable”. Hence we can conclude that in the writer’s vision the number of the Saints is large indeed. Not only large, but greatly diverse, encompassing every nation, tribe, and language of the world known to him at that time.

Should we infer, then, that the writer of Revelation simply means that every single soul on the planet will be part of the Saints? Not in the least.

When asked by one of the “elders”—those who sit closer to God’s throne in the vision—who these people were, the writer replied, “Sir, you are the one who knows”, and then the elder explained, “these are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.”

The Book of Revelation was written at a time of great persecution of Jesus’ followers. It was then common to suffer harassment, imprisonment, and even death on account of the Christian faith. The writer of Revelation himself was in exile due to his faith. So when he uses the expression “the great ordeal” his readers know really well what he is referring to.

“Having washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb” does not necessarily mean they have all suffered martyrdom, although several of them may have, but that they have been steadfast in their following of the Lord Jesus Christ, in words and deeds, in the midst of whatever circumstances they have had to face. The blood of the Lamb makes reference to Christ’s self-sacrifice on the cross for all, which is given to His followers as a graceful gift that enables them to be saved from the enslaving power of sin and death, and be counted among those who will share in Christ’s glory.

So the Saints, those who “will hunger no more, and thirst no more”, whom “the sun will not strike, nor any scorching heat; for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and He will guide them to springs of the water of life”, and whose every tear “God will wipe away from their eyes” will be innumerable indeed, and will come from every corner of the earth.

But to share in God’s glorified life in Christ is only for those who willingly accept the gift, cherish it, and steadfastly embrace it with all their being. May we be part of those who cannot be counted.

Fr. Carlos E. Expósito, Rector

Readings for The Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost – All Saints’ Sunday
Ecclesiasticus 44:1-10, 13-14 Revelation 7:2-4, 9-17 Psalm 149 Matthew 5:1-12

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 November 3, 2024 The Twenty-fourth 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 next on Sunday, November 10
at noon in the Library

TUESDAY November 5, 2024 11:15am First Tuesday of the Month Rosary in the Chapel followed by Noon Mass

THURSDAY November 7 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 10, 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