

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!
- ♦ Is the Lord calling you to serve in a ministry? We have many opportunities for you to get involved. Please sign up on the sheet at the back of the church.
- ♦ **CCD Classes:** The **2025–2026 CCD Program** will be held every Wednesday from **5:00 to 6:00 PM** at **The Religious Education Building. Registration for the classes is still ongoing.**
- ♦ **CONFIRMATION**– Classes will be held every Sunday at The Religious Education Building from 9:15 A.M. to 10:15 A.M followed by 10:30 A.M Mass attendance (required). Contact Mrs. Rose Ramirez (575) 303-3755 for more information for both CCD and Confirmation classes.
- ♦ **ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS (OCIA)-** OCIA Classes have begun. Classes are held on Wednesdays from 5:00 to 6 PM. For more information, please contact the parish office or Fr. Joji. Also, those who are interested to learn more about the Bible or the Catholic Faith may also join in this class. Classes will be led by Mr. Raymond Saccoccia.
- ♦ **There will be no Mass on Friday, September 19.**
- ♦ **Catechetical Sunday – September 21**
There will be the Commissioning of CCD Teachers and a special blessing for all children after the Final Blessing.
- ♦ **Saturday, September 27**– There will be a Seminar on Catechesis from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. with Sr. Mary Edna, Faith Formation Director. All CCD teachers and confirmation teachers are required to attend. Lunch will be provided.
- ♦ Fr. Joji would like to schedule family visits on the first, third, and fifth Sundays of each month, after the 10:30 am Mass. On those Sundays, he plans to visit families, spend time with them, and join them for a meal. There will be a sign-up sheet at the back of the church.

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

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SEPTEMBER 14, 2025 THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS



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 —2:00pm

Wednesday: 1:00pm—5:00pm

Thursday: 10:00am—4:00pm

St. Francis Xavier, Clayton

Saturday Mass 5pm & Sunday 10:30am

Weekday Mass: Monday 7am

Wednesday & Friday 12:10pm

Thursday 5:30pm & Adoration

Confession: Saturday 4 pm 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.

Why Do We Celebrate the Exaltation of the Holy Cross?

We celebrate the Exaltation of the Holy Cross because the Cross, once a symbol of shame and death, has become the sign of our salvation and victory in Christ. What was once an instrument of execution is now lifted high as the tree of life and the throne of love. Through the Cross, Christ conquered sin and death, and through the Cross, we are given the hope of eternal life. This feast is not only about remembering the suffering and sacrifice of Jesus, but also about exalting the triumph of His love, which transformed human weakness into divine victory. At the same time, the Church recalls two important historical events connected to the Cross:

The discovery of the True Cross (around 320 AD) by Saint Helena, the mother of Emperor Constantine. Tradition tells us that she uncovered the Cross of Christ, Calvary, and the Tomb of the Lord, which had been buried under a pagan temple by the Romans. The dedication of the Basilica of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem in 335 AD, built by Emperor Constantine on the site of Calvary and the Resurrection. This holy church—still standing today—holds within it the hill of Golgotha, the empty Tomb of Christ, and the cistern where Saint Helena preserved the instruments of the Passion.

Later history tells us that the original structures, the Martyrium and the Calvarium, were destroyed by the Persians in 614. The current Church of the Holy Sepulcher, built by the Crusaders in 1149, continues to safeguard the most sacred sites of our faith. Yet, more than the history, the feast is a celebration of God’s greatest work: the saving death of Jesus on the Cross and His glorious Resurrection, by which death was defeated, and the gates of Heaven were opened.

This beautiful hymn of praise to Jesus Christ conveys the amazing reality of His sacrifice. Jesus is fully God, yet He took on the form of man and became a servant of God and of humanity. In other words, He offered Himself completely. Being God, He did not have to come to earth and die on the Cross, but He freely chose to give Himself for our sake. He humbled Himself and was obedient to God’s will, even to the point of dying on that horrible instrument of execution—the Cross. But that is not the end of the story. Though He was obedient unto death, through His death He conquered death. He rose again, and in doing so offered healing from the poisonous effects of sin. Because of this, God exalted Him—lifting Him high, like the bronze serpent in the desert—and made Him the center of our worship.

The liturgy of this day captures it beautifully. The Entrance Antiphon proclaims: "We should glory in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, for he is our salvation, our life and our resurrection: through him we are saved and made free." Therefore, every year on September 14, the Church lifts high the Cross—not as a sign of sorrow and defeat, but as the banner of victory, redemption, and everlasting life. “We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You, because by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.”

