

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!
 - ◆ There will be no mass on Thursday, April 10, 2025! (Chrism Mass in Santa Fe)
- Holy Week and Easter Schedule:**
- ◆ Palm Sunday, April 13, 2025: Mass and distribution of Palms on Saturday (04-12-25) at 5:00 PM Mass and Sunday at 7:30 AM, at Des Moines and 10:30 AM at Clayton
 - ◆ Holy Thursday, April 17, 2025 – Mass of the Lord’s Supper at 6: 30 p.m. (Washing of the feet) followed by Eucharistic Adoration until 10:00 PM
 - ◆ Good Friday, April 18, 2025 – Stations of the Cross in the Church at 3:00 PM Begin Divine Mercy Novena in Church- Celebration of the Lord’s Passion and Veneration of the Cross at 6:00 PM – Good Friday Collection An offertory will be taken up at the Liturgy of the Lord’s Passion to support the Holy Land.
 - ◆ Holy Saturday, April 19, 2025 – **Easter Vigil Mass at 8:00 PM** (No Confessions on Holy Saturday)
 - ◆ Easter Sunday, April 20, 2025: **Mass of the Resurrection:** 7:30 AM at Des Moines, 10:30 AM at Clayton. 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)
 - ◆ April 18 through April 26, 2025: Divine Mercy Rosary Novena in Church at 3:00 PM
 - ◆ Please Join Us for the Stations of the Cross Every Friday at 6:00p.m followed by mass.
 - ◆ 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.
- 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.

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



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APRIL 6, 2025
Fifth Sunday of Lent



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 12:10p

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,

Today is the fifth Sunday of Lent. Gradually, we are coming close to the end of Lent. On the other hand, we are getting close to the paschal feast. In order words, we are gradually moving away from the zone of suffering to the zone of glory. Hence, all the readings of this Sunday give us hope and paint a picture of a very bright future for us. In the first reading, God tells us of the new things he has started doing among us and for us. He is restoring our hope and giving us every reason to continue living. This means that despite the difficulties of this present moment and season, the Lord will put a smile on our faces soon.

In today's Gospel (John 8:1-11), we hear of one particular visit to the Temple during the Feast of Tabernacles. Jesus was teaching a large group of people in the Temple courtyard when a group of scribes and Pharisees interrupt him and say: "Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of adultery. Now in the law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?" Jesus knows that the scribes and Pharisees are setting a trap, and he doesn't answer right away. Instead, he writes in the dirt. There has been much speculation over the centuries as to exactly what Jesus wrote or drew in the dirt. We simply don't know for certain since it is not recorded in Scripture. The scribes and Pharisees pressed him for an answer, so Jesus responded by saying: "Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." Her accusers have nothing to say in response to that challenge, and one by one they walk away. Once Jesus and the woman are alone, he asks her: "Where are they? Has no one condemned you?" She replies: "No one, sir," and he tells her, "Neither do I condemn you. Go, and from now on do not sin any more."

Jesus is the one without sin, the only one with the right to judge, but he doesn't. He dismisses the woman and her accusers without condemning them. This gives us true insight into the merciful nature of God. Elsewhere in John's Gospel, Jesus tells his disciples that "he who has seen me has seen the Father." In Colossians, Saint Paul, who encountered the Risen Lord on the road to Damascus, calls Jesus "the image of the invisible God" (Col 1:15), and in today's Second Reading from the letter to the Philippians, Paul says that knowing Jesus is "the supreme good" (Phil 3:8). We don't have the privilege that the disciples had of seeing Jesus in the flesh. We don't have the privilege that Paul had of encountering the Risen Lord in heavenly glory. Instead, we know Jesus through the teachings of the Apostles, through Sacred Scripture, through the teachings of the Church, and through the Sacraments, to name a few ways. In Jesus, we see God entering his Temple and dwelling among his people. And we see the true nature of God. Not a God of harsh judgment, but a God of forgiveness. Not a God of wrath, but a God of mercy. Not a God who conquers by the sword, but a God who conquers by the Cross.

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 5 +Vincent Pete Jimenez by Ross & Shelley Carter
+Levinio & Carolina Lovato by Rose Alford
+Richard & Evelyn Sintas (Birthday & Anniv.)
by Teri Mansfield

Sun, April 6
8:00 A.M. +Zander Osborn by Nino & Nina

Sat, Apr 12 +Viola M. Ruiz by Ricky Maestas
+Vincent Pete Jimenez by Ross & Shelley Carter

Sun, Apr 13
8:00 A.M. +Zander Osborn by Nino & Nina

Thu, Apr 17 Living and deceased of Ladies Altar Society

Quotable Saints

"If you wish to be like Christ, call or look always for the cross."

