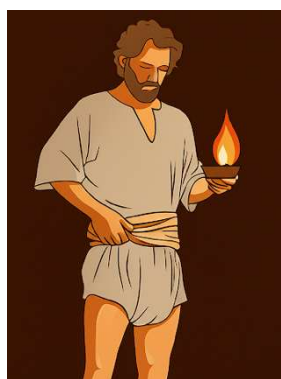


Gird your loins

In Luke 12, Jesus taught His disciples the Parable of the Faithful Servants; He said, "Gird your loins and light your lamps, and be like servants who await their master's return from a wedding, ready to open immediately when he comes and knocks." (Luke 12:35-36)

What does it mean to gird one's loins? In Jesus' time, men wore tunics which were typically long and loose; Therefore, they had to gird their loins in order to prepare for manual work or for a battle. There are several steps to gird one's loins: First, hoist the tunic above your knees, then pull the fabric in front of you so that your backside is snug, and then pull it underneath between your legs to the rear tightly so that your front is snug like a diaper. Then with the ends of the fabric in each hand, pull them to the front and tie them together tightly into a knot to hold it in place.



Usually, servants gird their loins after they have received orders from their master to do manual work. The servants who have girded their loins and lit their lamps awaiting their master's return are those who had prepared themselves beforehand, so that when the master shows up, they are ready to do whatever work the master tells them to do. This level of preparedness reflects the faithfulness and prudence of these servants. According to the parable, when the master returns and finds his servants prepared in this way, he will be so pleased that he will gird himself, have these servants recline at table,

and proceed to wait on them. In Jesus' time, reclining at table was a position of honor reserved for guests and those of high status. The master doing this for his servants signifies the abundant blessings and honor that they will receive in the Kingdom of God. However, the parable does not end there.

Peter asked Jesus, "Lord, is this parable meant for us or for everyone?" Jesus replied, "Who, then, is the faithful and prudent steward whom the master will put in charge of his servants to distribute the food allowance at the proper time? Blessed is that servant whom his master on arrival finds doing so. Truly, I say to you, the master will put that servant in charge of all his property." (Luke 12:42-44) Jesus puts His faithful and prudent servants in charge of His "property" and distributing "food." While feeding the poor is important, the context of Jesus' teachings emphasizes spiritual "food" and spiritual "property." Spiritual "property" can refer to the truths of the Gospel, sacred scripture and the teachings of the Church. On the other hand, distributing spiritual "food" can refer to teaching and preaching the word of God, providing guidance and offering compassion and spiritual support to others. The "proper time" refers to the opportune moments to spread the Gospel in word and in deed. Christians are all given these basic duties.

Now, here comes the twist and the warning in the parable: But if that servant says to himself, "My master is delayed in coming," and begins to beat the menservants and the maidservants, to eat and drink and get drunk, then the master will come on an unexpected day and at an unknown hour and will punish him severely and assign him a place with the unfaithful. Even a disciple of Christ can fall from grace, neglect their duties and commit serious sins; that is the meaning of getting drunk and beating the other servants. When Jesus returns and finds a disciple who has been doing this, he will be punished.

Jesus speaks of two levels of punishment: a severe punishment for servants who knew their master's will but did not make preparations nor act accordingly, and a lighter punishment for servants who were ignorant of their master's will but acted in a way that deserves a severe beating. Christians are given their duties in life depending on their individual abilities and life situations. Some are given more duties than others, but all are given duties according to God's will and plan for each and every one of us. The lesson from the parable is this: the manner in which we perform these duties in this life will have a bearing on how we end up in the next.

耶穌聖名華人天主堂

THE HOLY NAME of Jesus CHINESE CATHOLIC MISSION

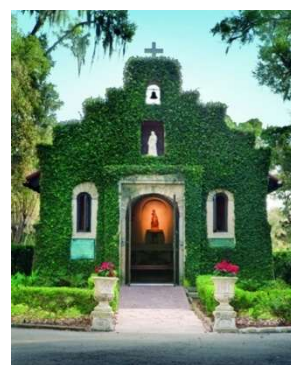
5395 Light Circle NW, Norcross GA 30071 678-691-3261 hnojatl.org

每周公告 Weekly Bulletin

2025年八月十日 August 10, 2025

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our parish pilgrimage to the National Shrine of Our Lady of La Leche in St. Augustine, Florida, will be from 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 on Monday, November 24. We have negotiated a discounted group rate at Hampton Inn with breakfast for our 3-day/2-night stay. Participants will book the hotel rooms on their own. Please sign up with Long Che with your email, and we will send you an email with the booking link so that you can get the discounted rate.



The Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary on Friday, August 15, is a holy day of obligation. Mass in English will be at 12:00pm.

The first OCIA class will be on today in the conference room after the 10:30am Mass. Copies of the OCIA Liturgical Schedule are available in the church foyer and have been posted on the parish website.

Sunday School classes for the 2025-2026 schoolyear will begin on August 17. Copies of the class schedule are available in the church foyer and have been posted on the classroom door and the parish website.

Attention altar servers and their parents: please sign up in the Altar Server sign-up sheet for August and September. The sign-up sheet is in the same binder as the Mass Intentions and Lectors sign-up sheet.

Prayer List: Xu Chunmei, Bian Meiyi, John Grissom, 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)		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)		