

The Papacy (part II of III)

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The words, "**The gates of hell shall not prevail**" signifies the Church is indefectible. In his Modern Catholic Dictionary, Fr. John Hardon SJ neatly sums Pastor Aeternus, the First Dogmatic Constitution of the Church of Christ (Pope Pius IX, July 18, 1870 at Vatican Council I): "The Church's indefectibility, therefore, means that she now is and will always remain the institution of salvation in her teaching, her constitution, and her liturgy. It does not exclude modifications that do not affect her substance, nor does it exclude the decay of individual local churches or even whole dioceses."

As God became Incarnate for the purpose of saving souls, so the Church must be visible and service the saving souls; nor can the Church perish or be changed, in any of her three essential offices of teaching, governing & sanctifying.

Again, until the end of time, the Church will visibly: 1) teach, without error, faith, morals & disciplines necessary for salvation; 2) govern by deacons, priests and bishops, one of whom, the pope, will hold supreme authority; and 3) distribute supernatural grace, especially through her Sacraments.

The words, "**The keys to the kingdom of heaven**" refer to authority in the Church held, in a supreme way, by Peter and his successors; nor is "**whatsoever**" in *binding or loosing* taken absolutely, which would be both ridiculous and unbiblical.

The power of the keys have no power over nature, human history, or realities divinely ordained. Again, the pope has no authority to change the Commandments, the Creed or the elements essential to the Sacraments.

In succinct fashion, The Haydock Bible Commentary says the authority "to bind" refers to: 1. refusing to absolve; 2. enjoining penance for sins forgiven; 3. excommunication, suspension or interdict; 4. making rules & laws for governing the Church; 5. determining what is of the faith by judgments & definitions of the Church. The authority "loosing" refers to: remitting the punishment owed to forgiven sins by way of indulgences.

A word about "bad popes." The Church has had bad popes as shepherds; but these more defend the Church's indefectibility than harm it. How? While these lived immoral lives and/or held false opinions, they never demanded the Church change her belief or practice in things necessary for salvation. Again, bad popes prove that the Church is divinely protected; if not, she would have expired long ago. More, if the Church were always ruled by saintly, learned & talented men, the world would more credit her successes to human ability than divine aid. Again, the Church's durability has been surely proved by her 2000 years of existence; but her indefectibility is more evident by the bad popes, from time to time, elected to her headship.

To end, we submit four excerpted Canons from Pastor Aeternus:

"**If anyone** says that the blessed Apostle Peter was not established by the Lord Christ as the chief of all the apostles, and the visible head of the whole militant Church..., let him be anathema." (DZ 1823)

"**If anyone** says that it is not from the institution of Christ the Lord Himself, or by divine right that the blessed Peter has perpetual successors in the primacy over the universal Church..., let him be anathema." (DZ 1825)

"**If anyone** thus speaks, that the Roman Pontiff has... not the full & supreme power of jurisdiction over the universal Church, not only in things which would pertain to faith and morals, but also in those which pertain to the discipline and government of the Church spread over the whole world;... and over the pastors and the faithful altogether and individually: let him be anathema." (DZ 1831)

"**If anyone** presumes to contradict this definition of Ours, which may God forbid: let him be anathema." (DZ 1840)



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.

587 Landers Dr SW
Mableton, GA 30126
770-948-6888
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3rd Sunday after Easter

April 26, 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

Church Office Hours: 8:15 am to 4:15 pm, Monday – Friday

Bookstore – open Sundays after the 9 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

9 am low Mass

10:30 am high Mass

1 pm low Mass

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

4/25/26

Dear Faithful

Continuing from last week, I now address the gym closure & future plans.

Regarding the gym, due to fire code violations, the gym is now permanently closed for all large gatherings. This cannot be remedied e.g., the structure can not hold the weight of a sprinkler system and other requirements.

Regarding the future, SFdS is working with the AoA to eventually do a capital campaign. More information will be forthcoming including town hall meeting(s). Stay tuned!

As you may know, for the last 12 years, SFdS has been considering whether to remain on its property or relocate elsewhere having more land. When I first arrived, 8 months ago, I did not want to engage in this until I was here a full year. I wanted to settle in. Let you know me and I you. This takes time.

