

Are We There Yet?

It's not only children who are impatient with the lo-o-o-o-ong ride that takes them to a party or an amusement park. Adults can hardly contain themselves as they await the announcement of a winner, the return of an absent loved one, or the birth of a baby. This is the kind of excitement found in today's readings. Micah describes the long-awaited leader promised by God. He will be even more than the people could have imagined: firm, strong, and dependable. They must have asked, "When is he coming?"

By the time the Gospel was written, Jesus' followers knew a lot about him, so they were able to embellish stories a bit, the way we often do to emphasize the greatness of someone. They believed he was so extraordinary that his greatness was recognized even before he was born. His pregnant mother was told, "Blessed is the fruit of your womb" (Luke 1:42). She must have been frequently asked, "When are you due? When is he coming?"

The reading from Hebrews does not provide specific details of Jesus' coming. Rather, it tells us why he came: "I come to do your will, O God" (10:7). That is what the people of Micah's era were really longing for—not simply a leader, but one who did God's will and who would lead them to do it too. We're now on the threshold of the fulfillment of that promise. Are you excited? Are we there yet?

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR *Reflection*

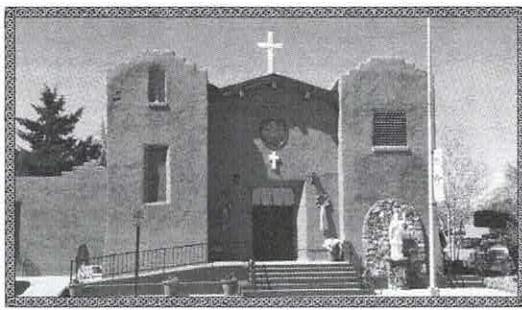
- ✦ For which of God's promises are you excited?
- ✦ Open your mind and heart to our firm, strong, and dependable leader.



*But you, Bethlehem-Ephrathah
least among the clans of Judah,
From you shall come forth for me
one who is to be ruler in Israel.*

MICAH 5:1

PHOTOS / 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)

Tuesday: 9:00AM-5:00PM
Thurs, 9:00AM -1:00PM
Closed on Mon, 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*

- |                    |                                                                                                |                                                                                                         |
|--------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>at, Dec. 18</p> | <p>+Richard Arguello<br/>           +Michael Encinias<br/>           +Freddie Archuleta Jr</p> | <p>by Debbie &amp; Kirk Jesko<br/>           by Stella Archuleta<br/>           by Stella Archuleta</p> |
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| <p>an, Dec. 19</p> | <p>SI Kailani Gomes<br/>           +Sam Britt<br/>           +Deceased of the Wood Family<br/>           +Ronnie J. Rael<br/>           (OLOG) +Bill &amp; Mary Wild</p> | <p>by Rose Cruz<br/>           by Rosa Lee Britt<br/>           by Rosa Lee Britt<br/>           by Deano &amp; Danielle Arellano<br/>           by Marjorie &amp; Grant Long</p> |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
  
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|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|
| <p>nurs, Dec. 23</p> | <p>+Inez Romero</p> | <p>by Dolores Montoya</p> |
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| <p>ri, Dec. 24</p> | <p>+Richard Sinats<br/>           +Evelyn Sintas<br/>           +Jim Sintas</p> | <p>by Pete &amp; Teri Mansfield<br/>           by Pete &amp; Teri Mansfield<br/>           by Pete &amp; Teri Mansfield</p> |
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| <p>at, Dec. 25</p> | <p>+Jonathan Fernandez<br/>           +Richard Arquello<br/>           +Agnes Archuleta</p> | <p>by The Fernandez Family<br/>           by Debbie &amp; Kirk Jesko<br/>           by Stella Archuleta</p> |
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| <p>an, Dec. 26</p> | <p>+Deceased of the Zurick Family<br/>           +Deceased of the Trujillo Family<br/>           +Deceased Family of Richard &amp; Margartita<br/>           (OLOG) +Bill &amp; Mary Wild</p> | <p>by Rosa Lee Britt<br/>           by Pete &amp; Teri Mansfield<br/>           By Pete &amp; Teri Mansfield<br/>           by Marjorie &amp; Grant Long</p> |
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| <p>ies, Dec. 28</p> | <p>+Inez Romero</p> | <p>by Dolores Montoya</p> |
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**Weekly Collections Summary: Nov. & Dec. 2021**

|                | <u>SFX</u> | <u>OLOG</u> |
|----------------|------------|-------------|
| December 11-12 | \$8,284.00 | \$ 290.00   |
| December 4-5   | \$2,026.00 | \$ 561.85   |
| November 27-28 | \$1,625.00 | \$ 384.00   |
| November 20-21 | \$1,967.00 | \$ 365.00   |

