

On Making a Thanksgiving after Mass

In our country, it is a common experience that, after Mass, or, “when the show is over,” and the priest has retired to the sacristy, most people immediately get up and leave; worse, it is rare the priest himself return from Mass, kneel down and say prayers of thanksgiving for so great a Gift as the Holy Eucharist.

Today, we speak on making a thanksgiving after the Holy Sacrifice has ended.

Again, today’s Gospel seems an accurate reflection of our situation: ten lepers are cured, but only one returns to give thanks; after Mass, of all Catholics who receive Holy Communion, only 10% return to give thanks while 90% make their exit.

This is not a criticism as much as an observation; and a person may have a good reason to leave Mass “early.” To benefit us, however, we should apply the Gospel. So, we ask ourselves: in what way do I receive Holy Communion, the cure of my leprous ills? Do I receive God’s greatest Gift like one of the nine or like the foreigner who returns, falls on his face, and gives thanks, with a loud cry (quietly in my heart)?

How might I make a thanksgiving?

First, recall what the Baltimore Catechism teaches on what Holy Communion does for us: 1) unites me to Christ; 2) increases Sanctifying Grace and all manner of virtue in my soul; 3) lessens my evil inclinations; 4) obtains a pledge or promise of life everlasting per words of the Savior, “He that eats this Bread shall live forever”(Jn 6:59); 5) fits my body for a glorious resurrection.

Now I can easily submit these benefits into my thanksgiving.

“O my God and Father Almighty, I give Thee thanks today that I was able to receive the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity, of Thy dearly beloved Son, my Lord Jesus Christ, in the Most Blessed Sacrament of the altar. May what I have received today be not to me a condemnation or punishment, but the means of my eternal salvation. May this Sacrament, 1) unite me more in Thy friendship; 2) increase in me all virtue but especially that virtue which I most need e.g., patience, purity, fortitude, prudence, charity; 3) strengthen me against future temptations, especially against the sin of e.g., impatience, impurity, human respect; 4) increase in me a firm hope of eternal life for Thou has promised *he who eats this Bread shall live forever*. But if I have received this great Gift of Thy tremendous love with less love, affection, reverence and awe and wonder than I could and ought to have given Thee, I am sorry, I ask for Thy forgiveness and I will do better next time. Jesus my love, I love Thee, grant that I may love Thee always, then do with me what Thou wilt. (3X). And grant me a great love for Thee in the Most Blessed Sacrament. Amen.”

To end, hear, again, the astonished Savior, “Were not ten made clean? Where are the nine?” Oh, how many receive Holy Communion without due thanks! Listen, again, to the Samaritan’s reward, “Go thy way, for thy faith has saved thee.” Not only is the Samaritan cured in his body, but for his faith & gratitude he receives a double reward. The lesson: the thankful heart receives more favor & grace from God.

May we *always & everywhere* give thanks to God, but especially when the greater gifts are received; and what is greater than almighty God giving us Himself under the weak appearance of bread? Indeed, we ought to be terrifyingly thankful.



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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13th Sunday after Pentecost

August 23, 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 - 5 pm

Fri.: 6 am - 9 pm

Sat.: 6:30 am - 5 pm

Sun.: 7 am - 5 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 08-23	13th Sunday after Pentecost	2/G	
Mon 08-24	St Bartholomew, <i>Apostle</i>	2/R	
Tues 08-25	St Louis IX, King, <i>Confessor</i>	3/W	
Wed 08-26	St Zephyrinus, <i>Pope & Martyr</i>	3/R	
Thu 08-27	St Joseph Calasance, <i>Confessor</i>	3/W	
Fri 08-28	St Augustine, <i>Bishop, Confessor & Doctor</i>	3/W	St Hermes
Sat 08-29	Beheading of SJB	3/R	St Sabina
Sun 08-30	14th Sunday after Pentecost	2/G	

