

**APRIL 20, 2025
EASTER SUNDAY**



PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- ◆ **A warm Welcome to all our guests.** We are so happy you are here to celebrate with us!! New to Our Catholic Church Parish? You will find forms at the back of the church, please Drop a form at the parish office with your information or call us at 575-374-8894 to register with us!
- ◆ The Ladies Altar Society will be distributing Easter gift bags of candy to children after the 10:30 AM Mass. (3:00 PM – Divine Mercy Novena in Church)
- ◆ First Holy Communion will be on Sunday, May 4th at the 10:30 a.m. mass
- ◆ The Novena of Divine Mercy begins on Good Friday (April 18th) and ends on the Saturday of the Octave of Easter (April 26th). The novena will be prayed in the church at 3:00 p.m. each day during this period.
- ◆ There will be No Mass and the Parish Office will be closed on Easter Monday, April 21, 2025.
- ◆ **April 27, Sunday – Divine Mercy Sunday.**
- ◆ Fundraiser for the Ladies Altar Society for Kitchen equipment: They will be raffling off \$300 worth of lottery ticket scratchers. They are one ticket/\$10 or three tickets/\$20. Drawing will be held on Mother’s Day May 11th. Raffle tickets are available in the office.
- ◆ Please Turn in CRS Rice Bowls by April 20th, If you used a (CRS) Rice Bowl as a means of almsgiving during Lent, please return your Rice Bowl to the church or parish office.
- ◆ May Rosary Devotion: Throughout the month of May, we will be praying the Rosary in the church in honor of our Blessed Mother. We especially invite you to join us for the Rosary: Saturdays at 4:30 PM (before the evening Mass) & Sundays at 10:00 AM (before the morning Mass)
- ◆ **Special thanks to the Ladies Altar Society** for preparing and distributing the beautiful Easter bags. Your kindness and service are a true blessing to our parish.

*****Thank You to Our Sponsors—We are Grateful for Your Support!*****



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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, NENM Detention Facility

www.sfxclayton.org

Parish Administrator

Fr. Joji Konkala

Parish Staff

Finance Manager: Theresa Gard

Secretary : Esperanza M. Elliott

DRE : Rose Ramirez

Parish Office Hours (CCD Building)

Monday: 10:00am—4:00pm

Tuesday: 10:00am —4:00pm

Wednesday: 1:00pm—5:00pm

Thursday: 10:00am—2:00pm

St. Francis Xavier, Clayton

Saturday Mass 5pm & Sunday 10:30am

Weekday Mass: Monday 7am

Wednesday & Friday 12:10pm

Thursday 5:30pm & Adoration

Confession: Saturday 4pm to 5pm

Our Lady of Guadalupe, Des Moines

Sunday Mass 8am (Oct 1 - May 31)

Confession: Sunday before 8am

St. Joseph, Folsom

Sunday Mass 8am (Jun 1 - Sept 30)

Confession: Sunday before 8am

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM: The Sacrament of Baptism classes are offered. Contact Fr. Joji.
SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE: Couples must contact the parish office at least six months in advance of the desired wedding date. They must participate in a Weekend for Engaged Couples and attend an introductory class in Natural Family Planning.
SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK: The Sacrament is administered upon request to those seriously ill, permanently handicapped, very elderly, and those undergoing major surgery.
HOLY COMMUNION FOR THE SICK: Holy Communion will be brought to the home. Please call the rectory or the priest when someone is ill and unable to come to church.

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ is Risen! Indeed, He has Risen! This proclamation, spoken since the first Easter, reminds us of what this day – the Feast of the Resurrection – is truly all about. In our modern world, Easter is often seen as a one-day event of bunnies, candy, pastel-colored eggs, and a sumptuous family meal. But these things alone really miss the significance that this day truly holds. Today is the feast of feasts! This is the day all creations longed for, since the fall of Adam and Eve. God and humanity are once again made whole. Christ, by his Passion, death, and Resurrection, bridged the chasm between God and humankind caused by sin. The sacrifices we made during Lent should now make way to celebrating the overwhelming abundance of God's grace and mercy. And as Catholics, we celebrate the Easter season for not just one day, but for fifty days! For one thing, as a Church we celebrate the Octave of Easter beginning on Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord on Sunday, April 20th, and running through Divine Mercy Sunday on Sunday on April 27th. Each day on the Octave is celebrated as Easter Sunday itself! Further, the liturgical season of Easter continues until its conclusion on Pentecost Sunday, June 8th.

The Scripture Readings at Mass during this time will focus on the post Resurrection appearances of Jesus, and the events of the early Church from the Acts of the Apostles. As we celebrate, it is interesting to realize that according to the Scripture accounts, none of the disciples saw Jesus rise from the dead. Much like us, it was their encounters with the Risen Christ that gave the Apostles and others (like Mary Magdalene) the courage to proclaim to the world that Christ is Risen! It is through our encounters with the Risen Christ that we receive the grace necessary to share the Good News with others. For some people, this day may mean nothing significant. But we, who celebrate today as a special recognition of the Resurrection of our Savior, know that it signifies our hope of eternal life with God. For us, it provides a perfect opportunity to be renewed in the Lord as we open our hearts more fully to him. This will enable us, in turn, to share the power and the promise of the Resurrection with others, and thus to share more fully in the Easter joy. Saint Augustine declared many centuries ago, "We are an Easter people, and 'Alleluia!' is our song."

