

Joy to the World!

This is the Sunday of joy, *Gaudete Sunday*. In the first reading, the people are told to “Shout for joy” because “the LORD is in your midst” (Zephaniah 3:14-15). The psalm response tells us to “cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and holy one of Israel” (see Isaiah 12). The second reading directs us to “rejoice in the Lord always” because “the Lord is near” (Philippians 4:4-5). In the Gospel, we see that “the people were filled with [messianic] expectation,” even wondering “whether John might be the Messiah” (Luke 3:15). All John could say was that “one mightier than I is coming” (3:16).

So today, what are we waiting for this Sunday and how is God present? We know that God is already present with us in many ways: in the Church and sacraments; in the lives of good people we know; in

the depths of our hearts. And so, we rejoice. We also know that the story of salvation is unfinished. There are still so many evils from which we must be saved. When you think of them, what’s at the top of your list?

We are eager for God to come into our lives anew to comfort us and strengthen us. We know we cannot do it alone. Even as we wait for the day of salvation to dawn, we rejoice for we know that it came before and will come again. That’s why we sing “Joy to the World.”

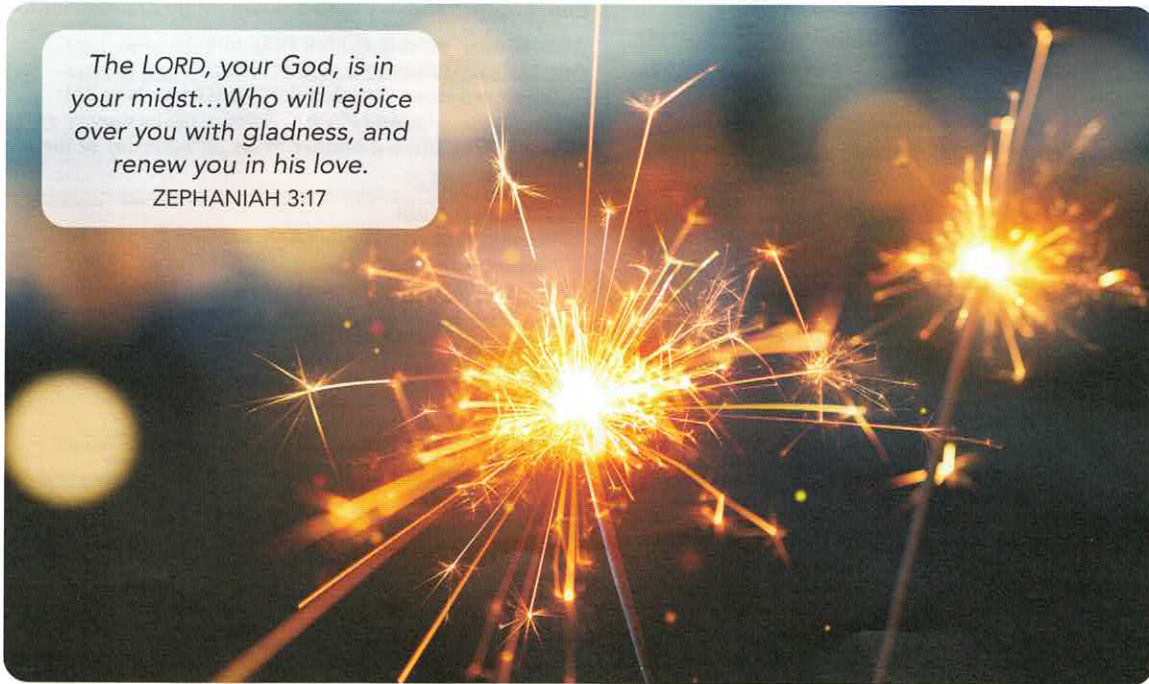
Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR *Reflection*

- ✦ *Think of a few ways you have experienced God’s goodness in your life. Rejoice and give thanks for these blessings.*
- ✦ *What are your hopes for the day of salvation?*

The LORD, your God, is in your midst...Who will rejoice over you with gladness, and renew you in his love.

ZEPHANIAH 3:17



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

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

DECEMBER 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

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

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 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, Dec. 11 SI Helen Sintas by Teri & Pete Mansfield  
 SI Connie Johnson by Teri & Pete Mansfield  
 +Deceased of the Carter Family by Rosa Lee Britt  
 +Antonio & Feliz Gallegos by The Gallegos Family  
 +Christi Edwards-Urban by Her Friends & Family
- Sun, Dec. 12 +Sam Britt by Rosa Lee Britt  
 +Deceased of the Wyley Family by Rosa Lee Britt  
 +Richard Arguello by Debbie & Kirk Jesko  
 (OLOG) +Bill & Mary Wild by Marjorie & Grant Long
- Tue, Dec. 15 +Inez Romero by Dolores Montoya
- Thurs, Dec. 16 +Inez Romero by Dolores Montoya
- Fri, Dec. 17 +Inez Romero by Dolores Montoya
- Sat, Dec. 18 +Richard Arguello by Debbie & Kirk Jesko  
 +Michael Encinias by Stella Archuleta  
 +Freddie Archuleta Jr by Stella Archuleta
- Sun, Dec. 19 +Sam Britt by Rosa Lee Britt  
 +Deceased of the Zurick Family by Rosa Lee Britt  
 +Ronnie J. Rael by Deano & Danielle Arellano  
 (OLOG) +Bill & Mary Wild by Marjorie & Grant Long
- Thurs, Dec. 23 +Inez Romero by Dolores Montoya

