

On Friendship with Jesus (Part VI of VII)

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Last Sunday, Jesus whipped a demon with His finger. Noting His power in but one finger, we took occasion to speak on confidence in Jesus, of Whom, as that day's Mass prayer reads, we ask that His right hand be our defense. If a finger of His hand can beat the devil, what can His whole hand do!

Again, as Jesus is almighty, all-knowing & all-good, so He deserves our full confidence. Along these lines, we introduced the servant of God, Fr. Dolindo Ruotolo, a contemporary of Padre Pio who labeled him a saint, who, in his trials, used to say: "**Jesus, You take care of this**" before going his merry way, lighthearted & confident that Jesus would do what's best.

Of course, such a practice does not excuse us from doing what we can, but there are many things beyond our control, these we must leave in the mighty hands of Jesus. And, when we say, "**Jesus, You take care of this**" we must mean it. Again, once we give our problem to Jesus, we leave it with Him and, in no way, try to reclaim it, that is, neither to take it back by complaint or mummer, fret or worry. If tempted to take back the problem, we must give this to Jesus as well: "Jesus, You take care of this (my desire to take back the problem.)"

Today, we have come to a midpoint in our Lent fast; weary & hungry, the Gospel feeds us the account of the multiplication of the 5 loaves & 2 fishes. From this mountain top picnic, we will descend, in rapid succession, to Passion Sunday then Palm Sunday & Holy Week; very soon, the earth will quake & our dear Christ will rise from the dead. Now, at this midpoint, we reflect on our Lent project of making Jesus a better friend & more, a best friend.

Recall, at the start of this series, we cited *In Sinu Jesu*, wherein Jesus tells the monk, "**The way to holiness is the path of My friendship... it is this that leaves Me free to act upon you, within you & through you. Let Me love you as friend. That is enough.**" (p.41)

Indeed, to be a friend of Jesus; isn't that everything in a nutshell!

Earlier, we suggested friendship with Jesus is like the good soil in the parable of the Sower. Again, to receive the Word of God in the soil of a good heart, free of a beaten path of self-will, free of the rocks of whimsical inconstancy, free of the thorny cares, riches & pleasures of this world, is the beginning of a great harvest; and, once we have received Jesus in our hearts, we must spend time with Him so that He can produce His fruits in us, in patience.

Again, *really*, the only thing keeping us from advancing in friendship with Jesus is time. Are we spending time with this Great Friend? Time in regular morning & evening prayer; time in spiritual reading (the bible, if nothing else); time in reciting the Holy Rosary; time in attentively attending Holy Mass; time with Him at Adoration; time with Him in a quiet walk in the woods. There are thousands of ways to spend time with Jesus. In whatever way we make time for Jesus, He will surely not be wanting to return the favor.

Today, the fourth Sunday in Lent, Jesus feeds 5000 men not including women & children; we read the multitude followed Him up the mountain "because they saw the miracles which He did" &, after He fed them, we read the throng liked so much that they desired to "take Him by force & make him king."

Like any of us, Jesus wants us to love Him for Himself, more than for the things He may do. Again, Jesus wants us to accept Him more than the things we may ask of Him. This is true friendship. Again, *Jesus is already a King & He wants for us a kingdom* and our kingdom begins by letting Him reign in our hearts. Did we tell Him this when we woke up this morning?

At this Lent midpoint, if our growth in friendship with God seems lukewarm, say to Jesus often in what days remain: "Jesus, I invite you into my heart, into every faculty of my body & soul. Take control & reign; I allow you to suppress any spirit of rebellion; grant me the grace to know what I should do & the grace to do it." *Really mean this* & you'll end Lent very well.



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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Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 15, 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: Ms. Julieta Sanchez – secretary@fsspatl.com

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

Church Office Hours: 8:15 am to 4:15 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 three months before a birth.

Marriage: Contact the parish six months before a 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.

Sunday Mass Times

7 am low Mass (at the church)

8 am low Mass (at the gym)

10:30 am high Mass (at the gym)

1 pm low Mass (at the church)

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

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

Monday - Friday:

8:15 am – 4:15 pm.

