

"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 24TH, 2025 "LET NOTHING STAND IN THE WAY OF GOD'S LOVE"

What Cannot Be Shaken

We all love stability and the sense that the people, places and things we love and cherish will remain as along as possible. We even love principles and laws to last for as long as we live, when we agree with them. But life often reminds us that instability, change, and sometimes even sudden destruction is what life on this planet is all about, at least from a material standpoint.

Our faith always teaches us that only God is unchangeable and stays the same forever. The unchanging God we believe in is timeless and is not confined by space, and can therefore be counted on as the only true ever-loving foundation of our lives.

But how can we, mortal beings subject to continuous change and decay, reconcile the idea of our unceasingly changing physical body with our faith that our true identity is that of the everlasting God that created us in His own image and likeness?



The only way to reconcile these two opposing views is to come to the realization that the life that is based only on what our bodily senses perceive is not the whole picture, but just a limited part of it. This is totally opposed to the materialistic viewpoint, and yet, there is no way our faith in the true and abundant life that Christ has promised us could be real if it were only confined to these mortal bodies.

The cornerstone of our faith is the Resurrection. Not only Jesus's resurrection, but ours as well. If you remove this cornerstone our faith cannot stand. We can have some beautiful ethical teachings by a wonderful master, but that is certainly not the essence of our faith. Our hope is that we, with the whole of creation, shall be partakers of a timeless life lived in full communion with our Creator, and the rest of humankind and creation.

This new resurrected life is not an everlasting extension in time of the life we commonly know now, but a life whose main purpose is full communion—common union—which is a term that describes a life whose main intention is to extend God's unconditional love infinitely, and share it relentlessly with all created beings.

Even in this material world we live in at present, if there is something that cannot be shaken, and cannot be destroyed no matter what the circumstances are, is true unconditional love. If some kind of love is changed by circumstances it is not true and unconditional. It is not the love that God extends to His whole creation.

The prophet Isaiah in chapter 58 speaks of the way we will be when we show forth the signs of God's love in our daily behavior. He writes, "you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail." This beautiful poetic image gives a sense of wellness in eternity, which transcends time.

The writer of Hebrews, in chapter 12, reminds us that in Scripture we find the promise that "we are receiving a Kingdom that cannot be shaken", and encourages his readers to give thanks to God, who is "indeed a consuming fire."

The idea of God as a consuming fire, so common in the Bible, reminds us that all that stands in the way of our true image of the everlasting loving God will ultimately be consumed and gotten rid of, because God's purpose is that we all reflect His image in its purest form.

And the Gospel reading for this Sunday (Luke 13:10-17) is a clear reminder by Jesus Himself that if we want to be consistent even in our transient material bodily life, with God's transcendent purpose for us, we should never let anything stand—not even the most cherished traditions— in the way of extending God's love to others.

Fr. Carlos Expósito, Rector

READINGS FOR THE ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

CALENDAR

Note: We worship in our historic church. The service will also be on Zoom. The service time is 10:00 AM. Tuesday Noon Mass is held in All Saints' St. Mary Chapel.

SUNDAY August 24th, 2025 Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 AM Mass in All Saints' Church Join Zoom Meeting from our web site at www.allsaintschurch.org

Recording of Mass available before noon at <u>www.allsaintschurch.org</u>

Christian Formation and First Communion Instruction for Children

Ages 5 - 12 in the Parish Hall from 10:00 AM - 10:45 AM

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