

On Raising the Dead

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According to a 2009 Gallup Poll, in 1955, 75% of Catholics in the U.S.A. attended Sunday Mass regularly; currently, less than 30% do. Missing Sunday Mass without a serious reason is a mortal sin; objectively speaking, such a Catholic has lost sanctifying grace and needs to confess that sin in the Sacrament of Confession, with a firm purpose to sin no more, to restore the life of grace in his soul and be worthy of Holy Communion.

But here is another problem; the Sacrament of Confession seems abandoned as well. It is common to see long lines for Communion but short ones for Confession. In our progressive age, is sin really on the threatened and endangered species list?

If the Day of Resurrection is dismissed by most Catholics, and the place of resurrection (the Confessional box) ignored by many who do attend Mass, it seems today's mystical body is more dead than alive. What can be done?

The Gospels record that Jesus raised three dead persons to life. The dead daughter of the ruler of the synagogue, whom He revived in her house (Mk 5:22-43); the dead man, the only son of a widow, whom He revived on the stretcher (Lk 7:11-16); dead Lazarus whom He raised after four days (Jn 11). St. Augustine says each death is a type of spiritual death, "These three dead stand for three kinds of sinners; whom even now Christ continues to raise from the dead."

The daughter of the ruler was dead in her house, not yet carried forth in public. Christ preordained that He would raise her to life inside the house. Some sin gravely in their heart but have not yet produced the outward act; death has happened, but no one can see it, "Whosoever shall look upon a woman to lust after her, has already committed adultery with her in his heart." (Mt 5:28)

The dead man, the only son of a widow, was being carried in a public procession, "When he came near to the gate of the city, behold a dead man was carried out..." (Lk 7:11) The dead lad was being carried to his place of burial, not yet buried. Christ preordained that He would revive him in public. There are mortal sins which, after inward consent is given, produce an outward act, "In what day thou shall eat of it, thou shall die the death." (Gn 2:17)

Dead Lazarus was carried & put in a tomb for four days, "Lord, by this time he stinks, for he is now of four days." (Jn 11:39) This is the consummation of evil. First, there is a touch of delight within the heart; this is not sin but a temptation. Second, there is consent; third, there is deed; fourth, there is habit. The last three signify spiritual death as one dead at home, on a stretcher, or in a tomb. He who has a habit of grave sin either does not see it or so defends it that St Augustine says of him, *he now stinks*."

Any Catholic missing Sunday Mass habitually is another Lazarus: *He now stinks*. "It's not a bad sin," "I'm too busy," "I pray at home," "God will understand,"... they say.

But there is hope. As Christ restored each kind of dead to life, so the Sacrament of Confession can restore to life anyone who sincerely repents.

But here, too, we worry. Like the fatal excuses for missing Mass, we hear this remark, "I don't confess to a man, I confess directly to God." Really? Why then did God give man this power, "Whose sins are forgiven, they are forgiven." (Jn 20:21-23)

Alas, it is very hard to see Truth when inside a dark tomb, wrapped in a shroud.



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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15th Sunday after Pentecost

September 6, 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 Hours: Sundays from 9:45-10:15 am, 12:15-12:45 pm, & 2:15-2:30 pm.

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 09-06	15th Sunday after Pentecost	2/G	
Mon 09-07	Feria	4/G	
Tues 09-08	Nativity of BVM	2/W	St Adrian
Wed 09-09	St Peter Claver, <i>Confessor</i>	3/W	St Gorgonius
Thu 09-10	St Nicholas of Tolentino, <i>Confessor</i>	3/W	
Fri 09-11	Ss Protus & Hyacinth, <i>Martyrs</i>	4/R	
Sat 09-12	Most Holy Name of Mary	3/W	
Sun 09-13	16th Sunday after Pentecost	2/G	

Mass Intentions for the Upcoming Week

Sun 09-06	(7 am) <i>Pro-populo</i> (frf) (8:30 am) Francis (Frank) Joseph Bentz + (frf) (10:30 am) Maurice Rigaux + (frh) (1 pm) Gloria J Smart + (frh)	rb Insinga family rb C Jagiella rb M-T Zigui
Mon 09-07	(6:30 am) Salazar family (9 am) Selena Atkinson	rb L Riney rb Maxwell family
Tues 09-08	(6:30 am) In thanksgiving (12 pm) Bernard & Anne Francis McColgan +	rb J Cvitkovic rb A-M Fernandes
Wed 09-09	(6:30 am) Noemi Cardenas (9 am) Sue Holman	rb N Cardenas rb C Giuffre
Thu 09-10	(6:30 am) Charles F Muller + (12 pm) St Gerard Ministry	rb L Riley rb same
Fri 09-11	(6:30 am) James R Maxwell (frf) (9 am) <i>Special Mass for O.L. of Good Counsel Co-op</i> (frf) (7 pm) Marylynn Messer (frh)	rb Maxwell family rb J-A Kidd
Sat 09-12	(7 am) no Mass (9 am) Valentin Cantero	rb C Kurlinski rb M Correa
Sun 09-13	(7 am) no Mass (8:30 am) Danijela Chancey (10:30 am) <i>Pro-populo</i> (frh) (1 pm) FssP & Preservation of the TLM	rb L Chancey

