



"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 30TH, 2026

MAY HE GUIDE US DOWN THE TRUE PATH

Paved with Good Intentions

We are all familiar with this old saying: "The road to hell is paved with good intentions." It is said to have been popularized in the 19th century, and used a lot by John Wesley in his sermons, although its antecedents, with similar wording, probably date back to much earlier Christian teachings. St. Bernard of Clairvaux (1090–1153) is often credited with this earlier version of the concept: "Hell is full of good wishes or desires."

This saying is used at present even in secular settings, as a staple of moral philosophy, serving as a reminder that the outcome of an action is often more significant than the intent behind it.

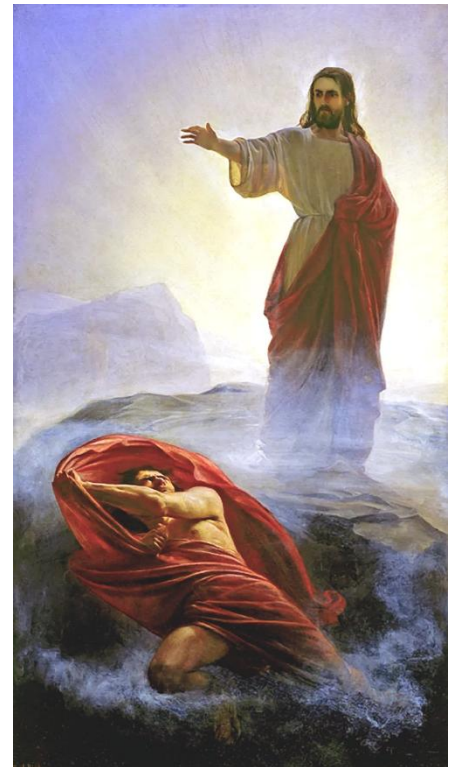
But what could it mean for us today, as 21st-century followers of Christ?

Whether we believe in Hell as a realm in the invisible world or as a state of separation from God's loving presence, whether in this visible or other worlds, it makes little difference as to how we interpret the saying and its implications for our life of faith.

Our intentions are the prime movers of our actions, and the way we perceive these intentions may not always coincide with God's will for our lives. Can we always be sure that what we perceive as "good" for ourselves or others is always in agreement with God's will?

Self-preservation is a really useful instinct, and it works well most of the time. However, there are instances in our lives when if we are to be consistent with Jesus' teachings about self-sacrifice as a real expression of love, we need to put this instinct aside, for ourselves and also for those we feel affection for.

This was the case when Jesus rebuked Peter for intending to "save" Him from the trials and horrible death He foretold that He would suffer (Matthew 16:21–28). Obviously Peter did not have any bad intentions. He was acting out of pure affection for His beloved master. He called Peter "Satan" for a reason though. It was not rejection or contempt. It was a warning: "You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."



Well, are we not human after all? How can we set our minds on divine things? This is not an easy goal, but Jesus' teachings clearly point to the reclaiming of our true being in God. Jesus always set the bar really high for those who aspired to become His followers. He did not do it to discourage them, but to let them know, from the very start, that the road to God's kingdom is paved with more than good intentions. It is paved with self-denial and sacrifice.

In his Letter to the Romans, St. Paul also sets the mark really high for the converts. He admonishes them "to bless those who persecute them and not curse them", and also, "not to repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all." Obviously these admonitions are not easy for anyone to fulfill. The "human" tendency is to repay others according to what they give us. But St. Paul insists, "Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."

The prophet Jeremiah, in chapter 15, shows us how not to let evil overcome us, when he proclaims, "Your words were found and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart."

And the Collect for this Sunday prays, "Graft in our hearts the love of thy Name, increase in us true religion, nourish us with all goodness, and bring forth in us the fruit of good works."

The intentions we may consider "good" are not enough. In fact, they may lead us in the wrong direction, away from God's will. But we may trust that God will always answer our ardent prayer to lead us on the road to true and eternal life.

Fr. Carlos E. Expósito, Rector

READINGS FOR THE FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Jeremiah 15:15-21 + Romans 12:9-21 + Matthew 16:21-28
+ Psalm 26:1-8

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 30th, 2026 The Fourteenth 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