

March 30, 2025  
Fourth Sunday of Lent



**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? You will find forms at the back of the church, please Drop a form at the parish office with your information or call us at 575-374-8894 to register with us!
- ◆ Lenten Penance Service ( Confessions) will be on Tuesday, April 1st at 6:00 P.M.
- ◆ Please Join Us for the Stations of the Cross Every Friday at 6:00p.m followed by mass.
- ◆ **ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL:** 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.
- ◆ ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT COME AND SPEND AN HOUR IN PRAYER. Every Thursday We have mass at 5:30 P.M. followed by Adoration, please make use of Lenten Confessions during the time.
- ◆ All those who are Volunteering in different ministries are requested to complete “Virtus” safe Environment program, Log into the Archdiocese Website [www.archdiosf.org](http://www.archdiosf.org) at the top of the home page you will see “Links”- on the right side of the page click on that, drop down will have-Virtus-Protecting God’s Children 4.0 – You can take the training in English or Spanish. those who don’t have computer can come to the office and complete the training.
- ◆ SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND: This weekend our parish will take up the annual second collection for Catholic Relief Services.
- ◆ Fundraiser for the Ladies Altar Society for Kitchen equipment: They will be raffling off \$300 worth of lottery ticket scratchers. They are one ticket/\$10 or three tickets/\$20. Drawing will be held on Mother’s Day May 11th.

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

**St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church**

115 N. First Street, Clayton, NM 88415  
Office and Fax: (575) 374-8894 Email: [sfxclayton@gmail.com](mailto:sfxclayton@gmail.com)  
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**Parish Administrator**

Fr. Joji Konkala  
**Parish Staff**  
Finance Manager: Theresa Gard  
Secretary : Esperanza M. Elliott  
DRE : Rose Ramirez

**Parish Office Hours (CCD Building)**

Monday: 10:00am—4:00pm  
Tuesday: 10:00am —4:00pm  
Wednesday: 1:00pm—5:00pm  
Thursday: 10:00am—2:00pm

**St. Francis Xavier, Clayton**

Saturday Mass 5pm & Sunday 10:30am  
Weekday Mass: Monday 7am  
Wednesday & Friday 12:10p  
Thursday 5:30pm & Adoration  
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.



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### My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Today's Gospel (Luke 15:1-3, 11-32) contains the parable of the prodigal son, and it highlights the essential elements of what true forgiveness and reconciliation is all about. In the parable, a man has two sons. One decides to ask for his inheritance, leave home, and have a great time. When all has been spent and he has nothing left, he decides to go back home and beg for forgiveness. The twist in the story is that his father welcomes him back instantly, not caring about what or how he lost everything. In fact, he does not even wait for the son to get back into the house; he goes out to him, welcomes him back, and celebrates his return. The same can be true for us in our relationship with God.

Real reconciliation is about forgiveness and forgetting. God's unconditional love for us involves his forgiveness and forgetting the sins that we have committed when we express our true sorrow. We are asked to do the same with those who have hurt us and seek our forgiveness as well. As members of the Body of Christ – the Church – reconciliation is an important part of our lives. Lent affords us the opportunity to be reconciled to God and to one another through forgiveness and forgetting. In doing so, we realize more fully the love of God in our lives.

The Gospel parable of the merciful father reveals to us, once again, God's unconditional love for us. It is a lesson that perhaps needs more attention as we deal with hurts and disappointments, and the sins and wrongdoings of our lives. In the end, our call is to realize that true reconciliation is not only about forgiving, it is also about forgetting once the forgiveness has taken place, that we might not harbor ill will. Otherwise, have we truly forgiven?

As brothers and sisters of Christ and members of his Church, we are called to follow him to the Father. We are also to be ambassadors for Christ, helping others to reconcile with the Father. We are called not to be the resentful older brother of the parable, but to be a brother or a sister who with the Son goes out looking for the Father's lost children and helping them come home.

