

Mary said, "Behold, I am the  
handmaid of the Lord. May it be done  
to me according to your word."

LUKE 1:38

PHOTOGRAPH BY JESSICA HIGGINS

## How Can This Be?

**T**he reading from Samuel assures us that the leader we are awaiting will be of the royal house of David. We presume this means personal power and political leadership, and recognition of this from others.

The Gospel turns us in a different direction. In it Mary asks, "How can this be?" (Luke 1:34) This question can be understood in two different ways. One means: How is it going to happen? The other suggests: You've got to be kidding! When told she will bear a child, this virgin asks: How is this going to happen? Her visitor

explains the unfolding of an unbelievable event. While stories in pagan religions described how gods took on human form, such wondrous events supposedly happened in royal families—not in the life of an unassuming girl promised to a modest carpenter. In the Incarnation, a singular historic event, Mary did not say: "You've got to be kidding!" She replied: "If that's what you want, I'm willing."

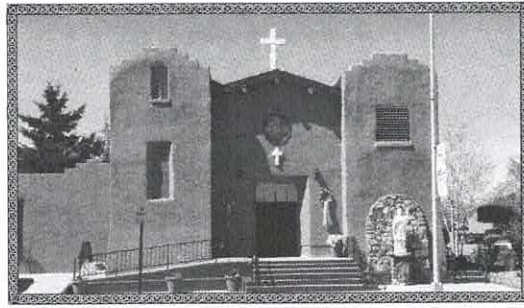
Advent readings have traced God leading the people to salvation and a new way of living, to an outline of an individual chosen by God to lead them, to the realization that this leader will be a descendant of David. However, none of this happens as we might expect. Rather, it unfolds in such an unpretentious way that many people did not even realize it was happening. Who could blame anyone for saying: You've got to be kidding! But God was not kidding.

Now we are ready for Christmas.

—Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

### FOR Reflection

- \* Advent readings show God working in mysterious ways. Where is God working in your life?
- \* How prepared are you for the deeper meaning of Christmas?



# St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church

115 N. First Street, Clayton, NM 88415

Office and Fax: (575) 374-8894 Email: sfxclayton@gmail.com

Rectory: (575) 374-8900 (After 9:00 PM-Emergency Only)

Missions: Des Moines, Folsom, Moses, NENM Detention Facility

[www.sfxclayton.org](http://www.sfxclayton.org)

## Parish Staff

Pastor: Rev. Jason Pettigrew  
Deacon: Dcn Louis Montoya (Retired)  
Business Manager/Finance: Theresa Gard  
Secretary: Laekyn Wagner  
Religious Education: Rose Ramirez  
Adult Religious Education: Rev. Jason Pettigrew

**Parish Office Hours** (CCD Building)  
Mon, Tues, Thurs, 9:00AM –1:00PM  
Closed on Wed, Fri and Church & Civil Holidays

## Sacrament of Baptism

(Classes and Parents Interview)  
Contact Pastor

## Sacrament of Marriage

(Classes and Couple Interview)  
Contact Fr. Jason -6 Months Prior

## Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick

By appointment with the Pastor

## DECEMBER 20TH

### St. Francis Xavier, Clayton

**Weekend Mass: Saturday 5:00pm Sunday 10:30am**

**Daily Mass: (Wed-Spanish)-Fri at 12:10pm**

**Thurs at 5:30pm**

**Adoration /Confession: Tue 5:30-7:30pm Thurs 6:00-7:00pm**

**Honor of Our Blessed Mother Mass: 1ST Sat 10:30am**

**Confession: Saturday 4:00-5:00pm OR By Appointment**

### Our Lady of Guadalupe, Des Moines

**Weekend Mass: Sunday 8:00am (Oct 1 - May 31)**

**Confession: Sunday before 8:00am OR by appt**

### St. Joseph, Folsom

**Weekend Mass: Sunday 8:00 am (Jun 1 - Sept 30)**

**Confession: Sunday before 8:00am OR by appt**

### NENM Detention Facility, Clayton (For Residents/Staff)

**1st, 2nd & 3rd Sunday's Mass 2:00PM**


**Confession: Sunday 1:30pm—2:00**

### Nursing Home, Clayton

**Every 4th Sunday 1:30 PM**


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*This is my body, which will be given up for you.  
 This is my blood, the blood of the new and everlasting covenant.  
 It will be shed for you & for all... so that sins may be forgiven.  
 Do this in memory of me.*

**Masses will be offered December 2020**

+ All the Departed Parishioner's & Family Members

**SI All the Sponsors, Benefactors & Supporters of SFX Clayton**

**SI Good Health & Well Being of all Parishioners & Families**

|               |                                                                                    |                                                                                      |
|---------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| at, Dec 19.   | + Sam Britt<br>+ Fidelia Taylor                                                    | by Ross & Shelley Carter<br>by Brian & Karla Hubbell                                 |
| un, Dec 20,   | SI Celedon & Eloyda<br>Gutierrez<br>+ Betty Fogarty                                | by Julian & Colleen<br>Gutierrez<br>by Julian & Colleen<br>Gutierrez & Family        |
|               | + Jonathan Fernandez<br>+ Sam Britt                                                | by The Fernandez Family<br>by Ross & Shelley Carter                                  |
| hurs, Dec 24. | +Fidelia Taylor                                                                    | by Brian & Karla Hubbell                                                             |
| ri, Dec 25.   | SI Intentions of Parishioners<br>+ Jonathan Fernandez<br>+ Richard & Evelyn Sintas | & Missions of SFX Church<br>by The Fernandez Family<br>by Teri Mansfield &<br>Family |
|               | + Deceased Family of the<br>Trujillo & Sintas Family                               | by Teri Mansfield &<br>Family                                                        |
| at, Dec 26.   | + Sam Britt<br>+ Tomasita Sisneros<br>+ Lucy Garcia                                | by Ross & Shelley Carter<br>by JoAnn Padilla<br>by JoAnn Padilla                     |

