

Awaiting the Second Coming of Christ

It might seem confusing how the Gospels mention the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem together with the signs of the Second Coming of Christ. These have to do with when the Gospels were written and what was going on at that time. For example, the Gospel of Mark, widely considered as the first of the Gospels, was written sometime between the late 50s and early 70s; it is highly probable that the author saw first-hand the Roman army building up around Jerusalem as it prepared to attack, and therefore viewed it as the Great Tribulation – the event which initiated the Second Coming of Christ (cf. Mark 13:14). The Gospel of Matthew, written somewhere between 70 and 90AD, echoed this point (Matthew 24:15-28).

On the other hand, the Gospel of Luke was written much later, decades after the Fall of Jerusalem, sometime between 80 and 100AD, and therefore it separated the historical destruction of Jerusalem in 70AD from the signs of the coming of the Son of Man by a period that it referred to as “the times of the Gentiles” (cf. Lk 21:24). As a side note, the Apostle John wrote about the Second Coming of Christ mostly in the Book of Revelation, which was written around 95-96AD.

Nonetheless, the Gospels of Mark, Luke and Matthew indicated common signs of the Second Coming of Christ: (1) False teachers, prophets and messiahs (Mark 13:5-6, 22, Luke 21:8, Matthew 24:5, 11), (2) Wars and rumors of wars (Mark 13:7-8, Luke 21:9-10, Matthew 24:6-7), (3) Earthquakes, famines and plagues (Mark 13:8, Luke 21:11, Matthew 24:7), (4) Persecution of the Faithful (Mark 13:9-13, Luke 21:12-19, Matthew 24:9).

The more important message from the Gospels is the need for watchfulness and to be vigilant (Mark 13:32-37, Luke 21:34-36, Matthew 24:42-44). Here, to be vigilant means being ready, for the Second Coming of Christ will come quite unexpectedly. Therefore, how should Catholics prepare for the Second Coming of Christ? First, by making an assessment of where we are and where we need to be in terms of holiness, spiritual growth and maturity. The true measure of holiness is the acceptance of God's will. Holiness is not about grand gestures and exterior actions of piety for other people to see; holiness is about the interior actions of one's soul to align one's will with the will of God. These interior actions include accepting God's will in times of trials, but mostly in everyday life. These interior actions also include cultivating a disposition of the heart that embraces God's holy will, a willingness to surrender one's own self-interest and a willingness to cooperate with God's greater, divine plan.

After that crucial first step, Catholics should prepare for the Second Coming of Christ in practice: faithfully observing God's commandments and what Jesus commanded His disciples in the Gospels. Rather than obsessing over internet celebrities and following what they predict regarding the End Times



and what they advise regarding survival kits, Catholics should make prayer and the reception of the sacraments a habit. Key practices include going to Mass daily and receiving the Eucharist, going to Confession regularly, avoiding personal sin, living a life of virtue and embracing a life that is responsive to the genuine needs of others.

Catholics should also strive consciously to remain in a state of grace, not by going to Confession every minute of the day,

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while not making progress in any meaningful and lasting changes in life. Not only does that take away time and opportunity away from those who really need to go to Confession, it also defeats the purpose of the Sacraments. The Sacraments give us sacramental grace in order to help us make meaningful and lasting changes in life – the spiritual strength to avoid the occasion of sin and for genuine conversion. On our part, we need to cooperate with the sacramental grace we receive by making a personal effort to be truthful, humble, kind, merciful and generous with our time and material possessions. The key is lasting change, not a quick fix.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

We will have our monthly potluck on November 16, 2025. On that same day, Fr. Bill will dedicate the Youth Room in recognition of ACCA's vital contributions and its role in shaping our community before the establishment of the Holy Name of Jesus Chinese Catholic Mission.

Attention all participants to the pilgrimage to Our Lady of La Leche in St. Augustine: please get a copy of your pilgrimage pamphlet "My Personal Time with God" from Long Che.

The 10th year anniversary of the dedication of our church will be on November 19, 2027. We would like all church members to have their picture taken for the 10th year anniversary commemorative parish book. Please sign up with Tommy Puk.

For our iGiveCatholic initiative this year, SUPPORT OUR OUTDOOR PRAYER GARDEN AND RECREATION AREA. We have begun the first phase of a new outdoor prayer garden and recreation area in our church property by clearing the space needed for this small capital improvement project. The first phase includes ground covering, outdoor benches and a gazebo or mini-pavilion, our goal for Phase 1 is \$10,000. There will be additional future phases. When completed, the prayer garden will contain an outdoor Stations of the Cross and a monument to Our Lady of China with engraved commemorative bricks. The prayer garden will provide our parishioners and visitors a sacred outdoor space for group prayer and private meditation, as well as open up opportunities for activities which foster both spiritual growth and community building. Please use the iGiveCatholic envelopes provided.

Prayer List: Dawn Leach, Xie Yannong, Bian Meiyi, 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)		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)		