



# ALL SAINTS'<sup>5</sup> 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 — May 5, 2024

### Abiding in God's Love



*"See how much love they have for one another."* This is what those who witnessed the rising of the first Christian communities said in astonishment, and what made this movement grow and develop tremendously.

The love they perceived went beyond family or even national ties. It showed even among people from different races and nations, and made no distinctions based on sex, age, or origin of any kind. It even showed slaves and owners, circumcised and uncircumcised alike.

How did this genuine love show among the true followers of Jesus' Way? It showed in the way they treated one another, with kindness and mutual respect; it showed in how the ones who had more wealth gave significant portions of what they had so that no one in their midst would be in need. It showed in how they tended the sick, the vulnerable, the ones who were suffering. It showed in how they prayed fervently for one another and for the world, and in their gathering together for worship, prayer, and breaking the bread, as Jesus Himself had commanded them to do through the Apostles.

Such was the characteristic way of life of the first Christians, and the most evident distinguishing trait of these communities was authentic love.

John the Apostle, the Evangelist, was also known as “the beloved disciple”. He was the youngest of the twelve. For some special reason that will always elude us, Jesus felt some special affection for him. He was one of Jesus’ closest three disciples, and at the end of his gospel, in the exchange between Peter and Jesus, when Peter asked Jesus what would happen to him, Jesus replied that he would stay alive until He returned, which did not mean he would not die, but probably that he did not suffer martyrdom.

It is not a mere coincidence that John’s writings, particularly his First Letter, is so filled with the notion of love. He describes himself in his gospel as “the disciple that Jesus loved.” That clearly shows he was totally aware of Jesus’ love for him, and of God’s love shown to him through Jesus in particular.

In his letters he always exhorts the converts to abide in God’s love, and makes it clear that real love is much more than a mere word. He urges the recipients of his letters to live out their love in mutual actions of loving care and service. Not doing so, he points out, would make them liars, for “anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen.”

But just as he himself felt Jesus’ love, and God’s love through Him in his own life, he is also aware that abiding in God’s love is first and foremost determined by the assurance of God’s love for us.

This is how John the Evangelist defines God’s love: “This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.”

And he concludes this part of the letter in this way: “We love because He first loved us...And He has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother.”

Fr. Carlos E. Expósito, Rector

Readings for Sixth Sunday of Easter: Acts 11:19-30    Psalm 33:1-8, 18-22    1 John 4:7-21    John 15:9-17

## CALENDAR

Note: We worship in our historic church. The service will also be on Zoom. The service time is 10am. Tuesday Noon Mass and Friday during Lent Great Litany, Via Crucis held in All Saints' Church

**SUNDAY May 5, 2024 Sixth Sunday of Easter**

**10:00am Mass in All Saints' Church**

Join Zoom Meeting from our web site at [www.allsaintschurch.org](http://www.allsaintschurch.org)

Recording of Mass available at [www.allsaintschurch.org](http://www.allsaintschurch.org)

**Christian Formation and First Communion Instruction for Children**

Ages 5-12 in the Parish Hall from 10:00am-10:45am

**Adult Christian Formation** will meet on Sunday May 12 at noon in the Rector's Office and Library

**TUESDAY Noon Mass in St. Mary Chapel**

**THURSDAY Spanish Class on Thursdays, from 1pm-3pm in the Library**

**FRIDAY 10:00am Morning Prayer in St. Mary Chapel**

**SUNDAY May 12, 2024 The Seventh Sunday of Easter : The Sunday after Ascension Day**

**10:00am Mass in All Saints' Church**

Join Zoom Meeting from our web site at [www.allsaintschurch.org](http://www.allsaintschurch.org)

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## **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