

Faith or Works?

Unfortunately, these two facets of our faith are often pitted against each other. In many of his letters, St. Paul insists on the superiority of faith, while today's reading from St. James underscores the importance of good works. It is understandable that one might get confused. Actually, both are vital. In fact, one without the other does not result in full Christian living. At issue is how they fit together.

Paul's insistence on faith was probably a corrective for the erroneous belief that we can earn eternal happiness by our good works. This was not simply a problem with the Jewish law and practices but with the religious law and practices of many societies. Even today we find people convinced that obeying religious laws assures salvation. To this, Paul insisted that it was faith in Jesus that saved, not conformity to law. Paul never said that believers should not obey the law.

Rather, he would insist that such obedience should flow from faith, not vice versa.

It seems that the people to whom today's second reading was directed took the idea of "faith alone" to an extreme. They were not committed to good works. This letter corrected that error. It states that faith without works is dead. In fact, good works demonstrate the authenticity and depth of one's faith.

The message for today should be clear. Faith and works belong together. Genuine faith manifests itself in works of love and mercy, and the works of love and mercy that flow from faith are of God.

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

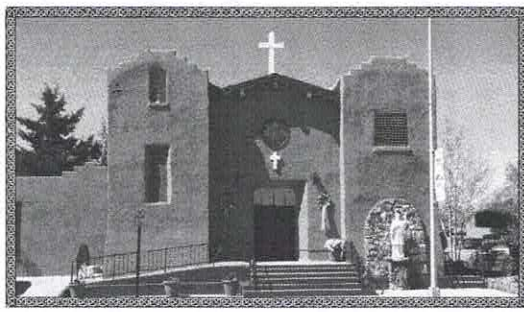
FOR Reflection

- ✦ Which works of mercy does your faith inspire?
- ✦ How are these works fortified by faith?

Demonstrate your faith to me without works, and I will demonstrate my faith to you from my works.

JAMES 2:18





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

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

SEPTEMBER 12TH

St. Francis Xavier, Clayton

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

Daily Mass: Wednesday: 12:10pm

Tuesday & Thursday: 5:30pm Friday:12:10pm

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

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

Adoration: Tuesday & Thursday 6pm to 7 pm

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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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Registration for CCD Classes  
Start Tuesday, September 14th at 4pm

CCD Classes officially start on  
Wednesday, September 15th.  
Kindergarten-6th grade at 4-5:30  
7th/8th grade and Catechism at 6-7:30

### ATTENTION!!!

New Facebook Page has been created! Link has been posted in the old page. The new page is directly linked to the office.

Facebook Page link:  
[@sfxclaytonparish1937](#)

"But I feel a great destroyer of peace today is abortion, because it is a direct war, a direct killing, direct murder by the mother herself. And we read in the scripture, for God says very clearly. "Even if a mother could forget her child, I will not forget you. I have carved you in the palm of My Hand." We are carved in the palm of His Hand; so close to Him, that unborn child has been carved in the Hand of God. And that is what strikes me most, the beginning of that sentence, that even a mother could forget something impossible—but even if she could forget -- "I will not forget you." And today the greatest destroyer of peace is abortion. And we who are standing here—our parents wanted us. We would not be here if our parents would do that to us." – Lecture upon receiving the Nobel Peace Prize, Oslo, Norway, Dec. 11, 1979

### Lectors for Masses

Sat, Sept 18-Ross Carter  
Sun, Sept 19-Chase Carter  
Sat, Sept 25- Pat Crisp  
Sun, Sept 26- Laekyn Wagner

