

## Do I Have to Die?

**W**ho has not asked this question, at least to oneself? It's a valid question, because at the core of every living being is the drive to live. Jesus also must have asked this question. Today's Gospel account implies this in John 12:27. ("I am troubled now.") Despite his passion for living, Jesus was more passionate about the transformation that would take place later. The example of the grain that must die if a harvest of wheat is to be produced is a perfect metaphor to make this point. Just as the grain is insignificant compared with the possible harvest, so—our faith assures us—there is no comparison between this life and the wondrous transformation that awaits us. And yes, in order to move from this life to that splendid future, we will have to die.

Our Lenten meditations will soon focus on the suffering and death of Jesus. However, to concentrate solely on suffering and death is like examining the

death of the grain without any thought of its transformation and the bountiful harvest that will come. We must not minimize Jesus' suffering. However, it was precisely by means of his having been lifted up on the cross in suffering and death that he was lifted up in glory and exaltation. This is why we claim that death is not the end of life but the gateway to new life. So, as difficult as it might be to leave the life we love, like Jesus we have to die in order to enter that new life.

*Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA*

### *For Reflection*

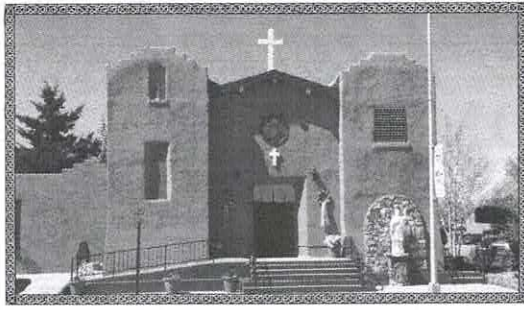
- ✦ *Begin to place yourself in God's hands with little things so that you are better able to do so in bigger things.*
- ✦ *The second reading reminds us that Christ is the source of our eternal salvation. Spend a moment in gratitude for this great gift.*



*[Jesus asked,] "Yet what should I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? But it was for this purpose that I came to this hour."*

JOHN 12:27

MONKEY BUSINESS IMAGES/SHUTTERSTOCK



# 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  
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

## MARCH 21ST

### St. Francis Xavier, Clayton

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

**Daily Mass: Thursday: 5:30pm Friday:12:10pm**

**Adoration: Thursday 6:00pm-7:00pm**

**Confession: Friday 4:45pm-5:45pm 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 **March 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

<b>at, Mar. 20</b>	SI Britt & Agnes Fisk +Sam Britt +Inez Romero	by Ross & Shelley Carter by Donna Kimble by Eloisa Trujillo
<b>un, Mar. 21</b>	SI Luke Khang SI Phei van Hoang +Sam Britt +Inez Romero (OLOG) +Ellen Theresa Long (OLOG) +Rosalie Commiato Kelsey (OLOG) +Alicia Vigil	by Dieu Thi Hoang by Dieu Thi Hoang by RosaLee Britt by Donna Kimble by Marjorie & Grant Long by Marjorie & Grant Long by Benny & Cecilia Bachicha
<b>ri, Mar. 26</b>	SI Intentions of Parishioners And Missions of SFX +All Souls in Purgatory +Margaret Heringa +Kit Pettigrew	by Dieu Thi Hoang by Ross & Shelley Carter by RosaLee Britt
<b>at, Mar. 27</b>	SI Britt & Agnes Fisk SI Phei van Hoang	by Ross & Shelley Carter by Dieu Thi Hoang

**Weekly Collections Summary: Feb. and Mar. 2021**

	<u>SFX</u>	<u>OLOG</u>
March 13-14	\$1967.05	\$ 256.00
March 6-7	\$2,072.00	\$ 530.00
February 27-28	\$2,033.00	\$ 725.00
February 20-21	\$2,964.00	\$ 295.00

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

*Please visit the following very informative websites:*

[www.archdiocesesantafe.org](http://www.archdiocesesantafe.org)  
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[www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org)  
[www.catholicculture.org](http://www.catholicculture.org)

**Announcement**

Daily Mass Thursday at 5:30 & Adoration 6-7pm

Friday Daily Mass at 12:10pm

During Lent Friday Confession 4:45-5:45pm

During Lent Stations of the Cross are Fridays 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.

Tertullian, a Christian writer who died in the third century, wrote the following: "Thus, you read the word of God, spoken to Jeremias: "Before I formed thee in the womb, I knew thee." If God forms us in the womb, He also breathes on us as He did in the beginning: "And God formed man and breathed into him the breath of life." Nor could God have known man in the womb unless he were a whole man. "And before thou camest forth from the womb, I sanctified thee." Was it, then, a dead body at that stage? Surely it was not, for "God is the God of the living and not the dead." - De Anima 26.5

**Lectors for Masses**

Saturday, Mar 20- Effie Walker  
Sunday, Mar 21- Andrea Naranjo  
Saturday, Mar. 27-Sammie Wood  
Sunday, Mar.28- Jack Chosvig

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,

## I'm a non-Catholic church secretary who receives questions about a Purgatorial Society. What is it?

**T**hose who die in God's grace and friendship imperfectly purified, although they are assured of their eternal salvation, undergo a purification after death, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of God" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1054). This process of purification is known as purgatory. Saint Gregory the Great (540–604) wrote "certain offenses can be forgiven in this age, but certain others in the age to come" (see *Dialogues* 4, 39). This forgiveness of sins granted after death is also suggested in Matthew 12:32 and 2 Timothy 1:18.

Because Catholics believe we're in communion with one another through an active relationship that transcends death, our prayers and sacrifices benefit the deceased (see 2 Maccabees 12:38–46). Thus, a Purgatorial Society is a formal association of Catholics who offer prayers, Masses, and other works of charity to benefit the souls in purgatory. Souls that get to heaven, in turn, offer their prayers to benefit the living. This mutual assistance affirms our belief in an earthly and heavenly Church forming one body in Christ.

Purgatorial societies were especially prevalent from the Middle Ages through the previous century, but they're currently seeing a revival in some church parishes and religious communities. Societies generally maintain a

registry to enroll names of the deceased so that Masses are regularly offered for the holy souls in purgatory—especially during the month of November.

*Fr. Byron Miller, CSSR*  
[Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org](mailto:Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org)



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### A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*



*By visiting the tombs of our loved ones we remember that we have a multitude of saints who before God intercede for our needs. Let us not forget, however, that so many deceased also await our spiritual support. Let us remember them in our prayers...asking that they be welcomed into the ranks of the elect in heaven.*

GENERAL AUDIENCE, OCTOBER 31, 2018

## Calendar

### Monday

MARCH 22

*Lenten Weekday*

Dn 13:1–9, 15–17,

19–30, 33–62

or 13:41c–62

Jn 8:1–11

### Tuesday

MARCH 23

*Lenten Weekday*

Nm 21:4–9

Jn 8:21–30

### Wednesday

MARCH 24

*Lenten Weekday*

Dn 3:14–20, 91–92, 95

Jn 8:31–42

### Thursday

MARCH 25

*The Annunciation*

*of the Lord*

Is 7:10–14, 8:10

Heb 10:4–10

Lk 1:26–38

### Friday

MARCH 26

*Lenten Weekday*

Jer 20:10–13

Jn 10:31–42

### Saturday

MARCH 27

*Lenten Weekday*

Ez 37:21–28

Jn 11:45–56

### Sunday

MARCH 28

*Palm Sunday of the*

*Passion of the Lord*

Mk 11:1–10 or

Jn 12:12–16

Is 50:4–7

Phil 2:6–11

Mk 14:1–15:47

or 15:1–39