

The man born blind and the prodigal son

The story of the man born blind in John 9 is about the journey of faith of the man born blind. It is quite similar to the journey of faith of the Samaritan woman in John 4. At first, the man born blind didn't know who Jesus was. Gradually, he came to recognize Jesus as a prophet and finally as the Son of Man – the Messiah. Jesus asked him: "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" The man answered, "Who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" Jesus said, "You have seen Him, the one speaking with you is He." He said, "I do believe, Lord," and he worshiped Him.

A new life opened up for the blind man when he professed his faith in Jesus. He entered into a new relationship with God. The same happens to us. The Lord Jesus gives us His light by teaching us wisdom and by filling our hearts with love and understanding. In Jesus, we learn to adapt our life to the will of God and to live in righteousness and truth. St. Paul says, "For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light, for light produces every kind of goodness and righteousness and truth." (Ephesians 5:8-9)

In just a few more weeks, our five Elect brothers and sisters will receive the Sacraments of Initiation. Several months ago, they began as catechumens, then a few weeks ago, they became the Elect. Like the Samaritan woman and the man born blind, they too have been on their journey of faith. At the Easter Vigil, they will be initiated to the Catholic Church by receiving the Sacraments of Initiation – Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. However, this does not mean they will have completed their journey of faith. "To initiate" means "to begin," therefore, accurately speaking, the Sacraments of Initiation are the Sacraments that they need to begin their journey of faith in the Catholic Church. There is so much more for them to learn and to experience, to give and to receive, and to share with our church community.



The Parable of the Prodigal Son contains a great lesson on mercy and forgiveness. It teaches us the importance of asking for forgiveness and forgiving others. One of the most common obstacles to forgiveness is pride, because asking for forgiveness requires humility. It involves admitting one's wrongdoing, expressing remorse and assuming the risk that one may or may not be forgiven. One who doesn't admit wrongdoing cannot genuinely ask for forgiveness. One who asks forgiveness but has no remorse is at the very least insincere and can reasonably be suspected of manipulation. In addition, asking for forgiveness always carries the risk of shame, especially when one is not forgiven. In the parable, the prodigal son showed humility by

admitting his wrongdoing, by expressing remorse and by taking the risk of not being forgiven by his father; he said, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son." (Luke 15:21)

Some of the common obstacles to forgiving others is not willing to let go of one's anger or hurt. While it may be easy for some people to let go of anger or hurt and to move on with their life, forgiving others even for small offenses could be the most difficult thing to do for others. Some people think that forgiveness is like forgoing justice. It can be difficult to forgive when we feel that people, under all circumstances, must be held accountable for their actions and must be punished, such that there is no longer any room for compassion.

In the parable, when the father saw his son coming from a distance, he was filled with compassion and ran to embrace him. The father was so happy that the son he thought dead was alive and had come home. The father showed no anger or hurt, he didn't even bring up the issue of holding his son accountable for what he did wrong. For the father, the only important thing was that his son has come back to him.

On the other hand, the prodigal son's brother had a hard time forgiving him. He became angry and clearly wanted some kind of punishment for his brother, as well as some kind of reward for himself. The father explained, "My son, you are here with me always; everything I have is yours. But now we must celebrate and rejoice, because your

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brother was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found.” (Luke 15:31-32) From the father’s point of view, the important thing to focus on at the moment was not punishment or reward, but that the prodigal son has returned. In the context of the Pharisees and sinners, the Pharisees had been too focused on judging whether people are worthy or unworthy. For them, sinners are unworthy and do not deserve the compassion that Jesus showed them and the forgiveness that Jesus gave them. If God forgives, who are we to judge?

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

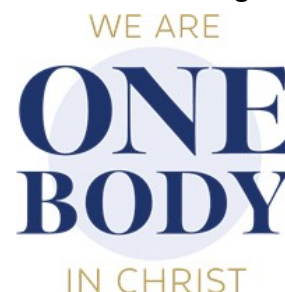


Attention children and parents: We will have Sunday School class today.

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

During Lent, please join us in the Stations of the Cross in Chinese every Wednesday after the noon Mass and in English every Friday after the noon Mass.

As of last week, we have collected \$3,360 in donations to the Archbishops Annual Appeal. We need \$240 more to reach our goal. For your convenience, you can make your donations through our church. If you wish to donate through our church, please make sure your check is payable to HNOJ and write AAA in the memo. Please use the AAA envelopes provided. Thank you for your support.



Reserve the date: Due to the cancellation of the Eucharistic Congress of the Archdiocese of Atlanta this year, Holy Name of Jesus Chinese Catholic Church will hold a week-long Eucharistic Renewal event 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!

Prayer List: Ni Yufang, Liu Guifang, Lydia Chen, Lu Shumi, David Wang, Chen Jianxin, Liang Chenjing, Xu Taicheng and Fr. Bill.

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)		