

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**– A two-year program of catechesis and preparation to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation is open to students in grades 8 through 12 who have been Baptized and have received First Communion. The first year “Pre-Confirmation” class is for 8th graders as well as any older students who have not completed it. The second year “Confirmation Prep” class is for students in grades 9 thru 12. Classes begin on September 7, 2025. 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)**- This is a program for individuals interested in becoming Catholic and receiving the sacraments of initiation: Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation. OCIA CLASSES BEGIN ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, AND WILL RUN THROUGH MARCH 25, 2026. 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.
- ◆ A special Thank you to Raymond and Kelly Rael for painting the steps in front of the church. Your time and effort are truly appreciated.
- ◆ **Sunday, September 14 – Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross:** A special Rosary for all deceased members of our community will be prayed at **10:00 a.m.** please Join for the Litany of the Souls. You may bring photos of your beloved departed and place them in front of the Altar.

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

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**SEPTEMBER 7, 2025
TWENTY-THIRD 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, 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.

Notes From Fr. Joji: The coming days are rich with feast days of the Church. On **Tuesday, September 9**, we observe the feast day of St. Peter Claver, a Jesuit priest from Spain who provided ministry for the Black slaves who had been brought from Africa to Colombia in the 16th century. He attended to their physical and spiritual needs which were many, considering the harsh conditions in which they found themselves. On **Friday, September 12**, is the Feast of The Most Holy Name of the Blessed Virgin Mary. “Mary” was a popular name among the Hebrew people, in memory of Miriam, the sister of Moses and Aaron. Some scholars think that this name is perhaps related to an Egyptian word meaning “beloved,” which certainly fits Mary of Nazareth. She was so beloved by God that God chose her to be the Mother of Jesus, and for this purpose God preserved her from the stain of sin from the first moment of her conception in the womb of her mother, St. Ann (Doctrine of the Immaculate Conception). No sin would distort or destroy her relationship with God. We honor Mary’s name and the holiness that it represents, and we call upon her intercession in our times of need. On **Saturday, September 13**, we celebrate the feast of St. John Chrysostom who was born in Antioch in the year 347 AD. As a priest, he was famous for his eloquent sermons and respected as a powerful preacher. In 398 AD he was named Archbishop of Constantinople. He died while being exiled by his enemies. His dying words were: “Glory be to God for all things.”

On **Sunday, September 14**, is the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, formerly known as the Triumph of the Cross, a feast that commemorates the finding of the true Cross by Emperor Constantine’s mother, Helen, in about the year 320 AD. In the 4th century, two churches in Jerusalem were dedicated on this day. The feast day commemorates both the dedication of the original Church of the Holy Sepulchre in 335 AD, and Christ’s victory over death by his crucifixion and Resurrection. As St. Cyril of Jerusalem reminds us: “The Cross has set free all who were slaves of sin. It has redeemed all humanity.” **Monday, September 15**, would normally be the Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows, though it is not formally celebrated this year as it falls on a Sunday and the celebration of the Lord’s Resurrection takes precedence. This feast was formerly known as the Seven Sorrows of Mary, a memorial that was begun by the Servite Friars in 1668 AD. In 1814, Pope Pius VII extended the celebration of this feast to the entire Western Church. The Seven Sorrows of Mary are: Simeon’s prophecy at the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple, the flight into Egypt, the disappearance of Jesus as a boy in Jerusalem, the road to Calvary, the crucifixion, the removal of the Body of Jesus from the Cross, the burial of the Body of Jesus. These can be meditated upon, just as one meditates upon the mysteries of the Rosary or the Stations of the Cross.

