

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- ◆ THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO HELPED TO MAKE OUR FIESTA A WONDERFUL EVENT THIS YEAR. SPECIAL THANKS TO THE L.A.S. FOR ORGANIZING THE RAFFLE !
- ◆ **Advent Penance Service (Confessions)** —will be at 6:00 P.M. Wednesday, December 18.
- ◆ Tuesday, December 24, 2024 – Christmas Eve Mass at 7:00 pm at Clayton
- ◆ Wednesday, December 25 – Christmas Day Mass at 8:00 am at Des Moines
- ◆ Wednesday, December 25—Christmas Day Mass at 10:30 am at Clayton
- ◆ Vigil Mass for Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God at Des Moines on Tuesday, December 31st, at 5:30 pm.
- ◆ Holy Day of Obligation— SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD—Mass on Wednesday, January 1st, 2025, at 9 am
- ◆ Calendars are ready to be picked up. Please take one.
- ◆ Anyone wishing to donate poinsettias please call Mary Gallagher before December 23.
- ◆ Sunday envelopes are ready for pickup. Please take yours from the back of the church.
- ◆ **Year-End Giving:** At the end of the year many traditionally donate to charities and non-profit organizations. As we approach the end of the year 2024, please prayerfully consider your year-end donations for St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church and postmark them by December 31, 2024 for your tax deductions. MY heartfelt THANKS to all of you in this parish. God bless!
- ◆ Fr. Joji wants to meet all the Lectors, Extraordinary Ministers and Ushers after the mass next week-end, on Saturday and Sunday December 14th and 15. Please stay after the mass few minutes!
- ◆ **Annual Catholic Appeal : Pledges Due.** Just a reminder that pledges made last February for the 2024 Annual Catholic Appeal (ACA) Campaign should be paid before the end of December. If you have not yet fulfilled your pledge, please make every effort to do so before the end of this month.
- ◆ **The Youth Group** meets every Sunday at 5:00 P.M. Parents are encouraged to bring their children in grades 8 through 12 .
- ◆ **We appreciate our advertisers!** They allow us to print this bulletin. Thank you for your generosity. If you would like to place an ad here in our bulletin, please contact Fr. Joji.

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



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**December 15, 2024
Third Sunday of Advent**



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 Administrator

Fr. Joji Konkala

Parish Staff

Finance manager: Theresa Gard
Secretary : Raymond Saccoccia
DRE: Rose Ramirez

Parish Office Hours (CCD Building)

Tuesday: 9:00am—1:00pm
Wednesday: 1:00pm—5:00pm
Thursday: 9:00am—1:00pm

St. Francis Xavier, Clayton

Saturday Mass 5pm & Sunday 10:30am
Weekday Mass: Monday 7am
Wednesday & Friday 12:10pm
Thursday 5:30pm
Confession: Saturday 4pm to 5pm
Adoration: Thursday 6pm to 7pm

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.

Advent Reflections: Today, the Third Sunday of Advent, is known as “Gaudete Sunday” and is marked by a rose-colored candle on the Advent wreath. The use of the rose-colored candle rather than a purple one symbolizes “the light at the end of the tunnel” so to speak – that Christmas is getting nearer. The Latin word Gaudete means “rejoice” and is taken from Philippians 4:4 in which Saint Paul declares: “Rejoice in the Lord always! I say it again, rejoice!” The title “Gaudete Sunday” thus refers to the joy that we feel as Advent is half over, and Christmas is drawing near. The season of Advent is one of preparation and anticipation. Today, as the celebration of the Birth of the Lord approaches, we are filled with joy. Despite the over-commercialization of the holidays, most people sense the need to recover the deeper meaning of Christmas.

We can do this by placing our Christmas preparations within a Christian context. From the perspective of faith, our eagerness to surprise someone with a special gift reflects God’s gift to the world of His only Son, Jesus. It also reminds us of the gifts given to the newborn Christ Child by the Magi. Holiday lights remind us of the Bethlehem star and also remind us that Jesus is the Light of the World. We are reminded, too, that we must “let our light shine” as Jesus told us to do. Songs of peace on earth can encourage us to promote peace within our families, our community, and our world. Posadas, parties and feasting can remind us to share God’s gifts not only with family and friends, but also with those who are suffering during this season because of poverty, the death of a loved one, or wounded relationships. As we begin the final two weeks before Christmas, let us be mindful that “Jesus is the reason for the season,” and glorify our Lord in all that we do to celebrate the holidays.

