



ALL SAINTS'

CHURCH

"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 — March 13 & Beyond

"Standing Firm in the Lord"



The Lenten Season invites us to turn to God's loving way, to reshape our lives in a closer likeness to our Creator so that we can be active bearers of His image in the world.

The main word that stands out throughout the season is **repentance**. We are being urged to turn from the old ways, from our self-centeredness, ambitious selfishness, and inordinate love of worldly things, to the selfless unconditional Way of Love that Jesus has taught us through the words and deeds of His own blessed life.

This total change of mindset that would transform the way we live our lives is not an easy one to achieve. It is like a transfiguration of our whole beings, in which, as Paul declares in his letter to the Philippians, "He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of His glory..."

When asked if only a few would be saved, our Lord, according to Luke's Gospel, did not answer in the affirmative or negative. Instead He said, "Strive to enter through the narrow door..."

Jesus was clearly admitting that following His radical Way of Love would not be an easy task. He was aware of the many temptations—akin to the ones He had gone through Himself—that His followers would be facing.

He was aware that the satisfaction of the body's appetites would conspire against the resolution to put nobler and selfless commitments in the first place. He also knew that the ambition of material wealth, fame or recognition would stand in the way of many well-intentioned followers.

And worst of all, spiritual pride—the conviction that one is so righteous and the others are so wicked that they deserve no mercy—would make many go so far from God's all-encompassing love that turning back would cost them a great deal of transformative effort.

Does this mean that we are all hopelessly condemned not to be saved?

Not in the least. In His reply to the question whether only a few would be saved, Jesus ends up by offering a vision of people who would be coming from the four ends of the earth and would eat in the Kingdom of God. Obviously this does not point to just a few people.

Jesus was always clear in setting the mark high. The Kingdom of God, or Kingdom of Heaven as Matthew usually refers to it, is not just a fine place to live in. There is perfect communion in love with our Creator, with one another, and with the whole of creation here. It is beyond our ken.

Standing firm in the teachings of Jesus Christ our Lord that we have received through the Apostles, His first followers, and have been handed down to us throughout the generations of believers can be a hard task. But we have the Holy Spirit, the Counselor, the Defender, and the one who always tells us the Truth because He is the Spirit of Truth.

This Holy Spirit that Jesus Himself has left us will give us the strength to face temptations and overcome them, and to come out victors in the spiritual struggle against the evil one.

Yes, we can stand firm in the Lord, because He Himself will sustain us till the end of times.

Fr. Carlos E. Expósito, Rector

Readings for this Sunday – The Second Sunday in Lent

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18 Psalm 27:10-18 Philippians 3:17-4:1 Luke 13:22-35

CALENDAR

Note: We are worshipping in our historic church. The service will also be on Zoom. The service time is 10am. Tuesday Noon Mass and during Lent Friday 11:30am in St. Mary Chapel The Great Litany followed by the Stations of the Cross

SUNDAY The Second Sunday in Lent

10:00am 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 10:00am-10:45am

Christian Formation at 11:30am *Studying Sacred Earth, Sacred Soul* by John Philip Newell

1:00pm Mass in Spanish St. Mary Chapel All are Welcome

TUESDAY: Noon Mass in All Saints' St. Mary Chapel followed by a fellowship snack in the Flower Room.

THURSDAY Spanish Class 1:00pm to 3:00pm in the Flower Room. Taught by Fr. Carlos.

FRIDAY The Great Litany, at 11:30 am followed by the Via Crucis (the Stations of the Cross) at Noon in St. Mary Chapel

SUNDAY The Third Sunday in Lent

10:00am 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 10:00am-10:45am

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