

**PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- ◆ Please join for the potluck turkey dinner at the Civic Center on Sunday, 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 Mass at 7 a.m**
- ◆ **Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe: Vigil Mass on Wednesday , December 11, at Des Moines at 5:30 p.m and Day Mass** will be on Thursday, December 12th, in Clayton at 5:30 p.m.
- ◆ There will be no 12:10 Mass on Wednesday, December 11th, 2024.
- ◆ **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, Dec 25, -- Christmas Day Mass at 10:30 am at Clayton
- ◆ **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 for all you are 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 a 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 .
- ◆ **Anyone wishing to donate poinsettias** please call Mary Gallagher before December 23.
- ◆ **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.

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



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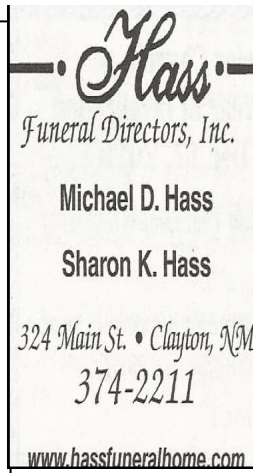
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**December 8, 2024**  
**Second Sunday of Advent**



**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:** St. Ambrose shares some wisdom on our need to prepare the way and open the door for Christ. “You see that when the Word of God knocks hardest on your door, it is when his hair is wet with the dew of the night. In fact, he chooses to visit those who are in tribulation and trial, lest one of them be overwhelmed by distress. So, his head is covered with dew, with drops, when his body is laboring hard. It is important to keep watch so that when the Bridegroom comes, he is not shut out. If you are asleep and your heart is not keeping watch, he will go away without knocking; but if your heart is alert for his coming, he knocks and asks for the door to be opened to him.” When life gets overwhelming and difficult and we find ourselves feeling a bit downhearted and miserable, these words can bring great comfort. We sometimes choose to remain stuck in our uncomfortable darkness and being stuck becomes our norm. In this time of self-focus our hearts are closed to the graces and life God desires to give us. Wrapped in the robe of mourning and misery, we fail to see the mercy, justice, and love the Bridegroom wants to bring. If we take seriously the need to prepare the way for Christ and open our hearts in preparation for his visit, we can hear God’s gentle voice calling us deep within. It beckons us to seek out its source and discover the inner calm and peace that can prevail over the darkness of despair. Sometimes our darkness is so dark that it may seem unsurmountable. Trusting in the spiritual friends who journey with us, and God’s promise may bring a glimmer of light even when it is most difficult to keep our hearts’ doors open. Sometimes, the only light in the darkness is found in trusting the faith of others both past and present. We have to trust that God has already begun the accomplishment of good work in us and that humanity is on an incredible journey to something wonderful and awesome. God is not done. When we open the doors of our hearts, straighten the paths of our lives, and prepare the way, Jesus can come with God’s simple gifts of peace, grace, and joy. Life throws a great deal at us. It is easy to get tired and confused. We have to train our hearts to keep watch, discern what is of value, and forge ahead. Not allowing ourselves to become so weighed down by things and brought out of focus is a tremendous goal to achieve this Advent season. God is knocking. Answer the door. You will see and understand life in ways you never thought possible before.

**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 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  
 S.I. Marcy Harris Charles by Carlos and Bernie Fernandez

**10:30 A.M.** +Vickie Gutierrez by Sam Gutierrez and family

**Mon, Dec 9** +Inez Romero (birthday) by Debra Thelander

**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 Ross and Shelley Carter

**Quotable Saints**

“Open your heart so that the word of God may enter it, take root in it, and bear fruit there for eternal life.  
 – St. John Vianney”  
 ““Come help decorate the church for Christmas: Sunday, December 22nd at 1:00 P.M. Everyone is invited to come and help.””



**Readings for the week**

**9 Mon, Immaculate Conception,** Gen 3: 9-15, 20/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38  
**10 Tue,** Is 40:1-11/Mt 18:12-14  
**11 Wed,** Is 40:25-31/Mt 11:28-30  
**12 Thu,** ZEC 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47  
**13 Fri, Saint Lucy, Virgin and Martyr**  
 Is 48:17-19/Mt 11:16-19  
**14 Sat, St John of Cross, Priest, Doctor of Church** Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Mt 17:9a, 10-13

**Pope Francis’s prayer for the Immaculate Conception**

O Mary, our Immaculate Mother, on your feast day I come to you, and I come not alone: I bring with me all those with whom your Son entrusted to me, in this city of Rome and in the entire world, That you may bless them and preserve them from harm. I bring to you, Mother, children, especially those who are alone, abandoned, and for this reason are tricked and exploited. I bring to you, Mother, families, who carry forward life and society with their daily and hidden efforts; in a special way the families who struggle the most for their many internal and external problems. I bring to you, Mother, all workers, both men and women, and I entrust to you especially those who, out of need, are forced to work in an unworthy profession and those who have lost work or are unable to find it. We are in need of your immaculate gaze, to rediscover the ability to look upon persons and things with respect and awareness, without egotistical or hypocritical interests. We are in need of your immaculate heart, to love freely, without secondary aims but seeking the good of the other, with simplicity and sincerity, renouncing masks and tricks. We are in need of your immaculate hands, to caress with tenderness, to touch the flesh of Jesus in our poor, sick, or despised brethren, to raise up those who have fallen and support those who waver. We are in need of your immaculate feet, to go toward those who know not how to make the first step, to walk on the paths of those who are lost, to find those who feel alone. We thank you, O Mother, because in showing yourself to us you free us of all stain of sin; You remind us that what comes first is the grace of God, the love of Jesus Christ who gave his life for us, the strength of the Holy Spirit which renews all things. Let us not give in to discouragement, but, trusting in your constant help, let us engage ourselves fully in renewal of self, of this city and of the entire world. Pray for us, Holy Mother of God!

**NOVEMBER 30 AND DECEMBER 1, 2024**  
**St. Francis Xavier**  
 Saturday/Sunday collection: \$2064.05

**Our Lady of Guadalupe, Des Moines**  
 Sunday collection: \$708.00

**EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS**

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

Saturday, December 14  
 Shelley Carter & Andrea Naranjo  
Sunday, December 15  
 Sopic Arguello & Kelly Rael

**USHERS**

Sat., Dec. 7 Gus Wood & Andre Wat  
Sun., Dec. 8 Maurillo Valdez & Andre Wat

Sat., Dec. 14 Gus Wood & Andre Wat  
Sun., Dec. 15 Maurillo Valdez & Andre Wat

**Lectors**

Sat., December 7—Ross Carter  
 Sun., December 8—Sandy Vaughn  
 Sat., December 14—Sammie Wood  
 Sun., December 15—Pat Podzemny  
 Sat., December 21—Shelley Carter  
 Sun., December 22—Mike Diller

**PRAYER IN HONOR OF THE**  
*Immaculate Conception*  
 December 8

O God, who by the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, did prepare a worthy dwelling place for thy Son, we beseech you that, as by the foreseen death of this, your Son, you did preserve her from all stain, so too you would permit us, purified through her intercession, to come unto thee. Through the same Lord Jesus Christ, thy Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Ghost, God, world without end. Amen.

**DOMINUS EST**