

Archdiocesan Center for Chinese Apostolate

聖德肋撒堂區 總教區華人牧靈中心

April 10, 2022
Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

# WAVING OF PALM BRANCHES

Not long ago the world witnessed the jubilant reaction of the people of Iraq at the fall of the Hassan regime. Their dictator Saddam Hussein was toppled after a quick war called Desert Storm. The TV carried images of the victorious allied forces rolling into Baghdad, with the crowds celebrating by waving palm branches to welcome the victors. This ancient mid-eastern form of expressing joy survives even to the present day. However, within a few short days, joy was replaced by looting and anarchy. Things descended into chaos. The waving of palm branches was merely an emotional expression. Many Iraqis were not then, nor are many still now, ready to commit to a stable way of life. That demands personal sacrifice.

The people who greeted Jesus when he entered Jerusalem riding on a donkey also made an emotional statement of joy. Waving palm branches, they welcomed the Messiah, the deliverer from their enemies, but they were not ready to commit to his new way of life. They wanted a Messiah whom they could cheer, not one who would say, "Follow me," and then die on a cross. They wanted to cheer a liberator, but not to take part in the ultimate liberation, freedom from sin.

We must be careful that our reaction to what takes place during Holy Week does not follow the same course. Following Jesus during his final hours demands a transformation of our lives by His life. As the Lenten custom of receiving ashes on Ash Wednesday symbolize the sentence of death we are all under, the blessed palms we wave on Palm Sunday remind us of the life and victory Christ offers us through the Cross. In both these customs let's not simply go through the motions, but may they signify a real change in our lives. As we begin this holiest of weeks, let us not be satisfied with waving palms. Rather let us accompany Christ at the Last Supper, the Agony in the Garden, and the Way of the Cross. Let us not turn against Jesus as did the fickle people of Jerusalem, but rather cheer on His victory and remain His faithful followers throughout this week and our entire lives.

By Fr. John Cuff

### **MASS SCHEDULE**

St. Barbara Chapel

Tuesday/Thursday/Saturday: 8 a.m.

St. Barbara Church

Saturday: 5 p.m.

Sunday: 6 a.m./9:30 a.m.

**Indonesian:** 2nd Sunday: 11:30 a.m.

**DEVOTIONS** 

First Saturday Healing Mass St. Barbara Chapel: 8 a.m.

The Rosary

Sunday 5:30 a.m. Before 6 a.m. Mass

### St. Therese Chinese Catholic Church

Monday/Wednesday/Friday: 8 a.m.

Sunday: 8 a.m./10:30 a.m.

Cantonese: 1st Sunday: 10:30 a.m.

Mandarin: 2nd Saturday: 4:00 p.m. (TBA)

4th Sunday: 12:30 p.m.

**DEVOTIONS** 

Mondays with Sisters of the Missionaries of Charity:

4-5 p.m. Rosary and 5-6 p.m. Holy Hour

First Friday Holy Hour: 7 p.m.



### St. Barbara Worship Site

### Saturday, April 9th Vigil | Palm Sunday

5:00 p.m. Health Blessing for Judy Maz
In Honor of Our Lady of Fatima by Dominic
Barbaro

- + Divine Mercy for All by C. Kisielente & Family
- + Lena Roti, Anniversary Remembrance by Marion Roti
- + All Souls Remembrance

# Sunday, April 10th | Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

6:00 a.m. Health Blessings for Larry Noga by Aunt Rose

- + Carol Ann Kurth by Isabelle Lutzke
- + Charles Angus by Maria Saludo

9:30 a.m. Health Blessings for Bob and Shirley Synal by Rose Stronczek

- + Mary Diaz DeLeon by Family
- + Della Marzano by Rose LaVelle

### Tuesday, April 12th | Tuesday of Holy Week

8:00 a.m. + Robert Baker by Family

Mercy for All Forgotten Souls in Purgatory by

Dominic Barbaro

### Thursday, April 14th | Holy Thursday—Lord's Supper

7:00 p.m. Birthday Blessing for Maria Salvacion D. Saludo

+ Nick Koclanis (7 year anniversary) by M. Korso

### Friday, April 15th | Passion of the Lord—Good Friday

3:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross

7:00 p.m. Veneration of the Cross & Communion Service

### Saturday, April 16th | Holy Saturday (St. Therese)

7:30 p.m. + James Fockler by Sister-in-law Jane Fockler

### Sunday, April 17th | Easter Sunday

6:00 a.m. Health Blessings for Larry Noga by Aunt Rose

- + Carol Ann Kurth by Isabelle Lutzke
- + Aniceta Kangleon Galdo by Maria Saludo
- + Aniceto M. Saludo Sr. by Maria Saludo

