

Christ descended into hell

When Jesus was born, His mother embraced Him. When Jesus was baptized, His Father consecrated Him. Jesus Christ was baptized, not to be made holy by the water, but to make the water holy, to purify the waters which touched His body. The Baptism of the Lord was one of His first saving actions: For when the Savior was baptized, the waters of Christian baptism was sanctified for the dispensing of grace to all Christians. Christ the Head had to be baptized, so that members of His mystical Body can benefit from baptismal grace.

A little-known aspect of the mystery of baptism is that when Jesus presented Himself to John the Baptist for baptism, He was already anticipating His death. His immersion under the waters of the Jordan prefigured His death. Christian baptism is more than a cleansing; it is a participation in the death of Christ, His descent into hell and His resurrection. In the letter to the Colossians, St. Paul describes it with these words: "You were buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised with Him through faith in the power of God, who raised Him from the dead" (Colossians 2:12). Without death, there can't be new life. Christian baptism is more than just a rite of passage – it is a rebirth, a new beginning!



The Apostles Creed profess that Jesus descended into hell. This happened after He died on the Cross and was buried, and before He rose from the dead after three days. The "hell" that Jesus descended into is what scripture calls the abode of the dead – Sheol in Hebrew because those who are there were deprived of the vision of God. Such was the case for all the dead, whether evil or righteous, as they awaited the Redeemer. However, it was the righteous, who awaited their Savior, whom Christ delivered when He descended into hell. Jesus did not descend into hell to deliver the damned, nor to destroy the hell of damnation, but to free the souls of the righteous (CCC 633).

By the expression "He descended into hell," the Apostles Creed confesses that Jesus really died and through His death conquered death (CCC 636). The human soul of Christ, united to His divine person, entered the realm of the dead. He opened heaven's gates for the just who had gone before Him (CCC 637).

Baptism is a one-time event. The Church tells us that the sacrament of baptism can only be received once in a lifetime. Although it is true to say that once baptized, always baptized; some Christians misunderstand baptism in terms of once saved, always saved. Baptism reveals the great drama of Christian existence: the Christian life is about continually dying to sin and being alive to God in Christ. In this way, the Christian life is a continuing participation in the death of Christ.

St. Paul relates his own suffering in the ministry to the death of Christ by saying: "We always carrying about in the body the death of Jesus, so that His life may also be manifested in our body. For we who live are constantly being given up to death for the sake of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So, death is at work in us, but life in you." (2Cor 4:10-12). St. Paul's personal sacrifices each and every day is his ongoing death in Christ for the good of the Church and its members.

The two sacraments of Baptism and the Eucharist jointly shows the connection between death and life in Christ. The death to sin in baptism is fulfilled in a life in Christ in the Eucharist. In baptism, Christ calls us to share in His death, but in the Eucharist, He calls us to share in His life of communion with the Father. Through grace, we are called to a transformation in life so that we may truly be dead to sin and alive to God.

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 hmojat1.org
每週公告 Weekly Bulletin
2025 年一月十二日 January 12, 2025

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Our special Mass for the Feast Day of the Holy Name of Jesus will be on January 19, 2025 in lieu of the 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time. Our Chinese New Year Mass, solemn tribute to our ancestors and Chinese New Year celebration will be on February 2, 2025.



The Georgia Bulletin reported that the Archdiocese of Atlanta will not hold the Eucharistic Congress in 2025 due to budget constraints. Deacon Dennis Dörner made the announcement to cancel the Eucharistic Congress: “While we will no longer be hosting the Eucharistic Congress in 2025, we are working on plans for a major public procession and other ways the archdiocese can celebrate and witness to the priceless gift of the Eucharist during the coming Jubilee Year of 2025.” Our church was especially looking forward to the Eucharistic Congress because it was supposed to be the first time the archdiocese would hold a

“Chinese Track.” Despite our disappointment in the decision by the archdiocese, our church hold a week-long Eucharistic Revival from June 18 to June 24, 2025. Our invited guests include Most Reverend John Lee Juo-wang, Bishop Emeritus of the diocese of Tainan, Taiwan and Fr. Francis Ching of the Companions of the Cross based in Toronto, Canada, as well as a Chinese band led by Mr. Jianren Zhu from Los Angeles. Come, participate and make the most of that week with our special guests. They are coming to Atlanta especially for you, in order to inspire and deepen your devotion to the Eucharist!

Next Sunday, January 19 is potluck Sunday! This is a great activity for everyone to foster fellowship in our church community. If you are celebrating your birthday in the month of January, we have ordered a birthday cake for you. Lunch begins after the 10:30am Mass. Please bring your favorite dish to share.

There are only a few copies left of the 2025 Chinese Liturgical calendars in the church foyer. Please remember to take a copy or two home with you, and share with your family and friends. Although the cost of materials and production has increased, the suggested donation for each calendar is still \$5, same as last year.

Fr. Bill will be out of town from Monday, January 13 to Thursday, January 16. There will be no daily Mass from Monday to Wednesday next week.

Prayer List: Liu Guifang, Lydia Chen, Lu Shumi, 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)		