

The Sacrament of Penance (IV of VII): the Part called Confession

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After contrition, there is the Part called “confession” to which, the Roman Catechism states, the Church (in her members) owes, in great measure, her holiness.

Contrition, by itself, remits sin if it is intense enough; but as so few have this degree of sorrow for their sin, so confession is necessary. If a sinner has sorrow for his sin with a firm purpose to sin no more, but lacks contrition intense enough to remit the sin, the sin may be forgiven by the power of the keys (Mt 16:18) when he properly confesses them to a priest.

The Roman Catechism defines confession: “**A sacramental accusation of one’s sins, made to obtain pardon by virtue of the keys.**”

Sacramental

When we confess our sins in the Sacrament of Penance, we do so knowing Christ instituted this Sacrament for the purpose of forgiving sins committed after Baptism. He did so on the Sunday of His resurrection, when He breathed on his apostles, saying, “Receive ye the Holy Ghost, whose sins you shall forgive, they are forgiven; whose sins you shall retain, they are retained.” (Jn 20:22) Again, if sins are forgiven, it must be they are first heard by one having authority to forgive them.

Accusation of one’s sins

When we confess our sins in the Sacrament of Penance, we do not boast of them as “they who are glad when they have done evil” (Pro 2:14); rather, we do so to avenge our sins on ourselves. Again, we blame ourselves, not our neighbor e.g., *she did this which caused me to do that* (another way of saying, *the devil made me do it*). Our accusation should be short & sweet; do not tell a story (unless asked) but tell the sin.

Made to obtain pardon

When we confess our sins in the Sacrament of Penance, we seek God’s forgiveness, before any human thing. Again, we want our sins remitted, not a Lolly-pop, not sympathy, not to please mom or spouse, not even to feel good (albeit we should).

By virtue of the keys

When we confess our sins in the Sacrament of Penance, we acknowledge the fact that Christ gave power on earth to forgive sins in His Name when He gave to the office of Peter “the keys to the kingdom of heaven” to govern in His place until the end of time, “to bind and to loose.” As The Roman Catechism states: “If heaven can be entered without the power of the keys, in vain would they to whom the keys were given seek to prevent entrance within its portals.” St. Augustine put it: “Let no man say within himself: *I repent in secret to the Lord. God, who has power to pardon me, knows the inmost sentiments of my heart.* Was there, then, no reason for saying, “whatsoever you loose on earth, shall be loosed in heaven”; no reason why the keys were given to the Church of God? We render the Gospel, the words of Jesus, of no effect.”

To end, in the Sacrament of Penance, men do what Christ Himself did when He walked this earth - what angels cannot do - offer men paradise. As the good thief heard, “Today, thou shall be with me in paradise”, so, after a good confession, we hear, “Now, thou are with me in paradise” in the words, “Go in peace & sin no more.”



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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Christ the King

(22nd Sunday after Pentecost)

October 25, 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 10-25	Christ the King	1/W	
Mon 10-26	Feria (22nd Sunday after Pentecost)	4/G	St Evaristus
Tues 10-27	Feria	4/G	
Wed 10-28	Ss Simon & Jude, <i>Apostles</i>	2/R	
Thu 10-29	Feria	4/G	
Fri 10-30	Feria	4/G	
Sat 10-31	Saturday of Our Lady	4/W	
Sun 11-01	All Saints	1/W	23rd Sunday after Pentecost

