

On Friendship with Jesus (Part VII of VII)

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Last Sunday, atop a mountain, Jesus filled the bellies of 5000 men with 5 loaves & 2 fishes. The Gospel records the crowds were there because “they saw the miracles He worked” and, after He fed them, as they desired to force Him to be king, so “He fled into the mountain alone.”

Many desire an earthly king who will give his subjects free health care & food stamps; but Jesus wants for us a heavenly kingdom which begins with giving us Himself in friendship. Again, Jesus is already the eternal King & He desires His kingdom in us which is perfectly presented to us by way of the Most Holy Eucharist, the “Sacrament of divine friendship.” (p.55)

Last time, we spoke on time as the only thing *really* keeping us from Jesus: “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.”

On Thursday, March 3, 2016, Jesus told the monk (*In Sinu Jesu*), “Give Me your time, for time is the currency of friendship and proof of your love for Me... To the man who has no time for Me, I can give nothing, for he is not with Me to receive My gifts, to listen to My words, to know Me as I would have him know Me.” (p. 259)

How terrible ever to say, “I have no time for Jesus.” Truly, this is to plan my own damnation.

Again, last week, we left off with a challenge & remedy to end well our Lent: “At this Lent midpoint, if our 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.”

Today, Passion Sunday, Jesus has a final confrontation with “the multitude of Jews.” As these picked up stones to cast at Him, so He “hid Him self & went out of the temple.” Again, because Jesus made the bold statement that He was equal to the eternal God: “Amen, amen, I tell you, before Abraham was made, I am”, so the Jews believed this a blasphemy which was worthy of death.

Now until the Gloria of Holy Saturday, images of our heavenly friends are covered & the Triune doxology is omitted, for Jesus is in hiding, having been chased out of the temple where He should have been welcomed with BIG open arms & hearts.

Certainly, we, the baptized, chase God out of His temple when we freely commit a serious sin. This terrible crime is repairable, however, by a good Confession. Thank you, Jesus!

But is it not *somehow* equally terrible if we do not attend to this great Friend in our soul?

Likely, we’ve heard that Jesus greatly laments His neglect in the Holy Sacrament of the Altar; but is it not lamentable as well to ignore this great Guest in our soul?

These last days of Lent are critical to show *our hiding Lord* that we appreciate His friendship with us. The world casts its stones, in so many ways, at Jesus: abuse to His Holy Name, shaming His priesthood, sacrilegious Communion; mocking His Commandments, profanations of His Holy Day, etc., who will be there to comfort the Lord, if not His friends?

To end, tell Jesus often that you love Him; that it brings you joy He dwells in the temple of your soul; tell Him more that you never want Him to leave & strive to prove this by a holy life.



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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Passion Sunday

March 22, 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 – officemgr@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 03-22	Passion Sunday	1/V	
Mon 03-23	Passion Monday	3/V	
Tues 03-24	Passion Tuesday	3/V	St Gabriel
Wed 03-25	Annunciation of BVM	1/W	Feria
Thu 03-26	Passion Thursday	3/V	
Fri 03-27	Passion Friday	3/V	7 Sorrows of BVM, St John Damascene
Sat 03-28	Passion Saturday	3/V	St John Capistran
Sun 03-29	Palm Sunday	1/Red & V	

Mass Intentions for the Upcoming Week

Sun 03-22	(7 am) <i>Pro-populo</i> (frh) (8 am) Fr Austin's intention (fra) (10:30 am) James Carey+ (1 pm) Mrs Lindsay O'Hagan	rb C Giuffre rb H Hagan
Mon 03-23	(6:30 am) Cardy Burdette (9 am) Special intention	rb T&H Brame rb JA Kidd
Tues 03-24	(6:30 am) Gary Severson + (12 noon pm) TLM	rb Severson family rb L Le
Wed 03-25	(6:30 am) Warren Toro + (9 am) Fr C Hathaway	rb K Fender rb S&C Calta
Thu 03-26	(6:30 am) Michael Fidero & family (12 noon) Mark Perry	rb J&R Fidero rb S Binggeli
Fri 03-27	(6:30 am) William Kinsella + (7 pm) Special intention	tb T Kinsella rb L Le
Sat 03-28	(7 am) Anthony Bova + (9 am) Crystal Diaz	rb V Stephens rb M Diaz
Sun 03-29	(7 am) <i>Pro-populo</i> (frh) (8 am) Fr Austin's intention (fra) (10:30 am) Margaret Kafel + (1 pm)	rb J LaPlante

No Mass

This week, Monday, staff meeting (1 pm), **Tenebrae practice** for Holy Thursday (6-7 pm); **Wednesday**, Feast of the Annunciation, three Masses, 6:30 am (frf), 12 noon with Fr Heehan, FSSP, & 7:30 sung Mass (frh); **Thursday, Tenebrae practice** for Good Friday (6-7); **Friday**, FNE (4:30-6:45 pm), Stations & Mass (7 pm); **Saturday**, Inquiry Class prepare for churaching on Holy Saturday (10 am), **Tenebrae practice** for Holy Saturday (6-7 pm).

Next Sunday, Blessing of Palms at the 7 am & 10:30 am Masses. There will be no 1 pm Mass.

FYI. Please know, currently SFdS has no "Building Fund" free of taxation by AoA which is only possible after receiving approval from the AoA to start a Capital Campaign. It seems, for some time, people have had a different impression. Fr Hathaway hopes this announcement clears the air.

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 \$6,883.00; online \$5,235.00 total: \$12,118.00.
Attendance: 7 am-54; 8 am-180; 10:30 am-308; 1 pm-179; 721 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. Look 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; \$19,237.00 paid (32.62% of goal); from 60 donors (15% of parish). **Thank you for your support!**

Maxim of St Francis de Sales

The sight alone of our dear Jesus crucified can speedily soften all sorrows, which are but flowers compared with His thorns. And then our great rendezvous is an eternal heaven; and, compared with the price of eternity, what are the things which end with time?