

“Do Not Sin Any More.”

At first reading of today’s Gospel, one might think that those who brought the adulterous woman to Jesus were concerned about observance of the law. Halfway through the story, this error is corrected: “They said this to test him” (John 8:6). They thought that any answer he would provide would anger his audience. If he directed them to stone her, his teaching about mercy and forgiveness would sound hollow, and people would turn away from him. If he spoke against stoning, he would appear to be setting himself above the law, which required that particular punishment for adultery. They must have thought they had Jesus cornered.

Not to be undone by them, Jesus traced his finger on the ground. Was he listing the sins of the woman’s accusers? Was he using silence to make them feel uncomfortable? Was he choosing his words carefully? Was he simply doodling? We don’t know. But his words

cut to the core: “Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her” (John 8:7). Who would dare step forward to execute the sentence? They left, beginning with the elders because the custom was to throw the stones according to age—eldest first.

Had Jesus undermined his teaching about mercy and forgiveness? No. Had he denigrated the law? No. Did he leave the woman with the impression that her sin was not serious? No. He left her with this admonition: I will not condemn you to death, but you have to change your life.

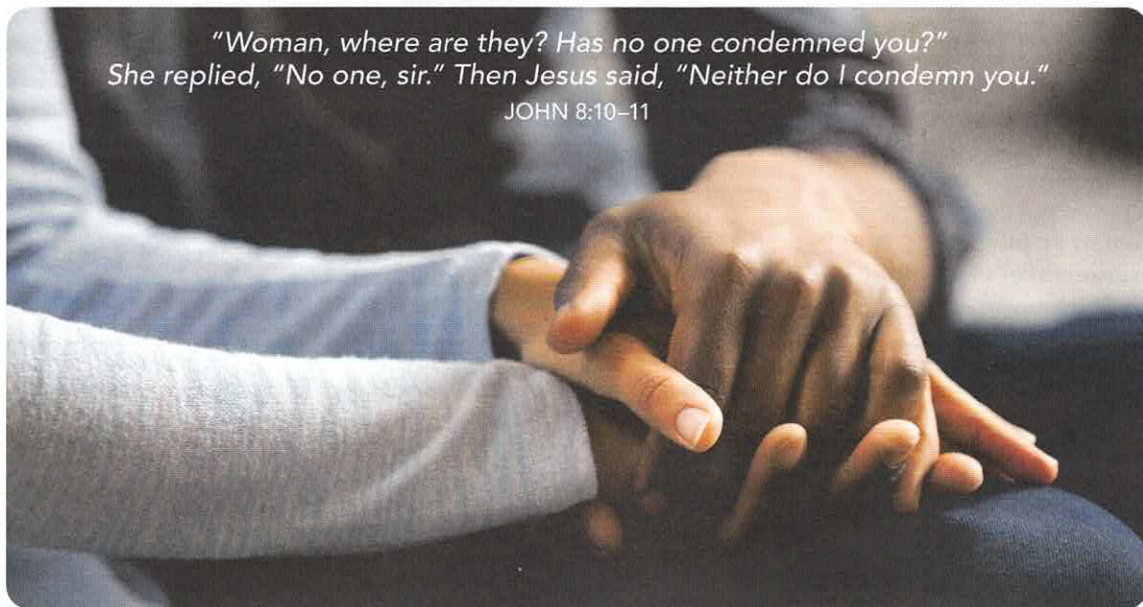
Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR Reflection

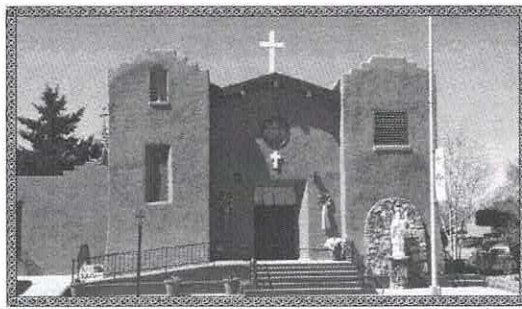
- ✦ *How quick are you to point out the failings of others? What good comes from it?*
- ✦ *What in your life do you know you have to change? Why can’t you do it?*

*“Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?”
She replied, “No one, sir.” Then Jesus said, “Neither do I condemn you.”*

JOHN 8:10–11



FZES / 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: 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

