



St. Anthony Mary Claret

Roman Catholic Church

6150 Roft Road • San Antonio, Texas 78253

Office: 210-688-9033 • Fax: 210-688-3575

Visit us at www.samcsa.com

Send comments or questions to saclaret@saclaret.com

December 16, 2018

Third Sunday of Advent

Pastor:

Rev. Dr. Jan P. Klak, Ph.L.,
S.T.L., Ph.D.

Parochial Vicar:

Rev. Brian Garcia

Deacons:

Jerome (Jerry) Kozar, M.S.
Jerry Campa, ChFC®, CRPC®
Angel Rondon
Benito Morales

Parish Administrator:

Luis E. Astorga, MBA

Bookkeeper:

Juan Estrada, BBA

Secretary:

Elaine Wolf-Gentry, BS

Director of Religious Education:

Michelle Reynolds, MTS

Coordinator of Religious Education:

Odilia Piña

RCIA Director:

Jennifer Rupert, C.Th.

Youth Ministry Coordinator:

Martie Kokotajlo

Music Director:

Paul Rauschhuber, BM, ME, MME

Bulletin Editor:

Sandy Salinas, BA

Sacristans:

Teresa Revilla, Rita Valdez

Grounds & Maintenance:

Ruben Villanueva
Charlie Sievers

GOSPEL MEDITATION: LK 3:10-18

In Christianity, we hear often about the "Good News." We might often associate it with Jesus' compassion to the poor, his healings and miracles, and the salvation he won for us. In today's Gospel, we read of John the Baptist. "Exhorting them in many other ways, he preached good news to the people." Yet as we examine the rest of the reading, we see examples of John's preaching. If you have two cloaks, give one away. Don't cheat others out of their money, extort, or lie. And, of course, the warning that the Messiah is on the move and "his winnowing fan is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." Merry Christmas?

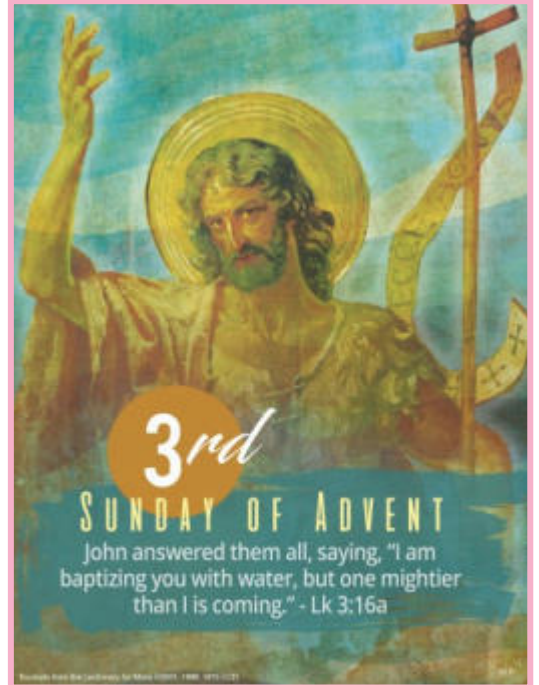
Not only do John's listeners enjoy his message, but they seem to think he might be the awaited Messiah! To understand today's Gospel, it's important to understand the Jewish people. For most of their history, God's chosen people had been under someone else's heel. They were slaves in Egypt. Their kingdoms were ravaged first by the Assyrians, then the Babylonians. Now they were under the yoke of the Roman Empire. Familiar with being strangers in a strange land, welcoming the stranger, caring for the vulnerable, and enacting justice was incredibly important to them as a people. While John's words may seem odd or strong to our modern ears, this call to justice was welcome, even if it was directed at the hearer.

The truth is, no one is exempt from John's call to repentance. We all have further to go in the Christian life. We can all grow in virtue and love our neighbors more generously. The Church gives us the Advent season to examine our own hearts. Did any of John's warnings resonate with you? That could be a great thing to bring to Jesus this week!

LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

This Gaudete Sunday calls us to rejoice because the Lord is near. Does your heart rejoice and sing, or are the pressures and burdens of life weighing you down? We can easily become overwhelmed. The weaknesses and sins of life, indeed our own weakness and sin, eat away at the joy and hope God wants us to know. Those who are grounded in their faith and possess deep spiritual lives know that God is near. Realizing this puts life into perspective. We really want to be free from our burdens but do not always know how to achieve this. We keep stumbling and falling. Advent is a time when we can learn to "do life differently," just like John the Baptist instructed the crowds. Joy and hope are the gifts God offers, not anxiety and despair.

-Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS



MASS SCHEDULE

Monday.....8 am, 7:30 pm
Monday Holy Hour.....6:30 pm
Tues., Wed., Thurs., Fri.8 am
Saturday.....5 pm
Sunday..... 8 am, 10 am, 12 pm, 3 pm (Spanish), 6 pm

Holy Days of Obligation.....8 am & 7 pm

Every first Monday of the month we celebrate a Healing Mass and administer the Sacrament of the Sick.

IN OUR PARISH



Parish Mission Statement

We, the people of St. Anthony Mary Claret Parish, have as our mission to open our hearts and doors to those from all walks of life so that they, too, may share in the everlasting presence of God. Together we strive to grow closer to Jesus Christ through the Holy Eucharist. We work to foster the development of the parish, not only to strengthen our own spiritual awareness, but to impact the community as a whole.

WELCOME!

As pastor of St. Anthony Mary Claret Catholic Church, I want to express welcome from all of us to you for choosing to become a member of our parish family. We hope you will always feel at home here and that our worship and other parochial services will fulfill your spiritual needs.



Please complete an online registration form at samcsa.com or a printed one which you can find near the entrance of our church in the narthex. Return it to the parish office or drop it in the collection basket at your convenience.

I hope you feel welcome here!

Sincerely in Christ,

Reverend Jan P. Klak

Dec. 7/8 Feast of the Immaculate Conception
Attendance 1,183

Dec. 8/9 Attendance & Collection Totals

Attendance	4,114
Regular Collection	\$ 33,094.83
SAMC Pantry	\$ 5,100.00
Debt Reduction	\$ 4,670.00
Retirement Fund	
for Religious	\$ 3,644.24
Capital Campaign	\$ 204.00
Candles	\$ 328.11

SACRAMENT SCHEDULE

Reconciliation (Confession)

Weekdays: 7:30 a.m.; Saturdays: 4 p.m.—last in line
Sundays: 9 a.m.-12 p.m. (or last in line), 4 p.m. – last in line

Baptism—Required Classes:

First Tues. & Thurs. of the month, 7:30 p.m. Call parish office to register.

Visitation of the Sick:

Call parish office to schedule visit.

Funerals:

Contact parish office prior to making arrangements.

**Spend
time with
the Lord!**

**Monday
Eucharistic
Holy
Hour
6:30 P.M.**

**Mass
7:30 P.M.**



CHRISTMAS

LITURGIES

**MONDAY, DEC. 24:
5 P.M., 7 P.M., 12 MIDNIGHT**

**TUESDAY, DEC. 25:
10 A.M., 12 NOON,
3 P.M. (SPANISH)**



THIS Sunday!

Advent

Reconciliation



Dec. 16, 7:15 p.m. in the church

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Saturday, Dec. 15
5 P.M. Special Intention for Ed, Mike, Robert, Tom, Paul, Fr. John & Donald Ancharski by Jeanette Erickson

Sunday, Dec. 16
8 A.M. Sara Lynch † by Family
10 A.M. Brian Tate † by Danielle Schelb
12 P.M. Mr. & Mrs. Jesus Elizondo † by Family
3 P.M. For the Parish
6 P.M. Jean Belanger † by Darlene Belanger

Monday, Dec. 17
8 A.M. Fr. Jan Klak, Fr. Brian Garcia, Fr. James Seiwert by Members of St. Anthony Claret
6:30 P.M. Holy Hour
7:30 P.M. Alvino Reyes † by Teresa Revilla

Tuesday, Dec. 18
8 A.M. Cora Groff † by Apolinar Family

Wednesday, Dec. 19
8 A.M. Birthday Blessings for Irma Rodriguez by Family

Thursday, Dec. 20
8 A.M. Cathy Boyd † by Darlene Belanger
Lisa Alaniz † by Family

Friday, Dec. 21
8 A.M. Patrick Edmunson † by Family

Saturday, Dec. 22
5 P.M. Ruth Collins † by Jo Ann Bolton

Sunday, Dec. 23
8 A.M. Harley † & Patricia Reynolds † by Family

10 A.M. Raymond & Davis Moravits † by Family
12 P.M. Debra Saenz † & Robert Reynolds † by Lydia Reynolds & Family
3 P.M. For the Parish
6 P.M. David Trevino † by Family

LOVE & MARRIAGE

3 Modern Obstacles to a Healthy Marriage

If this story about a couple married for 62 years who died 4 hours apart (<https://www.foxnews.com/us/california-husband-and-wife-die-4-hours-apart-after-62-years-of-marriage>), does not make you sigh just a little, well ... I'm not sure you have a soul. Or how about the story about Fred Stobaugh, the 96-year-old widower who wrote an ode to his late wife, "Sweet Lorraine," and entered it in a song-writing contest? If you can watch the video without tearing up, don't bother reading on. You're just not human.

Why do stories like these touch our hearts in such a moving way? I think it's because stories like these so clearly demonstrate the lifelong commitment marriage is meant to be. Till death do us part. We say the words, and we see in them an ideal to aspire to, something we all long to attain, and yet not all of us do.

