

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!
- ◆ Join us on Sunday, May 18, for the Blessing of the Kitchen, followed by a Potluck Lunch! The Ladies Altar Society will be providing Pulled Pork, Sausage, and drinks. Side dishes and Desserts are welcome. Everyone is warmly invited! Come and be part of this joyful celebration as we share fellowship together as a parish family.
- ◆ **Annual Catholic Appeal 2025:** Our parish goal is \$10,500 — and we need everyone's help to reach it. Please make your pledges and be part of this mission of love and service.
- ◆ We are in need of ushers 18 years of age and older for weekend Masses and Holy Days of Obligation. Be the first to welcome our Parishioners and visitors to mass, assist with collections, and distribute weekly bulletins, especially Saturday, 5:00 PM and Sunday, 10:30 AM Masses. Please sign up on the sheet back of the church.
- ◆ Congratulations to Zoe Bickel, Arianna Vigil, Marcus Trevino, Abigail Poling, and Emily Poling for making their First Holy Communion.
- ◆ COME AND PRAY THE ROSARY WITH US : Saturday at 4:30 pm and Sunday 10a.m in the church during the month of May
- ◆ All those who are Volunteering in different ministries are requested to complete "Virtus" safe environment program. Log into the Archdiocese Website www.archdiosf.org All participants must have a background check and current VIRTUS Certificate on file in the Parish Office.
- ◆ "Thank you to all who donated Easter lilies. May God bless you and your families for your generosity and love in beautifying our church during this joyful Easter season."
- ◆ Thanks to all the men who helped move items from the parish hall. Your help is greatly appreciated. God bless you all.
- ◆ Finance Council Meeting will be on Wednesday, May 21, at 6:00p.m

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



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May 11, 2025
Fourth Sunday of Easter



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: 10:00am —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 12:10pm

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.

Gospel Reflections: The Fourth Sunday of Easter is commonly referred to as “Good Shepherd Sunday.” No matter which liturgical cycle we are in, the Gospel will always be about Jesus as the Good Shepherd, and the accompanying readings relate to this as well. So great is our Good Shepherd that he knows each of us by name and gives us eternal life. The First Reading, from the Acts of the Apostles (Acts 13:14, 43-52), presents an example of how Saint Paul exercised his ministry throughout Asia Minor and Greece. In whatever city he entered, he would first go to the synagogue and preach to the Jewish population. They would normally listen to Paul for a couple of weeks, but then they would become jealous and reject him. Paul would then reach out to the pagans (also known as Gentiles), the non-Jews. He would often preach to them in the market place where crowds would gather during the day. The Responsorial Psalm today (Psalm 100) celebrates the fact that Jesus is our Good Shepherd, and we are the sheep of his flock. This is the theme reflected in the Gospel today (John 10:27-30). We should keep in mind that sheep are not the most intelligent of animals. Left to themselves, they often graze on hillsides that are too steep, and they fall over on their backs. Once they have fallen over, the sheep cannot right themselves. If they were to be left there, they would die of thirst and starvation or be killed and eaten by a predator. Because of this, the shepherd has to keep a constant eye on the sheep lest they place themselves in danger. Listening to today’s Gospel, we must not resent Jesus for referring to us as sheep! Let’s face it, when left to our own devices, we, too, can wander off and risk becoming lost. We need Jesus, the Good Shepherd, in our lives. In today’s Gospel, Jesus states that no one can take a sheep (us!) from his hand or from the Father’s hand because he and the Father are one. By the grace of God, we have Jesus the Good Shepherd grasping our hand, bringing us back to him time and time again - forgiving us, making us new, and re-gifting us with salvation. Wander as we do, and as lost as we might become, Jesus promises that he will leave the ninety-nine and come and find us. Keep in mind, however, that God will never force himself upon us any more than the evil one can force himself upon us. It is always up to us to choose good over evil, light over darkness, and life over death. We may not be smart sheep, but we can be wise disciples. Wise enough to know that embracing Jesus and his ways and his truth bring us to the joys of eternal life that we strive for.