9:30 a.m. Health Blessing for Dolores Becatti
Health Blessings for Bob & Shirley Synal by
Aunt Rose

- + Divine Mercy for All by C. Kisielente & Family
- + Mary Diaz DeLeon by Family
- + Ken Yohanna by Rose Lavelle
- + Thomas Moore by Anita & Dan Isaacson

### St. Therese Worship Site

### Sunday, April 10th-Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

8:00 a.m. + Lawrence S. Pusateri by Family

+ Bernadette Zito & Lauren Mandel by Joe & Rena

10:30 a.m. Health Blessing for Jean & Monique by Family

- + June Moy by Marilyn Leung
- + Sigita Giedraitiene by Jing & Mimi
- + Frank Nardi by Jing & Mimi
- + Fr. Ignatius Eddy Putranto by Budi & Katharina
- + Haniek Widjaja by Budi & Katharin

### Monday, April 11th | Monday of Holy Week

8:00 a.m. + Rose Capinegro, 100th Birthday Remembrance by Marion Roti

### Wednesday, April 13th | Wednesday of Holy Week

8:00 a.m. + Theresa Scopacasa by Maria & Anthony Vinci

# Friday, April 15th | Passion of the Lord—Good Friday Saturday, April 16th | Holy Saturday—Easter Vigil

**7:30 p.m.** + Mr. & Mrs. Yam Tong Tse by Lucy Tse May & Family

#### LITURGICAL MINISTERS:

#### St. Barbara

Holy Thursday, April 14th:

7 p.m. Lectors: B. Pienta, J. Yee

Eucharistic Minister: C. Sokolowski

Good Friday, April 15th:

7 p.m. Lectors: C. Pon, P. Saletta

Eucharistic Minister: C. Sokolowski

Easter Sunday, April 17th: 6 a.m. Lectors: J. Bertucci

Eucharistic Minister: J. Balasa 9:30 a.m. Lectors: L. Saletta, P. Saletta

### St. Therese

Holy Saturday, Easter Vigil, April 16th:

7:30 p.m. Lectors: Darlene, Grace, Ellen, Wally Eucharistic Ministers: J. Yee, S. Lin

Easter Sunday, April 17th:

8 a.m. Greeters: N. Lowe, J. Lowe Lectors: B. Fung, J. Fung St. Michael Ministry:

10:30 a.m. Greeters: C. Lee, J. Yee, D. Lowe

Lectors: Vivian, Carl

**Eucharistic Ministers:** W. Chan(Altar), J. Yee(Choir Loft)

St. Michael Ministry: Edy

# Congratulations and Thanks



Congratulations to our children who had their First Reconciliation last Saturday. It was a wonderful celebration of God's mercy and love. I was happy to witness that our children were well prepared.



Thanks to their teachers and catechists for helping them to be prepared and for being positive examples for them.

Thanks to all who participated in our Cantonese Alpha last Sunday. Special thanks to Jing Zhang, coordinator and co-evangelization lead and to the Cantonese Alpha

> leadership team---Fr. Cuff, Sr. Monica Zhang, John Lin, Eva Feng, Dominic Lai and Larry Wong.

I am happy to announce that Roberto Garibay, gladly said yes to being our English Alpha Coordinator. Tom Howard has done a wonderful job as the co-evangelization lead and English Alpha coordinator. He is going to mentor Roberto. Thanks, Tom.

As we journey through the most Holy Week of our liturgical year, I encourage you and your families to join our *Triduum celebrations: Holy* Thursday---the gifts of the Eucharist and of priesthood; Good Friday--the Way of the Cross and the Veneration of the Cross; Easter Vigil and **Easter**---the Sacraments of the initiation and the Resurrection of our

Lord. The celebration of the Paschal mystery of the Lord's death and resurrection starts on Holy Thursday and completes on Easter. The detailed schedule for these celebrations are listed below.

