

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!
- ◆ We welcome Mrs. Esperanza M. Elliott, our new secretary, to our parish community.
- ◆ Please check the bulletin for the new office days and hours.
- ◆ During the Lenten days daily Masses are celebrated as usual time except on Fridays: We begin with Stations of the Cross at 6:00p.m followed by mass and Confession.
- ◆ "Deepening Our Eucharistic Devotion" – A Lenten Retreat at St. Anthony of Padua catholic church in Dalhart Texas, on March 9 - 13 (Sunday to Wednesday) everyday evening Talk at 7p.m, please make use of this Lenten Retreat. Fr. Tony of the Fathers of Mercy will be conducting the Retreat.
- ◆ Fr. Joji sincerely thanks all parishioners for their generous financial support toward the Kitchen Building Fund in various ways. Your kindness and contributions are deeply appreciated.
- ◆ **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.
- ◆ Please continue to pray for our sick parishioners and their caregivers.
- ◆ We request all our Ushers please check for your names on the bulletin before Mass and go for collections and distribute the bulletins.
- ◆ **FASTING FROM MEAT:** During the Lenten time all of us should remember personal prayers, to read the Holy Scripture and to attend the liturgy of Sunday Mass. We are called to abstain from meat on Fridays by those who are 18 years old and older. Those who are on medication or pregnant women are not obligated to abstain from meat.

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

March 9, 2025
First Sunday of Lent



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, NENM Detention Facility

www.sfxclayton.org

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: 10:00a.m —4:00p.m

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.



ONE TEAM. ONE BANK. SHARED VISION.

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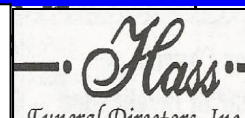


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Gospel Reflections: Dear friends! Every year on the first Sunday of Lent, we hear about Jesus going into the wilderness for 40 days to fast and pray. This gospel is meant to inspire us to make these next 40 days a spiritual preparation for Easter through prayer and sacrifice. The temptations in the desert give us an insight into the mind and heart of Jesus that we might otherwise overlook. When we understand today's gospel correctly, we understand what is at the heart of Jesus' mission. Jesus came into this world to defeat evil, to oppose all that is against God's will. The devil in the gospel today represents the evil of the world, which Jesus intends to destroy. This scene is a struggle, a battle. The battle is against evil, and every subsequent scene in Jesus' ministry is a continuation of it.

In today's Gospel (Luke 4:1-13), Jesus is led by the Holy Spirit into the desert for forty days of prayer. Prayer was Christ's usual practice to discern and obey the will of the Father, and to prepare himself for whatever momentous event was ahead of him. Sustained by only grace and prayer, Christ encounters the devil. Imagine the audacity of the devil as he tries to put God himself to the test! The devil tempts Jesus three times here in the desert. He commands Jesus to turn stones into bread to satisfy his physical hunger. Jesus refuses because one does not live by bread alone (Deuteronomy 8:3). The devil asks Jesus to worship him, claiming that he will Jesus all the kingdoms of the world. But again, Jesus refuses, stating that "you shall worship the Lord your God, and him alone shall you serve (Deuteronomy 6:13). Finally, the devil tempts Jesus to prove that he is the Son of God by throwing himself down from the highest point of the Temple because the angels would guard him.

Jesus again refuses, saying: "you shall not put the Lord, your God, to the test" (Deuteronomy 6:16). Each time, sustained by the Holy Spirit and with a command of God's revealed word, Christ can resist temptation. He is victorious over temptation just as he will be victorious over death in his Resurrection. Like that devil in the desert, how often do we put God to the test? How often do we "negotiate" with God and ignore his will in order to suit our own will? How often have we prayed that "yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory" yet turn away to seek our own glory, to demand our own power, and to build our own little kingdoms?

