



"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 – DECEMBER 7TH, 2025

WHAT IT MEANS TO REPENT

True Repentance

Both the Old and the New Testament speak abundantly of repentance as the starting point for our redemption. However, this term has lately been misinterpreted, “watered down”, we might say, so that it has become a synonym of **feeling sorry for our sins**.

A true sense of sorrowfulness for what we have thought, said or done wrong, or not said or done right, is a good starting point for true repentance, but if this is all we get, then we wallow in guilt, and that is not what our God intends for us. The sense of wrongdoing must be used as a spur to make a radical change for the better in our lives.

The Collect for this Second Sunday of Advent calls us to “heed their (the prophets’) warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer...” Notice how clear the language is here. The call is not to wallow in guilt, not even to feel deeply sorry for our wrongdoings. It is a call to heed

what the prophets warn, to change our ways, to leave our sins behind, so that we can tune our lives with Him who incarnates God’s loving will for the world.

Psychologists all agree that in order to change our way of living, everything starts at the conscious level. Our consciousness is what rules our attitudes, our words, our actions. In this sense, the Greek word used in the New Testament for **repentance** (metanoia—a change of mind or consciousness) shows us a clear path to redemption.

This change will not take place easily, or by our own efforts only. The way we perceive the world is affected not only by the limitations of our physical senses, but by the socio-cultural context that surrounds us. Apart from what science acknowledges, we Christians acknowledge there are other forces in the invisible world that can also influence our conscience. So we need constant attention to our thoughts, and ceaseless prayer that the Holy Spirit may inspire us and enable us to attune our consciousness to Christ’s mind.



Ultimately, when we come to the realization (not simply at the intellectual level, but at the deep level of our inner consciousness) that we are all one in Christ's love, then the command to "love our neighbors as ourselves" will become a natural behavior in our lives, and not something we must struggle to fulfill.

This sense of unity, of real harmony in all of creation was hinted by the prophet Isaiah in one of the most beautiful depictions of God's Kingdom, in chapter 11. "The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them...the nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den..."

St. Paul, in his letter to the Romans, chapter 15, encourages the converts to the New Way to "welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the uncircumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that He might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for His mercy."

And St. Matthew the Evangelist, in chapter 3, tells how John the Baptizer's main message was a radical call to repent "for the kingdom of heaven has come near." To the Pharisees and Sadducees who came to him to be baptized, he warned them "to bear fruit worthy of repentance." And he foretold the coming of one who would baptize them "with the Holy Spirit and fire."

The warnings are clear. Let us pray that in the power of the Holy Spirit we may heed them and truly repent.

Fr. Carlos Expósito, Rector

READINGS FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Isaiah 11:1-10 + Psalm 72:1-8 + Romans 15:4-13 + Matthew 3:1-12

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 December 7th, 2025 Second Sunday of Advent

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 www.allsaintschurch.org

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

An Anglo-Catholic Parish in the Episcopal Diocese of San Diego

www.allsaintschurch.org

www.edsd.org