

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS:

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE:

- ♦ 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. We encourage you to use the envelopes for the following reason: Using the envelopes helps us to prepare an accurate letter for your tax purposes. For more info, please call the church office. Thanks for your understanding. God bless!
- ♦ Note : There will be no Mass on Thursday, December, 26th , 2024; the parish office will be closed on Thursday and Friday, December—26 & 27th, 2024.
- ♦ 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!
- ♦ **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.
- ♦ **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!*****



O: 575-286-0438
C: 575-207-5333

Client Care:
575-844-261-2548
22 MAPLE ST.
CLAYTON, NM
88415



Rosie DeHerrera
Qualifying Broker/
Owner
Rhonda Aragon
Associate Brokers
(575) 374-2444
bigcountry
realtyclayton
@gmail.com



201 Main St.
Clayton, N.M.
575-374-8315
www.nmb-t.com



Michael D. Hass
Sharon K. Hass
324 Main St. • Clayton, NM
374-2211

www.hassfuneralhome.com

Burns Lumber
& Hardware
612 E. Route 66 Blvd.
Tucumcari NM
(575) 461-1241
300 North 2nd St.
Texline, TX
(806) 362-4808
2400 N. Prince St.
Clovis, NM
(575)935-1111



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 we hear the account of the Visitation of Mary to her relative, Elizabeth. This event anticipates the birth of Jesus. Mary’s journey to Elizabeth immediately followed the Annunciation of the Angel Gabriel to Mary, when she learned that she would give birth to the Messiah. Scripture tells us that she went “in haste” to see Elizabeth, who was in her sixth month of pregnancy with John the Baptist. It is incredible to think of what this encounter must have been like. Here are two women who have been called by God to bring forth children into the world who would transform history. John would lead the way for the Messiah, Jesus, who would save us from our sins. Upon Mary’s arrival, John the Baptist leaped in Elizabeth’s womb as an expression of acknowledgement of the presence of the Lord, Jesus, in Mary’s womb.

Elizabeth articulates this with the familiar words we say in the “Hail, Mary”: “Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb.” She also referred to Mary as “the mother of my Lord.” Thus, Elizabeth expressed faith that Jesus was the Messiah. And she honored Mary for her role in bringing the Messiah into this world. This leads us to an important reflection on Mary’s role in God’s bringing of salvation to the world. God chose to become man in order to save us from our sins. But He did not force Himself into humanity. He did not disrespect our human freedom in order to do so. Rather, He invited Mary to be the mother of the Messiah. And because she said ‘yes,’ God became incarnate. Therefore, we can echo the words of Elizabeth in saying, “Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled.” Mary trusted God, even though what she was entrusted with was beyond comprehension. Because of her great faith in welcoming Jesus into this world, we proclaim with Elizabeth that Mary is “blessed among women,” and most of all, give thanks for the amazing gift of our Lord, Jesus, coming into this world.

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 21+Abenicio 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
+Simona Garcia by Garcia family

Tue, Dec 24+Nash & Vera Rael by Joe and Rosie DeHerrera
+Vickie Gutierrez by Sam Gutierrez and family
+Richard, Evelyn & Jim Sintas byTerri Mansfield
Wed, Dec 25+Jonathan Fernandez by Fernandez family
+Rozann Zurick family by Rosa Lee Britt
+Britt family by Rosa Lee Britt
+Trujillo & Sintas family by Teri Mansfield

Fri, Dec 27+Inez Romero by Debra Thelander
Sun, Dec 29
8:00 A.M.+ElaineAnnKennedy&DickKennedy by Nancy
10:30 A.M. +Andrew Garcia by Rose Lee Garcia Townley

Quotable Saints

“Consider what a dignity is ours, and what a likeness there is between us and the Blessed Virgin Mary. Mary conceived Christ in her womb, and we bear Him about in our hearts.” – St. Peter Damien

“”Come help decorate the church for Christmas on Sunday, December 22nd at 1:00 p.m. Everyone is invited to come and help.””



Readings for the week

Mon, 23 Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Lk 1:57-66
Tue, 24 2Sm7:1-5,8b-12,14a,16/Lk1:67-79
Vigil: Is 62:1-5, Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/
Mt 1:1-25
Wed, 25 Is 52:7-10/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18
Thu, 26 Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Mt 10:17-22
Fri, 27 1 Jn 1:1-4/J 20:1a and 2-8
Sat, 28 1 Jn 1:5-2:2

Notes From Fr. Joji “ I Wish you all A Merry Christmas!

“Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth to those on whom His favor rests”. LK2:11-14
Christmas is nearly here!. It may be a very busy time for you, but please take the time to read the first two chapters of the Gospel of Luke. You will hear about Elizabeth, her husband Zechariah, the angel Gabriel, Mary and Joseph and the events surrounding the birth of Jesus. If you do this, you will likely be better prepared to celebrate with joy the birth of our Savior this Christmas. And now, something for the people on your gift list. Many of you have already bought or made gifts, but here’s a suggestion for an additional gift for the people on your list. “Do not be afraid.” With those four words – repeated again and again by the archangel Gabriel, our hope of salvation was born. Gabriel told Joseph not to give in to fears about what others might say, think, or do. Previously, Gabriel had spoken similar words of reassurance to Zechariah when he received news of his wife’s miraculous pregnancy. Gabriel would utter these words again, telling Mary, “Do not be afraid, for you have found favor with God.” After the birth of Jesus, these same words would be used to beckon the shepherds to come in from the fields, to adore at the Christ child’s crib. “Do not be afraid.” These same words are spoken to us each time that we face challenges in life, difficult decisions, or even our own sinfulness.

We can include ourselves in the prayer, so that we, too, might more fully recognize God’s presence in our lives. May the stars which shone so brightly on that first Christmas Eve bring the light of hope to our families; may the voices of the angels fill us with joy; and may the Holy Family fill our hearts with the love that only the Christ child can bring. ¡Feliz Navidad!



December 15 and 16, 2024

St. Francis Xavier
Saturday/Sunday collection: \$1,887.00

Our Lady of Guadalupe, Des Moines
Sunday collection: \$336.00

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

Saturday, December 21
Sophie Arguello & Andrea Naranjo
Sunday, December 22
Beverly Reeser & Raymond Saccoccia
Tuesday, December 24
Rosie DeHerrera & Andrea Naranjo
Wednesday, December 25
Beverly Reeser & Sophie Arguello

USHERS

Saturday, December 21
Gus Wood & Andre Wat
Sunday, December 22
Maurillo Valdez & Jeremy Fisk
Tuesday, December 24
Gus Wood & Andre Wat
Wednesday, December 25
Maurillo Valdez & Jeremy Fisk

Lectors

Sat., December 21—Shelley Carter
Sun., December 22—Mike Diller
Tue., December 24—Rael Rivas
Wed., December 25—Beverly Reeser
Sat., December 28—Britt Fisk
Sun., December 29—Raymond Saccoccia

Prayer of Christmas Past, Present, and Future

Gracious God,
We turn to you in wonder and praise as
We celebrate Christmas.
Remind us during this sacred season of our
collective story. May our roots extend deep
into the soil of faith and spread outwards to
share the Good News of Christ’s coming. Focus
our attention so that we remain attuned to the
sights, sounds, and sensations of the season. May
the presence of Christ be at the forefront of our
thoughts and actions as we enact each holiday rit-
ual. Fill us with hope in the continuous birthing
of Christ in our world. May we never lose
sight of the promise of the Kingdom of peace
and compassion that is both present and
yet to be. With gratitude in our hearts, we pray.
Amen.