—St. John of the Cross

"Belief and faith are proved by works, not by simply saying that one believe, but by real actions, which are kept up, and by a heart burning with love." - St. John Chrysostom

Readings For the Week

7 Monday: Daniel 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 or 13:41 62/Ps 23:1-3- 6, John 8:12-20
8 Tuesday: Numbers 21:4-9/Ps 102:2-3, 16-19,21 John 8:21-30
9 Wednesday: Daniel 3:14-20, 91-92, 95/Daniel 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56 /John 8:31-42
10 Thursday: Genesis 17:3-9/Ps 105: John 8:51-59
11 Friday: Jeremiah 20:10-13/Ps 18:2-3a, 3bc- 7 John 10:31-42
12 Saturday: Ezekiel 37:21-28/Jeremiah 31:11-13 /John 11:45-56

April 10, Thursday: The Chrism Mass and the Sacred Oils: During the Chrism Mass, the Archbishop will bless the Oil of the Catechumens, the Oil of the Sick, and the Holy Chrism. This celebration brings together the priests of the Archdiocese, who will concelebrate with Archbishop Wester and renew their commitment to their ordained ministry and to their bishop. The Chrism Mass is a profound expression of the unity of the priesthood and the Church. Holy Chrism plays a vital role in the life of the Church. It is used in the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Orders, as well as in the consecration of churches, altars, chalices, patens, and the solemn blessing of bells and baptismal water. The newly baptized are anointed on the head, those confirmed receive anointing on the forehead, and bishops and priests are anointed at their ordination.

The walls of churches and sacred vessels used in the Eucharist are also consecrated with this sacred oil. Chrism holds deep symbolic meaning. Olive oil, rich and enduring, signifies the abundant outpouring of sacramental grace, while balsam, with its sweet fragrance, represents the beauty of Christian virtue. Oil strengthens and renews, while balsam preserves from corruption—together, they remind us of the grace that empowers us to resist sin and live holy lives. As St. Paul reminds us, "For we are the good odor of Christ unto God" (2 Corinthians 2:15). The Chrism Mass is a time of renewal for all, especially for priests who recommit themselves to their sacred ministry. It reminds us of our shared mission to bring Christ's love to the world, strengthened by the grace we receive through the sacraments. As we witness the blessing of these holy oils, may we be renewed in our own faith and dedication to Christ, carrying His light into our communities with joy and devotion.

March 29 and 30, 2025

St. Francis Xavier

Saturday/Sunday collection: \$2,314.75

Catholic Relief Services collection:\$335.00

Our Lady of Guadalupe, Des Moines

Sunday collection: \$361.00

Catholic Relief Services collection: \$67.00

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

Saturday, April 5— Rosie and Andrea
Sunday, April 6— Beverly and Sophie
Saturday, April 12— Britt and Andrea
Sunday, April 13— Rosie and Sophie

USHERS

Saturday, April 5

Gus Wood and Jeremy Fisk

Sunday, April 6

Robert Montoya and Deano Arellano

Saturday, April 12

Gus Wood and Jeremy Fisk

Sunday, April 13

Maurillio Valdez and Andre Wat

Lectors

Saturday, April 5— Britt Fisk

Sunday, April 6— Raymond Saccoccia

Saturday, April 12— Sammie Wood

Sunday, April 13— Effie Walker

Annual Catholic Appeal (ACA): We have begun the 2025 Annual Catholic Appeal (ACA) Campaign. The ACA provides approximately 30% of the funding for ministries of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe, and every parish is assigned a mandatory goal. Our assigned goal is \$10,500 in pledges this year. Remember that all paid pledges in excess of our goal will be rebated back to our parish for use in parish ministries. All parishioners are encouraged to participate and make a pledge to the ACA. So prayerfully consider your generous Support towards ACA.

"A Prayer to Our Lady of Guadalupe"

"Virgin of Guadalupe, Patroness of unborn children, we implore your intercession for every child at risk of abortion. ... Guide our public officials to defend each and every human life through just laws. Inspire us all to bring our faith into public life, to speak for those who have no voice. We ask this in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, who is Love and Mercy itself. Amen."