*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 **September 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, Sept 11 | +Clare Wood             | by The Carter & Vaughn Families |
| Sun, Sept 12 | +Lillie Barreras        | by Leo & Lupe Gonzales Family   |
|              | +Inez & Andres          | by Debra Thelander & Pam Jordan |
| (OLOG)       | +Clare Wood             | by Sammie & Chip Wood           |
|              | +Elbert & Sylvia Chapin | by Marjorie & Grant Long        |
| Sat, Sept 18 | +Clare Wood             | by The Carter & Vaughn Families |
| Sun, Sept 19 | +Inez & Andres Romero   | by Debra Thelander & Pam Jordan |
| (OLOG)       | +Elbert & Sylvia Chapin | by Marjorie & Grant Long        |
| Fri, Sept 24 | +Margaret Heringa       | by Loretta Butler               |
| Sat, Sept 25 | +Clare Wood             | by Sammie & Chip Wood           |
| Sun, Sept 26 | +Inez & Andres Romero   | by Debra Thelander & Pam Jordan |
| (OLOG)       | +Elbert & Sylvia Chapin | by Marjorie & Grant Long        |
| Sat, Oct 2   | +Clare Wood             | by Sammie & Chip Wood           |

### Weekly Collections Summary: August 2021

|               | <u>SFX</u> | <u>OLOG</u> |
|---------------|------------|-------------|
| September 4-5 | \$1,664.00 | \$ 548.00   |
| August 28-29  | \$1,866.05 | \$ 346.00   |
| August 21-22  | \$1,820.00 | \$ 223.00   |
| August 14-15  | \$1,611.00 | \$ 401.00   |

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)  
[www2.vatican.va/content/vatican/en.html](http://www2.vatican.va/content/vatican/en.html)  
[www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org)  
[www.catholic culture.org](http://www.catholic culture.org)

# Dear Padre,

**I'm having trouble finding a good place to pray. I can't get to church every day. I have a noisy household, and I can't pray at work. Any ideas?**

**T**he best place to pray is in solitude. But solitude in this case doesn't mean an isolated place; it is, rather, a state of the heart. Many Christians can enter into a state of solitude on a crowded train. I've talked with others



who find solitude while sitting on a bench in a crowded shopping mall.

However, to cultivate this interior state that opens a Christian to heartfelt conversation with God, many of us need to physically shut out distractions. As Jesus advised, go into your room—your secret place—close the door, and pray there. For some people, this “secret place” is a church or chapel. Many people pray before

or after Mass. Some churches have a special oratory or chapel for the Blessed Sacrament.

But like you, many people find it difficult to go to a church or chapel every day, so some of them devote a special corner of their home to prayer. This prayer corner usually has a Bible, a crucifix, a statue, a sacred picture, a candle, or a plant.

We can find solitude in the car, in a favorite nature spot, in the garden, or on a morning jog. Once you start looking for it, solitude isn't as difficult to find as you'd expect because God is present in every place and in every moment—so wherever we can find solitude, he will be there.

*Fr. Michael Brehl, CSSR*  
[Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org](mailto:Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org)



## A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

*You may know all the commandments, all the prophecies, all the truths of the faith, but if this isn't put into practice, is not translated into works, it serves nothing....A faith without works, a faith that doesn't get you involved, isn't faith. It's words and nothing more than words.*

HOMILY, FEBRUARY 21, 2014

## Calendar

### Monday

SEPTEMBER 13

*St. John Chrysostom,  
Bishop and Doctor  
of the Church*

1 Tm 2:1–8

Lk 7:1–10

### Tuesday

SEPTEMBER 14

*The Exaltation of the  
Holy Cross*

Nm 21:4b–9

Phil 2:6–11

Jn 3:13–17

### Wednesday

SEPTEMBER 15

*Our Lady of Sorrows*

1 Tm 3:14–16

Jn 19:25–27 or

Lk 2:33–35

### Thursday

SEPTEMBER 16

*Sts. Cornelius, Pope,  
and Cyprian, Bishop,  
Martyrs*

1 Tm 4:12–16

Lk 7:36–50

### Friday

SEPTEMBER 17

*Weekday*

1 Tm 6:2c–12

Lk 8:1–3

### Saturday

SEPTEMBER 18

*Weekday*

1 Tm 6:13–16

Lk 8:4–15

### Sunday

SEPTEMBER 19

*Twenty-fifth Sunday in*

*Ordinary Time*

Wis 2:12, 17–20

Jas 3:16–4:3

Mk 9:30–37

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