

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** .
- ◆ **CONFIRMATION**– A two-year program of catechesis and preparation to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation is open to students in grades 8 through 12 who have been Baptized and have received First Communion. The first year “Pre-Confirmation” class is for 8th graders as well as any older students who have not completed it. The second year “Confirmation Prep” class is for students in grades 9 thru 12. Classes begin on September 7, 2025. Classes will be held every Sunday at The Religious Education Building from 9:15 A.M. to 10:15 A.M followed by 10:30 A.M Mass attendance (required). Contact Mrs. Rose Ramirez (575) 303-3755 for more information for both CCD and Confirmation classes.
- ◆ **ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS (OCIA)**- This is a program for individuals interested in becoming Catholic and receiving the sacraments of initiation: Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation. OCIA CLASSES BEGIN ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, AND WILL RUN THROUGH MARCH 25, 2026. Wednesdays from 5:00 to 6 PM. For more information, please contact the parish office or Fr. Joji. Also, those who are interested to learn more about the Bible or the Catholic Faith may also join in this class. Classes will be led by Mr. Raymond Saccoccia.
- ◆ September 1, 2025 (Monday): Labor Day – No Mass and Parish Office will be closed.
- ◆ September 3, 2025 First Wednesday Mass will be held at St. Joseph, in Folsom at 6:00 P.M.

****Please find the “Annual Financial Report to the Faithful” insert in the bulletin.**

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

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**AUGUST 31, 2025
TWENTY-SECOND 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.

Why is silence important after receiving Holy Communion?

Silence after receiving Holy Communion is an ancient and deeply meaningful practice in the Roman Catholic Church. It allows for personal prayer, thanksgiving, and intimate communion with Christ, who is truly present in the Eucharist.

Here are the five reasons why silence matters and why we should remember to practice it:

1. General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM) says that “Even before the celebration itself, it is commendable that silence be observed in the church, in the sacristy, and in adjacent areas... Similarly, after Communion, they [the faithful] may sit or kneel and pray silently” (GIRM, 45).
*This silence allows for personal interior reflection and thanksgiving after receiving Jesus in the Eucharist.
2. Pope Benedict XVI – Sacramentum Caritatis (2007)
“The precious time of thanksgiving after Communion should be valued. Clarity is needed to foster recollection and silent prayer during the liturgy, especially after Communion” (SC, 50). + Pope Benedict emphasizes that this moment is sacred and not to be rushed or filled with distractions. It is a time to enter deeper into communion with Christ.
3. St. John Paul II – Ecclesia de Eucharistia (2003)
“The encounter with Christ in the Eucharist must be a moment of profound silence, of adoration, and of heart felt dialogue with the Lord” (EE, 25). + Silence fosters this heartfelt dialogue, which is central to the spiritual fruitfulness of the Eucharist.
4. Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC)
“To receive Communion is to receive Christ himself who has offered himself for us. This requires preparation and a spirit of recollection and prayer” (Summarized from CCC, 1385–1389).
* Silence helps one remain recollected and aware of the profound mystery just received.
5. Traditional Catholic Practice
Silence after Communion is a long-standing custom in the Church. Saints and theologians (e.g., St. Teresa of Avila, St. Alphonsus Liguori) emphasized that this is the most intimate moment with Christ, where He is truly present in the soul.

“There is no prayer more powerful, nor more dear to God, than that which a soul offers after Communion” (St. Alphonsus Liguori). We maintain the silence (most especially inner silence) because we have just received Christ Himself; It is a time of adoration, thanksgiving, and deep prayer; And the Church encourages this sacred silence for spiritual fruitfulness.

Masses offered August and September 2025
+All the Departed Parishioners & Family Members
SI Good Health & Well-Being of all Parishioners & Families

Sat, Aug. 30 +Christobal Lucero by Stella Archuleta
+Clare Wood by Rosa Lee Britt
+Max Geary by Ross & Shelley Carter

Sun, Aug. 31
8:00 A.M. *SI* Kathy Hughes (Health & Healing)
by Carlos & Bernie Fernandez

Sun, Aug. 31 +Clay Crisp by Beverly Reeser
+Lorayne Chosvig by Chosvig Family
SI Delbert Boyer (Health)
by Gary Herber Family
SI Belinda Herber by Gary Herber Family

Sat, Sep. 6 +Max Geary by Ross & Shelley Carter
+Clay Crisp by Ross & Shelley Carter

Quotable Saints

“We cannot separate our lives from the Eucharist; the moment we do, something breaks.”
– St. Theresa of Calcutta