Mass Intentions for the Upcoming Week

Sun 10-25	(7 am) <i>Pro-populo</i> (8:30 am) Frank Reilly + (10:30 am) Nancy Calta + (1 pm) Justin Longtin & Kathy Dellajo	rb T & E Wells rb S & C Calta rb C Longtin
Mon 10-26	(6:30 am) Millicent A Moroney + (9 am) Susan Herzhauser	rb B Moroney rb N Nolan
Tues 10-27	(6:30 am) Marguerite Zigui (12 pm) Judith Torres Stillwell (not at SFdS)	rb M-T Zigui rb M J Rivero-Stillwell
Wed 10-28	(6:30 am) Lila Frederick (9 am) Maria de Los Angeles Acosta (not at SFdS)	rb L Frederick rb J Sanchez
Thu 10-29	(6:30 am) P Meyers (12 pm) M/M Santiago (not at SFdS)	rb C Conger rb K Repucci
Fri 10-30	(6:30 am) Will Fermanich (7 pm) Holy Souls in Purgatory	rb Anonymous rb R Camarena
Sat 10-31	(7 am) Holy Souls in Purgatory (9 am) Heather Bennett	rb J & I Bragg rb R Berry
Sun 11-01	(7 am) <i>Pro-populo</i> (8:30 am) Ramon Ramirez + (10:30 am) Fr Chris Hathaway (1 pm) Dominic Rasnick	rb R Rosas rb Sanchez family rb Anonymous

Today, no CCD.

This week, (Fr Favole away from 10/27 to 10/29; he offers the above intentions elsewhere),
Monday, staff meeting 1 pm; Wednesday, **Inquiry Class** (7 pm); Friday, 7 pm Mass & holy Hour.

Last week's collection: cash \$5,233.31; online \$4,205.00; total: \$9,438.31.

Attendance: 7 am- 65; 9 am-225; 10:30 am-281; 1 pm-114; 685 total souls.

Please pray for: Philip Fender, Anna Fender, Lenord Ray Ables; baby Silverman (10/25); Jana Touns, Jamie & Baby Graebner, & Tommy Kinsella (10/4).

On Forgiveness of Sins

Fr Doyle was a Jesuit priest in Ireland. One night, after hearing confessions at a mission he was giving, he was returning to the rectory when he happened upon a young girl on the street. He stopped her and said, "My child, aren't you out very late? Won't you go home?" Then looking at her earnestly, he added very gently, "Don't hurt Jesus; He loves you." He then passed on and forgot about the incident.

Some years later a telegram from his superior told him to go to Dublin: *Please send Fr Doyle to prison. Woman to be executed tomorrow. Asks to see him.*

Fr Doyle caught a night boat and arrived at the prison at 5 am the next morning. The warden told him about Fanny Cranbush, a wayward girl who had been convicted for her part in a poisoning case. She asked for the priest who had given a mission in Yarmouth two years earlier.

When Fr Doyle entered the room, he saw the girl, still in her twenties, sitting with bowed head on the edge of narrow bed. She sprang to her feet and exclaimed, "O Father, thank God you are here!" "But I don't know you," said Fr Doyle. "Don't you remember, Father? Two years ago, I was a bad girl, have been all my life. You said to me, *My child, aren't you out very late? Won't you go home? Don't hurt Jesus, He loves you.* Your look and words stunned me. Had I hurt Jesus? Did He love me? Who was He? I knew so little about Him. I had never prayed, never even been baptized. For weeks I kept off the street, but then hunger drove me again. I sank lower and lower, until now I am to be hanged. I came here defiant and wanted nothing to do with a priest or minister. Then your words came back to me. Something in me snapped and I wept. I felt softened, and there came a great longing to see you. Now that you have come, won't you tell me more about Jesus?"

"Do you mean that you wish to become a Catholic?"

"Yes, Father, I do, with all my heart."

The essential articles of faith were quickly explained. She was baptized, and all her wicked past was washed away. A tiny altar was erected in the cell, and Fanny had her first and last Mass and received her God for the first and last time. She refused the breakfast just offered her, saying "I have just eaten the Bread of Life." As she walked to the scaffold with Fr Doyle beside her, she whispered to him, "I am so happy Father. Jesus knows that I am sorry for having hurt Him, and I know that Jesus loves me." A moment later Fanny Cranbush, with her baptismal robe unspotted, was in the arms of Jesus.

Maxim of St Francis de Sales

Let us place ourselves before our crucified Sun, as the weary bee basks in the rays of the Sun, and then let us say to Him: O beautiful Sun of hearts, thou does vivify all by the rays of Thy goodness; behold us exhausted before Thee, whence we will not move, Lord Jesus, until Thy fire has revived us!