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PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- ♦ **Raffle tickets** are still available at the CCD building/office. The drawing and potluck turkey dinner will be at the Civic Center on December 8. The meal is at noon; the drawing at 2 P.M. Parishioners are asked to bring salad and veggies; the Ladies Altar Society will provide everything else. Also gift baskets and baked goods will be raffled off.
- ♦ **December 9th is The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.** Because December 8th falls on the Second Sunday this year, the observance of the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary has been transferred to Monday, December 9th and is not a Holy Day of Obligation this year. Mass will be celebrated at 7 A.M.
- ♦ **Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe:** will be on Thursday, December 12th, in Clayton at 5:30p.m. All are invited to attend Spanish mass.
- ♦ **Advent Penance Service (Confessions)** —will be at 6:00 P.M. Wednesday, December 18.
- ♦ **Year-End Giving:** At the end of the year many traditionally donate to charities and organizations. non-profit As we approach the end of the year 2024, Please prayerfully consider your year-end donations for St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church and post mark them by December 31, 2024 for your tax deductions. MY heartfelt THANKS for all you are in this parish. God bless!
- ♦ **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 ad here with us in our bulletin, please contact Fr. Joji.

December 1, 2024
First 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.

Dear parishioners: The season of Advent is a four week season in which we prepare for the celebration of the coming of the Lord. It is a dual anticipation in that we prepare for celebrating our commemoration of the Birth of Jesus 2000 years ago in Bethlehem, and we also prepare for his Second Coming a the end of time. The word “advent is derived from the Latin word “adventus”, which means “coming”. Advent is a time full of reflection, excitement, and hope. Advent is also a season in which we should be particularly mindful of our need for repentance and good works as we listen to the long-ago cry of John the Baptist: “Prepare the way of the Lord”! We see certain liturgical changes during the season of Advent. Most noticeable is that the priest and deacon wear purple-colored vestments and the “Gloria” is omitted at Sunday Mass, although the “Alleluia Verse” is still sung just prior to the proclamation of the Gospel (unlike during Lent when the “Alleluia Verse” is omitted). In our church and in many homes, it is common to have an Advent Wreath.

Traditionally, the Advent Wreath is a circle of evergreen branches. Both the evergreen branches and the circular shape are symbolic of eternity. The circle, without beginning or end, reflects the eternal existence of God who is without beginning or end, and is a physical representation of God’s eternal love for us. The Advent Wreath has four colored candles—three purple for the first, second, and fourth Sundays placed in the center of the wreath for Christmas. The candles represent coming as the light in the darkness. One candle is lit each Sunday until all four candles are lit. Each of the candles represents an aspect of preparation during the season of Advent. The First Sunday, a purple candle is lit and it is the Candle of Hope. On the Second Sunday, a second purple candle is lit and it is the Candle of Peace. On the third Sunday, the rose (pink) candle is lit and this is the Candle of Joy. Finally, on the Fourth Sunday, another purple candle is lit and this is the Candle of Love. Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love—these are at the heart of the Advent season.

Masses offered November/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*

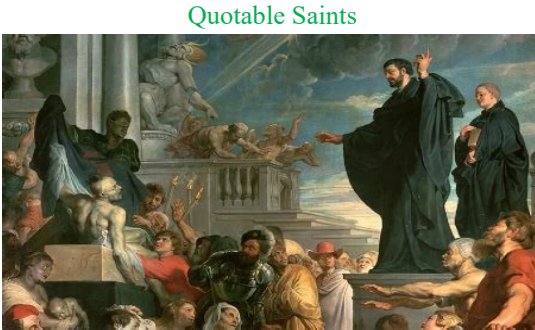
Sat, Nov 30 +Michael Barreras by Ross and Shelley Carter
+Freddie Archuleta, Jr. by Stella Archuleta
+Andrew Garcia by Ross and Shelley Carter

