

## The raising of Lazarus and the woman caught in adultery

Whenever I come across the story of Lazarus in John 11, I sometimes wonder how Lazarus died? He couldn't be much older than Jesus and his two sisters Martha and Mary. The Gospel of John doesn't specify the illness that caused Lazarus's death, but the fact that Jesus was sent word that Lazarus was sick and had been entombed for four days, suggests that Lazarus died from a serious and progressive illness. The death of Lazarus reminds us that life is frail. One day a person is enjoying health, and not long after, the same person is either on the verge of death or had passed away. It couldn't have been that long ago when Jesus visited with Lazarus' sisters Martha and Mary in their home.

I have reached a point in my life whereby I have observed how the body slowly declines. At the turn of each decade, when I reached the age of 40, 50 and 60, there had been activities that I used to do but can no longer force myself to do. Upon reaching each milestone, I learned to accept and to adjust, and I am totally fine with that. The body declines, but the spirit grows and strengthens.

Jesus said to Martha, "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die." (John 11:25-26) Here, Jesus wasn't talking about earthly life, He was talking about eternal life. The one who believes in Jesus will have eternal life; hence, even if his body dies here on earth, he will never die because he will continue to live in heaven.



While the New Testament doesn't tell us much about Lazarus after Jesus raised him from the dead, various traditions do. According to the Greek Orthodox tradition, Lazarus was forced to flee Judea and went to Cyprus. There he was appointed by Paul and Barnabas as the first bishop of Kition (present-day Larnaca). Today, the Church of St. Lazarus is one of the most beautiful and ancient churches in Cyprus. On the other hand, the Latin tradition suggests that Lazarus, Mary, and Martha went to southern France, where Lazarus became the bishop of Marseilles. Under Roman persecution, he was imprisoned and beheaded for the faith. Together with Martha and Mary, Lazarus of Bethany is revered as a saint and all three have July 29 as their feast day.

In John 8, the scribes and the Pharisees used the woman caught in adultery to trap Jesus. They were willing to risk the woman's life for their purpose, since depending on how Jesus responded, they would have without hesitation stoned her to death. Jesus knew what was in their hearts; he said to them, "Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." (John 8:7) After that, they left her alone with Jesus. Some might say that Jesus saved the woman's life, but Jesus did more than that; Jesus gave the woman the chance for a new life on earth and eternal life in heaven.

The raising of Lazarus and the story of the woman caught in adultery is very closely connected because both are about life and death. Lazarus died and Jesus raised him back to life physically. The woman caught in adultery was dead to sin and Jesus restored her back to life spiritually. Jesus turned to the woman and said, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" She replied, "No one, sir." Then Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you. Go, [and] from now on do not sin anymore." (John 8:10-11) Jesus forgave her sins and bade her to make a firm purpose of amendment.

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## PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS



Attention children and parents: For Sunday School this week, the children will work on their Easter Project.

Fr. Bill will administer the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick in the Sanctuary after the 10:30am Mass.

noon 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

We have reached our goal for the Archbishop's Annual Appeal. Thank you for all your help and cooperation!

Attention all parish council and finance council members, we will have a joint meeting in the conference room at 12:00pm.

We have a copy of the book "A biblical walk through the Mass." If you are interested in ordering a copy, please get in touch with Fan Yiping.



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

Come join us for our special liturgies during Holy Week:

- Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper (April 17, 2025 at 7:00 pm)
- Good Friday of the Passion of the Lord (April 18 2025 at 7:00 pm)
- Easter Vigil in the Holy Night (April 19, 2025 at 8:00 pm)

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

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!

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)		