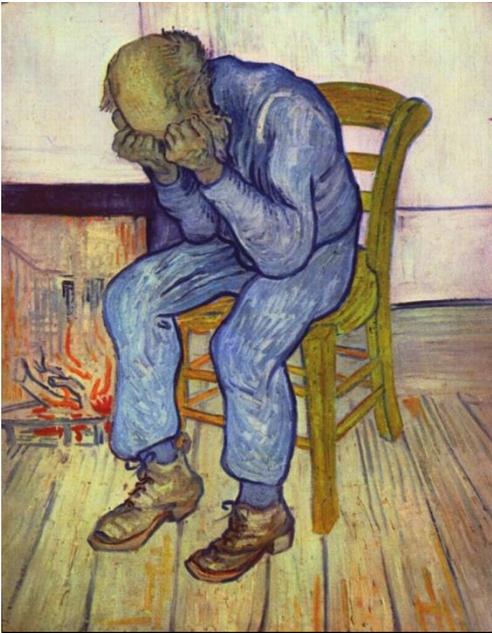




ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

THIS SUNDAY February 19 & BEYOND



At Eternity's Gate,
by Vincent Van Gogh (1890)

When we describe ourselves or someone else as “only human,” we usually mean for it to be a comfort. It’s a way of acknowledging our own limitations so that we don’t get discouraged or come down too hard on someone else.

Remembering that we’re not God, dealing with our imperfections, and being merciful with those of others all seem to fit right in with the spiritual life. Why then, in the midst of describing how we’re supposed to live, does Jesus say, “Be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect”? Because God didn’t create us to be “only human,” and we see this “in the beginning.”

God created us to love and be loved by him in a relationship so intimate that God breathes into Adam his own “breath of life.” This is more than biological; it’s what makes Adam a “living soul,” different from everything else God has created (see Genesis 2:7). When Adam and Eve eat of the tree, it’s their sin that separates them from God, and they’re sent out of his presence to live in the world as “only human.” The joy of the gospel message is that God doesn’t leave us flawed and broken, but sends his own son, Jesus Christ, to reconcile us and show us what it means to live as *fully* human.

Though Jesus is fully God, he suffered in all the same ways we do, except for sin; pain, fatigue, hunger, thirst, which all present opportunities for temptation, just as they do for us. What makes him *fully* human is that he offers it all to God the Father and the Holy Spirit makes up the difference. God isn’t glorified when our lives look the same as everyone else’s, and so Jesus calls us to a radical love of God and our neighbor that points to something greater at work. We have a perfect example in Acts 3, where a lame man asks Peter and John for alms. Instead of replying that he didn’t have any cash (like I’ve done so many times), Peter replies,

“I have no silver and gold, but I give you what I have; in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk,” and the man leaps to his feet!

God doesn't want us to be burdened by our imperfections, but he also wants us to know that they don't define who we are – “only human.” Jesus shows us that our limits are opportunities for God to share his life with us – we hunger so that he can feed us, we question so that he can teach us. Jesus himself even dies so that when we die we can have new life in him. God tells St. Paul, “My power is made perfect in weakness” (see 2 Corinthians 12:9), so don't let any struggle or failure keep you from running to God – those are the places in your life he's longing to enter.

Father McQueen

Readings for this Sunday – The Seventh Sunday after The Epiphany
Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18 Psalm 71:16-24 1 Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23
Matthew 5: 38-48

Calendar

SUNDAY: 8:00a Low Mass (Church)
9:30a Christian Formation (Fireside Room)
10:30a Solemn Mass (Church)
—The entrance to the church is on 6th Avenue—

Note: Child care is provided at the 8:00a, 10:30a Mass, Coffee Hour & Fellowship follow the Mass in the Parish Hall.

MONDAY 7:00p (AA) Doctors' Group (Fireside Room)

TUESDAY: Noon Mass (St. Mary's Chapel)

FRIDAY: 9:00a Morning Prayer (St. Mary's Chapel)
9:30a Mass (St. Mary's Chapel)

AA Meetings

6:30p Rainbow Bridge (Fireside Room)
8:00p Ladies' Group (Fireside Room)
8:15p Men's Group (Parish Hall)

UPCOMING EVENT

AWARD WINNING YOUNG ORGANISTS IN CONCERT



All Saints' is delighted to be hosting a concert highlighting the talents of three awarding winner young organists on **Sunday, February 26th at 4:00pm**. The young organists are John Yokoyama, winner of the 2015 and 2016 Intermediate Division AGO/Spreckels Scholarship; Miranda Kaack winner of the 2015 and 2016 Novice Division AGO Spreckels Scholarship and Vincent Pham, winner of the 2015 Advanced Division AGO/Spreckels Scholarship and the 2016 first place winner of the Southern Junior Bach Festival Complete Works Auditions.

Please join us for an opportunity to hear and support these 3 talented San Diego young artists as they perform organ works from Bach to 20th century composers.

After the concert a reception will be held in the Parish Hall to meet the young artists.

Donation \$10 — supports the Music Outreach Ministry at All Saints'