Masses offered May 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, May 10+Viola M. Ruiz by Ricky Maestas
 +Michael Alford by Rose Alford
 +Agnes Archuleta by Stella Archuleta

Sun, May 11+Lillie Barreras by the Ulibarri Family
 +Sharon Chosvig by the Chosvig Family

Thu, May 15 Living and deceased of Ladies Altar Society

Sat, May 17 +Sharon Chosvig by Ross and Shelley Carter
 +Arlene Webster by Ross and Shelley Carter

Quotable Saints

“He prays best who does not know that he is praying.” – St. Anthony

“Ask God simply to fill you with charity, the greatest of all virtues; with it you can accomplish what you desire.” – St. Vincent Ferrer (1350-1419)

Readings For the Week

12 Mon Easter Saints Nereus and Achilleus, Martyrs Acts 11:1-18/Jn 10:1-10
 13 Tue Easter [Our Lady of Fatima] Acts 11:19-26/Jn 10:22-30
 14 Wed Saint Matthias, Apostle Feast Acts 1:15-17, 20-26/Jn 15:9-17
 15 Thu Easter [USA: Saint Isidore] Acts 13:13-25/Jn 13:16-20
 16 Fri Easter Acts 13:26-33/Jn 14:1-6 (283)
 17 Sat Easter Acts 13:44-52/Jn 14:7-14

Introduction to the Roman Missal

The Roman Missal provides the rules for celebrating Holy Mass, including gestures and postures for the priest, deacon, ministers, and laity. These instructions, known as rubrics (from the Latin word for "red"), are printed in red, while the prayers are in black ("say the black, do the red"). The primary governing document, the * General Instruction of the Roman Missal* (GIRM), details these guidelines, particularly in section 42.

The Role of Gestures and Postures in the Liturgy The GIRM emphasizes that gestures and postures should enhance the beauty of the liturgy, clarify its meaning, and foster active participation. Uniformity in posture reflects the unity of the faithful, but many today are unaware of the correct actions and inadvertently engage in practices that are not prescribed.

Key Liturgical Practices According to the Roman Missal

1. Bowing at Divine Names: All should bow their heads when Jesus, the Blessed Virgin Mary, or the saint of the day is mentioned.
2. Greeting Posture: During "The Lord be with you", the priest extends and joins his hands. Laity should not mimic this gesture.
3. Lifting Hearts, Not Hands: During "Lift up your hearts", the laity’s response is verbal only—hands should remain lowered.
4. Gospel Proclamation: When proclaiming the Gospel, the deacon does not extend his hands, and the laity should avoid imitating this gesture.

Liturgical Discipline: Canon law prohibits deacons and laypersons from reciting priest-only prayers (e.g., the Eucharistic Prayer) or using priestly gestures, as this is a grave abuse.

Conclusion

Imitating the priest’s gestures is not in line with liturgical norms.

By respecting the distinct roles of clergy and laity, the Mass remains a reverent and unified act of worship.

April 26 and 27, 2025

St. Francis Xavier

Saturday/Sunday collection: \$1905.25

Our Lady of Guadalupe, Des Moines

Sunday collection: \$501.00

Lectors

Saturday, May 10—Sammie Wood

Sunday, May 11—Sandy Vaughn

Saturday, May 17—Rosie DeHerrera

Sunday, May 18—Raymond Saccoccia

Mother’s Day Prayer

Heavenly Father, from the beginning you have chosen to entrust the human person to mothers in a special way. We thank and praise you for the gift of mothers; for their tenderness, care, and compassion, for their intuition and encouragement, for commitment and sacrifice. Bless all mothers this day. Keep, strengthen, and refresh them in your loving care. May they be blessed by our open-hearted love and gratitude. Amen.



USHERS

Saturday, May 10

Robert Montoya & Jeremy Fisk

Sunday, May 11

Maurilio Valdez & Deano Arellano

Saturday, May 17

Robert Montoya & Jeremy Fisk

Sunday, May 18

Andre Wat & Deano Arellano

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