

The Exhortation Before Marriage

My dear friends: You are about to enter upon a union which is most sacred and most serious. It is most sacred because God established it to give man a share in the greatest work of creation, the work of the continuation of the human race. And in this way, he sanctified human love and enabled man and woman to help each other live as children of God, by sharing a common life under his fatherly care.

Because God himself is thus its author, marriage is of its very nature a holy institution, requiring of those who enter into it a complete and unreserved giving of self. But Jesus Christ added to the holiness of marriage a deeper meaning & a higher beauty. He used the love of marriage to describe his own love for his Church i.e., for the people of God whom he redeemed by his own blood. Thereby giving Christians a new vision of what married life ought to be, a life of self-sacrificing love like his own. Thus, St. Paul says marriage is now & forever to be considered a great mystery, intimately bound up with the supernatural union of Christ and the Church, which union is also to be its pattern.

This union, then, is most serious, as it will bind you together for life in a relationship so close & intimate, that it will profoundly influence your whole future, That future, with its hopes & disappointments, its successes & failures, its pleasures & pains, its joys & sorrows, now hidden from your eyes. You know that these elements are mingled in every life and are to be expected in your own. And so not knowing what is before you, you take each other for better or for worse, for richer or for poorer, in sickness and in health, until death.

Truly, then, these words are most serious. It is a beautiful tribute to your undoubted faith in each other, that recognizing their full import, you are, nevertheless, so willing and ready to pronounce them. And because these words involve such solemn obligations, it is most fitting that you rest the security of your wedded life upon the great principle of self-sacrifice. And so, you begin your married life by the voluntary and complete surrender of your individual lives in the interest of that deeper & wider life which you are to have in common. Henceforth you will belong entirely to each other; you will be one in mind, one in heart, and one in affections. And whatever sacrifices you may hereafter be required to make to preserve this mutual life, always make them generously. Sacrifice is usually difficult & irksome. Only love can make it easy; perfect love can make it a joy. We are willing to give in proportion as we love. When love is perfect, the sacrifice is complete. God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son; the Son so loved us that he gave himself for our salvation: "Greater love than this no man has, that a man laydown his life for his friends."

No greater blessing can come to your married life than pure conjugal love, loyal and true to the end. May, then, this love with which you join your hands & hearts today never fail but grow deeper & stronger as the years go on. And if true love and the unselfish spirit of perfect sacrifice guide your every action, you can expect the greatest measure of earthly happiness that may be allotted to man in this vale of tears. The rest is in the hands of God. Nor will God be wanting to your needs, he will pledge you the life-long support of his graces [in the Holy Sacrament which you are going to receive].



St Francis de Sales Catholic Church

An apostolate of the Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter in the Archdiocese of Atlanta preaching the Gospel & sanctifying souls according to the liturgical books of 1962.

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The Second Sunday after Epiphany

January 18, 2026, A.D.

Pastor: Fr Chris Hathaway, FssP – pastor@fsspatl.com

Parochial Vicar: Fr. Joseph Favole, FssP – assistant@fsspatl.com

Fr. Brian Austin, FssP, - in residence

Rev. Mr. Doug Anderson, Deacon

Office Manager: Mrs. Leslie Riney – secretary@fsspatl.com

Director of Religious Education: Thomas Cole- DRE@fsspatl.com

Church Office Hours: 8:00 am to 4:00 pm, Monday – Friday

Bookstore – open Sundays after the 8 am & 10:30 am Masses and 1st Saturdays after the 9 am Mass.

Baptism: Contact the parish at least three months before birth.

Marriage: Contact the parish at least six months before the wedding.

Inquiring about the Catholic Faith? Call the office.

Daily Mass Times

Mon. & Wed.: 6:30 am & 9 am.

Tues. & Thurs.: 6:30 am & 12 noon.

Fri.: 6:30 am & 7 pm (followed by Holy Hour).

Sat.: 7 am & 9 am.

Church Hours

Mon.-Thurs.: 6 am - 7 pm

Fri.: 6 am - 9 pm

Sat.: 6:30 am - 7 pm

Sun.: 7 am - 7 pm

Office Hours

Mon. - Fri.: 8 am - 4 pm.

Closed on Holy Days

Confessions are heard in the confessional box ½ hour before each Mass.

