

On Pharisaical Pride

Where there is a surpassing excellence, we may speak of pride. Understanding this, we allow for pride which is morally good or morally sinful. Just as we say, ‘take pride in your work,’ so might one rightly have a sense of superiority in one respect or another. A highly gifted musician feels superior in his field, a mother is proud of her son’s accomplishments - both are consonant with humility if the musician and the mother know the good they praise, & are proud of, comes ultimately from God. Moreover, grace builds on nature. God wants us to perfect our natures; to bury talents or pretend they do not exist opposes humility.

Mostly, however, when we speak of pride, we speak of the sin of pride which is defined: “the inordinate desire for one’s own excellence.” This is the beginning of all sin; this makes self a god. Though my life be full of good works, if this disordered pride rules my heart – all is a tragedy.

St. Gregory the Great identifies four kinds of sinfully proud men: 1. those who think the good they possess is from themselves e.g., “I can do what I what with my body”; 2. those who think the good they possess is due to their merits e.g., “Don’t you know who I am!”; 3. those who boast e.g., the blow-hard; 4. those who, while disparaging others, act as if they alone possess excellence e.g., today’s Pharisee, “I am not like the rest of men,... robbers, unjust, adulterers; like this publican. I fast twice a week, I give tithes...”

The Pharisee goes to church but leaves a worse man. Moreover, he does not know his fault; seeing only his neighbor’s sin, the pharisaical man is blind to his own sin.

Our Savior tells us not to trust in ourselves as just. To profit from His warning, we must guard our heart against pharisaical pride which subtly works to corrupt our spiritual life, much as a termite destroys a home. The outside looks good, but the inside is hollow.

Years ago, a convert to the TLM used to complain, “Why is it that I, a convert, so love the faith while cradle Catholics are lukewarm?” before ending, “Obviously, they do not take their faith seriously.”

We must be careful! Pride corrupts by degree; here is a crack, a fissure into the doorway of the heart through which the devil may enter, who wants us to echo the Pharisee, “O God, I give Thee thanks that I am not like the rest of Catholics.” Rather than fault our neighbor, St. Augustine directs our attention to ourselves and tells us to repeat the words of the publican, “O God, be merciful to me a sinner.”

To end, it is rash to judge as God; we must temper ourselves with certain considerations: perhaps this person has received less grace than I; perhaps I shall fall away while these I now call lukewarm will ardently advance in virtue; perhaps these Catholics would have profited more from the grace God gave to me had it been given to them. St Augustine says, “There is no sin committed by another which I, by reason of my frailty, may not commit and if I have not committed it, it is because God, in His mercy, did not allow it.” Fr. Garrigou-Lagrange says this thought inspired many saints to say of the criminal on death-row: “If this man had received the same graces that I have been receiving for all these years, he perhaps would have been less unfaithful than I. And if God had permitted in my life the sins which He permitted in this man’s, I would be in his place & he would be in mine.” (*The Three Ages of the Interior Life*, p.123)



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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10th Sunday after Pentecost

August 2, 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
8:30 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 08-02	10th Sunday after Pentecost	2/G	
Mon 08-03	Finding of the Body of St Stephen	4/R	
Tues 08-04	St Dominic, <i>Confessor</i>	3/W	
Wed 08-05	Ded. of O.L. of the Snows	3/W	
Thu 08-06	Transfiguration of D.N.I.C.	2/W	Ss Sixtus & Companions
Fri 08-07	Sacred Heart of Jesus	3/W	Ss Cajetan & Donatus
Sat 08-08	St John Mary Vianney, <i>Confessor</i>	3/W	Ss Cyriacus, Largus & Smaragdus
Sun 08-09	11th Sunday after Pentecost	2/G	