**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)
- [2.vatican.va/content/vatican/en.html](http://2.vatican.va/content/vatican/en.html)
- [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org)
- [www.catholic culture.org](http://www.catholic culture.org)

**Christmas Mass Schedule:**  
 Midnight Mass: 12am @ SFX-Clayton  
 Christmas Day: 8am @ SFX-Clayton  
 10:30am @ OLOG-Des Moines

**New Year's "Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God"  
 Mass Schedule:**  
 8am @ SFX-Clayton  
 10:30am @OLOG-Des Moines

**ATTENTION!!!**

Christmas Poinsettias are now available.  
 Please come by the office to purchase your Poinsettias.  
 Poinsettias are \$25 each.

The Priest who has been appointed administrator to SFX for the next 6 months:  
 Father Joseph Baltz

Office Hours have changed starting Dec. 16th:

Tuesdays: 9am to 5pm  
 Thursdays: 8am to 1 pm

"By his incarnation the Son of God has united himself in some fashion with every human being" (Vatican II, GS 22). This saving event reveals to humanity not only the boundless love of God who "so loved the world that he gave his only Son" (Jn 3:16), but also the *incomparable value of every human person*. The Church, faithfully contemplating the mystery of the Redemption, acknowledges this value with ever new wonder. She feels called to proclaim to the people of all times this "Gospel", the source of invincible hope and true joy for every period of history. *The Gospel of God's love for man, the Gospel of the dignity of the person and the Gospel of life are a single and indivisible Gospel*" (Pope John Paul II, The Gospel of Life, n.2).

**Lectors for Masses**

- Fri, Dec. 24- Johnna & Tailyn Kimble
- Sat, Dec. 25- Laekyn Wagner
- Sun, Dec.26-Chase Carter
- Sat, Dec. 1- Ross Carter

# Dear Padre,

## I just learned there are two versions of the Christmas story in the Bible. How can that be? What's the difference?

One Christmas story is in Matthew, and the other is in Luke. They differ on some details—but at their hearts, the teaching is the same. In both, Mary is a virgin betrothed to Joseph but not yet living with him, and Jesus is conceived through the power of the Holy Spirit. Both also have Jesus born in Bethlehem.



In Matthew, the angel announces Jesus' birth to Joseph; in Luke, Mary receives the announcement. Jesus is named by Joseph in Matthew and by Mary in Luke.

The biggest difference involves the Christmas visitors. Matthew's Magi were educated Gentiles from a pagan country. They worshiped Jesus and

brought gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, showing us at the start of the Gospel that Jesus is King, Priest, and Savior. Luke is always partial to the poor, so he has shepherds rather than Magi witness to Christ.

The Christmas stories are different because the authors and their audiences were different. But there's no need to get lost in the details. Read both accounts and allow God's grace to deepen your faith.

*Fr. John Murray, 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*.



### A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

*[Jesus] did not wait until we were good before he loved us, but gave himself freely to us. May we not wait for our neighbors to be good before we do good to them, for the Church to be perfect before we love her, for others to respect us before we serve them.*

CHRISTMAS MIDNIGHT MASS, DECEMBER 24, 2019

## Calendar

### Monday

DECEMBER 20  
Advent Weekday  
Is 7:10–14  
Lk 1:26–38

### Tuesday

DECEMBER 21  
Advent Weekday  
Sg 2:8–14 or  
Zep 3:14–18a  
Lk 1:39–45

### Wednesday

DECEMBER 22  
Advent Weekday  
1 Sm 1:24–28  
Lk 1:46–56

### Thursday

DECEMBER 23  
Advent Weekday  
Mal 3:1–4, 23–24  
Lk 1:57–66

### Friday

DECEMBER 24  
Advent Weekday  
2 Sm 7:1–5,  
8b–12, 14a, 16  
Lk 1:67–79

### Saturday

DECEMBER 25  
Nativity of the Lord  
(Christmas)  
Is 52:7–10  
Heb 1:1–6  
Jn 1:1–18 or  
1:1–5, 9–14

### Sunday

DECEMBER 26  
Holy Family of Jesus,  
Mary, and Joseph  
Sir 3:2–6, 12–14 or  
1 Sm 1:20–22, 24–28  
Col 3:12–21 or 3:12–17  
or 1 Jn 3:1–2, 21–24  
Lk 2:41–52

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