

Jesus Embraces the Culturally Marginalized

Today's readings are about forced quarantine.

On one level they are about diseases that might be contagious. On another level they are about ritual impurity that was contagious. The Israelites believed that to stand before God in worship, one's body had to be physically intact—no fractures or missing body parts, no open wounds, no oozing body fluids. Skin lesions like those associated with leprosy made one ritually unclean or impure. Furthermore, to touch one with such a disease was to become unclean oneself. The ritual impurity was considered contagious, not necessarily the disease. Unclean people were socially and religiously ostracized.

In the Gospel story, Jesus completely neutralized this practice. Touching the leprosy and thus unclean man, Jesus not only didn't become unclean himself, but he actually made the man clean again. The issue here is not merely one of healing. It is a matter of reincorporating the marginalized man into society.

Unfortunately, out of fear or a sense of superiority,

some people ostracize or marginalize entire groups of people. This bias might be based on gender, race, culture, sexual preference—almost anything. In this way the benefits of society are denied to those who are marginalized. One characteristic of Jesus, obvious throughout the Gospel stories, is his all-inclusiveness. Jesus rejected no one. He was open to those who society ostracized. He interacted graciously with people with diseases, non-Jews, recognized public sinners, and those working with the Roman occupiers—all people considered ritually unclean. As his disciples, can we do less?

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR Reflection

- ✦ Which groups of people does society tend to ostracize or marginalize?
- ✦ What might be done to reverse this bias?





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

Parish Staff

Pastor: Rev. Jason Pettigrew
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

FEBRUARY 14TH

St. Francis Xavier, Clayton

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

Daily Mass:

Adoration /Confession:

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 February 2021  
 + 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*

- ri, Feb 12. SI Intentions of the Parishioners  
And Missions of SFX Church
- at, Feb 13. SI Britt & Agnes Fisk by Ross & Shelley Carter  
+Kit Pettigrew by Ross & Shelley Carter  
+Sam Britt by Donna Kimble  
+Joan Lee by Ross & Shelley Carter
- un, Feb 14. +Inez Romero by Dolores Montoya  
+Kit Pettigrew by Ross & Shelley Carter  
+Gladys Jesko by Donna Kimble  
(OLOG) +Phyllis Loncar by Marjorie & Grant Long  
(OLOG) +Frank Commiato Jr. by Marjorie & Grant Long
- Wed, Feb 17. +Mary Carter by Ross & Shelley Carter
- Thurs, Feb 18. +Mary Carter by Ross & Shelley Carter
- ri, Feb 19. SI Intentions of the Parishioners  
And Missions of SFX Church
- at, Feb 20. SI Britt & Agnes Fisk by Ross & Shelley Carter  
+Kit Pettigrew by Ross & Shelley Carter  
+Sam Britt by Donna Kimble  
+Joan Lee by Ross & Shelley Carter

**Weekly Collections Summary: Jan. & Feb. 2021**

|               | <u>SFX</u> | <u>OLOG</u> |
|---------------|------------|-------------|
| February 6-7  | \$2,646.00 | \$ 531.00   |
| January 30-31 | \$4,155.65 | \$ 336.00   |
| January 23-24 | \$2,582.00 | \$ 325.00   |
| January 16-17 | \$1,766.00 | \$ 432.00   |
| January 9-10  | \$1,977.80 | \$ 0.00     |

*Please visit the following very informative websites:*

- [www.archdiocesesantafe.org](http://www.archdiocesesantafe.org)
- [www.ewtn.com](http://www.ewtn.com)
- [v2.vatican.va/content/vatican/en.html](http://v2.vatican.va/content/vatican/en.html)
- [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org)
- [www.catholicculture.org](http://www.catholicculture.org)

**Announcement**

Feb. 17th, Ash Wednesday Mass at 5:30pm at Saint Francis Xavier  
 Starting Feb. 18, Thursday Daily Mass at 5:30 & Adoration 6-7pm  
 Starting on Feb. 19th Friday Daily Mass at 12:10pm  
 Friday, Feb. 19th Confession 4:45-5:45pm  
 Stations of the Cross Start Friday February 19th at 6pm  
 Confession is Saturdays at 4:00-5:00pm or by Appointment

**Announcements**

All Parishioners are encouraged to form prayer groups or Bible studies on their own, and welcome to use the church or CCD Building for such activities.