<i>Masses offered September 2025</i> <i>+All the Departed Parishioners & Family Members</i> <i><u>SI Good Health & Well-Being of all Parishioners & Families</u></i>		Quotable Saints
Sat, Sep. 6 +Max Geary by Ross & Shelley Carter 		

Pope Leo XIV will canonize both Blessed Carlo Acutis and Pier Giorgio Frassati ; Catholic Church's first millennial saints on September 7, 2025
Blessed Carlo Acutis: Carlo Acutis was born on May 3, 1991, in London, while his father was working there, and soon moved with his parents to Milan, Italy. From childhood, Carlo showed a deep love for God, especially for the Eucharist. Even though his parents were not very religious, Carlo insisted on going to daily Mass, praying the rosary, and spending time in front of the Blessed Sacrament. His faith was so strong that it led to the deeper conversion of his own family. He once remarked, “People line up for concerts and soccer games, but I don’t see these lines before the tabernacle.” For him, the Eucharist was truly the center of life. Carlo lived an ordinary teenager’s life, enjoying soccer, video games, Spider-Man, and Pokémon. Yet, he practiced balance and discipline, limiting his gaming and reminding friends about Mass, confession, and living faithfully. He had a generous heart and stood up for classmates who were bullied, especially those with disabilities. When friends went through hard times, such as their parents’ divorce, Carlo welcomed them into his family life. He also cared for the poor, bringing food to the homeless outside his parish church. Gifted in technology, Carlo taught himself computer programming and used his skills for evangelization. He designed a digital exhibition on Eucharistic miracles, convinced that seeing the scientific evidence of these miracles could help people rediscover their faith in the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. That exhibition has now been displayed in thousands of parishes around the world. At age 15, Carlo was diagnosed with leukemia. He faced his illness with deep faith, offering his suffering for Pope Benedict XVI and the Church. He said, “I offer all my suffering to the Lord...to go straight to heaven.” He died on October 12, 2006, and was buried in Assisi, where his body lies in a glass tomb, dressed in jeans and sneakers — a reminder that holiness can be lived in the ordinary life of a modern teenager. Carlo’s life quickly began to inspire many conversions. His intercession has been linked to miracles, including the healing of a boy in Brazil in 2013 and a young woman in Costa Rica in 2022. In 2020 he was beatified, and on **September 7, 2025**, Carlo Acutis will be canonized a saint in Rome. Carlo shows the world that sainthood is not only for priests, nuns, or people of the past — it is possible today, even for a young person who loved computers, soccer, and video games, but above all, loved Christ in the Eucharist.
Blessed Frassati: born in 1901 into a prominent family in Turin, Italy, was admired for his deep spirituality, love for the poor and enthusiasm for life. A member of the Dominican Third Order, he served the sick through the St. Vincent de Paul Society. He died at age 24 after contracting polio, possibly from one of the people he assisted. The Church will rejoice as Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati—known as the “Man of the Beatitudes”—is officially declared a saint in Rome. Coming from a wealthy family, he chose a path of simplicity, dedicating himself to the poor, the sick, and those most in need. He combined a deep love for the Eucharist and Marian devotion with an active and adventurous spirit.

August 30 and 31, 2025
St. Francis Xavier
Saturday/Sunday collection: \$2696.00
St. Joseph, Folsom
Sunday collection: \$468.00
Gaza Collection: SFX: \$373.00 St. Joseph: \$108.00

~Thank you for your Generosity!!
EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS
Saturday, September 6—Britt & Shelley
Sunday, September 7—Rosie & Sophie
Saturday, September 13—Andrea & Shelley
Sunday, September 14—Beverly & Sophie

USHERS
Saturday, September 6
Gus Wood & Jeremy Fisk
Sunday, September 7
Deano Arellano & Maurilio Valdez
Saturday, September 13
Robert Montoya & Jeremy Fisk
Sunday, September 14
Deano Arellano & Maurilio Valdez

Lectors
Saturday, September 6—Britt Fisk
Sunday, September 7—Rosie DeHerrera
Saturday, September 13—Sammie Wood
Sunday, September 14—Sandy Vaughn

Exaltation of the Holy Cross (Feast Day Sept-14)

PRAYER – O God, who willed that Your Only Begotten Son should undergo the Cross to save the human race, grant, we pray, that we, who have known His mystery on earth, may merit the grace of His redemption in heaven. For You placed the salvation of the human race on the wood of the Cross, so that, where death arose, life might again spring forth and the evil one, who conquered on a tree, might likewise on a tree be conquered through Christ. O cross, You are the glorious sign of victory. Through your power may we share in the triumph of Christ Jesus. We adore you Christ and we praise you, for by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world. Amen