

## The Acts of Peter

A lot of things have been recorded in the Gospels about Peter, especially his interactions with Jesus. If we take a closer look at four particular ones, we can trace his faith journey; we will discover how his faith journey is so similar to the faith journey of most believers.

Peter's journey of faith began with his call – Peter was weary trying to catch fish all night. And yet, at Jesus' command, Peter said in reply, "Master, we have worked hard all night and have caught nothing, but at your command I will lower the nets" (Luke 5:5). At this point in time, Peter did not know much about Jesus, but he believed Him enough to do what He told him to do. The result was miraculous, Peter and his companions caught so much fish that their nets were tearing. Jesus said, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men" (Luke 5:10). Peter and his companions left everything and followed Jesus. Usually, a person's faith journey begins when a person experiences something extraordinary. Our minds are opened to the reality that Jesus wants something to do with us. We do not know Him quite well enough, but we feel that Jesus is worth looking into and we let Him become a part of our lives.

The next episode in Peter's life in his journey of faith is his confession of faith. When Jesus and His disciples were on their way to Caesarea Philippi, Jesus asked His disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" They said in reply, "John the Baptist, others Elijah, still others one of the prophets." And He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter said in reply, "You are the Messiah!" (Mark 8:27-29) At the time Peter said this, he did not really know what kind of Messiah Jesus would turn out to be; he didn't know that Jesus would be the suffering Messiah! Peter had more faith now than when he first met Jesus, but he still had a long way to go. Jesus still had so much in store for Peter. Peter still had to experience the Jesus' Transfiguration, Passion, Death and Resurrection; he still had to receive the Holy Spirit, go out into the world to proclaim the Gospel, and ultimately face his own crucifixion and death. There comes a time in our lives when we undoubtedly acknowledge Jesus as the Messiah – the anointed One, the One who was promised to come and save us. Undoubtedly, that would be one of the highest moments in our faith journey, but it is not the highest, for the highest moment is yet to come.



As far as any journey in life goes, it is not always a bed of roses. Peter's journey of faith would soon turn into what would seemingly be a huge disaster – when he got caught in a difficult situation, he would deny Jesus three times. It was literally just a while ago, when Jesus and His disciples were in the Mount of Olives, that Peter said to Jesus, "Even though I should have to die with you, I will not deny you." (Matthew 26:35) But now, Peter would fall apart and do exactly the opposite of what he just said.

Later on, after the trouble has settled down, Peter has a tender moment with the risen Jesus where he confesses his love for Him. Three times, Jesus will say to Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" Three times, Peter will respond, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you" (John 21:15-17). I think that after we have experienced hardship and failure, when we look back, reflect, weigh carefully what Jesus is still asking of us, and to say, "Yes, Lord. I love you." Then that would indeed be one of the highest points in our faith journey. Jesus asked Peter to feed His lambs, tend His sheep and feed His sheep; but what Jesus asks is different for each believer.

耶穌聖名華人天主堂  
THE HOLY NAME of Jesus CHINESE CATHOLIC MISSION  
5395 Light Circle NW, Norcross GA 30071 678-691-3261 hnojatl.org  
每週公告 Weekly Bulletin  
2024年九月十五日 September 15, 2024

Peter's encounters with Jesus did not end in the Gospels. There is a book called the Acts of Peter, composed in Greek in the second half of the 2nd century, where we can find the story of "Quo Vadis." During the Christian persecution, Peter was leaving Rome when he meets Jesus along the Appian Way. Peter asks Jesus, "Quo vadis, Domine?" which means, "Lord, where are you going?" Jesus responds, "To Rome to be crucified again." Peter realizes that he must return to Rome to be with his Christian flock. The Acts of Peter also contains the first record of the tradition that Peter was crucified upside-down. After Peter was captured, the Roman soldiers planned to crucify him just like Jesus, but he said, "I'm not worthy to die in the same manner as my Lord." Thereupon, the soldiers crucified Peter in a novel way – upside-down.



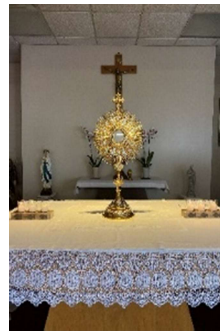
## PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Reserve the date: Fr. Bill encourages all parishioners to make plans to participate in the Eucharistic Congress in Atlanta next year on June 20-21, 2025. Our church will host the first-ever Chinese Track in the Eucharistic Congress. This is an incredible opportunity for all of us to see and experience the great number of Catholics in Atlanta united under the One Body of Christ!

Today, come and celebrate the Mid-Autumn Festival with us! We will have a lantern parade by the children of our parish after the 10:30am Mass, our community potluck, riddles for adults and prizes for the best lantern and riddle winner!



Are you an adult and have not yet received the Sacrament of Confirmation? If so, we invite you to join our Confirmation program to prepare you for the Sacrament of Confirmation at the Easter Vigil in 2025. If you are interested, please contact Fr. Bill.



Please make a commitment to stay for an hour of Eucharistic Adoration every Sunday from 9:00 to 10:00am. The sign-up sheet for September is in the church foyer.

Prayer List: Eva Mullins, David Wang, Chen Jianxin, Liang Chenjing, Pan Bohao and Xu Taicheng.

Mass Schedule	Confessions	Bible Study
Sundays 10:30 AM (Chinese)	Sundays 9:00-9:30 AM	Wednesdays 10:00 AM (Chinese)
Sundays 2:00 PM (English)	Tuesdays 2:00-3:00 PM	Mondays 6:00 PM (English)
	By Appointment	
Mondays 12:00 PM (English)		<b>Eucharistic Adoration</b>
Tuesdays 12:00 PM (English)	<b>Anointing of the Sick</b>	Sundays 9:30 AM to 12:00 PM
Wednesdays 12:00 PM (Chinese)	First Sundays after 10:30 AM Mass	Tuesdays 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM
Fridays 12:00 PM (English)		
First Friday 7:00 PM (English)		
First Saturday 10:00 AM (Chinese)		