Liturgical Calendar for the Upcoming Week

DATE	FEAST	CLASS/COLOR	COMMEMORATION
Sun 01-18	2nd Sunday after Epiphany	2/G	
Mon 01-19	St Canute, <i>King & Martyr</i>	4/R	Ss Marius, Martha, Audifax & Abachum
Tues 01-20	Ss Fabian, Pope, & Sebastian, <i>Martyrs</i>	3/R	
Wed 01-21	St Agnes, <i>Virgin & Martyr</i>	3/R	
Thu 01-22	Votive Mass for Peace	2/V	Ss Vincent & Anastasius
Fri 01-23	St Raymond of Penafort, <i>Confessor</i>	3/W	St Emerentiana
Sat 01-24	St Timothy, <i>Bishop & Martyr</i>	3/R	
Sun 01-25	3rd Sunday after Epiphany	2/G	

Mass Intentions for the Upcoming Week

Sun 01-18	(7 am) <i>Pro-populo</i> (frh)	(Not at SFdS)	
	(8 am) Fr Austin's intention (fra)		
	(10:30 am) Walter Cheeseman+ (frf)	rb T Nolan	
	(1 pm) Fr Favole's intention (frf)		
Mon 01-19	(6:30 am) FssP	rb B Moroney	
	(9 am) Tom Kidd	(Not at SFdS) rb J-A Kidd	
Tues 01-20	(6:30 am) Intentions of the Pastor	(Not at SFdS) rb anonymous	
	(12 noon pm) Donatilde Zanca+	rb N Cardenas	
Wed 01-21	(6:30 am) Fr Favole's intention		
	(9 am) Souls in Purgatory	(Not at SFdS) rb M Glowacki	
	(6:30 am) Peter Gallagher+	(Not at SFdS) rb C Giuffre	
	(12 noon) Mr Archie Kinsis	rb C Elliot	
Fri 01-23	(6:30 am) Fr Hathaway's intention	(Not at SFdS)	
	(7 pm) Rebecca Fidero	rb J Hufford	
Sat 01-24	(7 am) Fr Hathaway's intention	(Not at SFdS)	
	(9 am) Melissa & Art Cordova	rb J Cvitkovic	
Sun 01-25	(7 am) <i>Pro-populo</i> (frh)	(Not at SFdS)	
	(8 am) Vanessa Maxwell & family	rb E Shryock	
	(10:30 am) Fr Austin's intention (fra)		
	(1 pm) Fr Favole's intention (frf)		

This week, Fr Hathaway remains away until January 28th; he takes those Mass intentions with him as seen above), Wednesday, Inquiry Class (7:30 pm); Thursday, a day of penance for the sin of abortion; Friday, FNE (4:40-6:45 pm).

Last week's collection: cash \$7,017.00; online \$4,178.00 total: \$11,195.00
Attendance: 7 am-54; 8 am-168; 10:30 am-351; 1 pm-160; 733 total souls

Please pray for: Rachel Fender, Anna Maria Fender (1/11); Sydney Markich & family (12/28).

St Francis de Sales Young Adults will host a Theology on Tap Feb. 7 at 3 pm at Roundtrip Brewing, 1279 Seaboard Industrial Blvd NW, Atlanta. Join Link: <https://groupme.com/join-group/108425602/E6P6huB4>. For more information about this group, email jwegan97@hotmail.com.

Oral announcements made (or should have been made) last Sunday:

Today, begins a thirty-day novena in preparation for the renewal of the Fraternity's consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary; it ends **on February 11**. **On that day**, [the act of consecration](#) will be publicly renewed. The preparatory thirty-day novena consists of the daily recitation of a decade of the Rosary and the *Memorare*. *If timely, the priest may do this after his Mass. The faithful are welcome to join in this Novena. If so, you may simply join this intention in your normal Rosary and add the Memorare*

On January 5, 2026, Leslie Riney announced her resignation as Office Manager. Her last day will be February 5, 2026. By way of seeking counsel for her replacement, Fr Hathaway submitted candidate names to the Parish Finance Council (which doubles as a Parish Council). A member of this group suggested he make a general inquiry. If you would like to consider this position yourself, please send him a resume at his office email. You may also let him know if you think such and such a parishioner would, as they say, "be a good fit." Thank you.

Dear faithful,

Last Sunday it was announced that Lesie is resigning & her replacement is being sought. Fr Hathaway will need to decide a replacement this week. If he does not already know a candidate, he will ask Fr Favole to interview the candidate. In the end, whoever is offered the position will need to be vetted by the diocese and begin the hiring process. If all goes well, the person will begin on February 5. Meanwhile, Leslie has already offered to extend herself beyond Feb. 5, if needed, to help the person transition into her position. Thank you, Leslie! Finally, let us pray all goes well in the selection process. God bless you all, frh

Maxim of St Francis de Sales (w/ a Fr Hathaway addition)

Lord Jesus, without reserve, without an if, without a but, without exception, without limitation, may Thy holy will be done in all things, at all times. (Amen.)