

The Power of the Cross

Almost everybody knows what a cross is; it is a figure formed by two intersecting lines. However, there are many types of crosses. There is the Latin cross, the Greek cross, the Tau cross, the Celtic cross, the Jerusalem cross, St. Andrew's cross, etc. Rather than a bare cross, Catholics traditionally have a crucifix, which is a cross with an image of Jesus crucified on it. For centuries, Christians have known that the cross is a powerful figure or symbol, and it has been used to ward off evil and the Devil. But the power of the cross comes from what it represents:



1. It is the sign of Jesus' Sacrifice – His suffering and death which redeemed us from our sins. The first epistle of Peter tells us that: "He himself bore our sins in His body upon the cross, so that, free from sin, we might live for righteousness. By His wounds you have been healed." (1Peter 2:24)
2. It is the sign of sinners being reconciled to God. St. Paul reminds the Colossians that they have experienced the reconciling effect of Christ's death on the Cross: "you who once were alienated and hostile in mind because of evil deeds, He has now reconciled in His fleshly body through His death, to present you holy, without blemish, and irreproachable before Him." (1Colossians 21-22)

3. It is the sign of endless mercy and grace. The blood and water which flowed from Jesus' side as He hung upon the Cross represent the Sacraments: water represents baptism and blood represents the Eucharist. The Sacraments are an inexhaustible source of mercy and grace, for the forgiveness of sins and the restoration of the sinner's relationship with Christ.

4. The Cross is a sign of God's wisdom. St. Paul tells the Corinthians: "For Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are called, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God." (1Corinthians 22-24)

No wonder the Devil and his minions cannot withstand the sight of the Cross. They cannot endure the Sacrifice of Jesus which brought about the redemption of man; they cannot bear the reconciliation of sinners with God; they cannot face the endless mercy and grace of God; they cannot defy the wisdom of God.

Catholics make the Sign of the Cross to invoke God's assistance and to protect ourselves against evil. We make the sign of the Cross each time we begin and end with prayer. We also wear the Cross on our necks, not as jewelry, but as a reminder of the great love and Sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross is a major feast day which commemorates the saving Sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the Cross. It is rooted in two historic events: the dedication of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem in 335 AD and the recovery of the true Cross from the Persians in 628 AD. The feast day celebrates the Cross as the most powerful symbol of Christ's self-sacrifice and His love for mankind. It reminds us of the price that Jesus paid to redeem the world and the hope for our own salvation; it challenges us to make the Cross the center of our lives, and to carry our own crosses. It

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
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inspires us to follow Christ's example of loving and serving others, and to understand suffering as a means of obtaining grace and mercy.

Many saints throughout history have contemplated the Cross and the Passion of Christ, they regard it as the most profound act of love and a central mystery of the Christian faith. The practice of contemplating on the Cross is a cornerstone of Christian spirituality; it helps us to understand how God truly loves us and the our purpose in life. St. Paul of the Cross, the founder of the Passionists, was particularly devoted to the Cross and the Passion of Christ. He required his followers to take a special vow to contemplate and preach Christ crucified, seeing it as the most powerful way to spiritual depth and power.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

September 21 is potluck Sunday! This is a great activity for everyone to foster fellowship in our church community. Lunch begins after the 10:30 am Mass. Please bring your favorite dish to share. If you are celebrating your birthday in the month of September, we have ordered a birthday cake for you.

Printed copies of the Financial Statement for fiscal year 2024 to 2025, ending in June 30, 2024 are available in this Sunday's church bulletin.

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 hot breakfast for our 3-day/2-night stay. Parking fee is \$20 per day. 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.

The 10th year anniversary of the dedication of our church will be on November 19, 2027. One of our goals is to publish a 10th year anniversary commemorative parish book. Be a part of the history of our church by having your family picture taken. Please sign up with Tommy Puk.

Prayer List: Xu Chunmei, Bian Meiyi, 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)		