Masses offered April 2025

+All the Departed Parishioners & Family Members
SI All the Sponsors, Benefactors & Supporters of SFX
SI Good Health & Well-Being of all Parishioners & Families

Sat, Apr 19 +Richard, Evelyn, & Jim Sintas
by Teri Mansfield
+Helen Sintas by Teri Mansfield

Sun, Apr 20
8:00 A.M. +Zander Osborn by the Osborne family

Sun, Apr 20 +Andres & Inez Romero by Debra Thelander

SI Arlo Taylor (Health)
by the Ladies Altar Society

SI Sharon Chosvig (Health)
by the Ladies Altar Society

Quotable Saints

"O Lord, may your luminous truth lead me and make me walk in your presence sincerely, with a perfect heart." St. Gertrude the Great

"Then the other disciple also went in, the one who had arrived at the tomb first, and he saw and believed" John 20:8

Readings For the Week

21 Monday Acts 2:14, 22-33/Mt 28:8-15
22 Tuesday Acts 2:36-41/Jn 20:11-18
23 Wednesday Acts 3:1-10/Lk 24:13-35
24 Thursday Acts 3:11-26/Lk 24:35-48
25 Friday Acts 4:1-12/Jn 21:1-14
26 Saturday Acts 4:13-21/Mk 16:9-15
27 SUN SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER
(SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY)
Acts 5:12-16/Rev 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19/Jn 20:19-31

Easter Greetings to all the beloved people of God,

Today, we celebrate the victory of good over evil, light over darkness, and peace over chaos. We thank God for the hope that Easter brings. We remember God's love and His promise to save us. What we celebrate today makes our Christian faith special. It is the Resurrection of Jesus. But thanks be to God—**Christ is risen! Alleluia!** The word "**Easter**" means "**the feast of fresh flowers.**" Easter is the greatest feast in the Church. Here are four reasons why:

1. **The Resurrection of Jesus is the foundation of our faith.** It is the greatest miracle. It shows that Jesus is truly God. St. Paul said, "*If Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain, and your Faith is in vain*" (1 Cor 15:14). The Apostles preached, "*Jesus is Lord! He is risen!*" (Rom 10:9).
2. **Easter is the promise of our own resurrection.** Jesus said to Martha: "*I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me will live even though he dies...*" (John 11:25-26). This gives us hope even when we face death.
3. **Easter gives us strength in a world full of pain and sadness.** It reminds us that life is a gift from God. It helps us stay strong against temptation. It frees us from fear and worry.
4. **Easter gives meaning to our prayers.** We believe that the Risen Jesus is with us—in the Church, in the Blessed Sacrament, and in Heaven. He hears our prayers and walks with us every day. Dear brothers and sisters, may this Easter fill your hearts and homes with joy, peace, and hope. Let us live with faith in the power of the Risen Lord.

A Blessed and Joyous Easter to you and your families!

April 12 and 13, 2025

St. Francis Xavier

Saturday/Sunday collection: \$4,726.00

Our Lady of Guadalupe, Des Moines

Sunday collection: \$293.00

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

Saturday, April 19—Britt and Andrea
Sunday, April 20—Beverly and Sophie
Saturday, April 26—Britt and Andrea
Sunday, April 27—Rosie and Beverly

USHERS

Thursday, April 17
Robert Montoya and Deano Arellano
Friday, April 18
Maurilio Valdez and Andre Wat
Saturday, April 19
Jeremy Fisk and Gus Wood
Sunday, April 20
Robert Montoya and Deano Arellano
Saturday, April 26
Jeremy Fisk and Gus Wood
Sunday, April 27
Maurilio Valdez and Andre Wat

Lectors

Saturday, April 19—Effie Walker
First Reading—Britt Fisk Second Reading—Mike Diller
Third Reading—Pat Podzemny Fourth Reading—Effie Walker
Fifth Reading—Sandy Vaughn

Sunday, April 20—Raymond Saccoccia
Saturday, April 26—Rosie DeHerrera
Sunday, April 27—Mike Diller

Easter Prayer of Thanksgiving

Good and gracious heavenly Father, we come before you on this Easter Sunday with full and grateful hearts for the gift of the Paschal Mystery that you showed us in the life, death, and resurrection of your Son, our brother by adoption, Jesus Christ. Bless us and all those who profess belief in your saving love. Bless also those who have yet to profess belief in you. You are God for all. We ask all this in Christ's name. Amen

Prayer for the Sick

O Heavenly Father, we lift up all those who are facing illness today. We ask that You bring healing, comfort and peace to their bodies. Calm their fears and let them experience the healing power of Your love. In Jesus' name. Amen