Readings For the Week

1 Mon 1 Thes 4:13-18/Lk 4:16-30
2 Tue 1 Thes 5:1-6, 9-11/Lk 4:31-37
3 Wed Saint **Gregory the Great, Pope and Doctor of the Church** *Memorial*
Col 1:1-8/Lk 4:38-44
4 Thu Col 1:9-14/Lk 5:1-11
5 Fri *[Saint Teresa of Calcutta, Virgin]*
Col 1:15-20/Lk 5:33-39
6 Sat Col 1:21-23/Lk 6:1-5
7 SUN Wis 9:13-18b/Phlm 9-10, 12-17/
Lk 14:25-33

Gospel Reflections: It is said that when you think you have the virtue of humility it is a sure sign that you do not have it. Today’s readings center around this virtue, which is essential to the life of a Christian if we are to reach our goal of Heaven. Our First Reading today (Sirach 3:17 18, 20, 28-29) comes from the Book of Sirach which is a part of what is known as the “Wisdom Literature” of the Old Testament. The “Wisdom Literature” seeks to share advice and guidance on how to lead a life that is pleasing to God. Today’s Reading begins with “My child, conduct your affairs with humility, and you will be loved more than a giver of gifts. Humble yourself the more, the greater you are, and you will find favor with God.” Not only will the simple and humble person “find favor with God” (which is the most important thing), but such a person will also be respected by others, which must also be accepted with humility.

Jesus reminds us in the Gospel (Luke 14:1, 7-14) that we ought not to presume to take the place of honor at a celebration. In the parables of Jesus, a wedding feast is often an image for the eternal banquet feast in Heaven. The point Jesus makes is that when invited to the banquet feast of Heaven, as we all are, we ought not to make too many assumptions. The spiritual life has two extreme sins against hope. One is despair. Despair is the assumption that we are never good enough for God’s love and so are probably destined to hell. It might sound like humility to say that “I’m just too terrible a person for God to love”, but it isn’t. At its core, despair is the sin of believing that God is not good enough and not strong enough to forgive and love us. Only someone who has refused the gift of hope can believe that they have sinned enough to make God give up on them. This attitude is also thought to be what the Bible means by “blasphemy of the Holy Spirit” being the only unforgivable sin. The other extreme in spiritual life is presumption. There is a great deal of presumption today. We may presume that by being a decent person we are somehow deserving of going to Heaven. We may forget that Heaven is an invitation – not an entitlement. We may forget that Heaven is a gift – not something that we are owed. We can turn to the example of the Blessed Virgin Mary if we need an example of authentic humility. Through her “Yes” at the Annunciation, she opened herself completely to God’s will. She invites us to do the same.

August 23 and 24, 2025

St. Francis Xavier
Saturday/Sunday collection: \$3259.50
St. Joseph, Folsom
Sunday collection: \$484.00

~Thank you for your Generosity!!

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

Saturday, August 30—Shelley &Andrea
Sunday, August 31—Rosie & Sophie
Saturday, September 6—Britt & Shelley
Sunday, September 7—Rosie & Sophie

USHERS

Saturday, August 30
Jeremy Fisk & Gus Wood
Sunday, August 31

Maurilio Valdez & Deano Arellano
Saturday, September 6
Gus Wood & Jeremy Fisk
Sunday, September 7
Deano Arellano & Maurilio Valdez

Lectors

Saturday, August 30—Sammie Wood
Sunday, August 31—Rosie DeHerrera
Saturday, September 6—Britt Fisk
Sunday, September 7—Rosie DeHerrera

Saint of the Day: September 5 – Saint Teresa of Calcutta

1. Saint Teresa of Calcutta, born Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu in 1910, felt a call to serve the poor from a young age.
2. At age 18, she joined the **Loreto Sisters** and went to India in 1928.
3. She taught at a girls’ high school in Calcutta, but the poverty around her deeply moved her.
4. Seeing people suffering in the streets inspired her to leave teaching and live among the poor.
5. In 1950, she founded the **Missionaries of Charity** in Calcutta to care for the poorest of the poor.
6. Her mission focused on feeding the hungry, caring for the sick, and comforting the dying.
7. She opened homes for orphans, lepers, and abandoned children, offering love and dignity.
8. She lived a simple life, sharing the hardships of those she served.
9. Her work earned international recognition, including the **Nobel Peace Prize in 1979**.
10. Saint Teresa’s mission in India remains a lasting example of love, mercy, and selfless service to humanity.