Masses offered December 2024

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

Sat, Dec 14 +Viola Ruiz by Ricky Maestas
 +Andrew Garcia by Ross and Shelley Carter

Sun, Dec 15
8:00 A.M. +Elaine Ann Kennedy and Dick Kennedy
 by Nancy Townley
10:30 A.M. +Andrew Garcia by Jeannie and Dave Mullins

Thu, Dec 19 Ladies Altar Society, present and deceased by
 Ladies Altar Society

Sat, Dec 21 +Abencio DeHerrera by Joe and Rosie DeHerrera
 +Norbert Marquez (2nd anniversary) by Julie,
 Nia Marquez and the Bickels
 S.I. Julie Marquez by Anonymous

Sun, Dec 22
8:00 A.M. +Elaine Ann Kennedy and Dick Kennedy
 by Nancy Townley
10:30 A.M. +Andrew Garcia by Lissa Garcia Lucht

Quotable Saints

“Be willing to do without material things rather than lose the spiritual, especially in the dear holy work that God has put into your hands.”
 St. Catherine of Sienna

“Come help decorate the church for Christmas on Sunday, December 22nd at 11:30 am. Everyone is invited to come and help.”



Readings for the week

Mon 16 Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Mt 21:23-27
Tue 17 Gn 49:2, 8-10/Mt 1:1-17
Wed 18 Jer 23:5-8/Mt 1:18-25
Thu 19 Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Lk 1:5-25
Fri 20 Is 7:10-14/Lk 1:26-38
Sat 21 Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/
 Lk 1:39-45

The feast in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe goes back to the 16th century.

A poor Indian named Cuauhtlatohuac was baptized and given the name Juan Diego. He was a 57-year-old widower, and lived in a small village near Mexico City. On Saturday morning December 9, 1531, he was on his way to a nearby barrio to attend Mass in honor of Our Lady. Juan was walking by a hill called Tepeyac when he heard beautiful music like the warbling of birds. A radiant cloud appeared, and within it stood an Indian maiden dressed like an Aztec princess. The lady spoke to him in his own language and sent him to the bishop of Mexico, a Franciscan named Juan de Zumarraga. The bishop was to build a chapel in the place where the lady appeared. Eventually the bishop told Juan to have the lady give him a sign. About this same time Juan’s uncle became seriously ill. This led poor Juan to try to avoid the lady. Nevertheless the lady found Juan, assured him that his uncle would recover, and provided roses for Juan to carry to the bishop in his cape or tilma.

On December 12, when Juan Diego opened his tilma in the bishop’s presence, the roses fell to the ground, and the bishop sank to his knees. On the tilma where the roses had been appeared an image of Mary exactly as she had appeared at the hill of Tepeyac. Mary’s appearance to Juan Diego as one of his people is a powerful reminder that Mary—and the God who sent her—accept all peoples. In the context of the sometimes rude and cruel treatment of the Indians by the Spaniards, the apparition was a rebuke to the Spaniards and an event of vast significance for the indigenous population. While a number of them had converted before this incident, they now came in droves. According to a contemporary chronicler, nine million Indians became Catholic in a very short time. In these days when we hear so much about God’s preferential option for the poor, Our Lady of Guadalupe cries out to us that God’s love for and identification with the poor is an age-old truth that stems from the Gospel itself. Pope Benedict XIV decreed that Our Lady of Guadalupe should be the national patron of Mexico and made 12 December her feast. Pope John Paul II later named her the Patron of all the Americas.

December 7 and 8, 2024

St. Francis Xavier

Saturday/Sunday collection: \$3,581.00

Our Lady of Guadalupe, Des Moines

Sunday collection: \$611.00

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

Saturday, December 14
 Shelley Carter & Andrea Naranjo
Sunday, December 15
 Sophie Arguello & Raymond Saccoccia
Saturday, December 21
 Sophie Arguello & Andrea Naranjo
Sunday, December 22
 Beverly Reeser & Raymond Saccoccia

USHERS

Saturday, December 14
 Gus Wood & Andre Wat
Sunday, December 15
 Maurillo Valdez & Jeremy Fisk
Saturday, December 21
 Gus Wood & Andre Wat
Sunday, December 22
 Maurillo Valdez & Jeremy Fisk

Lectors

Sat., December 14—Sammie Wood
 Sun., December 15—Pat Podzemny
 Sat., December 21—Shelley Carter
 Sun., December 22—Mike Diller
 Tue., December 24—Rael Rivas
 Wed., December 25—Beverly Reeser

December 12 is the Feast of OUR LADY of GUADALUPE

