

A Thomistic study of The Hail Mary continues...

The angels reverence Mary because she surpasses them in dignity, in closeness to God, and in grace.

Mary’s dignity exceeds any angel because her grace alone overflows from her soul, into her body and out to all mankind.

Mary is closer to God than any angel as she alone shares the Son of God with the Father, is herself the Mother of God, and is uniquely the Spouse of the Holy Spirit.

Finally, Mary is revered by the angels as she excels them in grace, which is our topic today.

“Blessed are thou among women”

Mary is purer than any angel; said again, Mary has more supernatural grace, more splendor of God’s life, than any angel. Mary surpasses the angels thus, as she alone is not just pure herself, but she obtains purity for others.

Again, no stain of sin nor **the triple curse** placed on man ever touched Mary; rather, Mary’s purity obtained **a great blessing** to all mankind.

Mary was free of the curse placed on Eve. The first curse, after the Fall of man, fell upon Eve, namely, that she would “bring forth in pain.” But Mary was free of this punishment as she conceived without corruption, bore with ease, and gave birth with joy: “It shall bud forth and blossom and rejoice and praise.” (Is 35:2)

Mary was free of the curse placed on Adam. The second curse, after the Fall of man, was Adam’s punishment to work the land, “by the sweat of his brow.” Mary, however, completely taken up with ‘the things of God,’ had no anxiety about ‘the things of this world.’

Mary was free of the curse placed on both man & woman. The third curse, after the fall of man, pronounced that Adam and Eve would “return to dust whence they came.” Mary, however, went bodily into heaven *immediately* at the end of her earthly sojourn: “Arise O Lord, into Thy rest: Thou and the ark which Thou did sanctify.” (Ps. 131:8).

As Mary was free of every curse, so she is blessed among women. Mary, however, is revered not only on account of her freedom from all sin and the triple curse, but more by reason that she alone has replaced the curse with blessing.

As Mary has opened the gates of heaven once more, so rightly is celebrated above all women. For this reason, Mary is called, “Star of the sea” for just as a star guides men in a boat to shore so does Mary avail herself to guide all men on earth to heaven.

O Mary, O *felix porta*, pray for us!



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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Second Sunday of Advent

December 7, 2025, 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: Mrs. Leslie Riney – secretary@fsspatl.com
Director of Religious Education: Thomas Cole- DRE@fsspatl.com
Church Office Hours: 8:00 am to 4:00 pm, Monday – Friday
Bookstore – open Sundays after the 8 am & 10:30 am Masses and 1st Saturdays after the 9 am Mass.
Baptism: Contact the parish at least three months before birth.
Marriage: Contact the parish at least six months before the wedding.
Inquiring about the Catholic Faith? Call the office.

Daily Mass Times	Church Hours
Mon. & Wed.: 6:30 am & 9 am.	Mon.-Thurs.: 6 am - 7 pm
Tues. & Thurs.: 6:30 am & 12 noon.	Fri.: 6 am - 9 pm
Fri.: 6:30 am & 7 pm (followed by Holy Hour).	Sat.: 6:30 am -7 pm
Sat.: 7 am & 9 am.	Sun.: 7 am - 7 pm
Sunday Mass Times	Office Hours
7 am low Mass (at the church)	Mon. - Fri.: 8 am - 4 pm.
8 am low Mass (at the gym)	Closed on Holy Days
10:30 am high Mass (at the gym)	
1 pm low Mass (at the church)	
Confessions are heard in the confessional box ½ hour before each Mass.	

Liturgical Calendar for the Upcoming Week

DATE	FEAST	CLASS/COLOR	COMMEMORATION
Sun 12-07	2nd Sunday of Advent	1/V	
Mon 12-08	Immaculate Conception of the BVM	1/W	Feria
Tues 12-09	Feria of Advent	3/V	
Wed 12-10	Feria of Advent	3/V	St Melchiades
Thu 12-11	St Damasus I, <i>Pope & Confessor</i>	3/W	Feria
Fri 12-12	O.L. of Guadalupe	3/W	Feria
Sat 12-13	St Lucy, <i>Virgin & Martyr</i>	3/R	Feria
Sun 12-14	3rd Sunday of Advent	1/V or Rose	

