

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- ◆ A warm Welcome to all our guests. We are so happy you are here to celebrate with us!! New to Our Catholic Church Parish? Drop a Visitor envelope in the basket with your information or call us at 575-374-8894 to register with us!
- ◆ Ash Wednesday Schedule: Mass on Ash Wednesday, March 5, at 7:00a.m and 5:30p.m here at Clayton, and 12:00p.m at Des Moines.
- ◆ During the Lenten days daily Masses are celebrated as usual time except on Fridays mass at 6:00PM, following the Stations of the Cross and Confession.
- ◆ Be part of the church after your lifetime. Remember the church in your will.
- ◆ "LET PEACE BEGIN WITH ME" ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL. Attention! If you did not receive a brochure or pledge card for the Archdiocese of Santa Fe Annual Catholic Appeal (ACA), they are available with Mrs. Rosie DeHerrera and on the back of the church. prayerfully consider to make Pledge to the Annual Catholic Appeal. Thank you for your generosity and commitment to our faith community. May God bless you for your support!
- ◆ Parishioners! if you are homebound and unable to come to church, we have members who want to bring the Holy Eucharist to you at home on a weekly basis. Please call the parish office or ask the priest, so that we can schedule someone to meet your spiritual needs.
- ◆ First Reconciliation will be on Thursday, February 27th, the third grade students from Our Church will make their First Confession at 5:30pm please join us for mass and adoration.
- ◆ Those are at the top, please place your Sunday envelopes in the collection box.
- ◆ DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS Sunday, March 9, 2025 at 2:00 AM Don't forget to set your clock ahead one hour.
- ◆ Please continue to pray for our sick parishioners and their caregivers
- ◆ We need a new secretary by 2/28. Due to "extensive medical issues", Raymond's doctor has advised him to step down. We thank him for serving our parish.

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



ONE TEAM. ONE BANK. SHARED VISION.

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February 23, 2025
Seventh Sunday In Ordinary Time



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

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.

Sunday Gospel Reflections: On this seventh Sunday, the Church reminds us of the essential virtues and elements of our Christian life. They include mercy and compassion, love of God and neighbor, self-control, appreciation of values, moral responsibility, awareness of sin, and the sacred sense. These are marks of our spiritual progress and Christian growth. Also, they form part of the church's social doctrine. As Christians and followers of Christ, we worship a God who loves us so much that he became human for our sake and went the extra mile of love, dying an excruciating and humiliating death on a cross. St. Paul assures us in today's Second Reading (1 Corinthians 15:45-49) that as we are human and in the likeness of Adam – complete with sin – so we will also take on the likeness of Jesus, the heavenly one. That's a reassuring thought when we read today's Gospel (Luke 6:27-38), in which Jesus describes what he expects from those who follow him. We are called to see with God's eyes – to see our enemies as brothers or sisters and to love them. We are to return good to those who mistreat us. This is one of the most challenging things that God expects of us.

In the First Reading (1 Samuel 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23), we get a glimpse of God's ability to transform people. David, even though he knows that Saul plans to kill him, spares Saul's life when David has a chance to do him harm instead. His reverence for God's anointing of Saul is what stays his hand. David chooses the "higher ground" so to speak, so that centuries later this same lesson would be taught by his descendent and Lord, Jesus Christ. Often, we fall short of the standards Jesus set for us, but other times we might come close, as David did in the First Reading.

Could we take time out of a busy day to listen to a friend who needs to talk, or give us a free day to volunteer at a place of need? Do we call on reserves of patience to listen quietly when an angry friend or colleague complains to us? Because we are human, we might not live out these expectations consistently, but if we stay close to Jesus in prayer, we can trust that he is transforming us, step by step, into his image. As Lent approaches in just ten days from now, take advantage of this special season to spend more time with Jesus and more time serving others, allowing Jesus to transform you.