Peace, Fr. Francis



### Palm Sunday Weekend -April 9- 10

- A. April 9th is our Parish Lenten Retreat from 9:30am to 2pm at St. Barb. Gym.
- B. Monthly Mandarin Bible Sharing is on April 9th at 6pm at St. Therese Church.
- C. Please return your CRS Rice Bowls this weekend.
- D. Palms will be distributed and blessed at the beginning of each mass at the Church entrance area and then a short procession will take place in Church. Detailed instructions will be offered at mass.
- E. Easter Bunny Breakfast will take place after the 9:30am mass at St. Barbara.

Wed. April 13th at 6pm: Decoration of St. Barbara Church for Holy Thursday.

#### Holy Thursday-Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper is at 7pm at St. Barbara Church.

- A. Presentation of the oils will take place at the beginning of the Mass.
- B. We need 12 volunteers for Washing of Feet.
- C. Visitation of Churches will take place after Mass.
- D. The Holy Communion will be transferred to the side altar at the end of mass.
- E. Our Church will remain open until 12AM for people to spend time in silent prayers.

### Good Friday of the Passion of the Lord (Fast & Abstinence) at St. Barbara Church

- A. Stations of the Cross is at 3pm.
- B. Veneration of the Cross and Communion Service is at 7pm.
- C. There will be a collection for the Holy Land at the 7pm service

### **Holy Saturday**

- Decoration of both Churches at 10:00am.
- B. RCIA rehearsal is at 10am at St. Therese Church.
- C. Easter Basket Blessing is at 11:30am at St. Barbara Church.
- D. Easter Vigil Mass is at 7:30pm at St. Therese Church.

#### **Easter Sunday**

- A. Masses at St. Barbara Church are 6am and 9:30am.
- B. Masses at St. Therese Church are 8am and 10:30am.
- C. There will be an Easter Egg Hunt after the 10:30am mass at St. Therese Prayer Garden.







HOLY THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 2022

Join us for mass at 7 pm at St. Barbara Worship Site followed by **Visitation of Churches** 

Parish members may either drive separately and follow the bus or ride the bus.

Bus seating is limited. To secure a seat on the bus, email Tom at thoward@sttheresechicago.org or sign up at the entrance of church.



# Washing of Feet (April 14)

As part of our tradition, we imitate Jesus' example of washing his disciples' feet on Holy Thursday. This is an act of humility and a great

example of service. We need twelve people to participate. If you can, please sign up at the church entrance table

Holy Thursday Church visitation can be done on two wheels! We are gathering bicyclist at St. Barbara at 6:30pm in the north parking lot on Holy Thursday. We will visit 7 churches in our area on a short easy bike ride. Here are the sites we will visit; a "Q" sheet will be handed out at the gathering showing the route. We will ride if you care to join inroute George can be reached by cell: 773-592-7036.

- 1. St. Barbara 2859 S. Throop
- 2. St. Jerome 2823 S. Princeton
- 3. St. Mary of Perpetual Help 1039 W. 32nd St.
- 4. The Monastery of the Cross 3101 S. Aberdeen
- 5. St. Pius (St. Jude Shrine) 1919 S. Ashland
- 6. Immaculate Conception 2745 W. 44<sup>th</sup> St.
- 7. Our Lady of Fatima 2751 W. 38th Pl.



With the help of Mr. Joe Delfin, our 5th-8th Graders produced the Virtual Stations of the Cross. They put on costumes and props, and acted in front of a green screen. The students put together voiceovers for the video, including reciting the prayers after each station, and performed wonderfully! The virtual video can be viewed at:

https://www.youtube.com/c/ **StMotherTeresaofCalcuttaParishChicago** 



### 2022 EASTER DONATIONS

St. Therese Church

Easter Donations as of 04/04/2022

### THANK YOU to all who contributed!

Lily & Richard May \$2000 John Lee \$500 Roberto Garibay \$5 \$150 Lisa & Edy Gunawan Kwok Chin Lee \$20 Peter Tse \$100 \$150 Laurence & Theresa Wong George Chen \$50 Nick & Ellen Andriacchi \$200

Total donated as of 4/4/2022 **\$3.175**  St. Barbara Church Easter Donations as of 04/04/2022 THANK YOU to all who contributed!