Mass Intentions for the Upcoming Week

Sun 12-07	(7 am) Vicki Yamasaki (frf) (8 am) <i>Pro-populo</i> (frh) (10:30 am) Fr Austin intention (fra) (1 pm) Ian Fincher (frf)		rb R Fidero
Mon 12-08	(6:30 am) FssP (frf) (9 am) FssP & TLM (frh) (7:30 pm) <i>Pro-populo</i> (frh)		rb C Kurlinski rb C Sihombing
Tues 12-09	(6:30 am) Jubilee Farm (12 noon) Lucija Chancey		rb H Wingate rb L Chancey
Wed 12-10	(6:30 am) Scott Murphy+ (9 am) Josephine A Ziguli+		rb D Bunnell rb M-T Ziguli
Thu 12-11	(6:30 am) Janel Hicks (12 noon) St Gerard Ministry		rb K Repucci rb SGM
Fri 12-12	(6:30 am) Jim Connelly+ (7 pm) Concetta DeJesso+		rb J Graebner rb M Markich
Sat 12-13	(7 am) Susan H Zdencanovic (9 am) Majorie Diaz	(Rorate Mass)	rb T Zdencanovic rb C Longtin
Sun 12-14	(7 am) In Thanksgiving (frh) (8 am) Fr Austin's Intention (10:30 am) Isabel Santana+ (frf) (1 pm) <i>Pro-populo</i> (frh)		rb J Cvitkovic

This week, Monday, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, **a holy day of obligation**, three Masses (6:30 am, noon & 7:30 pm), staff meeting (1 pm), office is closed; **Thursday**, St Gerard Guild (1 pm); **Friday**, office closed, set-up for O.L. Guadalupe party; **Saturday**, **special Rorate Mass** (7 am, frf), FNE (9 am-12:45 pm), Nuptial Mass (frf, 2 pm).

Be kind to everyone you meet, for we are all in a great battle!

Last week's collection: cash \$5,292.00; online \$5,389.00 total: \$10,681.00

Attendance: 7 am-76; 8 am-158; 10:30 am-306; 1 pm-147; 687 total souls

Advent Food Drive by the Knights of Columbus to benefit the St. Vincent de Paul Society begins today & runs through the fourth Sunday of Advent (12/21). Please place only non-perishable food items in the bins located in the church and gym (preferably in bags). The final collection will be after the 1 pm Mass on 12/21.

Please pick up your donation envelope boxes from the social hall; your names are on them; this is the one you should take.

Please pray for: Leslie Riney, SFdS office manager, she fell at the gym steps last Sunday & likely fractured a rib (12/7); Jim Viney (11/23) & Maria Hall (11/16).

Mea culpa! Father Hathaway apologizes for missing his appointment with his inquiry class last Wednesday. He is especially contrite knowing some of you had cem from afar! He would like to email you all of his lessons on the Apostle's Creed for the entire class year rather than handing them out during class. Please email him at pastor@fsspatl.com if you wish to have these notes.

Are you a welder? TiG or arc? Please contact Fr Hathaway. He has a question for you.

Dear Faithful,

12/7/25

As you know, the Archdiocese taxes each of its parishes in three-ways, the Annual Appeal, the Parish Assessment & the School Assessment.

The Annual Appeal runs on a calendar year. The two assessments run on the fiscal year (July-June). The tax for all these is based on a parish's income two years back at 8% for the Annual Appeal, 11.6% for the Parish Assessment and 1.6% for the School Assessment.

When I first announced this news to you, two weeks ago in this bulletin, we owed the diocese \$40,707 for Appeal 2025 which closes in three weeks. Since that time, 19 donors increased to 32 donors reducing our debt to \$33,262. I thank you for this and ask others if they could do the same. **To support this cause, you may send donations through the Annual Appeal envelopes at the gym & church, or through a portal on our website.**

Again, donations to the Appeal are not assessable for any future Appeal & up to 25% over our assessment returns to the parish (over this amount goes into our endowment fund.) If you choose not to give to the Appeal, but only the parish, this taxable money will increase our future Appeal debt. God bless you, frh

Maxim of St Francis de Sales

Behold this great artisan of mercy. He converts our miseries into graces and the poison of our iniquities into salutary remedies for our souls. Tell me, I pray, what will He not do with the affections, the labors, the persecutions which assail us?