This Lent, let us resolve to be fortified by the same thing that gave Jesus strength against the temptations of the devil. Like Jesus, let us cultivate a deeper prayer life. Let us turn to Sacred Scripture to discern God's will for us and to hear God speaking to us. Let us rely on the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit when we are weak and thank him when we are made strong. Remember well the words of Saint Paul who wrote: "In him who is the source of my strength, I have strength for all things" (Philippians 4:13). And when these forty days of Lent are through, may we sing ever more joyfully that Jesus Christ has conquered sin and death, and offers us eternal life in the Kingdom of Heaven. Being a disciple of Jesus is taking up the battle against evil. It is more than avoiding sin. It is helping to create a new world. Following Christ is more than keeping ourselves pure. It is standing with Christ, facing the devil in the eye and saying, "Your power stops with me."

March 1 and 2, 2025

St. Francis Xavier

Saturday/Sunday collection: \$2,771.15

Lectors

Saturday, March 8—Sammy Wood

Sunday, March 9—Sandy Vaughn

Our Lady of Guadalupe, Des Moines

Sunday collection: \$584.00

Saturday, March 15—Britt Fisk

Sunday, March 16—Raymond Saccoccia

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 8 +Jim Doherty by Ross and Shelley Carter
 +Guillermo Santiesteban (1st anniversary)
 by Yanhai Santiesteban

Sun, Mar 9
8:00 A.M. S.I. Patty Postoak by M/M Carlos Fernandez
10:30 A.M. +Michael Barreras by Ulibarri family
 +Michael Barreras
 by Leoray and Lupe Gonzales
 S.I. Chelsey Miller by Gary and Katherine Herber

Sat, Mar 15 +Jim Doherty by Ross and Shelley Carter

Sun, Mar 16
8:00 A.M. S.I. Patty Postoak by M/M Carlos Fernandez
10:30 A.M. +Michael Barreras by Leoray & Lupe Gonzales

Thu, Mar 20 Living and deceased of Ladies Altar Society

Quotable Saints

"Christ urges you, when you ask for forgiveness for yourself, to be especially generous to others, so that your actions may commend your prayer."
 – St. Ambrose of Milan

"All holiness and perfection of soul lies in our love for Jesus Christ."
 – St. Alphonsus Liguori

Readings For the Week

10 Mon Lv 19:1-2, 11-18/Mt 25:31-46
 11 Tue Is 55:10-11/Mt 6:7-15
 12 Wed Jon 3:1-10/Lk 11:29-32
 13 Thu Est :12, 14-16, 23-25/Mt 7:7-12
 14 Fri Ez 18:21-28/Mt 5:20-26
 15 Sat Dt 26:16-19/Mt 5:43-48
 16 SUN SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT
 Gn 15:5-12, 17-18/Phil 3:17—4:1 Lk 9:28b-36

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

Saturday, March 8—Rosie and Andrea
 Sunday, March 9—Sophie and Beverly

Saturday, March 15—Britt and Andrea
 Sunday, March 16—Rosie and Sophie

USHERS

Saturday, March 8
 Maurillo Valdez and Ross Carter
Sunday, March 9
 Robert Montoya and Gus Wood

Saturday, March 15
 Gus Wood and Jeremy Fisk
Sunday, March 16
 Robert Montoya and Deano Arrellano

St. Anthony of Padua Parish Mission
 March 9 -13 @ 7:00 p.m.
 In the Sanctuary

"Deepening Our Eucharistic Devotion"
 Evening Talk at 7 p.m. with Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

Daily Confessions 6:00 - 6:45 p.m.
 Sunday-Wednesday and 8 p.m. following each evening talk.

Sunday: "Wasting Time with the Lord" (a talk on Eucharistic adoration)
 Monday: "The Eucharist Aiding Family Holiness" (a talk on family life)
 Tuesday: "Eucharistic Miracles: A Deepened Eucharistic Belief" (a talk on the Eucharistic Miracles of Lanciano and Solkolka)
 Wednesday: "Breathing Fire Like Lions" (a talk on receiving Holy Communion)
 Thursday: "Mary the Mother of the Eucharist"

Fr. Tony, of the Fathers of Mercy, was ordained a priest in 2005. He has traveled and preached at parishes since 2007. His travels have taken him all over the United States, into Canada and Australia. The primary apostolate of the Fathers of Mercy is to conduct parish missions and retreats in effort to re-evangelize and revitalize the faith of those who seek God's Truth and Mercy.