Anonymous \$25 Mrs. Rose Lavelle \$50 Total Donated as of 4/4/2022 **\$7**5



# St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta Parish

# Alpha Gathering 启发聚会

### Mandarin

国語



粤語

Cantonese

English 英文

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国语: 4月24号

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English: April 12 at 6:30p.m.

2859 S Throop St Chicago, IL 60608

**3** 312-842-6767 、 312-842-7979

E: Stmotherteresaparish.org

#### **Mask Updates:**

Since Feb. 28, all archdiocesan parishes, churches, schools and offices are **mask-optional**.

**St. Therese Parking Lot:** This is a gentle reminder that when you park in the lot, please make sure that you hang your green permit on your mirror. If your car blocks others, please kindly leave your phone number on your dashboard. Thank you for your attention.

**2021 Tax Donation Letter:** If you would like to obtain a letter of your last fiscal year's donation for tax report purposes, please call our parish offices at 312-842-7979 or 312 -842-6777. Thank you.

God does not call us to be successful. He calls us to be faithful. —-St. Mother Teresa



# Mondays with the Sisters of the Missionaries of Charity:

4pm-5pm: Rosary on the Streets
5pm-6pm: Holy Hour—All are welcome!



St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta
Parish Peace Corner Welcome
to our new *Live Peace, Teach*Peace Corner!

We want to provide a place where you can recollect your spirit, breathe in and relax. Here you can experience peace that your heart

desires and your body and soul are seeking. Your spirit can learn to come to rest in the presence of God. Some trained parishioners-volunteers will provide some very practical exercises to help you experience inner peace that comes from God. Updates to come!

**Living Well Speaker Series:** Caring for the Whole Person - Mind, Body, and Spirit | First Speaker on May 20 (*Save the Date* - Details to Come!)

# Support St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta Parish through Amazon Smile!

Support St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta Parish while you shop on Amazon. Amazon will donate a portion of eligible purchases back to us if you designate St. Therese Chinese Catholic Church as your charity of choice. For information about adding St. Therese Chinese Catholic Church as your charity, visit smile.amazon.com.

**St. Vincent DePaul** We are still collecting for the *food drive* 40 cans for 40 days of Lent at St. Barbara and St. Therese. Please drop off donations in the back of each worship site in the St. Vincent collection box. We are also still collecting bikes for our bicycle drive! Bicycles, parts, and accessories along with small hand tools, such as wrenches, pliers, screw drivers and such can be dropped off at St. Barbara rectory or for pick up please text George at 773-592-7036. Thank you all very much!



We pray for Ukraine and Russia and for all our brothers and sisters living in fear and for all victims of war.

Instill hope in them and their concerned family members, dwelling in countries

where democracy and freedom exist. Let the voices for discernment and peaceful solutions prosper among leaders of all nations, especially in Eastern Europe. Raise up peacemakers, so that violence and war can end.

### **English as a Second Language**

Do you wish to communicate better in English? Is your most comfortable language, a language other than English? Do you want to take classes and acquire better conversation skills? We will be holding classes the week after Easter. They will be in the daytime and times will be decided when we know your availability. If you are interested, please call St. Therese and leave your name and the best ways to reach you. Classes will be taught by Sister Caritas.

