

Saving and Losing One's Life



The phrase “whoever wishes to save his life will lose it” (cf. Mt16:25) has nothing to do with self-defense or trying to keep yourself alive in times of crises or emergencies. For example, if you are swimming in a pool and you find yourself in danger of drowning, then you should try to save your life by every means possible, like calling out for help, grabbing a flotation device, or try keeping afloat on your back. If that is so, then what does it mean to “save one’s life” in Mt16? Here, to “save one’s life” means to live in a way that benefits only

oneself and makes one’s personal well-being the center of one’s life. For example, a person who in an emergency, pushes little children, handicapped or weaker people in order to be the first to reach the exit, is a person who wishes to “save one’s life,” or a person who makes lots of money by exploiting and taking advantage of others is a person who wishes to “save one’s life,” or even a person who is always first in line to get food in a buffet, and he loads his plate with the best dishes, without a thought of leaving some for others, is a person who wishes to “save one’s life.” How then can a person who wishes to save his own life “lose his life?” Such a person will “lose his life” because living in that manner will ultimately lead to spiritual emptiness and the loss of eternal life due to greed, selfishness and the exploitation of others.

On the other hand, what does it mean to “lose one’s life” for Christ’s sake? In the context of Mt16, a person who “loses his life” for the sake of Christ is someone who is always ready to make sacrifices for others. This kind of person puts others first and himself last. For example, this person would let children, handicapped or older people get to safety before oneself. This person would also be fair to people and never take advantage of others. This person would also not mind to be the last to be served in a banquet. While a person who wishes to “save one’s life” will be thinking, “what’s in it for me?”, the person who “loses one’s life” for Christ’s sake will be thinking, “will I be doing what Christ would do?”

A spiritual interpretation of “losing one’s life” for the sake of Christ is to readily submit to Christ’s teachings and God’s commandments. Many people choose to disobey God’s commandments because they think that they will lose their personal freedom and independence. Those who choose to follow Christ’s teachings and obey God’s commandments by avoiding sin and occasions of sin may seem to be losing out on all the fun and pleasures that life has to offer; they look like they are wasting their lives and “losing their lives.” However, these are the ones who are ultimately living the fullness of life and they are going in the right direction towards eternal life. Jesus said, “What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life?” (Mt16:26) Indeed, what good would it be for anyone to live a life of pleasure and indulgence if it only leads them to the loss of eternal life?

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

The OCIA Period of Inquiry is now open: During this period, people who have the desire to become Catholic ask questions about the Catholic faith and the OCIA program. All are welcome to contact Fr. Bill or any parish member, join in the celebration of the Eucharist and join the various activities of the parish. If you know anyone who has an interest in becoming Catholic, now is the time to reach out to them and pray for them.

We are in the process of developing a Faith Formation program for our teens. We will keep you informed of our progress. We welcome all teens to learn the Catholic faith!

We are offering Chinese language classes this year in the Fall and next year in the Spring. Classes are held on Saturdays and Sundays. Fall Semester begins on August 15 and 16, 2026 and the Spring Semester begins on January 9 and 10, 2027. The 2026 Fall Schedule and the 2027 Spring Schedule have been posted in our church website: hnojatl.org.

We will also have new classes to help our church members converse in the English language. Classes begin today. This class will be held in the Conference Room.

Attention Chinese Cursillo members! We will have our monthly Ultreya meeting today. This meeting will be held in the Youth Room.

The Archdiocese of Atlanta has launched its “Rooted in Christ – Growing in Faith” campaign to raise funds for the programs and activities of the Archdiocese. Each parish and mission church in the Archdiocese is expected to participate with their individual goals. The Archdiocese has designated our parish goal of \$60,000, and has scheduled our parish to begin with a preparation period from January to March 2027 and actual campaign period from April to September 30, 2027.

Did you know that you can make donations to the church directly from your retirement account? Each time you make a distribution from your retirement account, it is counted as taxable income. However, if you make a donation (up to \$108,000), to qualified charities through QCD (Qualified Charitable Distributions), these donations, although not tax-deductible, are excluded from taxable income. Many older retired donors use this strategy to lower their taxable income, but it also satisfies Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) without increasing their adjusted gross income (AGI). Consult your financial advisor or contact your retirement account specialist.

Prayer List: Bian Cheng Zhang, Susan Lee, Michael Tan, Bian Meiyi, Chen Shupeng, Chen Jianxin, Liang Chenjing and Xu Taicheng.
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Mass Schedule	Confessions	Bible Study
Sundays 10:30 AM (Chinese)	By Appointment	Wednesdays 10:00 AM (Chinese)
Sundays 2:00 PM (English)		
	Anointing of the Sick	Eucharistic Adoration
Mondays 12:00 PM (English)	First Sundays after 10:30 AM Mass	Sundays 9:00 to 10:00 AM
Tuesdays 12:00 PM (English)	First Fridays after 6:30 PM Mass	
Wednesdays 12:00 PM (Chinese)		
Fridays 12:00 PM (English)		
First Friday 6:30 PM (English)		