

Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed

After Jesus appeared to the other disciples when Thomas was not with them, they said to Thomas, “We have seen the Lord.” But Thomas said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger into the nail marks and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.” (John 20:25) A week later, Jesus appeared again to His disciples and this time, Thomas was with them. After Thomas saw and touched Jesus’ hands and side, he then believed that Christ has risen from the dead. Jesus said to Thomas, “Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.” (John 20:29)

Some people may think that Thomas didn’t have a lot of faith; some may even compare themselves with Thomas and think that they are better than Thomas, because they say that they believe in Christ, even if they have never



seen Him in person. Yet the faith we have as Christians have a lot to do with the witness of those who have actually seen the risen Christ, including Thomas. The Gospel account of the doubting Thomas was not meant to belittle Thomas, but was a message meant for future generations of Christians who won’t get a chance to see Jesus in person in their lifetimes. Without the testimony of the apostles, the other disciples and the writers of the books of the New Testament, the world would never have come to know about Jesus, much less the chance to believe in Him.

The Gospels tell us of those who have seen the risen Christ starting with Mary of Magdala (John 20:11-18, Mark 16:9-11). Jesus also appeared to two disciples on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35, Mark 16:12), and to the other disciples, in particular to the 10 apostles and then to Thomas (John 20:19-29, Mark 16:14). According to St. Paul, Jesus appeared to Cephas (Peter) and then to the twelve, and then to more than 500 brothers (1Cor 15:5-6). Hebrews 11:1 says, “Faith is the conviction of things not seen.” It describes faith as a belief in things that cannot be physically witnessed; it implies certainty that things are true, even in the absence of physical evidence.

Some people may say that it is foolish to believe in things that have no visible evidence; but to apply that notion indiscriminately to all things, regardless of what they are, could end up in a tragic loss, because there are some things that are worth believing in, despite the absence of visible evidence. One such thing is faith in Jesus Christ.

What are the benefits of faith in Christ? Let us look to the Letter of St. Paul to the Galatians for the fruits of faith, which says, “the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.” (Gal 5:22-23) This verse lists qualities in a person that result in a life lived in faith and guided by the Holy Spirit. Who wouldn’t want to live a life of joy and peace, patience and kindness, gentleness and self-control? Jesus’ words, “Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed,” implies a two-fold blessing. On the one hand, the blessings come in the form of developing those qualities mentioned above in this life, which makes for a better way of life, and the on the other hand, the blessing of eternal life in the life to come.

Prayer List: Chu Waitat, Liu Kejiu, Ni Yufang, Lydia Chen, Stephen Jerez, Lu Shumi, David Wang, Chen Jianxin, Liang Chenjing, Xu Taicheng and Fr. Bill.

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PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

We wish to thank everyone who have helped make possible our Holy Week and Easter liturgies and celebrations: all our volunteers, the church choir, the altar servers, those who brought food for the Easter potluck, those who cleaned up afterwards, and especially all those we have forgotten to mention. You will be greatly rewarded in heaven!



The date for our Spring Garage Sale has been changed from May 17 to May 24, the time is still from 8:00am to 2:00pm. Please check if you have clothes, household and gift items in good condition to donate. You may start bringing donated items any time before May 17. Please sign up with Daisy Tsui if you can help during the garage sale.

In Memory of Pope Francis

On March 13, 2013, Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio, 76, archbishop of Buenos Aires was elected to become the first pope from the Americas. As the 265th successor to Saint Peter, he was the first pope to take the name of Francis, a name chosen in honor of Saint Francis of Assisi.



Pope Francis was born in Buenos Aires on 17 December 1936, the son of Italian immigrants. He entered the novitiate of the Society of Jesus on 11 March 1958 and he was ordained a priest on December 13, 1969. He was appointed by Pope John Paul II as auxiliary bishop of Buenos Aires on May 20, 1992.

“My people are poor and I am one of them”, he has said more than once, explaining his decision to live in an apartment and cook his own supper. He has always advised his priests to show mercy and apostolic courage and to keep their doors open to everyone.



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!

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)		