Closed on Holy Days

Liturgical Calendar for the Upcoming Week

DATE	FEAST	CLASS/COLOR	COMMEMORATION
Sun 03-15	4th (<i>Laetare</i>) Sunday of Lent	1/V/ Rose	
Mon 03-16	Feria of Lent	3/V	
Tues 03-17	Feria of Lent	3/V	St Patrick
Wed 03-18	Feria of Lent	3/V	St Cyril
Thu 03-19	St Joseph, Spouse of the BVM	1/W	Feria of Lent
Fri 03-20	Feria of Lent	3/V	
Sat 03-21	Feria of Lent	3/V	Str Benedict
Sun 03-22	Passion Sunday	1/V	

Mass Intentions for the Upcoming Week

Sun 03-15	(7 am) <i>Pro-populo</i> (frh) (8 am) Fr Austin's intention (fra) (10:30 am) M/M William Hartlein + (1 pm) Nicholes Chancey	rb W D Hartlein rb L Chancey
Mon 03-16	(6:30 am) Rob Brame + (9 am) Robert Carey +	rb T&H Brame rb C Giuffre
Tues 03-17	(6:30 am) FssP (12 noon pm) Vince Repucci	rb C Jackson rb K Repucci
Wed 03-18	(6:30 am) Bob Brame (9 am) Moises Sanchez	rb T&H Brame rb J Sanchez
Thu 03-19	(6:30 am) McCaffrey family (12 noon) June & Bud White +	rb J Edwards rb J Kidd
Fri 03-20	(6:30 am) Joshua Jarrell+ (7 pm) For the Catholic Church	rb L Jarrell tn L Le
Sat 03-21	(7 am) Souls in Purgatory (9 am) Confraternity of Christian Mothers	rb C Elliott rb CCM
Sun 03-22	(7 am) <i>Pro-populo</i> (frh) (8 am) Fr Austin's intention + (10:30 am) James Carey+ (1 pm) Mrs Lindsay O'Hagan	rb C Giuffre rb H Hagan

Today, the newly established Parish Council will meet in the library at 3 pm.

This week, Monday, staff meeting (1 pm); Tuesday, Fr Favole is away until 3/20, Parish Mission begins (7-9 pm); Wednesday, St Gerard Guild meets (1 pm), Parish Mission continues (7-9 pm); Thursday, Parish Mission ends (7-9 pm); Friday, Stations & Mass (7 pm); Saturday, Confraternity of Christian Mothers w/ frf (10:15 am), Inquiry Class testing w/ frh (10 am), & **cover statues!**

You are invited to a three-day Parish Mission (March 17, 18 & 19) given by Fr Duffy, FssP from Naples, FL. There will be a 40-minute talk, followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and time for Confession.

CCD students & all parishioners are invited to donate cut or potted flowers for use at the Altar of Repose on Maundy Thursday & Easter. Please leave all plants in the social hall beginning Palm Sunday.

Last week's collection: cash \$5,399.82; online \$4,390.00 total: \$9,789.82.
Attendance: 7 am-59; 8 am-199; 10:30 am-304; 1 pm-165; 727 total souls.

Thank you to all who helped with the Via Crucis (the Way of the Cross) outdoor stations now in Mary's grotto! Our children colored the images!!

If you light a votive candle, please remember to provide a donation for it. We are experiencing diminishing returns for these expenses.

Lost & Found items will be disposed of after a month of being abandoned. The Lost & Found at the church is currently in the social hall at the northeast corner. Lolk for the big black tub.

On Thursday, Friday & Saturday of Holy Week, from between 10 to 11:45 am, Fr Hathaway **invites you** to join him for *Tenebrae*, the Office of Matins & Lauds prayed on these three holy days. In this Office, the Church mourns the sufferings & death of Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world, in pleas & dirges, with Psalms of sorrow. In the Roman Catholic Daily Missal, this Office is on pages 1694 and following. He especially welcomes those who can sing the parts opposite him; practice days (March 23, 26, & 28 from 6 to 7 pm) & handouts with melody provided.

The St. Francis de Sales Choir is looking for singers with the ability to read music and sing harmonies. Experience with chant is not required. Practices are on Sundays at 9:15 am before the 10:30 am High Mass. If interested, please contact Rose Graebner at rgraebneramd@gmail.com.

2026 AAA status at SFdS as of March 10, 2026: \$58,975.50 owed; \$6,930.00 pledged; \$16,755.00 paid (28.41% of goal); from 49 donors (12.25% of parish).
Thank you for your support!

SFdS has received permission to host a homeschool co-op beginning the Fall of 2026. If this interests you, please attend a meeting **TODAY** from 9:15 to 10:15 in the social hall.

Maxim of St Francis de Sales

The meek Savior would have us meek, so that though surrounded by the world and the flesh, we may live by the spirit; that, amidst the vanities of earth, we may live in Heaven; that, living among men, we may praise Him with the angels..