

What Is Your Choice?

So much of who we are is beyond our choice: our parents, our ethnic identity, our time in history, even some of our personality traits. We may not have chosen many of these basic building blocks, but we do have lots to say about what we fashion them into. We certainly are influenced by social groups such as family and neighborhood, church community and civic organizations, political party and national citizenship. However, we still retain the power of choice in many of them. It is on these kinds of choices that today's readings focus.

Jeremiah places two sources of guidance before the people—namely, human ingenuity and divine law. Today's first reading is a classic example of wisdom teaching. With all the possibilities available to us, to whom do we listen? Whose direction will we follow? Both Jeremiah and the psalm response answer these questions by describing the good fortune of a particular choice: Blessed is the one who "delights in the law of the LORD." The outcome of choosing this way is a meaningful and fruitful life. The consequence of the opposite decision is emptiness and barrenness. What is your choice?

At the heart of Jesus' ministry was an invitation to join and spread the reign of God. Acceptance of this invitation could at times exact a dear price. Using metaphoric language, he sketched the blessings and the woes that would follow acceptance or rejection of that invitation. Again, the decision is ours. What is your choice?

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR Reflection

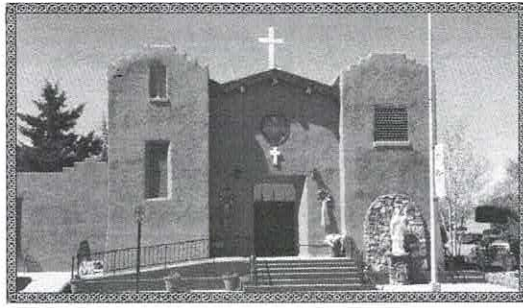
- ★ *What influences the decisions you make? Television? Social pressure? Religious tradition?*
- ★ *How often do you go along with the crowd? Why?*



[Jesus said,] "But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation."

LUKE 6:24

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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

Parish Staff

Pastor: Fr. Joseph Baltz
Business Manager/Finance: Theresa Gard
Secretary: Laekyn Wagner
Religious Education: Rose Ramirez
Adult Religious Education: Fr. Joseph Baltz

Parish Office Hours (CCD Building)

Tuesday: 9:00AM-5:00PM
Thurs, 8:00AM -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. Joseph -6 Months Prior

Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick

By appointment with the Pastor

FEBRUARY 13TH

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 2:00 PM

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*This is my body, which will be given up for you.  
This is the chalice of my blood, the blood of the new and eternal  
covenant, Which will be poured out for you & for many for the for-  
giveness of sins.  
Do this in memory of me.*

Masses will be offered **Feb. 2022**

+ 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

|                       |                                                            |                                                                                  |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ri, Feb. 11           | +Jose Valdez                                               | by Rose Cardenas                                                                 |
| at, Feb. 12           | +Barbara Campsey<br>+Richard Arguello<br>+Tim Gallagher    | by Ross & Shelley Carter<br>by Ross & Shelley Carter<br>by Ross & Shelley Carter |
| un, Feb. 13<br>(OLOG) | +Tim Gallagher<br>+Jim Montoya                             | by Debbie & Kirk Jesko<br>by The Montoya Family                                  |
| at, Feb. 19           | +Richard Arguello<br>+Maria Belen Simoes<br>+Tim Gallagher | by Ross & Shelley Carter<br>by Ross & Shelley Carter<br>by Ross & Shelley Carter |
| un, Feb. 20<br>(OLOG) | +Tim Gallagher<br>+Jim Montoya                             | by Debbie & Kirk Jesko<br>by The Montoya Family                                  |
| at, Feb. 26           | +Barbara Campsey<br>+Maria Belen Simoes<br>+Tim Gallagher  | by Ross & Shelley Carter<br>by Ross & Shelley Carter<br>by Ross & Shelley Carter |
| un, Feb. 27<br>(OLOG) | +Tim Gallagher<br>+Jim Montoya                             | by Debbie & Kirk Jesko<br>by The Montoya Family                                  |
| at, Mar. 5            | +Richard Arguello                                          | by Ross & Shelley Carter                                                         |
| un, Mar. 6            | +Tim Gallagher                                             | by Debbie & Kirk Jesko                                                           |

**Weekly Collections Summary: Jan. 2022**

|               | <u>SFX</u> | <u>OLOG</u> |
|---------------|------------|-------------|
| February 5-6  | \$1,959.50 | \$ 404.00   |
| January 29-30 | \$1,909.00 | \$ 305.00   |
| January 22-23 | \$1,648.00 | \$ 410.00   |
| January 15-16 | \$1,812.95 | \$ 273.00   |

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*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.catholic culture.org](http://www.catholic culture.org)

**ATTENTION!!!**

SFX Office Secretary Position

Is Now Open for Applications .

