

## On Ascension Thursday & Us

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Suppose we consider the day our Lord ascended into heaven & for whom He did this.

**This day**, St John Chrysostom says, reveals the great & wonderful munificence of God: “The day all mankind was restored to God. The day, the long warfare, the prolonged estrangement, ended. The day a wonderful peace returned to us: a peace we had not expected.”

Indeed, who would ever have thought that man would be treated so honorably? This nature which, at one time, was deemed unworthy to exist, had become worse than beasts, had done incredible cruelty to its Maker, is, today, brought to the highest heavens.

**Recall**, the time when God vented to destroy the whole human race. Now what God created, “man,” is good, indeed *very good*, but when this nature corrupted itself, God repented he had ever made this *very good* thing: “I will destroy man, whom I have created, from the face of the earth; from man even to the beasts, for it repents me that I have made them.” (Gen. 6:7) But God spoke thus to show his great displeasure at mankind’s sins; he spoke as to correct man, lest a worse misfortune overtake him than mere physical death.

**Recall**, mankind did amend, for a time, before relapsing into his former ways, becoming beasts, even less than beasts. Man became “compared to senseless beasts and made like unto them.” (Ps 48:21) But to become *senseless* is beneath the nature of man, *created in the image & likeness of God*; it is a perversion that rational man act like an irrational creature. Again, man fell lower than beasts; beasts are supposed to be senseless, but not man: “The ox knows his master, and the ass his master’s crib: but Israel has not known me.” (Is 1:3) Indeed, man become *unmanly* as to need instruction from an ant: “Go to the ant; consider her ways & learn her wisdom.” (Pr. 6:6) Even worse, St. John says of this nature: “For you are children of the devil.” (Jn 8:44). Nor forget that in the rite of Baptism the cute infant is termed: “a child of wrath.”

**Recall**, to rescue mankind from his terrible condition, God sent a mediator, not anyone, not a holy man or seraph, but his only beloved Son, to bridge the terrible gap between a thrice holy God & a wicked mankind, to reconcile the two parties at odds. This Son takes upon Himself a human nature; He becomes one with man; even the guilt of this nature He takes upon himself; this Same is wounded anew by His creature; He Who came to befriend mankind is slain by him. But to our joy, we know further that He Who suffered, died & was buried, rose from the dead and ascended into heaven with His newly glorified nature, where He now sits beside God the Father in the likeness of man.

Truly, Ascension Thursday manifests the wonderful munificence of God. Our nature, once deemed worthless & perverse of all creatures, is raised, this day, above every creature. This nature, at one time meriting destruction, measuring less than beasts, is assumed into heaven, beyond the realms of angels, to sit at the right hand of God.

**To end**, this is a great day. Today, we see God’s great love for man & man’s great value in himself. The Lord says, “the very hairs of your head are numbered” (Lk 12:7) God counts each hair of man as even our smallest trifles concern Him. He numbers each strand because He values every part of us. He loves us so much, He wants to share His eternity with us! Let us never forget these important lessons from this important day. *Alleluia! & Amen!*



## 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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## Sunday after the Ascension

May 17, 2026, A.D.

Pastor: Fr Chris Hathaway, FssP – [pastor@fsspatl.com](mailto:pastor@fsspatl.com)

Parochial Vicar: Fr. Joseph Favole, FssP – [assistant@fsspatl.com](mailto:assistant@fsspatl.com)

Fr. Brian Austin, FssP, - in residence

Rev. Mr. Doug Anderson, Deacon

Office Manager: Ms. Julieta Sanchez – [officemgr@fsspatl.com](mailto: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

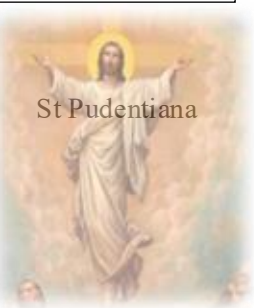
### Office Hours

Monday - Friday:  
8:15 am – 4:15 pm.

Closed on Holy Days

## Liturgical Calendar for the Upcoming Week

DATE	FEAST	CLASS/COLOR	COMMEMORATION
Sun 05-17	Sunday after Ascension	2/W	
Mon 05-18	Coronation Anniversary of the Pope	2/W	
Tues 05-19	St Peter Celestine, <i>Pope &amp; Confessor</i>	3/W	St Pudentiana
Wed 05-20	St Bernadine of Siena, <i>Confessor</i>	3/W	
Thu 05-21	Feria after Ascension	4/W	
Fri 05-22	Feria after Ascension	4/W	
Sat 05-23	Vigil Mass of Pentecost	1/R	
Sun 05-24	Pentecost Sunday	1/R	