<i>Masses offered September 2025</i>			<i>Quotable Saints</i>
<i>+All the Departed Parishioners & Family Members</i>			<i>“Apart from the cross there is no other ladder by which we may get to heaven.” ~Saint Rose of Lima</i>
<i><u>SI Good Health & Well-Being of all Parishioners & Families</u></i>			
Sat, Sep. 13	+Viola M. Ruiz +Clay Crisp +Buster Davis	by Ricky Maestas by Ross & Shelley Carter by Ross & Shelley Carter	<i><u>Readings For the Week</u></i> 15 Mon Our Lady of Sorrows Memorial 1 Tm 2:1-8/Jn 19:25-27 or Lk 2:33-35 16 Tue Saints Cornelius, Pope, and Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs Memorial 1 Tm 3:1-13/Lk 7:11-17 17 Wed <i>[Saint Robert Bellarmine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church; Saint Hildegard of Bingen, Virgin and Doctor of the Church]</i> 1 Tm 3:14-16/Lk 7:31-35 18 Thu 1 Tm 4:12-16/Lk 7:36-50 19 Fri <i>[Saint Januarius, Bishop and Martyr]</i> 1 Tm 6:2c-12/Lk 8:1-3 20 Sat Saints Andrew Kim Tae-gŏn, Priest, and Paul Chông Ha-sang, and Companions, Martyrs Memorial 1 Tm 6:13-16/Lk 8:4-15 21 SUN Am 8:4-7/1 Tm 2:1-8/Lk 16:1-13 or 16:10-13
Sun, Sep. 14	+Clay Crisp	by Chip & Sammie Wood	
Thu, Sep. 18	Living and deceased of Ladies altar Society		
Sat, Sep. 20	+Clay Crisp +Buster Davis +Jody Irwin	by Ross & Shelley Carter by Ross & Shelley Carter by Ross & Shelley Carter	
Sun, Sep. 21	+Clay Crisp	by Chip & Sammie Wood	

Why are the demons afraid of the Blessed Virgin Mary?

The devil is afraid of the Blessed Virgin Mary because of her unique role in God’s plan of salvation and her complete obedience to God’s will, which stands in direct opposition to Satan’s pride and rebellion. The devil trembles before Mary not because of her power alone, but because of her perfect humility, her sinlessness, and her role as the Mother of God and the “New Eve.” She is the one foretold in Genesis as the woman whose offspring would crush the head of the serpent.

1. Scriptural Foundation: Genesis 3:15 (The Protoevangelium) “I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.”— Genesis 3:15, Catholic tradition identifies “the woman” as Mary, and her offspring as Jesus Christ. Mary, by her cooperation in the Incarnation, plays a crucial role in the crushing of Satan’s power. This enmity between Mary and Satan is not symbolic—it is total.

2. Mary’s Immaculate Conception and Sinlessness. Mary was preserved from original sin by a singular grace (cf. Luke 1:28 – “Full of grace”) and remained sinless her entire life. Satan has no claim over her. Her humility and purity are his opposite—Satan, full of pride and rebellion, cannot stand the woman who embodies perfect obedience and grace. Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC): “Through the centuries the Church has become ever more aware that Mary, ‘full of grace’ through God, was redeemed from the moment of her conception.”— “From the first instant of her existence, she was totally preserved from the stain of original sin and she remained pure from all personal sin throughout her life.”— CCC 491 & 493

3. Mary as Spiritual Warrior. St. Louis de Montfort writes in his classic “True Devotion to Mary” that the devil fears her more than all the angels and saints combined: “Satan fears her not only more than all angels and men but in a sense more than God himself... because Satan, being proud, suffers infinitely more from being beaten and punished by a little and humble handmaid of God.” This is not to say Mary is greater than God, but that Satan’s pride is humiliated more by being overcome by a humble creature than by the omnipotent Creator.

September 6 and 7, 2025

St. Francis Xavier
Saturday/Sunday collection: \$1719.40
St. Joseph, Folsom
Sunday collection: \$449.00

Lectors

Saturday, September 13—Sammie Wood
Sunday, September 14—Sandy Vaughn
Saturday, September 20—Rosie DeHerrera
Sunday, September 21—Raymond Saccoccia

~Thank you for your Generosity!!

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

Saturday, September 13—Andrea & Shelley
Sunday, September 14—Beverly & Sophie
Saturday, September 20—Rosie & Andrea
Sunday, September 21—Sophie & Beverly

USHERS

Saturday, September 13
Robert Montoya & Jeremy Fisk
Sunday, September 14
Deano Arellano & Maurilio Valdez
Saturday, September 20
Robert Montoya & Ross Carter
Sunday, September 21
Maurilio Valdez & Deano Arellano

What identifies a steward?

What identifies a steward? Safeguarding material and human resources and using them responsibly are one answer; so is generous giving of *Time, Talent, and Treasure*. But being a Catholic steward means more. As Catholic stewards, we receive God’s gifts gratefully, cultivate them responsibly, share them lovingly in justice with others, and return them with increase to the Lord. Good stewards live with joy and gratitude for the blessings they have received, including those that have multiplied through diligence and hard work. Indeed, good stewards live in communion with Christ, and through Christ and the Spirit, strive to return all gifts to the Father “with an increase.”