### WEEKLY COLLECTION - April 3, 2022

	St. Barbara				St. Therese				
Sunday Envelopes			\$	1,112.00			\$	990.00	
Sunday Loose			\$	321.00			\$	878.00	
Give Central			\$	382.00			\$	399.00	
<b>Total Collection</b>			\$	1,815.00			\$	2,267.00	
		YTD		Weekly		YTD		Weekly	
Actual	\$	86,158.00	\$	1,815.00	\$	92,544.00	\$	2,267.00	
Goal	\$	102,500.00	\$	2,500.00	\$	102,500.00	\$	2,500.00	
% of Goal		84%		73%		90%		91%	
Votives and Vigil Lights			\$				\$		
			\$				\$		

Attention: For those who make your offering in the form of a check, please make checks to St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta Parish. Electronic giving through *GiveCentral.org* is the safe and secure way to make your weekly donations. Donate via credit card or electronic check (ACH). *Thank YOU, and God Bless you for your generosity!* 

St. Therese Church: <a href="https://www.givecentral.org/location/190">www.givecentral.org/location/190</a> or St. Barbara Church: <a href="https://www.givecentral.org/location/445">www.givecentral.org/location/190</a> or



# Please pray for those who are ill, homebound, hospitalized and in need of continued prayers.

Amalia Agins, Austin Agins, Bernadette Agins, Joyce Agins, Stephen Agins, Mary Aguirre, Angeleo Alonzo,, Debbie Annoreno, Amy Averet, Kimberly Babe, Geraldine Baldwin, Judith Beaudry, Christine Bertucci, Joseph 'Joey' Bertucci, Lonnie & Theresa Bertucci-Falls, Jennifer Bond, Jeff Bowman, Andrea Brongiel, Mary Camarda, Anthony Capone Sr., Laverne Connolly, Joe Cruz, Patti Cuchetto, Paul DeGrazia, Henry Diaz De Leon, Kathy Egle, Nenita Feliciano, Jerry Felske, Minnie Ford, Natalia Francone, Bill Frank, Darlene Frost, Harold Frost, Paul Gadomski, Ray Gadomski, Lily Ann Galloway, John Gasca, Bernadette Glabicki, Ed Glos, Pat Grieco, Koen Guest, Jose P. Gutierrez, Kellar Harris, Lynette Heidemann, Jasmine Henson, Barbara Herr, Denise Holland, Gwen Holub, Morris Humphrey, Michaeline Hunter, Ted Hunter, Suzanne Ivester, Jennifer Janson, Maryann Januszewski, Chester Jendryczka, Dr. Joe, John Kaput, Dorothy Kawalerski, Rose Kisielowski, Anna Kolendo, Christine Krupa, Janice Kutansky, Craig Labudda, Sunny Labudda, Baby Kinsley Paige Leschinsky, Kiera Litwin, Lenny Loretto, Richard Lyznicki, Nancy Mallory, John Mangan, Kayle Marth, Paul Martinez, Bill Marczuk, Zena Masi, Maria Mawgwi, Lil' Joe Michalak, Cindy Moore, Dr. Mike, Tony Mrgan, Cydney Muti, Stephanie Nicks, Deacon Jack O'Leary, Allison Pakula, Virginia Pakula, Eva Castillion Parcon, Josie Petkus, Michael Petruck, Theresa Pickens, Dolores Pienta, Mitchell Pienta, Ellen Pietrzak, Beverly Pirelli, Megan Pirelli, Ray Polakowski, Robert Potter, Barbara Rekar, Josephine Richardson, Sandra Rios, Joel Rivera, Jose Rodriguez, Jose C. Rodriguez, Mila Rolon, Dolly Roti, Ellen Ryan, Therese Ryndak, Maria Saludo, Kennedy Shepski, Anthony Sinople, Adeline Skokal, Raymond Smolinski, Gary Solverson, Sharon Solverson, Rosalie Spalla, Diane Spata, Joanne Stewart, Lauren Stronczek, Rose Stronczek, Shirley Synal, Robert Synal, Baby Zachary Synal, Emily Rose Thomas, Norbert Trojanowski, Bill Ufferman, Dolores Ufferman, Dave Ulczycki, George Vanderford Sr., George Vanderford Jr., Juan Vargas, Joyce Vogt, Ava Walczak, Sadie Walker, Barbara Webb, Bill Webb, Sylvia Wiertel, Madison Young, Eugene & John Zabek, Evelyn Zaleski, Virginia Zawacki\*\*\* Ken Barber, Hu Bin, Jose Cardinal, Joseph Caruso, Roberta Cheong, Kim Chiu, Brian Cook Sister Noel Devine, Jimmy Distasio, MAD & Rose Marie Donato, Mark Donato, Mia Rose Faciana, Kerry Fluder, Gyna Gazzi, Maria Ng Gee, James Gemkow, Roseann Gurgone, Michael Howley, Frank Karagianes, Levi Kirkland, Angela Lasillo, George Lee, David Leung, Shiu Wah Leung, Felina Li, James Longo, III, Matthew Mantia, Phil Maraldi, Jerry McCarthy, Barbara McElroy, Barbara Metzinger, Xue Ying Mou, Lucy Moy, Mina Preysler Munoz, Cita Orendain, John Paleoik, Anne Pataka, Lois Payton, Rose Perez, Gerard Phillips, Ali Powers, James Rak, Victor Roa, Phyllis Robinson, Joseph Rubin, Amelia Lorraine Schroeder, Karl Schroeder, David Sero, Richard Shew, Kay Siani, Nicholas Tobar, Richard Tobar, Anthony Valentino, Luz Whitehead, Luke Williamson, Lucy Wong, Bai Xue, Ching Shiu Yau, Lan Ying Yee, Ramona Zavala, Susan Zibricky, 蔡宏思, Jimmy Distasio, Kate Lynch, Josephine Laco, Dolores Becatti, Michele Young