#### Masses offered 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, Mar 29** +Viola M. Ruiz (Anniv.) by Ricky Maestas  
+Melvin Barreras by Leoray & Lupe Gonzales & Family  
+ Vincent Pete Jimenez by Ross & Shelley Carter

**Sun, Mar 30** +Melvin Barreras by Ulibarri Family

**Sat, Apr 5** +Vincent Pete Jimenez by Ross & Shelley Carter

**Sun, April 6**  
**8:00 A.M.** +Zander Osborn by Nino & Nina

**Sat, Apr 12** +Viola M. Ruiz by Ricky Maestas  
+Vincent Pete Jimenez by Ross & Shelley Carter

#### Quotable Saints

"What God want's of you... is that you should live each day as it comes, like a bird in the trees, without worrying about tomorrow. Be at peace and trust in divine Providence and the Blessed Virgin, and do not seek anything else but to please God and love God."  
- St. Louis Grignon de Montfort

#### Readings For the Week

31 Mon Is 65:17-21/Jn 4:43-54  
APRIL - 2025  
1 Tue Ez 47:1-9, 12/Jn 5:1-16  
2 Wed [Saint Francis of Paola, Hermit]  
Is 49:8-15/Jn 5:17-30  
3 Thu Ex 32:7-14/Jn 5:31-47  
4 Fri [Saint Isidore, Bishop and Doctor of the Church] Wis 2:1a, 12-22/Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30  
5 Sat [Saint Vincent Ferrer, Priest]  
Jer 11:18-20/Jn 7:40-53

“What is “Laetare Sunday,” *Laetare*—meaning “rejoice” in Latin—serves as an apt reminder of the joy that awaits us after the upcoming darkness of the Passion. The mysteries we prepare to celebrate take root in God's promise to love. Today is a day overflowing with grace. Turn to the Lord and affirm your faith for the joy of Easter is right around the corner! Today, the liturgy offers us an early scent of Easter joy. The celebrant's vestments are rose-colored. It is "Laetare Sunday," inviting us to a serene joy. "Rejoice with Jerusalem and be glad because of her, all you who love her..." sings the entrance antiphon. God wants us to be happy. The most basic psychology tells us that a person who does not live happily eventually becomes ill, both in body and spirit. However, our joy must be well-founded, it must be the expression of the serenity of living a life with full meaning. Otherwise, joy would degenerate into superficiality and folly. Saint Teresa of Ávila accurately distinguished between "holy joy" and "foolish joy." The latter is only external, short-lived, and leaves a bitter aftertaste. We live in challenging times for the life of faith. But they are also exciting times. Soon we will accompany this only Son on His path of death and resurrection. We will contemplate the love of the One who loves so much that He gave Himself for us, for you and for me. And we will be filled with love and look upon Him “whom they have pierced” (Jn 19:37), and a joy will grow in us that no one can take away. The true joy that lights up our life does not come from our effort. Saint Paul reminds us: it does not come from you, it is a gift from God, “for we are his handiwork” (Eph 2:10). Let us allow ourselves to be loved by God and to love Him, and our joy will be great this coming Easter and throughout our lives. And let's not forget to let ourselves be embraced and renewed by God by making a good confession during this season of Lent.

#### March 22 and 23, 2025

**St. Francis Xavier**

Saturday/Sunday collection: \$1583.46

#### Our Lady of Guadalupe, Des Moines

Sunday collection: \$501.00

#### EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

Saturday, March 29—Rosie and Andrea  
Sunday, March 30— Beverly and Raymond  
Saturday, April 5— Rosie and Andrea  
Sunday, April 6— Beverly and Sophie

#### USHERS

Saturday, March 29  
Gus Wood and Jeremy Fisk  
Sunday, March 30  
Maurillio Valdez and Andre Wat  
Saturday, April 5  
Gus Wood and Jeremy Fisk  
Sunday, April 6  
Robert Montoya and Deano Arellano

#### Lectors

Saturday, March 29—Rosie Deherrera  
Sunday, March 30 —Pat Podzemny

Saturday, April 5— Britt Fisk  
Sunday, April 6— Raymond Saccoccia

**Annual Catholic Appeal (ACA):** We have begun the 2025 Annual Catholic Appeal (ACA) Campaign. The ACA provides approximately 30% of the funding for ministries of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe, and every parish is assigned a mandatory goal. Our assigned goal is \$10,500 in pledges this year. Remember that all paid pledges in excess of our goal will be rebated back to our parish for use in parish ministries. All parishioners are encouraged to participate and make a pledge to the ACA. So prayerfully consider your generous Support towards ACA.

#### Prayer for the Sick

O Heavenly Father, we lift up all those who are facing illness today. We ask that You bring healing, comfort and peace to their bodies. Calm their fears and let them experience the healing power of Your love. In Jesus' name. Amen