

## Making time for work and prayer

Some people wonder why Martha was so busy serving when Jesus came to her home. Was she preparing dozens and dozens of dishes just for one guest? What was not mentioned in the Gospel passage is that Jesus was most probably not alone when He went into Martha's home. The seventy-two disciples had just returned from their mission and they accompanied Jesus as they continued on their journey heading south towards Jerusalem; during that time, Jesus entered a village where a woman whose name was Martha welcomed him (cf. Luke 10:38).

As all these people were coming into her home, Martha was probably thinking, "What did I get myself into?" Martha tried to be hospitable and serve all of them. While she was busy serving, she caught sight of her sister Mary, whom she expected to be helping her, but Mary was sitting by Jesus' feet, listening to Him. Have you ever been in a situation that while you were so busy doing so much work, you see someone standing by, not doing anything to help you? How would you react? So, Martha complained to Jesus, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me by myself to do all the serving? Tell her to help me." (Luke 10:40) But Jesus replied, "Martha, you are anxious and worried about many things. There is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part and it will not be taken from her." (Luke

10:41-42)



Martha was being anxious and worried about many things, such that she became too preoccupied to pay attention to Jesus, who was right there in her home. Mary, on the other hand, chose to sit by the feet of Jesus to listen to Him.

Like Martha, there are many of us who end up being too busy with our work, that we lose sight of Jesus. Just as Martha couldn't find time to sit close to Jesus and listen to Him, sometimes we too couldn't find time to sit close to Jesus and listen to Him in prayer.

For various reasons, many no longer pray: some think that it is not necessary to pray, because God already knows everything – what we need, what we are thinking of, what is going on in our lives. After all, what's the point of saying these things to God again and again? Others make the excuse that at the end of the day, we are simply too tired to pray – if I don't pray to God today, I'm sure He will understand. As a result, many people have very little or no prayer life.

Wouldn't it be better if Martha had paused what she was doing even for a short while, in order to pay attention to what Jesus was saying? In the same way, each time we find ourselves too busy to connect with God, we can take a break from work even for a few minutes and give that time to God.

For people who live very busy lives, it might be a good idea to make a minimum commitment of time that we can reserve for God on a daily basis; the emphasis of this method is consistency. Any time that we can offer to God over and above the minimum is a grace from God. A common question on when to pray is shouldn't I wait for the right moment when I am truly inspired to pray to God? That is commendable, because the inspiration itself is a gift from God. The downside is that if we wait too long for that inspiration to come, we can easily get caught up with distractions that can prevent us from praying for days, weeks and months at a time. I would rather watch the clock each day and pause from work to attend to prayer before it gets too late. One advantage of this approach to prayer is that when we are in prayer, we open ourselves to more opportunities for grace and inspiration that often lead to deeper insight and reflection.

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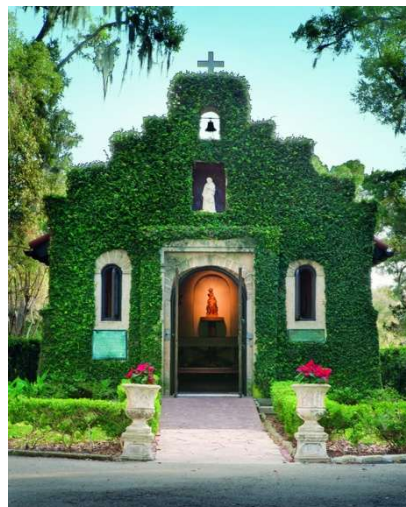
每周公告 Weekly Bulletin

2025年七月二十日 July 20, 2025

## PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today is potluck Sunday! This is a great activity for every one to foster fellowship in our church community. Lunch begins after the 10:30am Mass. Please bring your favorite dish to share. If you are celebrating your birthday in the month of July, we have ordered a birthday cake for you.

In order to accommodate more participants to our proposed pilgrimage to the National Shrine of Our Lady of La Leche in St. Augustine, Florida, we have changed our 3-day/2-night retreat to November 24-26. This peaceful and beautiful site is where the first recorded Catholic Mass in the United States was celebrated in 1565. Participants will arrange by themselves to carpool to the shrine. We have negotiated a group rate at Hampton Inn with breakfast for our 3-day/2-night stay. We will collect \$250/adult which covers accommodations and fee to celebrate Mass at the shrine on November 25. Special accommodations can be arranged for families with children. Please sign up for the pilgrimage starting on Sunday, July 20.



OCIA and Sunday School classes for 2025-2026 will begin in August. Class schedules will be published by next Sunday.

Prayer List: Xu Chunmei, Fu Delan, Chen Kun, Chen Shupeng, Ni Yufang, Lydia Chen, 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)		<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)		