



## Up in Heaven

**T**he message of this feast is that Jesus was taken up into heaven. Just what does this mean? Is heaven "up there" along with the moon and the stars? Cosmology would question that. Today's readings also say that Jesus is seated at God's right hand. Is this science, or is it a concrete image used to explain something more marvelous than words can describe?

Traditionally the place of honor is at the dignitary's right hand (decided by a right-hander, no doubt). That Jesus sits at God's right hand means he enjoys the place of highest honor. The psalm response refers to this exalted place as the throne of God. "Throne" suggests king. Thus, the readings tell us that Jesus, who is now exalted with divine honor, is above everything else. Finally, to say that heaven is above means that it is beyond earth, perhaps not in actual distance but in distinction and glory. Thus, Jesus' ascension means that the risen Lord is no longer limited by the

restrictions of earth's space and time but now enjoys the highest honor with God everywhere and always.

This is the message the disciples were sent to preach. This is the message we also are sent to preach. But how are we to do it? By the way we live our lives. Emmanuel Célestin Cardinal Suhard of Paris (1874-1949) wrote: "To be a witness...means to live in such a way that one's life would not make sense if God did not exist." Do our lives show that we believe this?

*Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA*

### FOR Reflection

- \* Thank God for people in your life who mirror God's generosity, forgiveness, and kindness to you.
- \* Think about ways you might mirror God's goodness to others.



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# 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

### MAY 16TH

#### St. Francis Xavier, Clayton

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

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

**Honor of Our Blessed Mother Mass: 1st Saturday 10:30am**

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

**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 **May 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*

- Sat, May 15 +Adelina "Lena" Cruz by The Cruz Family
- Sun, May 16 SI First Holy Communionists by Cy & Laekyn Wagner
  - +Inez Romero by Andrea Naranjo
  - (OLOG) +Flo Jome by Marjorie & Grant Long
  - (OLOG) +Lorene Carr by Marjorie & Grant Long
- Sat, May 22 +Freddie Archuleta by Stella Archuleta
  - +Michael Encinias by Stella Archuleta
  - +Cresenciano Garcia by Stella Archuleta
- Sun, May 23 +Inez Romero by Andrea Naranjo
  - +Martha Archuleta by Jerry Archuleta & Family
  - +Joe Simoes & Antonio Simoes By Belen Simoes
  - (OLOG) +Flo Jome by Marjorie & Grant Long
  - (OLOG) +Lorene Carr by Marjorie & Grant Long
- Sun, May 30
  - (OLOG) +Flo Jome by Marjorie & Grant Long
  - (OLOG) +Lorene Carr by Marjorie & Grant Long

**Weekly Collections Summary: Apr. & May 2021**

|             | <u>SFX</u> | <u>OLOG</u> |
|-------------|------------|-------------|
| May 8-9     | \$2,517.00 | \$ 451.00   |
| May 1-2     | \$1,801.25 | \$ 435.00   |
| April 24-25 | \$1,884.00 | \$ 350.00   |
| April 17-18 | \$1,915.00 | \$ 734.75   |

**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)
- [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**

First Holy Communion  
 May 23, 2021  
 Practice  
 May 22 at 10 am

**ACA Pledge Goal Report**

**St. Francis Xavier-Clayton**  
**% of Participation - 8.83%**  
**Number of Families -317**  
**Parish Goal - \$12,200.00**  
**% Goal Pledged -78.23%**  
**% Goal Paid -69.95%**  
**Total Pledge-\$9,544.00**  
**Total Paid-\$8,534.00**  
**Short-\$3,666.00**

Jesus prayed on the night before he died, "Father, give me the glory I had with you before the world began." How is the glory he has in the Ascension different from the glory he had "before the world began?" It differs only in that now, he has it in a human nature. Our humanity has been taken to the heights of heaven, fulfilling the destiny God intended for human life from the beginning. Revelation 3:21 declares, "To the one who gains the victory, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne." God's plan for us is not just that we will gather around the throne or fall down before the throne, but that we will sit with him on the throne! This hope extended to the human family by the Gospel is directly contradicted when the same human beings destined for the heights of heaven are attacked by violence, degraded in their dignity, or put to death by things like abortion. The human nature Jesus brings to glory in the Ascension is the same human nature you and I share, and the same human nature that the babies in the womb share. Celebrating the Ascension in daily life means treating each human life as one destined to sit with Christ on his throne.

**Lectors for Masses**

- Sat, May 22-Effie Walker
- Sun, May 23- Jack Chosvig
- Sat, May 29- Sammie Wood
- Sun, May 30- Laekyn Wagner

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,

**My neighbor, a fundamentalist Christian, said I won't be saved unless I accept Jesus as my personal savior. Didn't Jesus become my savior when I was baptized?**

**Y**our neighbor is probably referring to John 3:7, when Jesus said, "You must be born anew" (*Common English Bible*). Jesus is talking about a spiritual rebirth; we must have a spiritual birth in order to be saved. As you noted, Catholics believe this happens at baptism. In John 3:5, Jesus says, "Unless someone is born of water and the Spirit, it's not possible to enter God's kingdom."

We are saved by the waters of baptism. But for Catholics, it's not merely a one-time event. We continue to accept or reject the salvation offered us by the decisions we make every day.

Your neighbor used the words "personal savior." Catholic Christians go even deeper through the sacraments. We develop and nurture a very personal relationship with Jesus by regularly receiving the Eucharist. In the sacrament of reconciliation, we admit we have sinned and ask Jesus to forgive us. And in the sacrament of confirmation, our relationship is "sealed" with the gift of the Spirit.

Many Catholics also celebrate the sacrament of marriage. The couple's personal relationship with Jesus is deepened through the love the couple shares.

So, tell your neighbor you are indeed saved by Jesus. And because you are saved, you deepen that relationship with Jesus by living a sacramental life.

Fr. Patrick Keyes, CSSR  
[Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org](mailto:Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org)



PHOTOGRAPHEE EU/SHUTTERSTOCK

## A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

*The Ascension tells us that Jesus, although he ascended to heaven to dwell gloriously at the right hand of the Father, is still and is always among us: this is the source of our strength, our perseverance, and our joy, from the presence of Jesus among us with the strength of the Holy Spirit.*

ASCENSION SUNDAY, MAY 24, 2020



## Calendar

### Monday

MAY 17

Easter Weekday

Acts 19:1-8

Jn 16:29-33

### Tuesday

MAY 18

Easter Weekday

Acts 20:17-27

Jn 17:1-11a

### Wednesday

MAY 19

Easter Weekday

Acts 20:28-38

Jn 17:11b-19

### Thursday

MAY 20

Easter Weekday

Acts 22:30; 23:6-11

Jn 17:20-26

### Friday

MAY 21

Easter Weekday

Acts 25:13b-21

Jn 21:15-19

### Saturday

MAY 22

Easter Weekday

Acts 28:16-20, 30-31

Jn 21:20-25

### Sunday

MAY 23

Pentecost Sunday

Acts 2:1-11

1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13

or Gal 5:16-25

Jn 20:19-23

or Jn 15:26-27;

16:12-15

### Know Someone Overly Anxious About Sin?

Since 1964, the Redemptorists' *Scrupulous Anonymous* free monthly newsletter has ministered compassionately to those struggling with scrupulosity. To subscribe, visit [ScrupulousAnonymous.org](http://ScrupulousAnonymous.org).

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