After I arrived, however, a property for sale in Kennesaw came to my attention. I agreed to visit this property, open to it as perhaps the will of God. In the end, it did not pan out but I did give permission for a Project Study Group to form to gather information on staying or relocating as helped by the pro-bono work of an architect.

Such was going on until that fateful day, before Palm Sunday, when the AoA toured the gym and quickly determined the fire code violation. This is the reason Palm Sunday Mass and all Masses since are in the church. This reality as well as another (which I cannot explain now) makes urgent the matter at hand.

In majority, the Finance & Parish Councils decided, with me and Fr Favole, to consider replacing the gym with a new building “St Peter’s Community Center.” Interestingly, a similar plan was proposed by Fr Bouchard more than 15 years ago (he was pastor from 2008-2010.) Why did it not happen? He was moved! Currently, the Project Study Team and Parish & Finance Councils are working with the AoA and the architect and civil engineers to determine what the city of Mableton will or will not allow on our property.

God bless you and St Francis de Sales, pray for us! frh

You are invited to a Public Rosary Rally on Saturday, May 16 from 11:45 am to 12:45 pm, at Tramore Park (2150 East-West Connector, Austell,) for the repentance & conversion of our nation,. Masy God save us through the rosary of His Holy Mother. For more, contact: Cristina McLeod at 678-779-4190.

2026 AAA status at SFdS as of April 19, 2026: \$58,975.50 owed; \$8,653.08 pledged; \$48,101.77 paid (81% of goal); from 75 donors (18.75% of parish).
Thank you for your support!

Maxim of St Francis de Sales

How can we know frank, ardent love but in the midst of thorns, crosses, weariness, above all, when this weariness is prolonged?

DATE	FEAST	CLASS/COLOR	COMMEMORATION
Sun 04-26	3rd Sunday after Easter	2/W	
Mon 04-27	St Peter Canisius, <i>Doctor</i>	3/W	
Tues 04-28	St Paul of Cross, <i>Confessor</i>	3/W	
Wed 04-29	St Peter, <i>Martyr</i>	3/R	
Thu 04-30	St Catherine of Siena, <i>Virgin</i>	3/W	
Fri 05-01	St Joseph, the Workman, Spouse of BVM	1/W	
Sat 05-02	Immaculate Heart of Mary	3/W	St Athanasius
Sun 05-03	4th Sunday after Easter	2/W	

Mass Intentions for the Upcoming Week

Sun 04-26	(7 am) <i>Pro-populo</i> (frh) (9 am) Christian & Tatiana Villareal (frh) (10:30 am) Aliria & Victoria (frf) (1 pm) Anna Jagiella + (frf)	rb J Sanchez rb Anonymous rb C Jagiella
Mon 04-27	(6:30 am) Katherine Rintoul (9 am) Alberto Cantero	rb A Garstin rb M C Correa
Tues 04-28	(6:30 am) Special intention (12 pm) James Fidero & family	rb Anonymous rb J&R Fidero
Wed 04-29	(6:30 am) Baby James (9 am) Melissa A Hernandez	rb Anonymous rb J Sanchez
Thu 04-30	(6:30 am) M/M Jeffrey Graebner (12 pm) Stuart Johnson+	rb V Stephens rb K Hanlon
Fri 05-01	(6:30 am) Katherine Kidd (frf) (7 pm) Thomas Kinsella (frh)	rb J Kidd rb T Kinsella
Sat 05-02	(7 am) NO MASS (9 am) Robert Anderson family (frh)	rb M/M D Anderson
Sun 05-03	(7 am) NO MASS (8 am) <i>Pro-populo</i> (frh) (10:30 am) Sarah Binggeli (frh) (1 pm) Frank J Stillwell (frh)	rb Tate family rb MR Stillwell

This week, Monday, staff meeting (1 pm); Thursday, Adoration (5:30-8 pm), Confessions (6-7 pm); Friday, FNE (4:30-6:45 pm), sung Mass (7 pm) **and no Holy Hour**; Saturday, First Saturday Mass & devotions.

Next Sunday, no 7 am Mass and 9 am Mass will be at 8 am.

Last week’s collection: cash \$ 2,830.00; online \$5,977.00 total: \$8,807.00.
4/12 cash collection: \$7,242.22; 4/5 cash collection: \$6,765.64.

Attendance: 7am-68; 9 am-140; 10:30 am-303; 1 pm-165; 676 total souls.