

## Enter through the narrow gate

In Matthew 7:13-14, entering through the “narrow gate” symbolizes living a life of genuine faith and obedience to Jesus Christ. This is a challenging way of life because it requires consistent self-denial, sacrifice and commitment to God's will. In contrast, the “wide gate” represents the easy path chosen by many people, which leads them to live a disordered life. A disordered life holds on to a set of disordered moral values, which results in conflict, confusion and unhappiness.

The “narrow gate” and “wide gate” are metaphors for two contrasting ways of life. The “narrow gate” is a way of life that is characterized by faith, obedience and righteousness – doing the right things in the right way. On the other hand, the “wide gate” is a way of life that is characterized by lawlessness, worldly desires, self-centeredness and entitlement – getting and doing what I want at the expense of others.

Entering through the narrow gate is not easy, because it requires self-control and self-discipline. Jesus Himself tells us that many will attempt to enter the “narrow



gate” but will not be strong enough. Many will start on this difficult path, but with the constant allurements and distractions of this world, they will fall off the path due to a lack of fortitude. Fortitude is one of the four cardinal virtues; it is the strength of spirit that enables a person to face adversity and obstacles with courage and resolve. It's the virtue that helps people to persevere in the pursuit of good, even when faced with fear, pain, or difficulty.

There is no conflict between grace and personal effort, for it is the grace of God that fuels the personal effort to live a good and holy life. On the other hand, the personal initiative to reflect and meditate upon the love of Christ on the Cross starts the process of opening oneself to receive grace – and once grace is received, grace upon grace follows. However, if one does not make the time and effort to reflect and meditate on Jesus on the Cross, then the heart remains closed to the reception of grace. Grace does not work in a way that a person gets “zapped” into holiness, because the Holy Spirit does not force Himself on people. The Holy Spirit comes and brings grace when He is invited and welcomed.

Many people feel that getting to heaven is all about avoiding sin – they reckon that if I can go to confession every day, then I'll be able to get to heaven. But the more important and yet overlooked aspect of getting to heaven is about making a lasting change in one's life. Jesus called out to people to follow Him, not just for a while, not just for a few months or for a few years, but to leave everything behind and follow Him, never looking back. Jesus' call to follow Him involves a total re-orientation towards God, which results in life-long changes in our lives. Going to confession every day with little or no resolve to change does not do a lot of good to anyone, but if going to confession every day brings about meaningful change in one's life, then the grace of the sacrament is working in that person.

Along with the metaphor of the “narrow gate,” Jesus also warns that there is an urgency to enter through the “narrow gate” because it will not remain open indefinitely: “After the master of the house has arisen and locked the door, then will you stand outside knocking and saying, ‘Lord, open the door for us.’ He will say to you in reply, ‘I do not know where you are from.’” (Luke 13:25) This is not the time to dilly-dally, especially when eternal life is at stake. After the window of opportunity is gone, no amount of pleading or self-justifying will make any difference.

耶穌聖名華人天主堂

THE HOLY NAME of Jesus CHINESE CATHOLIC MISSION

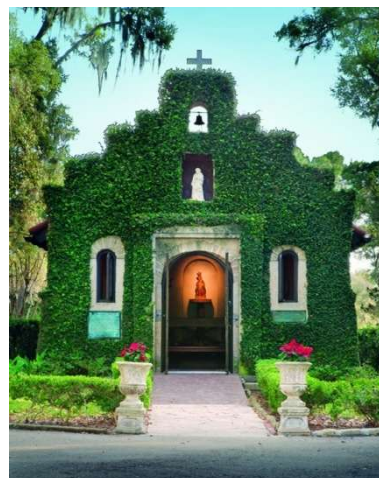
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每周公告 Weekly Bulletin

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## 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 and free parking for our 3-day/2-night stay. Each room has two queen beds and costs \$155 plus tax per night. 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 last day to book your rooms at the discounted rate is September 24.



Attention children and parents: We will have Sunday School class on Sunday.

Attention Chinese Cursillo members! We will have our monthly Ultreya meeting on Sunday, August 24.

The 10th year anniversary of the dedication of our church will be on November 19, 2027. One of our goals is to publish a church directory to commemorate our 10 years as a parish community. Two years ago, we began planning for a church directory by inviting Universal Church Directories to our church to take family photos. Because many families were not able to have their pictures taken, we negotiated with Universal to include family photos of families who were not able to have their picture taken at that time. Universal will include these family photos in our directory for \$15 per family picture. If you would like to have your family picture included in our parish directory, please sign up with Tommy Puk to have your picture taken. For privacy concerns, addresses and phone numbers will not be listed in the parish directory.

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.
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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)		