It's cliché to lament divorce statistics, but in an attempt to combat the problem of rising divorce rates and declining marriage rates, let's take a look at some cultural problems that can be obstacles to healthy marriages.

1. We have a mixed-up idea of married love.

It's normal to go into marriage with some expectation of romance and lovey-dovey stuff. After all, that's how people wind up wanting to get married in the first place. They fall in love, they have a romantic relationship, and they are so crazy about each other that they can't wait to start "together forever." That's awesome. That's fun. That's how God intends for couples to begin.

Every healthy marriage, no matter what stage its in, does have some measure of romantic love. Just as people have different personalities, though, different marriages do too, and most marriages don't maintain that full-force "romantic" feeling forever. And we should not expect them to.

When people mix up married love with romantic love, they wrongly feel that their marriage is in decline when the romance begins to fade. There are fewer rose-petal baths and more insurance premiums. There are no more love songs and an awful lot of day-to-day drudgery.

Fading romance in a culture that tells couples they can quit when it gets hard, leave when they "fall out of love," or their spouse "doesn't make them happy anymore," is a recipe for discouragement and the kinds of negative, selfish thoughts that can lead to divorce.

2. We fail at self-giving love.

This is a problem I have observed even among very "faithful" Catholics who know and love a lot about their faith. Somehow, we as a Church have failed to help some husbands and wives hear and understand that their call to marriage is a call to make a total gift of self to their spouse.

St. John Paul II emphasizes the importance of "self-gift" in *Gaudium et Spes*: "Man, who is the only creature on earth which God willed for itself, cannot fully find himself except through a sincere gift of himself." That "sincere gift of self" he mentions is a daily call to sacrifice, and I will let you in on a little secret: It's not feel-good stuff. It hurts. Like sacrifice always does. That's why they call it sacrifice.

In my own life, I have seen what look like "perfect" marriages on the outside fall apart on the inside because of a failure of one or both of the spouses to recognize this simple fact: *Love comes first*. Charity above all things. You can be an otherwise "perfect" Catholic couple—earning a decent living, setting up a home, having children and educating them well—but if you fail to recognize the importance of loving your spouse with self-giving love, you are failing. At the most important thing. None of that other stuff matters.

We aren't all perfect at self-sacrifice, of course, and in a healthy marriage there is plenty of room for mistakes, mercy, and forgiveness. The fundamentally important call to hear, however, is the call to love one another and to fully find yourself through a "sincere gift of self" to your spouse. That kind of love isn't just "nice if you can find it"; it's what marriage *is*.

3. We misunderstand the importance of vocation.

Vocation is a tough concept for many of today's younger generations to understand. The idea of a calling—not a job, but a *calling*—to marriage, priesthood, or religious life is a foreign one to many. When we fail to recognize marriage as a calling, however, we belittle it. Culturally, it becomes a hobby or something nice to do "if you're into that kind of thing." It certainly isn't something you would sacrifice your career for. But our culture lets young people know that career goals can trump marriage. Travel plans can take precedence. There's no hurry.

The sad result is that when people get married later in life, there is less likelihood that they will meet their spouses when both are ready to make a commitment, and there are fewer marriage-ready men and women in the dating pool even for those who are looking seriously for a spouse.

If marriage is a vocation, that means it's your life's work; it's not a job and not something you do on the side. It's something you do first, and then build to rest of your life around, not something you try to fit in later, once you've saved up enough money and you've accomplished "more important" things.

The saddest part of cultural obstacles to healthy marriage is that they negatively affect a lot of innocent people who desperately want to answer a call to marriage. They want to find their spouse, get married, begin a life-long commitment, and practice self-giving love. But our culture sometimes gets in the way.

The good news, though, is that our God is an awesome God. The power of an anti-marriage culture may be great, but God is greater and He works with what we give Him. All of us, married, single, divorced, widowed, dating, or something in between, can pray every day for the grace we need to live out Christ's call to perfection in an imperfect world.

Let's support marriage. Let's pray for each other. Let's encourage each other.



Don & Maxine Simpson, July, 2014
Died 4 hours apart from each other.

PARISH NEWS

4th Annual St. Anthony Claret Christmas Novena & Posada Saturday, Dec. 15 — Sunday, Dec. 23



Several families will open their homes to you, our parishioners, to pray the novena leading up to the posada on Dec. 23. To participate at one or all of these locations, RSVP at least ONE day in advance. This is a beautiful tradition and we invite you to pray along with us even if you are unable to attend.