Mass Intentions for the Upcoming Week

Sun 08-02	(7 am) <i>Pro-populo</i> (frf) (9 am) Priestly Fraternity of St Peter (frf) (10:30 am) Francesco Repucci (frh) (1 pm) Chris & Ann Marie Rangel (frh)	rb C Frazier rb K Repucci
Mon 08-03	(6:30 am) Souls in Purgatory (9 am) Robert Jerry Smith	rb J&I Bragg rb J W Smith
Tues 08-04	(6:30 am) John Rasnick (12 pm) Max Wells +	rb Anonymous rb T&E Wells
Wed 08-05	(6:30 am) Kalayla Neves (9 am) Frederick & Nelly Saldanha +	rb R Glover rb A-M Fernandes
Thu 08-06	(6:30 am) Marie Fiedler + (12 pm) Maria Marrero +	rb rev M/M D Anderson rb C Kurlinski
Fri 08-07	(6:30 am) Chris Kidd (7 pm) Callie Cramer	rb J-A Kidd rb K&F Kerry
Sat 08-08	(7 am) David Hoheisel (9 am) James Wilson +	rb K Hoheisel rb Maxwell family
Sun 08-09	(7 am) <i>Pro-populo</i> (frf) (8:30 am) Holy Souls in Purgatory (frh) (10:30 am) Caleb Alexander Smith (frf) (1 pm) Chris & Ann Marie Rangel (frh)	rb M Correa rb J W Smith

Today, at the 10:30 Am Mass, St Stephens Guild hosts its semi-annual enrollment ceremony. Also, a plenary Indulgence may be gained by visiting a church & reciting there an Our Father & the Creed (Portiuncula Indulgence). The usual conditions apply.

This week, Monday, staff meeting (1 pm); Wednesday, **Inquiry Class** (7-8:30 pm); Thursday, Adoration (5:30-8 pm), Confessions (6-7 pm); First Friday, Mass & devotions (6:30 am), normal 7 pm Mass with Holy Hour; **Saturday**, **special Adult Catechism** (Fr Favole will answer all your questions!) (10:15-1:30 am).

I give Thee thanks, O God, that I am not as other men... He who speaks ill of others does great harm to himself and others. In the first place, he makes the one who hears him worse than he was; for if he is a sinner, he becomes more content: finding a companion in sin. If he is a just man, he is uplifted in himself: because of others' sins he is led on to think more highly of himself. In the second place, he injures the fellowship of the Church. For all who hear him will speak ill not only of the one who has sinned but will also impute calumnies to the Christian religion. Thirdly, he causes men to blaspheme the glory of God; for just as when we live justly the name of God is honored, so when we live wickedly the name of God is dishonored. Fourthly, he who is spoken ill of is shamed; and will become more hostile and reckless. Fifthly, he who speaks ill of others becomes liable to punishment for what he has said; which was also degrading to himself.

~ St. John Chrysostom, *Confessor, Bishop, Doctor*; 354-407.

Last week's collection: cash \$3,836.52; online \$3,570.00; total: \$7,406.52.

Attendance: 7 am-90; 9 am-122; 10:30 am-344; 1 pm-166; 722 total souls.

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!

Next Sunday, after the 10:30 am Mass, you are invited to hear the Federation of North American Explorers (FNE) speak on its program at SFDS in the library. FNE is a Catholic, outdoor youth movement founded by Ven. Fr Jacques Sevin, SJ. in 1920 designed to develop children into the men or women God wants them to be.

X Annual Mens' Labor Day Silence Retreat at Our Lady of Clear Creek Traditional Benedictine Abbey, OK, Fri., Sept. 4th to Mon., Sept. 7th (labor day). Limited to 15 retreatants. A suggested \$200/person donation to our Lady of Clear Creek Abbey is needed upon registration to cover food & lodging. For more information contact Serge Sautre drserge@bellsouth.net cell 404-895-0015.

2026 AAA status at SFdS as of July 30, 2026: \$58,975.50 owed; \$9,279.47 pledged; \$65,931.93 paid (111.80% of goal); from 88 donors (22% of parish).

Thank you for your support! (Every dollar a parish raises above its goal, up to 125%, returns to that parish assessment-free. All funds over 125% go to the parish's long-term endowment.)

Maxim of St Francis de Sales

When you have meditated upon the grievous anguish which our Master endured in the Garden, and in union with Him prayed to the Father for consolation, if it does not please Him to send it, think no more of it, but brace your courage to work out your salvation on the cross, as if you were to descend therefrom, and as if you were never to see the atmosphere of your life clear and serene.