### Mass Intentions for the Upcoming Week

Sun 05-17	(7 am) <i>Pro-populo</i> (frh)		
	(9 am) Harry Zheng (frh)		rb H Zheng
	(10:30 am) Maria Acosts & Yeshua Sanchez (frf)		rb J Sanchez
	(1 pm) Scott Roberts + (frf)		rb K Fender
Mon 05-18	(6:30 am) Bette Berchem+		rb S&C Calta
	(9 am) Miranda Elena Diaz		rb M Diaz
Tues 05-19	(6:30 am) Tom Conger		rb C Conger
	(12 pm) Purisimo Francisco Sr & Jr +		rb R Francisco
Wed 05-20	(6:30 am) Mary McBride +		rb Hoff family
	(9 am) Neely Wilson Shah (not at SFdS)		rb D & S Blazek
Thu 05-21	(6:30 am) In Thanksgiving		rb J Cvitkovic
	(12 pm) Miguel Angel Sanchez G		rb J Sanchez
Fri 05-22	(6:30 am) Eric J Hartlein		rb W D Hartlein
	(7 pm) Benigno de Guzman & family		rb R Francisco
Sat 05-23	(7 am) Jason Fitzpatrick		rb T&N Nolan
	(9 am) Dc Anderson 38th ordination anniversary		rb Parish
Sun 05-24	(7 am) <i>Pro-populo</i> (frf)		
	(9 am) Sun Ya Qin + (frf)		rb H Zheng
	(10:30 am) M/M Paul Oddo (frh)		rb Rev. M/M D Anderson
	(1 pm) Alberto Cantero (frh)		rb M C Correa

**This week, Monday,** staff meeting 1 pm; **Wednesday, no 9 am Mass;** **Saturday,** no 12 noon Mass, 2 pm Nuptial Mass; **Friday,** FNE (4:30-6:45 pm); **Saturday, Confirmation Day!**, Confirmation ceremony with Bishop Shlesinger (6 pm), Reception (7 pm). (Bishop Bernard “Ned” Shlesinger assists Archbishop Gregory J. Hartmayer in shepherding the archdiocese of Atlanta. Pope Francis appointed him in 2017. He is well known for his unique background as a former U.S. Air Force pilot.)

**Last week’s collection:** cash \$2,828.82; online \$5,975.00 total: \$8,803.82.  
**Attendance:** 7 am-72; 9 am-147; 10:30 am-272; 1 pm-106; 597 total souls.

Thank you to the KoC for gifting flowers on Mother's Day to our mother's!

Next Sunday, Parish Council meets at 3 pm.

A new female parishioner is looking for work and an apartment to rent. If you can help, please contact Fr Hathaway.

**FYI - Please get your testing done** for Confirmation & 1st Holy Communion by either Fr Favole or Fr Hathaway. You may make an appointment through the office.

**Novena to the Holy Ghost** runs from May 15 to May 23; handouts on table.

**If you want to participate in the co-op,** please return the Family Agreement no later than **May 15, 2026**. Class offerings will be fixed beginning 5/16/26, based on who has returned the Agreement. Class changes or space for families who wish to join cannot be guaranteed after 5/15/26. The fees are due **June 1, 2027**. See the Agreement p. 10 for more information.

**Congratulations to all the 2026 graduating seniors & their families!** We will be celebrating a **Baccalaureate Mass** on Saturday, May 30th at 2:00 pm with a small reception in the Social Hall immediately afterwards. Please email Jamie Graebner, [jgraebner@gmail.com](mailto:jgraebner@gmail.com), if your graduating senior will attend, and how many people we should plan for at the reception.

**SFdS is formalizing a key policy.** If you have a key, please sign a key use policy at the office. If you are no-longer an active volunteer, please return your key(s).

**Please send in AAA donations** through the self-addressed envelope.

***And these signs shall follow them... they shall take up serpents...***  
 There are certain things concerning these signs & wonders which we should carefully consider. Each day the Church does spiritually that which she then did corporally by the hand of the Apostles. For when her priests giving the grace of exorcism lay hands on those who believe, and forbid the unclean spirits to dwell in their souls, what is it they do but *cast out devils*? And the faithful, who have put aside the speech of the world and speak of holy things, are *speaking with new tongues*. While they who by their pious encouragement draw evil out of the hearts of others *take up serpents*. And when they hear evil counsels, and yet are not drawn to evil doing, *they drink a deadly thing, and it shall not hurt them*. ~ St. Gregory the Great

**2026 AAA status at SFdS as of May 11, 2026:** \$58,975.50 owed; \$8,653.08 pledged; \$54,774.77 paid (92.88%% of goal); from 81 donors (22.75% of parish).  
**Thank you for your support!**

**Maxim of St Francis de Sales**  
*Every day, not in prayer, but in your walks, you should recall to mind our Lord amid the thorns of our redemption and consider what happiness it would be to share them.*