

The Commandment of Love

Jesus said to His disciples, “I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another.” (John 13:34) Let us compare this new commandment to the old commandment in Leviticus, which says: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself. I am the LORD.” (Lev 19:18) Jesus imposed a higher standard to the old commandment by adding: “as I have loved you.” One significance about this new commandment is that by giving it, Jesus puts Himself at par with Yahweh. It was Yahweh who gave the first commandment to love our neighbor, and now Jesus, the Son of God, gives this new commandment of love. It is true that humans in positions of authority can give mandates, orders or make laws, but these are based on the norms and values of society at a certain period of time and can be amended. On the other hand, God’s commandments are perfect, unchanging and universal; e.g., the Ten Commandments are recognized by Jews and Christians alike as fundamental and unchanging.

In the new commandment, Jesus commands His disciples to love as He loves: selflessly, gratuitously, efficaciously, rightly. (1) Selflessly – to love while deferring one’s own needs to the other person’s needs. (2) Gratuitously – to love freely, voluntarily, to love not because we feel obliged to, and without expecting anything in return. (3) Efficaciously – to love not only with words but also with genuine actions in a timely manner. (4) Rightly – to love in the right way for the right reasons, not in a lustful, abusive or manipulative way.



Jesus also said, “This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” (John 13:35) Jesus pointed out that the distinguishing mark of His disciples is love; it is not perfection, it is not piety, it is not intellectual prowess, it is not performing amazing feats. The distinguishing mark of a disciple of Christ is the love one has for one’s neighbor. If we are really eager to follow the footsteps of Christ, then we cannot be content with merely avoiding sin or doing evil. It is about taking the time, making the effort and going the extra mile out of love for others.

The Acts of the Apostles describe the early Christian life: They devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles and to the communal life, to the breaking of the bread and to the prayers. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their property and possessions and divide them among all according to each one’s need. Every day they devoted themselves to meeting together in the temple area and to breaking bread in their homes. They ate their meals with exultation and sincerity of heart, praising God and enjoying favor with all the people. (cf. Acts 2:42-47)

Tertullian, a theologian in the early Church who was the first to use the Latin word Trinitas to describe God as a single being existing in three co-equal, co-eternal, and consubstantial divine persons: Father, Son (Jesus Christ), and Holy Spirit, wrote that people in the 2nd century looked at Christians and remarked, “See how they love one another.”

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The teaching and practice of loving one another has been very much ingrained in the Christian faith since the early Church. In one of his writings, St. Jerome mentioned that John the Apostle, in his extreme old age, when he was no longer able to preach or speak for long periods, instead of lengthy sermons would simply repeat again and again, "Little children, love one another." Jesus loved us in order to save us, therefore the driving force for our love of neighbor should be a thirst for their salvation.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

March 18 is potluck Sunday! This is a great activity for everyone to foster fellowship in our church community. Lunch begins after the 10:30am Mass. Please bring your favorite dish to share.

We will hold a Lector training on Sunday, May 25 after Mass. All current lectors and parishioners interested in becoming lectors, you are required to attend the training class.

Funeral service and Mass for Mr. Peter Lee has been arranged for May 24 and 29. Please pick up a copy of the complete schedule in the church foyer.



The date for our Spring Garage Sale has been changed from May 24 to May 31, 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.



Our 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 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: Chu Waitat, Liu Kejiu, Ni Yufang, Lydia Chen, Stephen Jerez, Lu Shumi, David Wang, Chen Jianxin, Liang Chenjing 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)		