We will be in need of a new secretary by  
March 1, 2022

If interested, please come into the office  
or call Father Joseph to apply.

575-374-8900

**UPDATE:**

Contribution Letters are at the office.

Come by and grab yours or call into the  
office.

We bishops have the serious duty to  
clarify and correct first personally and  
then publicly... Catholic elected officials  
who publicly profess to be Catholics, but  
publicly support abortions, letting them  
know that they are not in good standing  
with the Catholic church and cause great  
scandal for millions of fellow Catholics.  
They have broken Eucharistic consistency.  
**- Texas "Heartbeat Law" Will Keep the  
Hearts of Thousands of Tiny Unborn  
Beating with Life, Bishop Michael Pfeif-  
er, O.M.I., Bishop Emeritus of the Dio-  
cese of San Angelo – September 8, 2021**

**Lectors for Masses**

- Sat, Feb 19-Shelley Carter
- Sun, Feb 20-Sandy Vaughn
- Sat, Feb 26-Sammie Wood
- Sun, Feb 27-Effie Walker

# Dear Padre,

**It seems one news story after another has reported a priest, bishop, or other person associated with the Church abusing a child. Why should I remain in the Catholic Church?**

**U**nderstandably, many Catholics have fallen into anger and despair, thinking their leaders were reprehensible hypocrites. But it's not unprecedented that some bishops, priests, and even popes have done bad things. Recall that Peter denied Jesus, and yet he became the first pope. We also recall that, except for John, all the apostles abandoned Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane.

Scripture describes the Church as "the bride of Christ." Paul said the Church is the bride for whom Christ sacrificed himself and "handed himself over for her" (Ephesians 5:25). Revelation describes the Church at the end of time "prepared as a bride adorned for her husband" (Revelation 21:2). Like a groom or bride loves a spouse—faults and all—Christ loves his bride, the Church.

Matrimony is a sacrament designed by Christ, placing a man and woman amid society, committed exclusively to each other. As an example, it shows the world how Christ also loves his Church—even with its imperfections. Clearly, multiple groups claiming to be the church Jesus founded cannot be that true Church. That would make Jesus a bigamist! Only our Church traces its succession of leaders back to the original apostles.

That some leaders have been unfaithful doesn't mean the Church as a whole is unfaithful. Like a bride and groom pledging fidelity to each other on their wedding day, we should remain faithful to Christ and his Church.

Fr. Gary Lauenstein, CSsR  
[Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org](mailto:Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org)



ONE PHOTOGRAPHY/SCHULTZ VIA THE EVANGELIST

## Calendar

### Monday

FEBRUARY 14  
Sts. Cyril, Monk, and  
Methodius, Bishop  
Jas 1:1–11  
Mk 8:11–13

### Tuesday

FEBRUARY 15  
Weekday  
Jas 1:12–18  
Mk 8:14–21

### Wednesday

FEBRUARY 16  
Weekday  
Jas 1:19–27  
Mk 8:22–26

### Thursday

FEBRUARY 17  
Weekday  
Jas 2:1–9  
Mk 8:27–33

### Friday

FEBRUARY 18  
Weekday  
Jas 2:14–24, 26  
Mk 8:34–9:1

### Saturday

FEBRUARY 19  
Weekday  
Jas 3:1–10  
Mk 9:2–13

### Sunday

FEBRUARY 20  
Seventh Sunday  
in Ordinary Time  
1 Sm 26:2, 7–9,  
12–13, 22–23  
1 Cor 15:45–49  
Lk 6:27–38

**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

*Missionary discipleship is a call from God for today's busy and complicated world, a constant setting out with Jesus... Only a Church which is bride, mother, and servant—one that has renounced the claim to control what is not her own work but God's—can remain with Jesus.*

JOURNEY TO COLOMBIA, SEPTEMBER 7, 2017

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