#### PARISH STAFF

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### **Ministry Coordinators**

Youth Ministry: Mr.& Mrs. Nick & Ellen Andriacchi

Young Adult Ministry: Mr. Joseph Lowe

Religious Education Program: Mrs. Christine Delfin

English RCIA: Mrs. Rose Lau
Cantonese RCIA: Mr. Perry Lau
Mandarin RCIA: Sr. Monica Zhang

Outreach & Formation: Sr. Monica Zhang Ministry of Care: Sr. Mary Caritas Wehrman

Chinese Apostolate: Ms. Jing Zhang Parish Pastoral Council Chairs:

Mr. George Lee & Mrs. Sharon Wong & Mr. George

Vanderford

### St. Barbara Church

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stbarbarachicago.org

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### St. Therese Chinese Catholic Church

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StTherese@ArchChicago.org

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Phone: (312) 842.6777 Fax: (312) 567-1389

**Office Hours:** Mon., Tue., Wed., and Fri.: 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. (Sat. TBA). The office is closed on Thur. and

Sun.

Website: https://www.stmotherteresaparish.org

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### St. Therese Chinese Catholic School

### 聖德力華人天主教學校

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doi@sttheresechicago.org

Assistant Principal: Ms. Susan Leef

sleef@sttheresechicago.org

**R. E. Director:** Mr. Thomas Howard

thoward@sttheresechicago.org

247 W. 23rd Street, Chicago, IL 60616

Phone: (312) 326-2837 Fax: (312) 326-6068 sttheresechicago.org

### St. Barbara Campus

2859 S. Throop Street, Chicago, IL 60608

Phone: (312) 326-6243 Fax: (312) 842-7960

### Sacramental

Please contact parish office for any of the following: **Baptisms:** Parents must be registered practicing parishioner and attend a baptismal preparation session before a baptism will be scheduled.

**Communion Calls:** Please contact the Rectory when someone who is homebound or in the hospital wishes a visit to receive Holy Communion or the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. The Anointing of the Sick is for anyone seriously sick and not only for those near death.

**Confessions:** Saturdays, 4:15-4:45 p.m. at St. Barbara

Church or by appointment.

**Ministry of Care:** Eucharistic Ministers are available to visit, pray with, and bring Holy Communion to those who are sick and unable to attend Mass.

**Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)** is a program for anyone inquiring and seeking information about entering the Catholic faith.

**Weddings:** Weddings need to be scheduled at least six months in advance. Couples are reminded to secure the Church date before the reception hall.







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JOY YEE NOODLE - ROSCOE 3334 N. Western Ave, Chicago, IL (773) 871-8888







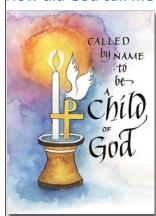


Wei-Chuan U.S.A., Inc. is a leading Chinese food manufacturer and supplier in the United States and headquartered in City of Industry, California. The Company specializes in producing frozen Chinese foods, including Dumplings, Gyoza, Potstickers, Meat Buns, Spring Roll Shells, Moo-Shu Shells, Wontons, Mini Buns, Pan Fried Buns, Noodle Bowls, Rice Bowls, Spring Rolls, Egg Rolls, Wrappers, and more. We also distribute a wide variety of imported products such as Frozen Food, Dry Food, Frozen Seafood, and Organic Food through our six distribution centers, where customers are able to purchase Wei-Chuan's products at grocery stores or wholesalers in North America.