Masses offered February/March 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, Feb 22 +Jim Doherty by Ross and Shelley Carter

Sun, Feb 23 +Jim Montoya by M/M Carlos Fernandez

Sat, Mar 1 +Jim Doherty by Ross and Shelley Carter

Sun, Mar 2 +Marcello Lucero by Angela Montoya
 + Pita Maestas by Angela Montoya

Wed, Mar 5 +Joseph Trujillo (8th anniversary)
 by Cindy Mon

Sat, Mar 8 +Jim Doherty by Ross and Shelley Carter

Sun, Mar 9 +Michael Barreras by Ulibarri family
 +Michael Barreras
 by Leoray and Lupe Gonzales

Quotable Saints

"One whose soul is in disorder, whose mind is wandering with vain, useless thoughts, cannot pray. To pray, we must unite the flesh and its feelings to the soul with its imagination, memory, and will." -St. Frances Xavier Cabrini
 "Stop judging and you will not be judged. Stop condemning and you will not be condemned. Forgive and you will be forgiven." Luke 6:37

Readings For the Week

Feb: 24 Mon Sir 1:1-10/Mk 9:14-29
 25 Tue Sir 2:1-11/Mk 9:30-37
 26 Wed Sir 4:11-19/Mk 9:38-40
 27 Thu Sir 5:1-8/Mk 9:41-50
 28 Fri Sir 6:5-17/Mk 10:1-12
 MARCH 1 Sat Sir 17:1-15/Mk 10:13-16

Why Do We Offer Mass for the Dead?

The offering of Mass for the repose of the soul of the faithful departed is linked with our belief in Purgatory. We believe that if a person has died fundamentally believing in God but with venial sins and the hurt caused by sin, then God in His divine love and mercy will first purify the soul. After this purification has been completed, the soul will have the holiness and purity needed to share in the beatific vision in heaven. While each individual stands judgment before the Lord and must render an account of his life, the communion of the Church shared on this earth continues, except for those souls damned to hell. The Vatican Council II affirmed, "This sacred council accepts loyally the venerable faith of our ancestors in the living communion which exists between us and our brothers who are in the glory of heaven or who are yet being purified after their death..." (Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, No. 51). Therefore, just as we pray for each other and share each other's burdens now, the faithful on earth can offer prayers and sacrifices to help the departed souls undergoing purification, and no better prayer could be offered than that of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Pope Leo XIII in his encyclical *Mirae Caritatis* (1902) beautifully elaborated this point and emphasized the connection between the communion of saints with the Mass: "The grace of mutual love among 'The living, strengthened and increased by the Sacrament of the Eucharist, flows' especially by virtue of the Sacrifice [of the Mass]' to all who belong to the communion of saints. For the communion of saints is simply... the mutual sharing of help, atonement, prayers, and benefits among the faithful, those already in the heavenly fatherland, those consigned to the purifying fire, and those still making their pilgrim way here on earth. These all form one city, whose head is Christ, and whose vital principle is love. Faith teaches that although the august Sacrifice can be offered to God alone, it can nevertheless be celebrated in honor of the saints now reigning in heaven with God, who has crowned them, to obtain their intercession for us, and also, according to apostolic tradition, to wash away the stains of those brethren who died in the Lord but without yet being wholly purified."

February 15 and 16, 2025

St. Francis Xavier

Saturday/Sunday collection: \$1,781.00

Our Lady of Guadalupe, Des Moines

Sunday collection: \$325.00

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

Saturday, February 22—Britt and Andrea
 Sunday, February 23—Beverly and Rosie

Saturday, March 1—Britt and Andrea
 Sunday, March 2—Beverly and Sophie

USHERS

Saturday, February 22
 Gus Wood & Jeremy Fisk

Sunday, February 23
 Robert Montoya & Deano Arellano

Saturday, March 1
 Maurillo Valdez & Andre Wat

Sunday, March 2
 Robert Montoya and Deano Arellano

Lectors

Saturday, February 22—Sammie Wood

Sunday, February 23 Beverly Reeser

Saturday, March 1—Britt Fisk

Sunday, March 2—Mike Diller

ASH WEDNESDAY MASSES

Join us for Ash Wednesday Mass on March 5th as we begin the sacred season of Lent, a time of prayer, fasting, and alms giving. It is a powerful opportunity to reflect on our need for repentance and renew our commitment to Christ. Masses on that day will be celebrated at 7:00AM, (12:00PM at Des Moines) and 5:30PM. Distribution of ashes will take place after the homily each Mass. Remember that Ash Wednesday is a day of fast and abstinence for Roman Catholics aged 18-59.

DAILY MASS: We invite all parishioners to make daily Mass a meaningful Part of your Lenten journey. Attending Mass each day offers an opportunity for deeper prayer, reflection, and connection to Christ's sacrifice. Daily Masses are celebrated as usual time. Except on Fridays during Lent at 6:00PM, following the Stations of the Cross.