



"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 – JULY 19TH, 2026 OF WHAT IS AND ISN'T NEEDED

Asking for What We Need

It has often been argued that there should be no need for prayers of petition, since God already knows what our needs are, even better than we do. This appears to be a truthful statement. However, Jesus Himself encourages His followers to ask, not once or twice, but insistently for what they need.

In Luke 11 Jesus even states, "ask and it will be given you", but then we realize in the verses that follow that He is actually referring to the gift of the Holy Spirit (Luke 11:13). (We have similar verses in Matthew 7:11, although the reference here is broader. Jesus refers to "good things", which may include daily provisions, wisdom, peace, and ultimately, spiritual blessings).



The fact is that God does not need our prayers, but we do need to pray to God. Prayer is one of the main ways we relate to our Creator, in a personal way, by putting into words or mental images what we would like to say to Him. Prayer can also be communal, when we join our voices in petitions that include our own needs and those of others, and intercessory, even when they are individual, if we ask for the needs of others.

Asking for what we believe we or others need puts us in the vulnerable mood that opens our hearts and minds to God's loving will. Those who believe they are their own gods do not pray. They believe they can only get what they want or need through their own doing. They see prayerful petitions as nonsensical weakness. Unfortunately those with a shallow faith can also lose it if they believe their petitions are unanswered

But as we mature in our faith we must also learn to ask for what we actually need from God, rather than try to use God as a wizard who will make all our whimsical wishes come true. Knowing what we actually need is not always clear to us, and might take a lot of prayerful discernment and inspiration from the Holy Spirit.

Maturity in Christianity is not so much about making less petitions, but rather, about petitioning what we actually need and we simply do not realize we do need. Think honestly about the petitions you make. What are they mostly about?

Even if we honestly believe that our petitions are altruistic enough because we are asking for someone else's physical or mental healing, we should not take for granted that if these petitions are not granted there is no God, or God is cruel. After all, this material world, as it is manifested at present, follows the natural laws of decay and death for all creatures, although in his Letter to the Romans, chapter 8, St. Paul hints that all of creation will be redeemed when the glory of the children of God will be revealed.

Shouldn't we instead ask for peaceful discernment, for steadfast faith and strength even in the face of the death of those we love? Shouldn't we ask for the gift of being prayerfully present with those who mourn, and the willingness to do what those who are suffering need in the moment?

Knowing what God's loving will in each moment of our lives should be our incessant prayer. Psalm 86 states this in a wonderfully beautiful image when the psalmist says, "Teach me your ways, oh Lord, and I will walk in your truth; knit my heart to you that I may fear your name." The notion of "fear" here is more related to due respect and worship than to being afraid.

But following Jesus' Way is a spiritual pilgrimage, and as we grow and mature on the way, like in the field in the parable of wheat and the weed (Matthew 13) there will be times when our prayer will be more self-centered, bearing little or no grain that can be useful for God's kingdom of unconditional love, and at other times it will bear good grain that can later on multiply, with prayers that help to attune our wills to God's, till the time of our maturity in our faith comes, and we will get rid of the former, and bear only the abundant grains of the latter.

Fr. Carlos E. Expósito, Rector

READINGS FOR THE EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Isaiah 44:6-8 + Romans 8:12-25 + Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43
+ Psalm 86:11-17

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 July 19th, 2026 The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 AM Mass in All Saints' Church

Join Zoom Meeting from our website at www.allsaintschurch.org

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

Christian Formation and First Communion Instruction for Children

Ages 5 to 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