

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!
- ♦ Is the Lord calling you to serve in a ministry? We have many opportunities for you to get involved. Please sign up on the sheet at the back of the church.
- ♦ **CCD Classes Begin Wednesday, September 3, 2025!** The **2025–2026 CCD Program** will start on **Wednesday, September 3**, and will be held every Wednesday from **5:00 to 6:00 PM** at **The Religious Education Building**. Registration is now open! Please contact Mrs. Rose Ramirez for more information. (575)303-3755
- ♦ **Confirmation:** We are preparing to begin our 2-Year Confirmation Program for students in Grades 8–12. Whether your child is starting Pre-Confirmation or continuing into their final year, now is the time to get ready. Registration will begin this weekend, Every Sunday Classes 9:15 AM to 10:15 AM followed by – 10:30 AM – Mass attendance (required) Contact Mrs. Rose Ramirez (575)303-3755
- ♦ For adults, are you called to be part of the communion of saints and fully embrace the Catholic faith? Do you wish to complete your Sacraments of Initiation? **Register for our OCIA** (Order of Christian Initiation for Adults) **classes to receive** Baptism, First Communion, and Confirmation. Please register **by calling or visiting our** parish office.
- ♦ Congratulations to Miguel Loera and Sharon Gonzales, who were joined in the Sacrament of Matrimony on August 16, 2025.
- ♦ A special collection will be taken up next Sunday August 31st for our brothers and sisters in Gaza who are in such great need.

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

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AUGUST 24, 2025
TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



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 —2:00pm

Wednesday: 1:00pm—5:00pm

Thursday: 10:00am—4:00pm

St. Francis Xavier, Clayton

Saturday Mass 5pm & Sunday 10:30am

Weekday Mass: Monday 7am

Wednesday & Friday 12:10pm

Thursday 5:30pm & Adoration

Confession: Saturday 4 pm 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.

Catechesis Corner: Why Do Catholics Baptize Babies? (Part 5)

1. It’s About Grace, Not Just Understanding

Babies may not understand baptism—but grace is a gift, not something we earn or fully comprehend. Just as parents provide food, clothing, and shelter, they also provide spiritual nourishment by initiating their child into the life of faith.

Why do Catholics baptize infants? Because:

- It follows the biblical model of covenant inclusion.
- Jesus welcomed and blessed little children.
- Baptism is necessary for salvation and cleanses us from original sin.
- It is rooted in apostolic tradition, practiced by the early Church, and affirmed by the Church Fathers.
- It reflects the continuity between the Old and New Covenants—just as circumcision was the sign of the Old Covenant, baptism is the sign of the New.
- Infant baptism is not merely a tradition—it is theology, Scripture, and a profound witness to how God’s grace works through the family of faith.

The **Catechism of the Catholic Church** gives the most important reasons: “Born with a fallen human nature and tainted by original sin, children also need of the new birth in baptism to be freed from the power of darkness and brought into the realm of the freedom of the children of God, to which all men are called. The sheer gratuitousness of the grace of salvation is particularly manifest in infant baptism. The Church and the parents would deny a child the priceless grace of becoming a child of God were they not to confer baptism shortly after birth.” (CCC 1250)

The Importance of Infant Baptism

Baptism is not just a symbol—it is an encounter with Christ that changes the child’s soul forever. In baptism, the infant becomes a child of God, a member of the Body of Christ, and an heir to heaven. Delaying baptism means delaying the grace that God freely wants to give. Infant baptism is therefore one of the greatest gifts parents can give—a gift of faith, freedom from sin, and the beginning of eternal life with God.

<p><i>Masses offered August 2025</i> <i>+All the Departed Parishioners & Family Members</i> <i>SI Good Health & Well-Being of all Parishioners & Families</i></p>	
<p>Sat, Aug. 23 +Clare Wood by Ross & Shelley Carter +Clay Crisp by Ross & Shelley Carter +Sharon Chosvig by Chosvig Family</p>	
<p>Sun, Aug. 24 8:00 A.M. SI Kathy Hughes (Health & Healing) by Carlos & Bernie Fernandez</p>	
<p>Sun, Aug. 24 +Clay Crisp by Beverly Reeser +Matias Martinez (Anniv.) by Judy Steen & Family SI Delbert Boyer (Health) by Gary Herber Family</p>	
<p>Sat, Aug. 30 +Christobal Lucero by Stella Archuleta +Clare Wood by Rosa Lee Britt +Max Geary by Ross & Shelley Carter</p>	

