



JOHN HEEDORF / SHUTTERSTOCK

Then the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a strong hand and outstretched arm, with terrifying power, with signs and wonders.

DEUTERONOMY 26:8

It's All Gift

There is one word that could almost be erased from our religious vocabulary. That word is *earn*. So many of us take on a Lenten program of penance to earn God's forgiveness. Or we engage in prayer to earn indulgences that will lessen our time in purgatory. Somewhere along the line we missed the class in which the primacy of God's free gift of grace was taught. Consequently, we still might use language that emphasizes our own hard-won merit apart from God rather than freely given love as the basis of all that follows. Today's first reading refutes such thinking.

The passage from Deuteronomy contains an important creedal statement, describing the heart of ancient Israel's faith. The people were instructed by Moses to commemorate the event of their founding as the special people of God. The creedal statement was probably recited during that commemoration. The statement itself describes how God called their

ancestor; from that ancestor called forth a great people, delivered those people out of slavery, and then settled them in a land that became their own. Every event was God's work. The people did nothing to deserve it. It was all gift. Why did God choose these people, make them great, free them, settle them, and provide them with abundant harvests? Because they were good? No! Because God is good. They earned nothing, deserved nothing. It was all gift.

Why is it so difficult for us to realize that we really do not give gifts to God? It's just the opposite. When it comes to God's grace, it's all gift.

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR Reflection

- ✦ *Spend a moment thinking about all the free gifts God has given you.*
- ✦ *Let your Lenten practice be graciousness to others.*



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

MARCH 6TH

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-  
 givenness of sins.  
 Do this in memory of me.*

*Masses will be offered March & April 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*

|              |                                                     |                                                                      |
|--------------|-----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sat, Mar. 5  | +Richard Arguello                                   | by Ross & Shelley Carter                                             |
| Sun, Mar. 6  | +Tim Gallagher<br>+Eloisa Valdez<br>+Josef Trujillo | by Debbie & Kirk Jesko<br>by Judy Steen & Family<br>by Cindy Montoya |
| Sun, Mar. 13 | +Tim Gallagher                                      | by Debbie & Kirk Jesko                                               |
| Sun, Mar. 20 | +Tim Gallagher                                      | by Debbie & Kirk Jesko                                               |
| Sun, Mar. 27 | +Tim Gallagher                                      | by Debbie & Kirk Jesko                                               |
| Sun, Apr. 3  | +Tim Gallagher                                      | by Debbie & Kirk Jesko                                               |
| Sun, Apr. 10 | +Tim Gallagher                                      | by Donna Kimble                                                      |
| Sun, Apr. 17 | +Tim Gallagher                                      | by Donna Kimble                                                      |
| Sun, Apr. 24 | +Tim Gallagher                                      | by Donna Kimble                                                      |

**CONFESSION TIMES**

|       | Tu | W | Tr | F | S |
|-------|----|---|----|---|---|
| 11:30 |    |   |    |   |   |
| 12:00 |    |   |    |   |   |
| 12:30 |    |   |    |   |   |
| 1:00  |    |   |    |   |   |
| 1:30  |    |   |    |   |   |
| 2:00  |    |   |    |   |   |
| 2:30  |    |   |    |   |   |
| 3:00  |    |   |    |   |   |
| 3:30  |    |   |    |   |   |
| 4:00  |    |   |    |   |   |
| 4:30  |    |   |    |   |   |
| 5:00  |    |   |    |   |   |
| 5:30  |    |   |    |   |   |
| 6:00  |    |   |    |   |   |
| 6:30  |    |   |    |   |   |
| 7:00  |    |   |    |   |   |

Lenten Meatless Potluck  
 Will be held after Stations of the Cross on Fri-  
 days!  
 Come and join for good food and fellowship!  
 Stations of the Cross are at 5:30pm

**UPDATE:**  
 1st Class for the Spiritual Desolation has been moved  
 to Monday, March 7th at 6:00pm at Parish Hall and  
 Facebook page.  
 After the first class, classes will resume on Wednesdays  
 starting March 16th at 6:00pm at the Parish Hall.  
 Hope to see you there!

**Weekly Collections Summary: Feb. 2022**

|                | <u>SFX</u> | <u>OLOG</u> |
|----------------|------------|-------------|
| February 26-27 | \$1,657.60 | \$ 253.00   |
| February 19-20 | \$2,567.00 | \$ 319.00   |
| February 12-13 | \$1,862.00 | \$ 288.00   |
| February 5-6   | \$1,959.50 | \$ 404.00   |

**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)
- [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)

1st Synod Meeting  
 Sunday, March 13th  
 After the 10:30AM Mass at the Parish Hall  
 Lunch will be provided!

**Lectors for Masses**  
 Sat. Mar 12- Ross Carter  
 Sun, Mar 13- Sandy Vaughn  
 Sat, Mar 19- Shelley Carter  
 Sun, Mar 20- Raymond Saccoccia

# Dear Padre,

**My fourteen-year-old daughter is very thin. She says giving up food during Lent is proof that she honors God. How can I convince her God doesn't want her to starve herself? Is there anything else she can do for Lent?**

**A**ccording to the *Code of Canon Law*, at age fourteen your daughter isn't required to fast (eating only one full meal a day, no snacks); the Church requires this only of people age eighteen through fifty-nine because people outside those age groups need more than one full meal a day to maintain good health (1252).

She is, however, old enough to abstain from meat, as required of Catholics age fourteen and older. But she should replace that meat with another source of protein like cheese or fish.

Please tell your daughter that the Lenten fast is about preparing our hearts to celebrate the joy of Easter. Fasting and abstinence are not about starving or losing weight. They're about making room for God and deepening our relationship with Christ.

And the word *abstain* isn't limited to matters involving food. Your daughter can abstain from watching television, using her mobile phone except in emergencies, or using the computer for anything other than schoolwork. Prayer and almsgiving (donating money or time to charity) also are part of our Lenten practice. Anyone can safely do these things to achieve the same result: growing closer to God in preparation for Easter.

*Fr. Patrick Keyes, CSSR / 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*

*Fasting makes us share the situation of many people who face the torment of hunger and makes us more attentive to others; almsgiving is a blessed opportunity to collaborate with God's providence for the benefit of his children. And I invite you to make almsgiving a way of life and to persevere in concrete help to those in need.*

ADDRESS TO PRO PETRI SEDE ASSOCIATION, FEBRUARY 16, 2018



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## Calendar

### Monday

MARCH 7

Lenten Weekday

Lv 19:1-2, 11-18

Mt 25:31-46

### Tuesday

MARCH 8

Lenten Weekday

Is 55:10-11

Mt 6:7-15

### Wednesday

MARCH 9

Lenten Weekday

Jon 3:1-10

Lk 11:29-32

### Thursday

MARCH 10

Lenten Weekday

Est C:12, 14-16,

23-25

Mt 7:7-12

### Friday

MARCH 11

Lenten Weekday

Ez 18:21-28

Mt 5:20-26

### Saturday

MARCH 12

Lenten Weekday

Dt 26:16-19

Mt 5:43-48

### Sunday

MARCH 13

Second Sunday of Lent

Gn 15:5-12, 17-18

Phil 3:17-4:1 or

3:20-4:1

Lk 9:28b-36

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