Mass Intentions for the Upcoming Week

Sun 08-23	(7 am) <i>Pro-populo</i> (frh)	
	(8:30 am) Deacon & Mrs Anderson (frh)	rb V Stephens
	(10:30 am) Rue McLanahan + (frf)	rb Maxwell family
	(1 pm) John Andrew DeGance (frf)	rb E Shryock
Mon 08-24	(6:30 am) WD Hartlein (frf)	rb WD Hartlein
	(9 am) Jonathan Bress (frh)	rb N Cardenas
Tues 08-25	(6:30 am) Jim Viney + (not at SFdS)	rb C Frazier
	(12 pm) Sean Hanlon	rb K Hanlon
Wed 08-26	(6:30 am) Requiem for Fr K. Baker SJ +	
	(9 am) Rose Graebner (not at SFdS)	rb J&M Stephens
Thu 08-27	(6:30 am) Leila Chahboune (not at SFdS)	rb S Russell
	(12 pm) Jonathan Bress	rb N Cardenas
Fri 08-28	(6:30 am) Priestly Fraternity of St Peter (frh)	rb M Diaz
	(7 pm) Marien Claire Yost + (frf)	rb J&B Yost
Sat 08-29	(7 am) Catherine Kidd (frh)	rb J-A Kidd
	(9 am) Bob Hosheisel + (frf)	rb A&L Hoheisel
Sun 08-30	(7 am) <i>Pro-populo</i> (frf)	
	(8:30 am) Alex & Marissa Mueller (frf)	rb J&B Yost
	(10:30 am) Holy Souls in Purgatory (frh)	rb M Correa
	(1 pm) Viola Stephens (frh)	rb E Shryock

Today, from 9:45 am to 10:15 am, Tom Cole will meet with our CCD teachers. Also, he is looking for more teachers and assistants. Please come to the meeting if you are interested and **it is time to register your child(ren) for CCD**. You may do so on online. Contact the office if you need help.

This week (Fr Favole is away, see Mass times above); Wednesday, **Inquiry Class** (7 pm); Thursday, **Parish Council meets** (7:30 pm); Friday, 6:30 am Mass resumes (frh), Orientation Day for C0-Op (9:30 am-1:30 pm), 7 pm Mass with Holy Hour (frf); Saturday, sung Mass (9 am), FNE (9 am-1:30 pm).

Only one returns to give thanks, a Samaritan. The others were *thankless* Israelites, as we read, "Were not ten made clean? And where are the nine? There is no one found to return and give glory to God, but this stranger." This thankful Samaritan is the believing Catholic Church, rewarded with complete health, soul and body, by faith, as we read, "Arise, go thy way, for thy faith has made thee whole." It is telling why a Samaritan is preordained to be cured & return with thanks and not some other Gospel *stranger*. Jews & Samaritans did not associate except in a leper colony where estranged groups unite by sharing a common disease. Could not a Gentile (a non-Jew) have replaced the role of this leper Samaritan? Unlike the Gentiles, the Samaritans had, at least, crumbs of the Old Law. Could this be our lesson: We Catholics have the fullness of truth; we sit honored at a Great Table. Are we *truly* thankful for this? It is wondrous to see Protestants more thankful to God for crumbs fallen from the Church's table than any Catholic favored with the full banquet. Currently, 20% of Catholics attend Sunday Mass & pray daily, giving thanks to God (24% in early 2000s). While more than the 10% above, we can improve!

Fr Favole invites you to a novena to Our Lady of Mount Carmel (with his new statue) beginning on the Feast of The Immaculate Heart. The intention is "that the virtue of wisdom accompany the studies and the virtue of chastity strengthen parishioners away from home in university." Handouts to be provided.

Last week's collection: cash \$8,418.89; online \$6,356.50; total: \$14,775.39.

Attendance: 7 am-79; 9 am-182; 10:30 am-285; 1 pm-135; 681 total souls.

SFdS needs money counters ASAP! If you can volunteer your time & talent on Tuesday mornings for this critical work, please contact the office. Thank you!!

Church hours have changed see front on bulletin.

The bookstore is in process to be re-opened. Stay tuned! Also, please let the office know if you would like to volunteer.

In your charity, please pray for: Tommy Kinsella (8/23), Leonard Frederick Jr. (8/16), Anne Clairzine & Kesner Devosier (8/6). (Prayer intentions will be posted for a month; they are renewable.)

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 August 19, 2026: \$58,975.50 owed; \$9,279.47 pledged; \$66,931.93 paid (113.49% 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

Train yourself to serve the Lord with a strong and fervent gentleness; it is the true way of serving Him.