

January 24

Feast of Saint Francis de Sales

Bishop, Doctor of the Church

Opening Prayer

Father, you gave Saint Francis de Sales the spirit of compassion to befriend all people on the way to salvation. By his example, lead us to show your gentle love in the service of our brothers and sisters. Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.

Prayer over the Gifts

Lord, by this offering may the divine fire of your Holy Spirit, which burned in the humble and gentle heart of Francis de Sales, inspire us to practice compassion and love. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Preface

Father, all-powerful and ever living God, we do well always and everywhere to give you thanks through Jesus Christ our Lord.

He raised up Francis for his church as a shepherd after his own heart to strengthen the devout life through his writings, his preaching, and example, and to make the rough ways smooth.

He also filled him so wonderfully with his own spirit of humility and gentleness that he both turned the hearts of sinners to repentance and worked to bring all believers together in the unity of faith and the fellowship of peace.

And so, we join all the angels and Saints in continually proclaiming your glory...

Prayer after Communion

Merciful Father, may the sacrament we have received help us to imitate Francis de Sales in love and service; bring us to share with him the glory of heaven. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. Amen.

First Reading

A reading from the book of Proverbs (16: 16-23,32)

How much better to acquire wisdom than gold! To acquire understanding is more desirable than silver.

The path of the upright avoids misfortune; those who pay attention to their ways safeguard their lives.

Pride goes before disaster and a haughty spirit before a fall.

It is better to be humble with the meek than to share plunder with the proud.

Those who plan a thing will be successful, happy are those who trust in the Lord!

Wise people are esteemed for their discernment, yet pleasing speech increases their persuasiveness.

Good sense is a fountain of life to its possessor, but folly brings chastisement on fools.

The minds of wise people make them eloquent, and augment the persuasiveness of their lips.

A patient person is better than a warrior, and those who master their tempers are stronger than one who would capture a city.

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

(R) Happy those who take refuge in the Lord.

I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall ever be in my mouth. Let my soul glory in the Lord; the lowly will hear me and be glad.

(R) Happy those who take refuge in the Lord.

Glorify the Lord with me; let us together extol his name. Look to him that you may be radiant with joy, and your faces may not blush with shame.

(R) Happy those who take refuge in the Lord.

Taste and see how good the Lord is; happy the man who takes refuge in him. Come children, hear me; I will teach you the fear of the Lord.

(R) Happy those who take refuge in the Lord.

Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking guile; turn from evil and do good; seek peace and follow after it.

(R) Happy those who take refuge in the Lord.

Second Reading

A reading from the letter of James (3: 13-18)

If one of you is wise and understanding, let him show this in practice through humility filled with good sense. Should you instead nurse bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, at least refrain from arrogant and false claims against the truth. Wisdom like this does not come from above. It is earthbound, a kind of animal, even devilish cunning. Where there are jealousy and strife, there also are inconstancy and all kinds of vile behavior.

Wisdom from above, by contrast, is first of all innocent. It is also peaceable, lenient, docile, rich in sympathy and the kindly deeds that are its fruits, impartial and sincere. The harvest of justice is sown in peace for those who cultivate peace.

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 11: 28 -29

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Come to me, all you who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yolk upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble of heart.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

+ A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew (5: 13 -19)

Jesus said to his disciples: "You are the salt of the earth. But what if salt goes flat? How can you restore its flavor? Then it is good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. People do not light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket. They set it on a stand where it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, your light must shine before others so that they may see the goodness in your acts and give praise to your heavenly father.

"Do not think that I have come to abolish the law and the prophets. I have come, not to abolish them, but to fulfill them. Of this much I assure you: until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter of the law, not the smallest part of a letter, shall be done away with until it all comes true. That is why whoever breaks the least significant of these commands and teaches others to do so shall be called least in the kingdom of God. Whoever fulfills and teaches these commands shall be great in the kingdom of God."

The Gospel of the Lord.