

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- ◆ 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.
- ◆ 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!
- ◆ Thank you to those who helped with decorations and donated plants.
- ◆ CCD classes continue on Wednesday, January 8.
- ◆ The Youth Group meets again Sunday, January 12, at 5:00 P.M.
- ◆ The office will resume regular hours Thursday, January 2.

- ◆ 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!****



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December 29, 2024
The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph



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

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

Parish Office Hours (CCD Building)

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

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.

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. We are also reminded today of the importance of the fact that through the Incarnation, Jesus Christ was born into a human family, and that offers us hope for making Christ the center of our own families. God could have chosen any number of ways to enter into human history, and the way he chose was to have Jesus be incarnate of a woman – the Blessed Virgin Mary – and be raised by her and Joseph in a household common to that time. In other words, God did not just take on human form in the person of Jesus, but entered into every aspect of human life, engaging with the authentic human experience of family life. Family life is sanctifying and as Jesus sanctified his own human family, he will also sanctify ours when we welcome him in.

One’s family should be the best place to learn and practice the virtues that Paul outlines in his letter to the Colossians – mercy, kindness, bearing with one another, patience and forgiveness. It is in our families that we can experience joy, celebration, and love. The family is the basic unit of our parish, and each one is important to the whole. We need each other. As Catholics, we can look to the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph as a model for our families to emulate.

Whatever our age, whatever our role in the family, the Holy Family speaks to all of us of unity, loyalty, and humility before God. Joseph, Mary, and Jesus cared for each other and trusted completely in God. They were open to his grace at work in their lives and supported one another in times of trial and suffering. In our world today, as the family is under attack from many sides, this is just the example that can keep us focused on the ultimate goal for our families. That goal is to help each other grow in holiness and grace before our Almighty Father.

Masses offered December 2024/January 2025

+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 28 +Emma Garcia by Elsie Garcia
 +Cresenciano Garcia by Elsie Garcia
Sun, Dec 29
8:00 A.M. +Elaine Ann Kennedy and Dick Kennedy by Nancy Townley
10:30 A.M. +Andrew Garcia by Rose Lee Garcia
Mon, Dec 30 +Helen Trujillo by Elsie Garcia

Wed, Jan 1 +Vickie Gutierrez by Sam Gutierrez & family
Thu, Jan 2 +Louise Herrera by Elsie Garcia
Fri, Jan 3 +John Zurick by Rosa Lee Britt
Sun, Jan 5 +Elaine Ann Kennedy and Dick Kennedy by Nancy Townley

QUOTABLE SAINTS

“To have courage for whatever comes in life—everything lies in that”.

- St. Teresa of Avila

Readings For the Week

Mon, 30 1 Jn 2:12-17/Lk 2:36-40
Tue, 31 1 Jn 2:18-21/Jn 1:1-18
Wed, 1 BVM, Mother of God
 Num 6:22-27/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21
Thu, 2 Sts. Basil the Great/Gregory Nazianzen 1 Jn 2:22-28/Jn 1:19-28
Fri, 3 1 Jn 2:29-3:6/Jn 1:29-34
Sat, 4 St Elizabeth Ann Seton 1 Jn 3:7-10/Jn 1:35-42

January 1: Solemnity of Holy Mary Mother of God: What is the most beautiful name of Mary? It is the name that God, through the Archangel Gabriel, used in the Annunciation: “Kecharitoméne” – “full of grace”. This indicates “that she has always been and will always be the beloved, the elect, the one chosen to welcome the most precious gift, Jesus: ‘the Incarnate love of God’” (Pope Benedict XVI, Angelus, December 8, 2006). God made her so full of grace in view of the infinitely great and sublime role she was called to fulfill in the economy of salvation – to be the Mother of the Son of God. Hence, among the many revered titles attributed to her, the oldest title is “Mother of God.” Many people may still be uncomfortable with this title, but the simple explanation is this: Mary bore in her womb and gave birth to Jesus Christ. This is a historical fact. So, definitely, she is the Mother of Jesus Christ. And who is Jesus Christ? He is the Son of God, the Second Person of the Most Holy Trinity; He is True God. Mary is the Mother of the Son who is God. From the very beginning of Christianity, there has been no doubt or question about this title. The early Christians have ever since called her “Theotokos”, the Greek word for “God-bearer”, for indeed, she bore in her womb the God-made-Man. She is the Mother of God. The Eternal Word took His human body from Mary, so that this body of true human nature will be offered in sacrifice for our sake (cf. St. Athanasius) We begin the New Year as the World Day of Prayer for Peace. Yes, peace has to be prayed for. We have to ask God in humble supplication to grant us the peace that the world cannot give. It is the peace that is the fruit of complete obedience to God’s will. In this, we need not only pray. We are called to action – to proclaim and obey the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ. He was born in Bethlehem, but he must also be continually born in our hearts as we welcome Him in every Eucharistic Communion. And then, like Mary, we must also share Him with others. As everybody embraces and follows Him, then and only then can there be true and lasting peace in the world. May you all have a peaceful and blessed New Year!

December 21 and 22, 2024

St. Francis Xavier
Saturday/Sunday collection: \$3,943.25

Our Lady of Guadalupe, Des Moines
Sunday collection: \$275.00

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

Saturday, December 28
 Britt Fisk & Andrea Naranjo
Sunday, December 29
 Beverly Reeser & Raymond Saccoccia
Wednesday, January 1
 Britt Fisk & Beverly Reeser

USHERS

Saturday, December 28
 Gus Wood & Jeremy Fisk
Sunday, December 29
 Maurillo Valdez & Andre Wat
Wednesday, January 1
 Robert Montoya & Deano Arellano
Saturday, January 4
 Gus Wood & Jeremy Fisk
Sunday, January 5
Robert Montoya and Deano Arellano

Lectors

Sat., December 28—Britt Fisk
 Sun., December 29—Raymond Saccoccia
 Wed., January 1—Rosie DeHerrera
 Sat., January 4—Raymond Saccoccia
 Sun., January 5—Pat Podzemny

Dear Parish Family,

As we approach the end of another year, I want to take a moment to express my deepest gratitude to all of our ministers and volunteers who generously give of their time, talent, and treasure in service to the Lord and His Church. Your dedication in the many ministries of our parish—from liturgical service to community support—makes a profound impact, not only on the life of St. Francis Xavier but also on your personal spiritual growth. Through your acts of service, you embody Christ's love and help to build a vibrant, living faith within our parish. May God continue to bless each of you abundantly for your generosity and service.

In Christ’s love and peace,
 Fr. Joji Konkala