



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 — March 2nd, 2025

“Transforming Faith Through the Light of Christ”



Transforming Faith Through the Light of Christ

In this final Sunday after the Epiphany, we are invited to reflect on a moment of divine transformation – the Transfiguration of Jesus.

The Transfiguration, which we encounter in the Gospel of Luke (9:28-36), is a pivotal moment in the life of Christ. Jesus, along with Peter, James, and John, ascends a mountain to pray. There, in a moment of divine revelation, the disciples witness Jesus' appearance transform as His face shines like the sun and His clothes become dazzling white. Moses and Elijah appear with Him, representing the Law and the Prophets, and they converse with Jesus about His upcoming departure, His passion, death, and resurrection. A cloud envelops them, and a voice from

heaven declares, “This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!”

This moment of revelation is not just a display of Jesus' divine nature, but an invitation for us to behold the light of His presence. For the disciples, it is a glimpse of the glory of God. For us, it is an invitation to walk in that glory, to be strengthened in faith, and to be transformed by the light of Christ. As the Collect prays, “Grant to us that we... may be

changed into his likeness from glory to glory..." This is a journey of transformation that we are called to walk.

The Epistle reading from 2 Corinthians (3:12–4:2) further illuminates this theme of transformation. St. Paul writes about the transformative power of Christ, contrasting the fading glory of the Old Covenant with the ever-increasing glory of the New Covenant in Christ. He speaks of how Moses, after encountering God on Mount Sinai, had to veil his face because it shone with the reflected glory of God, a glory that would eventually fade. But in Christ, Paul declares, the glory is not fading – it is ever-increasing, leading us from one level of glory to another.

For Paul, this transformation is not just about outward appearances; it is about an inward change of the heart. "Whenever anyone turns to the Lord," he writes, "the veil is taken away." Through Christ, we are given direct access to God, and we can behold His glory not with a veil, but with unveiled faces. We are invited to reflect that glory in our lives and to be transformed into Christ's likeness. This is not a passive process, but an active one, requiring a turning towards God, a turning that opens us to be shaped and molded by His presence.

The Exodus reading (34:29-35) gives us a powerful image of Moses' encounter with God on Mount Sinai. His face shone so brightly after speaking with God that the Israelites were afraid to approach him. Moses had to veil his face to speak with the people, but when he entered the presence of the Lord again, he removed the veil. The image of Moses radiating God's glory is a foreshadowing of the greater glory revealed in Christ. What Moses experienced in part, we now experience in full through the revelation of Jesus Christ, who calls us to follow Him in the light of His glory. The psalmist in Psalm 99 echoes this, singing of God's holiness, majesty, and awe-inspiring presence. The Lord, enthroned in glory, is a God worthy of reverence, yet He also draws near to His people. "Exalt the Lord our God, and worship at His holy hill," the psalmist invites us.

The readings remind us that transformation is not a one-time event but a continuous journey. Just as Moses' face radiated the glory of God after encountering Him, so too are we called to reflect the glory of Christ as we encounter Him in prayer, in Scripture, and in the sacramental life of the Church. This glory is not meant to be hidden or veiled but to be a light to the world, a light that strengthens us to bear our crosses and follow Christ more closely.

As we prepare for the season of Lent, we are reminded that transformation requires sacrifice, and the cross is the path to true glory. The Transfiguration reveals the end of the journey – the glory that awaits us – but it also challenges us to look beyond the mountaintop

and see the way that leads to the cross. It is only through the cross that we are able to fully behold the glory of God.

On this Last Sunday after the Epiphany, we are called to behold the light of Christ's countenance and allow that light to transform us, to strengthen us to bear our own crosses, and to lead us into greater likeness with Him. May we be changed from glory to glory, ever reflecting His radiance in the world.

Readings for *The Last Sunday after the Epiphany*:

Exodus 34:29-35 + 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2 + Luke 9:28-36, [37-43a] + Psalm 99

CALENDAR

Note: We worship in our historic church. The service will also be on Zoom. The service time is 10am. Tuesday Noon Mass is held in All Saints' St. Mary Chapel.

SUNDAY March 2, 2025 The Last Sunday after the Epiphany

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 for Adults (the 2nd and 4th Sundays)

Youth and adults around Noon after the Mass in the Library

Recording of Mass available before noon at www.allsaintschurch.org

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