耶稣圣名华人天主堂
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
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What is Due to God?

The parable of the wicked tenants found in Matthew 21:33-46, Mark 12:1-12, and Luke 20:9-19 has a similar theme to the "Song of the Vineyard" in Isaiah 5. The "Song of the Vineyard" in Isaiah 5:1–7 is a poem about God's deep love and care for the nation of Israel, and their disappointing response of sin and injustice. The owner took special care of his vineyard – he spaded it, cleared it of stones and planted the choicest vines; he built a watchtower and hewed out a wine press (Isaiah 5:2). This careful preparation represents the incredible grace, protection and blessings which God gave His people. However, the owner of the vineyard lamented: "What more could be done for my vineyard that I did not do?" (Isaiah 5:4) Instead of producing a good crop of righteousness and justice, the vineyard had yielded rotten grapes; the people produced cries of distress from oppression and bloodshed. Therefore, the owner of the vineyard will take away its hedge, give it to grazing, break through its wall and let it be trampled! He will make it a ruin: it shall not be pruned or hoed, but will be overgrown with thorns and briers; he will command the clouds not to rain upon it." (cf. Isaiah 5:6)

In the parable of the wicked tenants, the vineyard represents the house of Israel. The vineyard owner represents God, who entrusted His chosen people to the tenants with the responsibility of taking care of their spiritual needs. The tenants represent the corrupt religious leaders of Israel who rejected God's authority and messengers. The servants represent the prophets sent by God throughout salvation history whom the people and their leaders rejected, mistreated or killed. Finally, the vineyard owner's son represents Jesus Christ, whose rejection and death were foretold in the parable.



One of the key facets of this parable is how it exposes the wickedness of the tenants, which becomes a valuable lesson for any Christian today who is willing to listen. Initially, the tenants did the wrong thing by refusing to give the vineyard owner what was due to him – which is the produce of the vineyard at harvest time. Then, they began to use extreme measures – they beat, killed and stoned the servants who came to collect what was rightfully due to the owner. The worst offense is their final act of wickedness, in which they plotted to kill the heir, so they could seize the son's inheritance. In Jesus' time and in some instances, if an owner died without a rightful heir, the property could become ownerless and be claimed by those currently in possession of it. The wicked tenants thought that if there is no heir, then the door would be opened that they could claim the vineyard for themselves in the future.

As we apply this parable to our lives today, an important question to ask is, "What are the things that are due to God?" There are four main things: (1) our very selves – we learn this from what Jesus said to the Pharisees after they attempted to trap him with the question: "Is it lawful to pay the census tax to Caesar or not?" (Mt 22:17) Jesus asked them, "Whose image is this and whose inscription?" They replied, "Caesar's." At that He said to them, "Then repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God" (Mt22:21). The implication of Jesus' words was that since the coin had the image of Caesar, it belonged to Caesar, but because human beings are made in the image of God, then we belong to God – not just a portion of what we do, but our entire being of body and soul. (2) our love and

obedience – Jesus taught: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength” (Mk 12:30). (3) our worship and praise – honoring God’s name, giving thanks and praising God for who He is, His daily blessings and wonderful deeds. (4) our resources – giving God our time, treasure and talent, remembering that everything we have comes from Him.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

OCIA has begun: If you know anyone who has an interest in becoming Catholic, please contact Fr. Bill.

Chinese language classes for the Spring Semester begin on January 9 and 10, 2027. We are offering classes for both children and adults. Schedule and registration can be downloaded from our church website.

If you would like to practice conversing in the English language, come and join us at our new English classes after the 10:30am Mass! Today, class will be held in the Conference Room.

We wish to thank all those who have donated to our Religious Education Fund. We have reached our goal, but you can still make a tax-deductible donation. Please use the Religious Education envelopes for this special donation.

Fr. Bill will administer the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick in the Sanctuary after the 10:30am Mass today.

We have a volunteer opportunity at the Atlanta Food Bank on December 5, 2026. If you would like to volunteer, please sign up with Angela Ooi and Daisy Tsui.

Prayer List: Bian Cheng Zhang, Susan Lee, Michael Tan, Bian Meiyi, Chen Shupeng, Chen Jianxin, Liang Chenjing and Xu Taicheng.

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)		