For more than four decades, Wei-Chuan U.S.A., Inc. has upheld the tradition while also pursuing innovation to produce affordable and delicious foods. With our passion for food, we insist on quality and continuously invest in technical expertise. Our food brings convenience to modern life and also provides a taste of home for overseas Chinese. Moreover, we also seek mainstream market and international market so more people will come to enjoy the Chinese flavor. Wei-Chuan U.S.A., Inc. is committed to corporate responsibility—paying particular attention to food safety and quality, at the same time emphasizing customer satisfaction and traditional taste.

# Taste of Happiness

#### How did God call me to become a Catholic?



### By: Michael Hui

My name is Michael Hui, and I'm currently on my journey to become a Catholic. I've been married to my lovely wife for close to 20 years and have three beautiful children. I've been taking RCIA classes along with my oldest son, Matthew, since October of 2021. We're on this journey together and will be baptized this April during the Easter

vigil. Both my wife and daughter were baptized last year. Rose Lau, my RCIA instructor, has taught me a lot about the Catholic faith and has indeed expanded my knowledge of Catholicism.

As a child growing up in a predominantly Jewish community, I had my shares of bar and bat mitzvahs. Most of my elementary, middle, and high school friends were mainly Jewish. I grew up learning about Judaism through my friends and their parents. Growing up as a first-generation Chinese-American was tough. My parents owned a Chinese restaurant up in the north suburbs, and all of the siblings, including myself, had to work at a very young age. Growing up, all we knew was going to the restaurant and working very long hours. We did not have time for the church because the restaurant was open seven days a week. I witnessed how hard my parents worked to support their family of seven. I'm the youngest of seven and had worked throughout my childhood life up until I started college. I remembered that we had no time for anything extracurricular besides working at the restaurant. My parents eventually retired after almost 35+ years.

My initial journey started when my oldest son began St. Therese Chinese Catholic School back in 2009. This was the first time I was exposed to the Catholic church by attending family masses and church events. I've always known the feeling I had every time I stepped into a church. As I would walk in and immediately knew Jesus was present. I felt his presence around me, and it felt good. As a child growing up, I had a sense of emptiness regarding my faith. I knew there was a God, and I wanted to learn more about Him. I've experienced this sensation every time I stepped into a church, whether a wedding/baptism/funeral. I wanted to have that same feeling all the time. I finally realized this was what I was missing my entire life.

I ultimately knew I wanted to become Catholic and lean on my faith when people I was very close to starting passing away. It eventually hit me when my father passed away in 2018. I had a hard time understanding and accepting the inevitable. Seeing him suffer and not recognizing his loved ones was very

hard on me, and it took a while for me to accept reality. I was able to get through this challenging phase of my life through the prayers and blessings of my Catholic friends and family. I didn't feel like I was dealing with my grief alone. I would talk to God on many occasions, making me feel better. My father did pass away, and I now know he is in a better place in eternal heaven. I know that God has welcomed him with open arms, and he's in a better place.

I want to be a good Catholic and pay it forward to others who feel lonely, especially in a time of need. I've experienced that sense of despair and isolation at the lowest point in life. I want to share with others what God has given to me. His love and grace for us. I'm now at peace and no longer angry at God for taking my father away from me. I now understand that God has a plan for everyone, and he wanted to call my father home.

### **Respect Life:**

**Quote** – "Despite our best efforts, it can sometimes be difficult to recognize the profound value of human life when we see its full weakness and fragility. Yet, the faithful care of human life until its natural end is entrusted to every person." — USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, Respect Life Reflection: "The Witness of the Good Samaritan: Palliative Care and Hospice".

**Our Prayer** – For all those receiving hospice care: May the way they are attended to bear witness to the gift of their lives; *We pray to the* Lord:

