

On the Three Promises Made to Simon Peter

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In article 6 of his book, Catholic Controversy, St. Francis de Sales cites three Divine Promises made to Simon Peter in his defense of the authority of the pope.

In today's Gospel, Simon receives an added name & the first two divine promises: "Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-Jona, ... I say to thee, thou art Peter (*Cephas*) and upon this rock (*Cephas*) I will build My Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it; and to thee I will give the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatsoever thou shalt bind upon earth, it shall be bound also in heaven; and whatsoever thou shalt loose upon earth, it shall be loosed also in heaven."

"Peter" means rock; "Simon" to "Peter" indicates the laying of a foundation stone, or the establishing of an equivalent office, in the organized religion God willed to establish from all eternity. Next, Christ promises, "and upon this rock (foundation stone) I will build my Church." This Church, as much as the stone, shall be indestructible: "the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." St Francis writes, "if the gates of hell can in no wise prevail against the Church, they can in no wise prevail against its foundation and head, which they cannot take away & overturn without entirely overturning the whole edifice." Next, this office is promised a singular and incomparable authority, "To thee I will give the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatsoever thou shalt bind..."

A third promise given the office of Peter occurs the night of the Last Supper after our Blessed Lord declares, "you will all be scandalized this night because of me." (Mt 26:31) Then Simon is addressed, "Simon, Simon, Satan has desired to sift you *all* (*vos*) as wheat. But I have prayed for thee (*te*) that thy faith may not fail; and when thou has converted, strengthen thy brethren." (Lk 22:31-32)

St. Francis remarks, "They would all be scandalized; but Simon alone receives prayer... All are tempted; one alone is prayed for." Simon is prayed for as being the head of all, as is clear from what follows, "When thou has converted, confirm thy brethren." We read, "When thou has converted." What does this mean except to promise a conversion? Next, we read, "confirm thy brethren." Why? To do what foundation stones do – strengthen the whole. Indeed, such did happen in the historical life of Simon-Peter; but should we not expect the same for the office of Peter in the life of the Church so that "the gates of hell not prevail"? Unless he (the office of Peter) strengthen, who shall strengthen. "God," you say?; but God wills this to the office of Peter; and being the will of God, we should expect it this way.

St. Francis continues, "He (Christ) prayed for the head and the root, in order that the water of faith might not fail to him who was therewith to supply all the rest in order *that through the head the faith might always be preserved in the Church.*"

In ending, St. Francis adds an instructive note: On the day of the Passion, Simon Peter's three-fold denial was not a denial of faith "for he did not lose the faith but only sinned as to the confession of it. Fear made him disavow that which he believed. He believed right but spoke wrong."

In times of papal confusion, regarding a pope's possible "unacceptable" or "reckless" comments, the saint's insight *should* ease our consternation. There is a man, *Simon*, who is pope; and there is, *Peter*, the office he holds. As a man, a pope is prone to error like all men (*from whatever influence*); only when he invokes his papal authority is he divinely safeguarded from error. Only to the office of Peter are given the divine promises: "Upon this rock I will build My Church &...; To this rock "I will give the keys of the kingdom of heaven &...; and. By this rock the brethren are strengthened.



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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Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

June 28, 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 06-28	5th Sunday after Pentecost	2/G	
Mon 06-29	Ss Peter & Paul, <i>Apostles</i>	1/R	
Tues 06-30	Comm. of St Paul, <i>Apostle</i>	3/R	St Peter
Wed 07-01	Most Precious Blood DNJC	1/R	
Thu 07-02	Visitation of BVM	2/W	Processus & Martinian
Fri 07-03	Sacred Heart of Jesus	3/W	St Irenaeus
Sat 07-04	Immaculate Heart of Mary	3/W	
Sun 07-05	Ex. Sol. of Ss Peter & Paul	2/R	

Mass Intentions for the Upcoming Week

Sun 06-28	(7 am) Confraternity of St Peter (not at SFdS) (9 am) Intentions of Fr Austin (fra) (10:30 am) <i>Pro-populo</i> (frf) (1 pm) Mountain Butorac		rb V&K Repucci rb Butorac's
Mon 06-29	(6:30 am) Sofia Cantero (9 am) Andrew Markich	(not at SFdS)	rb M Cantero rb M Markich
Tues 06-30	(6:30 am) Lucy D'Souza (12 pm) Souls in Purgatory	(not at SFdS)	rb A-M Fernandez rb R Camarena
Wed 07-01	(6:30 am) (9 am) Leo Summer	(no Mass at SFdS)	rb Anonymous
Thu 07-02	(6:30 am) (12 pm) Nicols family	(no Mass at SFdS)	rb Tejada family
Fri 07-03	(6:30 am) James & Yoi Repucci (7 pm) Tyler Glowacki		rb V&K Repucci rb M Glowacki
Sat 07-04	(7 am) Donatilde Zanca + (9 am) Ellen D		rb N Cardenas rb L Hoheisel
Sun 07-05	(7 am) <i>Pro-populo</i> (frf) (9 am) Anthony D'souza (frf) (10:30 am) Sofia Cantero (frh) (1 pm) FssP & Preservation of TLM (frh)		rb A-M Saldanha rb M Cantero

This week, (Fr Hathaway remains away until July 2, he offers the Mass intentions as noted above where he is); **First Thursday**, contrary to the July calendar, there will be no adoration in the evening; **First Friday**, Mass & devotions as normal; **First Saturday**, Mass & devotions as normal.

Last week's collection: cash \$4,954.52; online \$5,870.00; total: \$10,824.52.

Attendance: 7 am-No Mass; 9 am-245; 10:30 am-265; 1 pm-128; 637 total souls.

ACT OF FAITH

O MY GOD, I firmly believe that Thou art one God in Three Divine Persons, Father, Son and Holy Ghost. I believe that Thy Divine Son became Man, and died for our sins, and that He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe these and all the truths which the Holy Catholic Church teaches, because Thou hast revealed them, Who canst neither deceive nor be deceived.

ACT OF HOPE

O MY GOD, relying on Thy almighty power and infinite mercy and promises, I hope to obtain pardon of my sins, the help of Thy grace, and Life Everlasting, through the merits of Jesus Christ, my Lord and Redeemer.

ACT OF CHARITY

O MY GOD, I love Thee above all things, with my whole heart and soul, because Thou art all-good and worthy of all love. I love my neighbor as myself for the love of Thee. I forgive all who have injured me and ask pardon of all whom I have injured.

Today

Homeschool materials sale from 8 am to 12 noon in the Social Hall. Sellers will manage their own table.

FNE is having their Family Day Picnic from 2:30 pm-6:30 pm at Nickajack Park all interested families are invited!

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!

X Annual Mens' Labor Day Silence Retreat at Our Lady of Clear Creek

Traditional Benedictine Abbey, OK, Home - Our Lady of Clear Creek Abbey:

Friday Sept 4th to Monday Sept 7th (labor day). There is LIMITED space for only 15 retreatants. A suggested \$200 donation to our Lady of Clear Creek Abbey is needed upon registration to cover stay and food for each person.

To register contact Serge Sautre drserge@bellsouth.net cell 404-895-0015

To reserve for your participation, please send your contribution check to

The order of Our Lady of Lear Creek Abbey and mail to:

Sautre Chiropractic Clinic - 4144 Clairmont Rd Chamblee, GA 30341.

Maxim of St Francis de Sales

God wishes that, like Job, I should serve Him in the midst of dryness, suffering, and temptation; like St Paul, that I should serve Him according to His desire. You will see that one-day He will do all and even more than you can desire.