APRIL 3RD

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 April & May 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, Apr. 2  | +Eloisa Valdez<br>+Christy Lucero<br>+Irene Miera       | by Ross & Shelley Carter<br>by PeeWee, Laura & Vivian<br>by Ross & Shelley Carter |
| Sun, Apr. 3  | +Tim Gallagher<br>+Helen Trujillo                       | by Debbie & Kirk Jesko<br>by Claude Trujillo & Family                             |
| Sat, Apr. 9  | +Eloisa Valdez<br>+Irene Miera                          | by Ross & Shelley Carter<br>by Ross & Shelley Carter                              |
| Sun, Apr. 10 | +Tim Gallagher<br>+Inez Romero<br>(OLOG) +Tony Trujillo | by Donna Kimble<br>by Pam, Debbie & Andrea<br>by Eloisa Trujillo & Family         |
| Sat, Apr. 16 | +Irene Miera                                            | by Ross & Shelley Carter                                                          |
| Sun, Apr. 17 | +Tim Gallagher                                          | by Donna Kimble                                                                   |
| Sat, Apr. 23 | +Irene Miera                                            | by Ross & Shelley Carter                                                          |
| Sun, Apr. 24 | +Tim Gallagher                                          | by Donna Kimble                                                                   |
| Sun, May 1   | +Inasita Padilla                                        | by PeeWee, Laura & Vivian                                                         |
| Sat, May 7   | +Inez Romero                                            | by Debra, Pam & Andrea                                                            |

**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  
Fridays!  
Come and join for good food and fellowship!  
Stations of the Cross are at 5:30pm

Des Moines Knights of Columbus  
Fish Fry  
Friday, April 8th, 2022 starting at 3:00pm  
Des Moines City Hall

**Weekly Collections Summary: Mar. 2022**

|             | <u>SFX</u> | <u>OLOG</u> |
|-------------|------------|-------------|
| March 26-27 | \$1,425.00 | \$ 339.25   |
| March 19-20 | \$2,206.00 | \$ 248.00   |
| March 12-13 | \$2,707.00 | \$ 403.00   |
| March 5-6   | \$3,687.50 | \$ 448.00   |

**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)
- [v2.vatican.va/content/vatican/en.html](http://v2.vatican.va/content/vatican/en.html)
- [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org)
- [www.catholicculture.org](http://www.catholicculture.org)

**UPDATE:**

Class for the Spiritual Desolation  
Classes will continue on Wednesdays at 6:00pm at the  
Parish Hall.

**Lectors for Masses**

- Sat, Apr. 9– Shelley Carter, Ross Carter
- Sun, Apr 10– Sandy Vaughn, Chase Carter
- Thurs, Apr. 14– Shelley Carter
- Fri, Apr 15– Raymond Saccoccia, Ross Carter

# Dear Padre,

**If God is so forgiving, why can't I just ask for his forgiveness directly? Why do I need to go to confession and ask a man, a priest, to have my sins forgiven?**

**I**t's ironic that some claim a man cannot forgive sins. That same accusation was leveled against Jesus himself when he forgave the paralyzed man (see Mark 2:5-7). But Jesus clearly told his apostles they were to be instruments of his forgiveness. When he appeared to them in the upper room after his resurrection he said: "Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained" (John 20:23).

James the Apostle also endorses the concept of humans administering God's forgiveness: "Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed" (James 5:16).

Baptism, another sacrament administered by a person, starts our discipleship with Jesus. It cleanses us of all sin—including original sin. But even as Jesus' disciples, we are sometimes unfaithful and need to ask forgiveness. It's not surprising, then, that Jesus has given us another sacrament—again administered by a person—for the forgiveness of sins after baptism: the sacrament of reconciliation.

God is forgiving—so forgiving that when people killed Jesus, his Son, he did not punish and destroy the world. Rather, he used the death of Jesus to demonstrate just how patient and forgiving he is. Our gravest sins—murder, adultery, a life lived apart from God—require the intervention of the sacrament of penance. But even confessing smaller sins is useful. If nothing else, it keeps us humble enough to remember that all of us need forgiveness because all of us sin.

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



CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE/GREGORY A. SHEWITZ

## A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

*Going to confess is not like going to the dry cleaner's to have a stain removed....If there is no love in the sacrament, it is not as Jesus wishes it to be. If it is functional, it is not how Jesus wants it to be. Love....toward the brother and the sister who are forgiven sinners. This is the fundamental relationship.*

ADDRESS TO APOSTOLIC PENITENTIARY, MARCH 12, 2021



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## Calendar

### Monday

APRIL 4

Lenten Weekday  
Dn 13:1-9, 15-17,  
19-30, 33-62  
or 13:41c-62  
Jn 8:12-20

### Tuesday

APRIL 5

Lenten Weekday  
Nm 21:4-9  
Jn 8:21-30

### Wednesday

APRIL 6

Lenten Weekday  
Dn 3:14-20,  
91-92, 95  
Jn 8:31-42

### Thursday

APRIL 7

Lenten Weekday  
Gn 17:3-9  
Jn 8:51-59

### Friday

APRIL 8

Lenten Weekday  
Jer 20:10-13  
Jn 10:31-42

### Saturday

APRIL 9

Lenten Weekday  
Ez 37:21-28  
Jn 11:45-56

### Sunday

APRIL 10

Palm Sunday of the  
Lord's Passion  
Lk 19:28-40  
Is 50:4-7  
Phil 2:6-11  
Lk 22:14-23:56  
or 23:1-49

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