Sat, Dec 7 +Michael Barreras by Ross and Shelley Carter
+Andrew Garcia by Ross and Shelley Carter

Sun, Dec 8
8 A.M. +Elaine Ann Kennedy and Dick Kennedy
By Nancy Townley
10:30 A.M. +Vickie Gutierrez by Sam Gutierrez and family

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



Quotable Saints

Readings for the week
2 Mon Is 2:1-5/Mt 8:5-11
3 Tue, Saint Francis Xavier, priest
Is 11:1-10/Lk 10:21-24
4 Wed Is 25:6-10a/Mt 15:29-37
5 Thu Is 26:1-6/Mt 7:21, 24-27
6 Fri Is 29:17-24/Mt 9:27-31
7 Sat, Saint Ambrose, bishop and doctor of the Church Is 30:19-21, 23-26/
Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8

December 3, Saint Of the Day: Saint Francis Xavier’s Story
Jesus asked, “What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life”? (Matthew 16:26a). These words changed the life of St. Frances Xavier.

On December 3, the Roman Catholic Church honors St. Francis Xavier, one of the first Jesuits who went on the evangelize vast portions of Asia. Francis Xavier, 24 at the time, and living and teaching in Paris, did not heed these words at once. They came from a good friend, Ignatius of Loyola, whose tireless persuasion finally won the young man to Christ. Francis then made the spiritual exercises under the direction of Ignatius, and in 1534, joined his little community, the infant Society of Jesus. Together at Montmartre they vowed poverty, chastity, obedience, and apostolic service according to the directions of the pope. From Venice, where he was ordained a priest in 1537, Xavier went on to Lisbon and from there sailed to the East Indies, landing a Goa, on the west coast of India. For the next 10 years he labored to bring the faith to such widely scattered peoples as the Hindus, the Malaysians, and the Japanese. He spent much of that time in India, and served as provincial of the newly established Jesuit province of India.

Wherever he went, Xavier lived with the poorest people, sharing their food and rough accommodations. He spent countless hours ministering to the sick and the poor, particularly to lepers. Very often he had no time to sleep or even to say his breviary but, as we know from his letters, he was filled always with joy. Xavier went through the islands of Malaysia, then up to Japan. He learned enough Japanese to preach to simple folk, to instruct, and to baptize, and to establish missions for those who were to follow him. From Japan he had dreams of going to China, but this plan was never realized. Before reaching the mainland, he died. His remains are enshrined in the Church of Good Jesus in Goa. He and Saint Therese of Lisieux were declared co-patrons of the missions in 1925.

November 23 and 24, 2024
St. Francis Xavier
Saturday/Sunday collection: \$3602.05

Our Lady of Guadalupe, Des Moines
Sunday collection: \$365.00

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS
Saturday, November 30
Sophie Arguello & Andrea Naranjo
Sunday, December 1
Beverly Reeser & Raymond Saccoccia

Saturday, December 7
Shelley Carter & Rosie DeHerrera
Sunday, December 8
Sophie Arguello & Kelly Rael

USHERS
Saturday, November 30
Gus Wood & Andre Wat
Sunday, December 1
Maurillo Valdez & Andre Wat

Saturday, December 7
Gus Wood & Andre Wat
Maurillo Valdez & Andre Wat

Lectors
Sat., November 30—Rael Rivas
Sun., December 1—Raymond Saccoccia
Sat., December 7—Ross Carter
Sun., December 8—Sandy Vaughn
Sat., December 14—Sammie Wood
Sun., December 15—Pat Podzemny

Thanksgiving Prayer

Lord, we thank you
for the goodness of our people
and for the spirit of justice
that fills this nation.
We thank you for the beauty and fullness of the
land and the challenge of the cities.
We thank you for our work and our rest,
for one another, and for our homes.
We thank you, Lord:
accept our thanksgiving on this day.
We pray and give thanks through Jesus Christ our
Lord.
Amen.