**Weekly Collections Summary: Nov. & Dec. 2021**

|                | <u>SFX</u> | <u>OLOG</u> |
|----------------|------------|-------------|
| December 4-5   | \$2026.00  | \$ 561.85   |
| November 27-28 | \$1,625.00 | \$ 384.00   |
| November 20-21 | \$1,967.00 | \$ 365.00   |
| November 13-14 | \$1,979.00 | \$ 200.00   |

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

*Please visit the following very informative websites:*

- [www.archdiocesasantafe.org](http://www.archdiocesasantafe.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)

**ATTENTION!!!**

Christmas Poinsettias are now available.

Please come by the office to purchase your Poinsettias.

Poinsettias are \$25 each.

Office Hours are:

Monday, Tuesday and Thursdays 9am to 1pm

The SFX drawing will be drawn on Monday December 13th.

Thank you for your support!!!

When the year 1000 was about to dawn, people fled to mountains, expecting the return of Christ. When 2000 came, people feared major computer -- and hence societal -- breakdowns. Neither happened. Yet both moments in history remind us of something deeper, the lesson of Advent. Advent means "coming." The Lord wants us to anticipate and prepare for His coming, not as something that we hinge on a particular date or identify with a particular calamity, but as an *ordinary aspect of our daily Christian living*. On the one hand, we know He is coming; on the other, we don't know when. Yet every moment is an opportunity to make that coming more central to our lives. Lord, may we welcome you daily in your Word, your Sacraments, and in all our brothers and sisters!

**Lectors for Masses**

- Sat, Dec. 18- Sammie Wood
- Sun, Dec. 19- Sandy Vaughn
- Fri, Dec. 24- Johnna & Tailyn Kimble
- Sat, Dec. 25- Laekyn Wagner

# Dear Padre,

I recently moved to a parish that includes a large Mexican community that's known for their annual *posadas* event. What is that?

**L**as *posadas*, a nine-day novena preparation for the celebration of Christmas, begins December 16 and ends Christmas Eve.

*Posada* is Spanish for "inn." The ceremony remembers Mary and Joseph's trip to Bethlehem and their difficulty finding a place to stay. *Posadas* are celebrated in many ways, but the traditional celebration involves a group of people, the "pilgrims," going to several houses, knocking on the door, and asking for *posada*. The pilgrims sing the part of Joseph as he explains their situation and asks for a place to stay. The people inside sing back that they have no room and that the pilgrims should just move on.

On the last night, the people in the last house recognize that Mary is the Queen of Heaven and that the child she carries is the Savior of the World. They invite the pilgrims inside and hold a prayer service that may include a Scripture reading or the rosary. The celebration ends with food and singing.

This tradition is more than a folksy reenactment of Joseph and Mary's search for lodging—it's a solemn dramatization by women and men who believe God searches with them, a touching ceremony that can help Christians today see the real needs of those who live without the security of a home, health insurance, or a steady job.

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

**Do you have a question  
for the Padre?**

Go to [DearPadre.org](http://DearPadre.org) to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.



CMS PHOTO / NANCY WIECHEC

## A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

*Many Christians have that face...from a funeral wake, a face of sadness. But Christ is risen! Christ loves you! And you have no joy? Let us think a bit about this and let us ask: "Do I have joy because the Lord is close to me, because the Lord loves me, because the Lord has redeemed me?"*

GAUDETE SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2020

## Calendar

### Monday

DECEMBER 13

St. Lucy,  
Virgin and Martyr  
Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a  
Mt 21:23-27

### Tuesday

DECEMBER 14

St. John of the Cross,  
Priest and Doctor  
of the Church  
Zep 3:1-2, 9-13  
Mt 21:28-32

### Wednesday

DECEMBER 15

Advent Weekday  
Is 45:6b-8, 18,  
21c-25  
Lk 7:18b-23

### Thursday

DECEMBER 16

Advent Weekday  
Is 54:1-10  
Lk 7:24-30

### Friday

DECEMBER 17

Advent Weekday  
Gn 49:2, 8-10  
Mt 1:1-17

### Saturday

DECEMBER 18

Advent Weekday  
Jer 23:5-8  
Mt 1:18-25

### Sunday

DECEMBER 19

Fourth Sunday  
of Advent  
Mi 5:1-4a  
Heb 10:5-10  
Lk 1:39-45

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