Today, after the 8:30am & 10:30am Masses, KoC will host a Lifesavers Drive to raise money for displaced women & children.

Today, the bookstore is open. Hours: 9:45-10:15 am, 12:15-12:45 pm, 2:15-2:30 pm. Please let the office know if you would like to volunteer.

This week, Wednesday, **Inquiry Class** (7 pm); Friday, (frf away until 9/14), first day of Our Lady of Good Counsel Co-op with 9 am Mass (9 am-2 pm); Saturday, **no 7 am Mass**, 9 am Mass, FNE (9 am-1:30 pm), **Adult Catechism on the Eastern rites** (10:15-11:30 am) (frh).

“In this time of great turmoil in the Church and in the world, I must speak to you from a father’s heart in order to warn you of the evils that threaten us, and to assure you of the joy and hope that we have always in our Lord Jesus Christ. The evil and false message that has invaded the Church, Christ’s Bride, is that Jesus is only one among many, and that it is not necessary for His message to be shared with all humanity. This idea must be shunned and refuted at every turn. We must share the joyful good news that Jesus is our only Lord, and that He desires that all humanity for all time may embrace eternal life in Him.

Once we understand that Jesus Christ, God’s Divine Son, is the fullness of revelation and the fulfillment of the Father’s plan of salvation for all humanity for all time, and we embrace this with all our hearts, then we can address the other errors that plague our Church...

In St. Paul’s letter to the Galatians, he writes: “I am amazed that you are so quickly forsaking the one who called you by {the} grace {of Christ} for a different gospel {not that there is another}. But there are some who are disturbing you and wish to pervert the gospel of Christ. But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach {to you} a gospel other than the one that we preached to you, let that one be accursed! As we have said before, and now I say again, if anyone preaches to you a gospel other than the one that you received, let that one be accursed!” (Gal 1:6-9)”

The good bishop then lists seven basic truths to be preserved: 1. Christ established One Church, the Catholic Church, which has the fullness of saving truth; 2. Christ instituted the Eucharist and all the sacraments and to receive Communion unworthily (i.e., in a state of grave sin) is a sacrilege; 3. matrimony is between a man and a woman; 4. every human is either male or female and any attempt to deny this biological truth must be rejected; 5. sexual activity outside marriage is always gravely sinful; 6. the belief that one can be saved regardless of how he lives is false & dangerous, repentance and confession are needed; 7. the disciple of Jesus must be willing to suffer. The bishop says these truths will be examined as part of the Synod on Synodality in October. He who preserves them, may be labeled a schismatic; but it is not he who preserves, but any who denies them who is a true schismatic. Meanwhile, he says, stay firm and say with Peter, “Lord to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.” (Jn 6:68) Christ will not abandon His Bride. (ref. 8/22/23 letter of Bishop Joseph Strickland of Tyler Texas)

Last week’s collection: cash \$4,927.82; online \$6,368.30; total: \$11,296.12.

Attendance: 7 am-79; 9 am-197; 10:30 am-267; 1 pm-129; 672 total souls.

Next Sunday, CCD begins (9:30-10:15 am). If you have not yet done so, please register your child(ren) at: <https://www.fsspatl.com/ccd-program>.

Please pray for: Sonja Brown, Jamie & Baby Graebner (8/30), Tommy Kinsella (8/23), Leonard Frederick Jr. (8/16). (Prayer intentions posted for a month; they are renewable.)

Our Lady of Good Counsel Homeschool Co-Op needs two pack-and-plays, an infant swing, toys, and cleaning supplies (e.g., cleaning wipes, spray, paper towels, etc.). If you can help, please email ourladyofgoodcounselco.op@gmail.com. Thank you!

Maxim of St Francis de Sales

This sweet Love of our hearts casts us down only to raise us up. He lurks and hides peeping through the lattice to see the expression of our countenance.