Quotable Saints

“One who wants to overcome vices should fight with the arms of love, not rage.”
– St. Peter Chrysologus

Readings For the Week

25 Mon *[Saint Louis; Saint Joseph Calasanz, Priest]*
1 Thes 1:1-5, 8b-10/Mt 23:13-22
26 Tue 1 Thes 5:1-6, 9-11/Lk 4:31-37
27 Wed **Saint Monica Memorial**
1 Thes 2:9-13/Mt 23:27-32
28 Thu **Saint Augustine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church Memorial** 1 Thes 3:7-13/Mt 24:42-51
29 Fri **The Passion of Saint John the Baptist Memorial**
1 Thes 4:1-8/Mk 6:17-29
30 Sat *[BVM]* 1 Thes 4:9-11/Mt 25:14-30
31 SUN Sir 3:17-18, 20, 28-29/Heb 12:18-19, 22-24a/
Lk 14:1, 7-14

Gospel Reflections: In today’s Gospel (Luke 13:22-30), Jesus is asked if many people will be saved. He warns that a place in the Kingdom of God is not a birthright reserved to the Jewish people, nor is it given exclusively to those who hear him preach. Jesus tells the people, “Strive to enter through the narrow gate,” adding that many will not be strong enough. He then adds insult to injury by telling them that outsiders from other nations will enter the Kingdom of God before them. Throughout salvation history, God has given us opportunity after opportunity to repent and strive again for holiness. People are encouraged to go to Confession and re-claim their Catholic faith. We also acknowledge that our lives in this world are not endless. If we do not strive for holiness in the time we are given, the door will eventually close.

One crucial aspect of striving for holiness is acquiring a sense of discipline. We hear of this kind of discipline in today’s Second Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews (Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13). We know that while we are being disciplined, it seems more like pain than joy. We also know that good parents discipline their children out of love. God loves us as sons and daughters and therefore disciplines us so that we can make every effort to live in peace and righteousness. We have the opportunity each day of our earthly lives to get to know Jesus, to discipline ourselves and our children, and to strive to enter through the narrow gate. How do we respond to these opportunities? The finest measure of how well we know Jesus is to examine how well we follow his example and his commands.

We are invited to focus in a special way on the seven Corporal Works of Mercy: feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, shelter the homeless, visit the sick and the imprisoned, and bury the dead. Read Matthew 25:31-46 to understand the importance of these works of mercy, for we will ultimately be judged by how well we have responded to these occasions of need. This week, reject the temptation toward selfishness by acting on the Corporal Works of Mercy. Decide by yourself, or together with your family, that you will donate to a food bank, give away gently used clothing, or find a way to visit someone who is lonely or ill. Take the opportunity to serve the Kingdom of God now, before it is too late.

August 16 and 17, 2025

St. Francis Xavier
Saturday/Sunday collection: \$1843.00
St. Joseph, Folsom
Sunday collection: \$304.00
Assumption of Mary SFX & St.Joseph: \$853.00

Lectors

Saturday, August 23—Shelley Carter
Sunday, August 24—Raymond Saccoccia
Saturday, August 30—Sammie Wood
Sunday, August 31—Rosie DeHerrera

~Thank you for your Generosity!!

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

Saturday, August 23—Britt & Shelley
Sunday, August 24—Beverley & Sophie
Saturday, August 30—Shelley &Andrea
Sunday, August 31—Rosie & Sophie

USHERS

Saturday, August 23
Robert Montoya
Sunday, August 24
Maurilio Valdez
Saturday, August 30
Jeremy Fisk & Gus Wood
Sunday, August 31
Maurilio Valdez

Prayer to St. Monica

Dear St. Monica, troubled wife and mother, many sorrows pierced your heart during your lifetime. Yet, you never despaired or lost faith. With confidence, persistence, and profound faith, you prayed daily for the conversion of your beloved husband, Patricius, and your beloved son, Augustine; your prayers were answered. Grant me that same fortitude, patience, and trust in the Lord. Intercede for me, dear St. Monica, that God may favorably hear my plea for (mention your request here...) and grant me the grace to accept His Will in all things, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.