

The Nativity of St. John the Baptist

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In vol. 12 of his enlightening work, The Liturgical Year, Dom Prosper Gueranger OSB calls the up-coming feast of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist, “midsummer’s Christmas Day.”

Indeed, in celebrating this feast, we should feel an excited Noel or two in our soul.

As Dom Gueranger writes, “Jesus alone is the light, the light without which earth would remain dead: and John is but the man sent from God, without whom the light would have remained unknown. But Jesus being inseparable from John, even as day is from dawn, it is by no means astonishing that the earth’s gladness at John’s birth should partake of something of that excited by the coming of our Redeemer.”

Normally, when the Church celebrates a birthday, it associates this with entering heaven, as in the case of the sainted martyrs we read about daily in The Roman Martyrology. Truly, to *leave this valley of tears* & enter into heaven is a Birthday to celebrate!

But as some earthly birthdays have salvific consequences, so these the Church does celebrate. Of these birthdays, there are three: **JESUS** (The Nativity of the Lord or Christmas Day, December 25); **Mary** (The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, September 8); and **John the Baptist** (The Nativity of St. John the Baptist, June 24).

Indeed, the birthdays of these persons are so important that even their conceptions are (or used to be) celebrated. The Roman Church currently celebrates two conceptions: **JESUS** (The Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, March 25) and **Mary** (The Immaculate Conception, December 8). In volume 12 of his Liturgical Year, Dom Gueranger OSB writes that until “the 15th century the Latin Church with the Greek, who continue this custom, celebrated in September a feast called “the Conception of the Precursor (St. John the Baptist).”” He does not write what exact day this is, but we can safely assume the day is September 24.

Again, if we do the math, all these days are in a logical sequence and many prepare us for the Incarnation, Christmas Day, December 25.

The Annunciation (March 25), when Christ is conceived in Mary’s womb, is nine months before the Birth of Christ (Dec. 25); the Nativity of John the Baptist (June 24) is six months before the Birth of Christ which exactly fits with the Visitation account given in Luke (1:36) of John being 6 months older than Christ; Mary’s conception in her mother’s womb (Dec. 8) is nine months before her birthday (Sept. 8); likewise, if John’s conception day was celebrated in a bygone era of the Roman Church, the day was likely Sept. 24, or nine months before his birthday (June 24).

Finally, what is said here will remind some and inform others, but all should be stirred with a renewed awareness about the logically placed feast days of our Faith.

Said again, by this feast and others, the Church desires to return our thoughts to the wonderful fact: *caro factum est*, God became man to bring men to God!

So, as daylight soon will shorten & winter’s breath draw near, think too of the coming Christmas to take away your blues.



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
www.fsspatl.com

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

June 21, 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

DATE	FEAST	CLASS/COLOR	COMMEMORATION
Sun 06-21	4th Sunday after Pentecost	2/G	
Mon 06-22	St Paulinus of Nola, <i>Bishop & Confesor</i>	3/W	
Tues 06-23	Vigil of Nativity of SJB	2/V	
Wed 06-24	Nativity of SJB	1/W	
Thu 06-25	St William, <i>Abbot</i>	3/W	
Fri 06-26	Ss John & Paul, <i>Martyrs</i>	3/R	
Sat 06-27	O.L. of Perpetual Help	4/W	
Sun 06-28	5th Sunday after Pentecost	2/G	

Mass Intentions for the Upcoming Week

Sun 06-21	(7 am) Souls in Purgatory (9 am) <i>Pro-populo</i> (frf) (10:30 am) Fr Austin's intention (fra) (1 pm) All SFdS Dads & Frs Hathaway, Favole & Austin	(not at SFdS)	rb R Camerena rb Anon
Mon 06-22	(6:30 am) Neely Wilson Shah (9 am) Alfreda Noronha	(not at SFdS)	rb Mr D & Dr S Blazek rb A-M Fernandez
Tues 06-23	(6:30 am) Jamie Graebner (12 pm) Timothy Graebner	(not at SFdS)	rb L Jarrell rb L Jarrell
Wed 06-24	(6:30 am) Maria Cantero (9 am) In Thanksgiving	(not at SFdS)	rb M Cantero rb C Sihombing
Thu 06-25	(6:30 am) William Moroney (12 pm) Souls in Purgatory	(not at SFdS)	rb B Moroney rb J & I Bragg
Fri 06-26	(6:30 am) Venassa & Maya (7 pm) Ayleen Sanchez	(not at SFdS)	rb Anonymous rb J Sanchez
Sat 06-27	(7 am) Donatilde Zanca + (9 am) Lily Butorac	(not at SFdS)	rb N Cardenas rb Butorac's
Sun 06-28	(7 am) Confraternity of St Peter (9 am) Intentions of Fr Austin (fra) (10:30 am) <i>Pro-populo</i> (frf) (1 pm) Mountain Butorac	(not at SFdS)	rb V&K Repucci rb Butorac's

Happy Father's Day!

This week, (Fr Hathaway remains away until July 2, he offers the Mass intentions as noted above where he is); **Friday**, FNE (4:30-6:45 pm); **Saturday**, Ss Mary & Martha Guild (10 am), Men's Group Bonfire (7 pm).

Last week's collection: cash \$4,563.16; online \$5,332.43; total: \$9,895.59.
Attendance: 7 am-92; 9 am-186; 10:30 am-281; 1 pm-147; 706 total souls.

The Knights of Columbus will sponsor their annual St John the Baptist Bonfire and Cookout on Saturday, 27 June, beginning at 7 pm. All men of the parish are invited to this fun evening of fellowship & food. Damaged sacramentals and holy items will be burned at this bonfire - you may leave these in the box in the parish hall.

Please invite your friends to a book and homeschool materials sale from 8 am to 12 noon on Sunday, June 28th in the Social Hall. Sellers will manage their own table. Interested sellers and direct participants please contact Mrs. Melody Fermanich to RSVP and to receive an insurance form which must be signed and returned to the office or Mrs. Fermanich mfermanich@outlook.com.

The **Our Lady of Good Counsel Homeschool Co-Op** is accepting families for the 2026-2027 academic year. We will meet once a week. Please email ourladyofgoodcounselco.op@gmail.com for more information!

2026 AAA status at SFdS as of June 10, 2026: \$58,975.50 owed; \$8,753.08 pledged; \$64,397.08 paid (109.19% of goal); from 85 donors (21.25% of parish). **Thank you for your support! You remained encouraged to contribute to this Appeal as up 25% over goal is returned to the parish and anything over this amount is placed in our parish endowment (all tax free).**

Know your Parish Finance Council members for the upcoming fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2027. (This council, required by Canon Law, advises the Pastor on financial matters relating to the parish.) Michael Shryock (president), Jeff Binggeli (Treasure), Adam Tate, Lance Orchid, Ines Lavelle, & Justin Yost.

Know your Parish Council members. (This council, not required by Canon Law, may be formed by a pastor to help him identify & service needs of the parish.) Jeff Graebner (President), Mick Brons, Scott Calta, Nathan Summer, Lisa Hagerty, Christian Villarreal & Yoly Insinga.

The children of St. Francis de Sales are invited to participate in a Summer Children's Choir, ages 10 and up. Class and practice will take place each Thursday from June 18th to July 23rd after the noon mass in the choir room, 1:00-2:30pm. Participants will learn Sacred Music and prepare to sing at the 10:30am High Mass on July 26th.

Maxim of St Francis de Sales

I desire that your cross and mine should be wholly the cross of Jesus Christ; and as to the imposition of this or that burden or making any choice, God knows what He is doing and why He does it – it is certainly for our good.