

Another Chance at Repentance

After His Resurrection, Jesus revealed Himself again to His disciples at the Sea of Tiberias – to Simon Peter, Thomas, Nathanael, James and John, and two others (John 21:1-19). There, Jesus revealed Himself through a miraculous catch of fish, in the same way and in the same place as when He called His first disciples. Jesus ate with His disciples, taking bread and giving it to them, and in the same manner the fish. It was after they had eaten that Jesus asked Simon Peter three times, “Do you love me?” At each time, Simon Peter answered, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.”

Many commentaries have said that this thrice affirmation of Peter’s love for Jesus was to make up for the thrice denial of Peter in the courtyard after Jesus was arrested. I can’t say if Peter’s thrice affirmation was enough to make up for his thrice denial, but it is quite clear that Jesus was giving Peter another chance at repentance. What is remarkable is the manner in which Jesus went about leading Peter to repentance. There was no indication of guilt-tripping or coercion on Jesus’ part; at the right time and at the right place, Jesus simply asked Peter, “Do you love me?” Here, we can see how Jesus was so patient and loving towards the one who first said that he would die for Jesus (Matthew 26:35, John 13:37), but ended up failing Him when it counted the most. Jesus waited all this time to lead Peter to repentance until they were back at the same place where Peter said to Jesus, “Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man.” (Luke 5:8)



This interaction between Jesus and Peter reminds me of the parable of the prodigal son (Luke 15:11-32). After the prodigal son realized the error of his ways, he repented and went back to his father. He said to himself, “I shall get up and go to my father and I shall say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you, I no longer deserve to be called your son.’” (Luke 15:18-19). While he was still a long way off, his father caught sight of him. Although it is not explicitly mentioned in the parable, the father had probably been looking over at the distance each and every day in the hope that his son will one day return to him. What followed next was that the father, filled with compassion, ran to his son, embraced him and kissed him. The father was overjoyed; his son came back alive. There was no guilt-tripping on the part of the father, there was no “I told you so.” The father’s actions confirm what Jesus said, “There will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who have no need of repentance.” (Luke 15:7)

The parable of the prodigal son gives us a glimpse of the nature of God. He waits patiently for the sinner to repent and return to Him. Likewise, the actions of Jesus towards Peter give us a glimpse of the same nature in the Son of God. Not only does Jesus lead the sinner to repentance, He leads the sinner to love Him. Jesus had a lot to ask of Peter: feed my lambs, tend my sheep, feed my sheep (John 21:15-17). But one day, Peter will make his ultimate sacrifice and willingly die for Jesus on a cross.

Both the parable of the prodigal son and the interaction between Jesus and Peter show us the essence of the nature of God. St. Paul was cognizant of this and he encouraged Timothy and the early church in Ephesus to persevere in the true faith; he said: “This saying is trustworthy; if we have died with him, we shall also live with him; if we persevere we shall also reign with him. But if we deny him he will deny us. If we are unfaithful, He remains faithful, for he cannot deny Himself.” (2Timothy 2:11-13) The first part of this quote conforms with what Jesus said, “Everyone who acknowledges me before others I will acknowledge before my heavenly Father. But whoever denies me before others, I will deny before my heavenly Father.” (Matthew

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10:32-33) However, the final part conforms with the epistle of St. Peter: “The Lord does not delay His promise, as some regard “delay,” but He is patient with you, not wishing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.” (2Peter 3:9) Both Saints Peter and Paul reminds us of God’s patience and mercy. That is God’s nature in which He cannot deny Himself. Sinners are given a chance at repentance, but if they reject it, ignore it or put it off, there might not be another one.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

On Sunday, May 4th, during the 10:30 am Mass, we will celebrate the May Crowning of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Every family in our church is invited to bring flowers to offer to Our Lady to express our love and respect for the Virgin Mary as Christians!

On Sunday, May 11th, we will celebrate the Mass for the feast day of Our Lady of China.

Attention to our newly baptized brothers and sisters: we will have our Mystagogia class this Sunday at 12:30pm.

Fr. Bill will administer the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick in the Sanctuary after the 10:30am Mass. Those who would like to receive the Anointing of the Sick, please come to the front of the Sanctuary right after Mass.



The date for our Spring Garage Sale will be on May 24 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.

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



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.

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)		