

The Sin of Scandal

Jesus said to His disciples, “Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe [in me] to sin, it would be better for him if a great millstone were put around his neck and he were thrown into the sea” (Mark 9:42). In this Gospel passage, Jesus was talking about the sin of scandal; what may surprise you is that it may not be what you think it is.

Christians have a tendency to downplay the seriousness of their sins. Sometimes the reasoning behind it is that if everyone I know was doing it, then my sin couldn't be that serious. Other times, the excuse is that I'm not killing, stealing or committing adultery, so how can my sin be so serious? But for Jesus to say that the punishment for causing little ones to sin is worse than tying a millstone around his neck and be thrown into the sea. Let us think about this; the point is that the things that we say or do, when it causes scandal, which means any words we say or any action we make that lead others to sin, is a very serious sin. For the average “holy” church goer, the most common causes of scandal is by gossiping about others, or by making comments about someone or by adding a second sentence of our own to what really happened. Even though we may think that what we say is a very small and unimportant comment, depending on the resulting pain or sorrow that it causes some people, it may turn out to be a very serious sin.



In addition to the resulting pain and sorrow that we cause, the degree of scandal also depends on who we have scandalized. Scandal destroys relationships. If the scandal destroys the relationship between, for example, a husband and wife, parents and their children, or between long-time friends, then that particular sin of scandal is a very serious sin. In the Gospel passage, the “little ones” are not necessarily small children, nor are they necessarily poor and uneducated people. The “little ones” are those who are easily swayed and influenced by the opinions and remarks of others, and these people could very well be wealthy and have high positions. If you know someone who is easily swayed by gossip, then making an extra comment to these people about someone else regardless of how harmless we might think it was, can turn out to be a very serious sin. Finally, if the scandal destroys the peace, unity and fraternity of a church community, then that particular sin of scandal is very serious. We must always think twice about making a careless comment about other people.

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Virtue

Those who spare their words are truly knowledgeable, and those who are discreet are intelligent. Even fools, keeping silent, are considered wise; if they keep their lips closed, intelligent.
(Proverbs 17:27-28)

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
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PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attention all Chinese Cursillo members: We will have our monthly ULTREYA today. Please proceed to the conference room immediately after Mass.

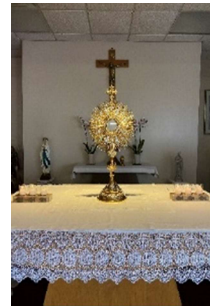


Reserve the date: Fr. Bill encourages all parishioners to make plans to participate in the Eucharistic Congress in Atlanta next year on June 20-21, 2025. Our church will host the first-ever Chinese Track in the Eucharistic Congress. This is an incredible opportunity for all of us to see and experience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