



"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 – FEBRUARY 22ND, 2026

PLACING FAITH IN HIS HELP

Believing the Promise

On the Second Sunday in Lent, the Collect in the Book of Common Prayer asks God to “deliver us from all our sins,” to “comfort us in all our adversities,” and to keep us in “perpetual joy and felicity.” It is a bold prayer. It assumes that we need deliverance, that we will face adversity, and that joy is not something we manufacture but something God preserves in us. That prayer provides a thread that runs through this Sunday’s readings: righteousness is not something we achieve for God; it is something we receive by trusting God.



In the Epistle to the Romans, chapter 4, Paul refers to Abraham and makes a startling claim: Abraham was reckoned as righteous, not because of what he accomplished, but because he believed God. Paul contrasts wages and gift. Wages are earned; they are owed. A gift is freely given. Paul insists that Abraham’s righteousness belongs in the second category.

That can be unsettling. We are used to earning things. We measure performance at work, at school, and even in our relationships. It is not surprising that we sometimes carry that same logic into our life with God. “If I pray more, perhaps God will be more pleased.” “If I serve more, perhaps I will finally feel secure.” Lent can quietly become a season of spiritual wages, like an attempt to prove something to God or to ourselves.

But Paul gently pulls that scaffolding away. Righteousness begins not with our effort, but with trust. God “calls into existence the things that do not exist.” The initiative belongs to God. Our part is to believe the promise.

That promise first comes to us in this week’s reading from the Book of Genesis, chapter 12. Abraham is told to leave his country, his kindred, and his father’s house. There is no detailed map, no five-year plan but only a promise: “I will bless you.” And Abraham goes. His righteousness looks very ordinary at first. It looks like packing up; like saying goodbye, or stepping into uncertainty. But faith, in this story, is not a feeling of certainty; it is movement in response to God’s word.

Many of us know what that feels like. A change in work. A shift in family life. A diagnosis. A new responsibility we did not seek. We rarely receive full clarity before we are asked to move. Like Abraham, we often walk with only a promise in hand. Trusting God in those moments may be closer to righteousness than any spiritual accomplishment we can list.

Psalm 121 deepens that posture of trust. “I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?” The answer is simple and profound: “My help comes from the Lord.” The psalm repeats the word “keep.” The Lord will keep you; The Lord will watch over you, The Lord will preserve you.

We know how easily our eyes drift to other hills. The headlines. The markets. The test results. The state of the world. We look for stability wherever we can find it. The psalm does not deny danger or difficulty. Instead, it redirects our gaze. We are not the ultimate keepers of our lives. God is. That, too, is an expression of righteousness in Paul’s sense: trusting the keeper more than our own vigilance.

In the Gospel, we meet Nicodemus in Gospel of John 3. He comes to Jesus at night. He is curious, cautious, perhaps a little confused. He is a serious and faithful man, yet he struggles to understand what Jesus means by being “born from above.” Jesus speaks of new birth, of the Spirit’s movement, and then of love: “For God so loved the world...”

Nicodemus represents many of us. We may be committed and thoughtful. We may know the tradition well. Yet when it comes to grace, we still find ourselves puzzled. We are more comfortable with effort than with gift. We understand improvement better than rebirth.

But new birth is not something we accomplish. It is something we receive. Just as Abraham received a promise and trusted it, just as the psalmist entrusted himself to the Lord’s keeping, so Nicodemus is invited to trust a love that precedes his understanding.

Taken together, these readings suggest that Lent is less about proving our devotion and more about deepening our trust. The disciplines of this season: prayer, fasting, generosity, are not wages we offer to God. They are ways of loosening our grip on self-sufficiency. They remind us that we are not saved by our performance, but by God’s promise.

Perhaps the invitation of this Sunday is simple. Why are we trying to earn what has already been given? Where might God be calling us to take one faithful step without having the whole journey mapped out? What hills have captured our gaze? And what would it mean, today, to lift our eyes again and say, “My help comes from the Lord”?

Fr. Carlos Expósito, Rector

READINGS FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

Genesis 12:1-4a + Romans 4:1-5, 13-17 + John 3:1-17
+ Psalm 121

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 **March 1st, 2026** **The Second Sunday in Lent**
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