

Humble Service

What is the measure of greatness in the eyes of the world? In other words, what would the world consider as a great person? Is it how much power a person wields to control others to do his bidding? Is it how much wealth a person has amassed to acquire whatever he wants? Is it the huge number of followers a person can influence on social media? Greatness in the eyes of the world is about how much a person can CONTROL, ACQUIRE or INFLUENCE people or things. In the Gospels, Jesus reveals to us that the measure of greatness in God's kingdom is none of these but the exact opposite.

The discussion among the disciples about who was the greatest among themselves came up when Jesus' Galilean ministry was about to end and His final journey to Jerusalem was about to begin. It may also have been due to the promise Jesus made to Peter not too long ago. When Peter confessed Jesus as the Messiah (cf. Mark 8:29, Matthew 16:16), Jesus said to Peter, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah. For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father. And so, I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven" (Matthew 16:17-19).



It was also during this time that Jesus predicted His Passion to His disciples a second time because the disciples could not yet understand that the suffering which He had to undergo in Jerusalem was an essential part of the role of the Messiah. Therefore, Christ had to teach His disciples what humble service is like:

At the Last Supper in Luke, an argument broke out among the disciples about which of them should be regarded as the greatest. Jesus said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them... but among you it shall not be so. Rather, let the greatest among you be as the least, and the leader as the servant... I am among you as the one who serves" (cf. Luke 22:24-27).

At the Last Supper in John, after Jesus had washed the feet of His disciples, put His garments back on and reclined at table again, He said to them, "Do you realize what I have done for you? You call me 'teacher' and 'master,' and rightly so, for indeed I am. If I, therefore, the master and teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash one another's feet. I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do" (John 13:12-15).

In the kingdom of God, there is no place for selfish ambition; greatness is measured not by high position or huge accomplishments, but by the degree of humble service.

Consider how significant was Jesus' action of taking a child, putting the child in the midst of His disciples and saying to them, "Whoever receives one child such as this in my name, receives me; and whoever receives me, receives not me but the One who sent me" (Mark 9:36-37). The child represents the lowly ones whom the disciples will be called to serve. Whoever receives these little ones for Christ's sake, receives Christ and the Father who sent Him. Who do you think are among the greatest saints in heaven? The Catholic Church has its hierarchy of saints as reflected in the order in which they appear in the Litany of the Saints: the greatest of whom is the Blessed Virgin Mary, followed by St. Joseph and St. John the Baptist. Other ranks of human saints include Apostles and evangelists, martyrs and confessors, doctors of the church, bishops, priests, religious and holy men and women. If we are to learn the lesson of humble service from the Gospels, we can be sure that those who humbly served the least on earth are among the greatest in heaven.

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PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fr. Bill would like to thank all those who helped make the Mid-Autumn Festival a successful and memorable celebration in our church. So many people were involved in behind-the-scenes planning, preparation, logistics, decorations, clean-up and many more. This was a true witness of fraternity and collaboration among our parishioners. Thank you also to all our performers, guests, children and parishioners who participated in the celebration. God has once again blessed our church with unity, peace and joy!



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!

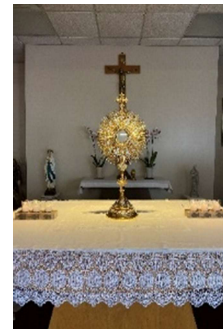
Attention children and parents: We will have Sunday School today. Parents are welcome to sit in the Sunday School classes.



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.



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)		Eucharistic Adoration
Tuesdays 12:00 PM (English)	Anointing of the Sick	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)		