Pope Benedict's Encyclical "God is Love"

Pope Benedict XVI says the following words in his encyclical letter "God is Love": "In sacramental communion I become one with the Lord, like all the other communicants. As Saint Paul says, "Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread" (1 Cor 10:17). Union with Christ is also union with all those to whom he gives himself. I cannot possess Christ just for myself; I can belong to him only in union with all those who have become, or who will become, his own. ... Love of God and love of neighbor are now truly united: God incarnate draws us all to himself. ... Here the usual contraposition between worship and ethics simply falls apart. "Worship" itself, Eucharistic communion, includes the reality both of being loved and of loving others in turn. A Eucharist which does not pass over into the concrete practice of love is intrinsically fragmented" (n. 14). These words remind us of our calling to love all our neighbors, born and unborn.

**Lectors for Masses**

- Wednesday, Feb. 17- Craig Reeves
- Saturday, Feb. 20- Effie Walker
- Sunday, Feb. 21- Andrea Naranjo
- Saturday, Feb. 27- Pat Crisp

All Ministry schedules are updated monthly and posted on the church website. If you need to know when you serve, check [www.sfxclayton.org](http://www.sfxclayton.org)!!

# Dear Padre,

**At Mass on holy days of obligation, there's a fair crowd. But on Ash Wednesday, not a holy day, the place is packed. Your explanation?**

**I**ndeed, pastoral experience corroborates your observation. Holy days of obligation draw well, but it's "standing room only" on Ash Wednesday. Although not a day of obligation, perhaps it's considered a "holy" day by most Catholics.

There's something elemental about the smudge of ashes on the forehead. People wear it without embarrassment or shame. No matter our walk of life or social status, we want that sooty cross. It's a badge of identification, graphically reminding Catholics that it's "spiritual gut-check" time. It jogs us from our routines, spurring us to the important reality of being who we are supposed to be—fully and totally Christian. It's as if we are saying, "I'm Catholic and proud of it. I may not be the best or greatest. I have faults and sins, but I'm not a bad person. I know deep down that being Christian is the way to live, and I'm going to try again."

Ash Wednesday signals the beginning of Lent, the Church's special time of confession and renewal in preparation for Easter. It is what Christians are all about—a people who have died with Christ in the waters of baptism in order to rise with him to a new life. We renew our baptismal commitment to be his people. As we celebrate Christ's passage through death to life, we renew our own death to old sinful ways to rise and live with recaptured vigor.

*From Dear Padre: Questions Catholics Ask © 2003 Liguori Publications  
Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org*



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## A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

*Contrary to the dispositions of the Law of Moses, which prohibited a leper from drawing near, Jesus extends his hand and even touches him....Jesus teaches us not to be afraid to touch the poor and the excluded, because he is in them. Touching the poor can cleanse us from hypocrisy.*

GENERAL AUDIENCE, JUNE 22, 2016

## Calendar

### Monday

FEBRUARY 15

Weekday

Gn 4:1–15, 25

Mk 8:11–13

### Tuesday

FEBRUARY 16

Weekday

Gn 6:5–8; 7:1–5, 10

Mk 8:14–21

### Wednesday

FEBRUARY 17

Ash Wednesday

Jl 2:12–18

2 Cor 5:20–6:2

Mt 6:1–6, 16–18

### Thursday

FEBRUARY 18

Thursday after

Ash Wednesday

Dt 30:15–20

Lk 9:22–25

### Friday

FEBRUARY 19

Friday after

Ash Wednesday

Is 58:1–9a

Mt 9:14–15

### Saturday

FEBRUARY 20

Saturday after

Ash Wednesday

Is 58:9b–14

Lk 5:27–32

### Sunday

FEBRUARY 21

First Sunday of Lent

Gn 9:8–15

1 Pt 3:18–22

Mk 1:12–15

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