**Weekly Collections Summary: October /November 2020**

|                | <u>SFX</u> | <u>OLOG</u> |
|----------------|------------|-------------|
| December 12-13 | TBA        | TBA         |
| December 5-6   | \$ 275.00  | \$ 0.00     |
| November 28-29 | \$1,681.00 | \$ 325.00   |
| November 21-22 | \$1,864.00 | \$165.00    |

**Thank you so much for your generosity!**

*Please visit the following very informative websites:*

- [www.archdiocesesantafe.org](http://www.archdiocesesantafe.org)
- [www.ewtn.com](http://www.ewtn.com)
- [w2.vatican.va/content/vatican/en.html](http://w2.vatican.va/content/vatican/en.html)
- [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org)
- [www.catholic culture.org](http://www.catholic culture.org)

**Announcement**  
**No Classes or Adoration until January**

"Glory to God in the highest; and on earth peace to  
 men of good will."

**Luke 2:14**

**UPDATE: Raffle Drawing**

The drawing date has been extended to:  
 Tuesday, December 29, 2020 at 11:00am  
 All sold tickets must turned in by December 28th

**ACA Pledge Goal Report**

**St. Francis Xavier-Clayton**  
**% of Participation - 12.66%**  
**Number of Families -316**  
**Parish Goal - \$13,500.00**  
**% Goal Pledged -74.77%**  
**% Goal Paid -79.47%**  
**Total Pledge-\$10,094.00**  
**Total Paid-\$10,729.00**  
**Short-\$2,771.00**

**Announcements**

**SFX Celebration Raffle Tickets**

We will start selling the

2020 "The Birth of CHRIST!!!"

Raffle Tickets early this year at \$5.00 a ticket or  
 \$20.00 a book.

You can get them at the office during office hours,  
 the church after mass, or call the office and we will  
 mail them if need be.

**Lectors for Masses**

- Saturday, Dec. 19- Sammie Wood
- Sunday, Dec. 20- Craig Reeves
- Friday, Dec. 25- Jack Chosvig
- Saturday, Dec. 26- Effie Walker

All Ministry schedules are updated  
 monthly and posted on the church website.  
 If you need to know when you serve,  
 check **www.sfxclayton.org!!**

# Dear Padre,

## Does God call me, like God called Mary? Can the angel Gabriel speak to me as he did to Mary?

**P**erhaps God has already spoken to you! In the great calls in Scripture, God doesn't seem to care about age. God doesn't care about gender, race, talents, poverty or wealth, strengths or weaknesses. God calls each of us because we are God's daughters and sons. God's call is personal (to you and no other!), and this call is to always be Christian and serve the Lord. Most often



THE ANNUNCIATION / PSALTER, VENICE

the call won't be dramatic, like it was for Moses. More likely, your call will be quiet and personal. Remember what God said: "Be still, and know that I am God!" (Psalm 46:11).

In these hectic days before Christmas, find a peaceful place and quiet time. Be still and say to God, "Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening" (1 Samuel 3:9). In this place, God will reveal your call to you, a call that was present long before your birth.

God has already spoken to us in our life's vocation. We are planted in friendships, relationships, marriages, jobs, families, a community, and a nation. In each place, we listen to hear what God is calling forth from us.

Then, like Mary, we say yes! We reach into our most generous spirit and proclaim "yes" to even the most difficult, mundane, or boring aspects of our vocation.

—Fr. Paul J. Coury, CSsR  
[Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org](mailto:Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org)



### A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

*The angel Gabriel calls Mary "full of grace": in her there is no room for sin, because God chose her from eternity to be the mother of Jesus and preserved her from original sin....We too are asked to listen to God who speaks to us, and to accept his will....The Lord is always speaking to us!*

—SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, DECEMBER 8, 2014

## Calendar

### Monday

DECEMBER 21  
Advent Weekday  
Sg 2:8–14 or  
Zep 3:14–18a  
Lk 1:39–45

### Tuesday

DECEMBER 22  
Advent Weekday  
1 Sm 1:24–28  
Lk 1:46–56

### Wednesday

DECEMBER 23  
Advent Weekday  
Mal 3:1–4, 23–24  
Lk 1:57–66

### Thursday

DECEMBER 24  
Advent Weekday  
2 Sm 7:1–5,  
8b–12, 14a, 16  
Lk 1:67–79

### Friday

DECEMBER 25  
Christmas  
Is 52:7–10  
Heb 1:1–6  
Jn 1:1–18 or  
Jn 1:1–5, 9–14

### Saturday

DECEMBER 26  
St. Stephen, First Martyr  
Acts 6:8–10, 7:54–59  
Mt 10:17–22

### Sunday

DECEMBER 27  
The Holy Family of  
Jesus, Mary, and Joseph  
Sir 3:2–6, 12–14 or  
Gn 15:1–6; 21:1–3  
Col 3:12–21 or 3:12–17  
or Heb 11:8, 11–12,  
17–19  
Lk 2:22–40 or  
2:22, 39–40

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