- | | |
|--|---|
| Dec. 15: Angelica Trevino (210) 630-7699 | Dec. 16: Michelle Reynolds (210) 688-9033, x204 |
| Dec. 17: Norma Valdez (903) 932-0749 | Dec. 18: Margarita Estrada (210) 542-6756 |
| Dec. 19: Melissa Acevedo-Carrasco (210) 237-8845 | Dec. 20: Frances Johnson (956) 337-4184 |
| Dec. 21: Claudia Delgado (210) 410-6906 | Dec. 22: Norma Pena (210) 316-8203 |

Posada — Sunday, Dec. 23 at 7 p.m., procession on parish grounds followed by fellowship in Msgr. Hubertus Hall.

Questions? Contact Claudia Delgado (210) 410-6906.

St. Anthony Mary Claret Marriage Ministry Date Night

an evening of fellowship & enrichment for the married & engaged

An Advent Celebration

Friday, Dec. 21, 7-9 p.m.,
Msgr. Hubertus Hall

Dance lessons will be provided.



REGISTRATION REQUIRED for this event!

To register for this event or for more info, contact Chris and Nicole Glowe at cnglowe@yahoo.com or 210-257-6616.

Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share.



Free childcare available, but you **MUST** register in advance with Samantha Reyna at samantha.reyna07@yahoo.com
NO LATER THAN Wednesday, Dec. 19.

Learn more about the Beloved Program:
<https://www.augustineinstitute.org/formed/beloved/>.

THE SUNDAY FUNNIES

The parents began to assemble the special Christmas gift they had for their children. They had ordered a kit for a tree house and received the plans for it. However, the materials they received were for a sailboat. They wrote the company to complain. The company's reply: "While we regret the inconvenience this mistake caused you, it's nothing compared to that of the man who is out on a lake somewhere trying to sail your tree house."



This Week in Our Parish

- Zaydrian James Ortiz,*
child of James Ortiz & Ileana Pecos
- Penelope Anne Rothman,*
child of Jordan & Maddie Rothman
- Jacob Alexander Tovar,*
child of Cody Tovar & Amanda Birt
- Isabella Rose Martinez,*
child of Alejandro & Isabel Martinez
- Mila Mae Ramirez,*
child of Paul & Chelsea Ramirez
- Juliana Cecilia Herrera,*
child of Eric & Lorena Herrera

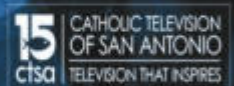
The SOUNDS of CHRISTMAS

PRESENTED by CATHOLIC TELEVISION of SAN ANTONIO

AIR DATES & TIMES:

- December 17 - 7PM
- December 19 - 10AM & 7PM
- December 20 - 11AM & 8PM
- December 22 - 4PM
- December 23 - 3:30PM
- December 24 - 10PM
- December 25 - 10AM & 7PM
- December 27 - 11:30AM
- December 28 - 6:30PM
- December 29 - 2:30PM
- December 30 - 6:30PM
- December 31 - 11AM & 9PM

WATCH ON SPECTRUM CHANNEL 15
OR ON FACEBOOK AT ANY TIME ON



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



Sun., Dec. 16 & Wed., Dec. 19
Sun., Jan. 6 & Wed., Jan. 9

Classes in session
Classes in session: Epiphany Party



YOUTH GROUP



LIFE TEEN (high school):

Sun., Dec 16 LIFE Night Youth Group 6 pm Mass / 7-10 Life Night. Bring a friend!

Great Christmas gifts for your teens!

2019 Steubenville Lone Star

June 21-23, Irving Convention Center, Irving, TX

\$350 includes conference, lodging, transportation, & most meals; non-refundable deposit: \$100

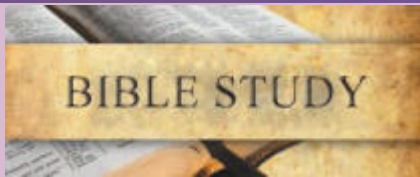
Wild Sky 2019

July 15- 20, Medina, TX/ \$655.00; Non-refundable deposit: \$100

Now taking registration for these Life Teen Events. Space is limited.

Contact Youth Director Martie Kokotajlo at 210-688-9033, x209 or youthgroup@saclaret.com for more info or to register.

PARISH NEWS



“Genesis to Jesus and the Bible” (Spanish):

Class begins Sunday, Jan. 27, 1 p.m.

“The Bible and the Blessed Virgin Mary” (English):

Evening class begins Sunday, Jan. 27 at 7 p.m. Morning class begins Tuesday, Jan. 29, at 10 a.m. Saturday fast-track class begins Saturday, Mar. 9 at 10 am.

All classes open to ages 15 and up. Limited seating. Visit stpaulcenter.com/journey-through-scripture to learn more. Register by phone. Classes in English: CJ Garcia-Aboytes at (210) 843-1198; Classes in Spanish: Felipe Forero at (210) 833-8552.

"Génesis a Jesús y la Biblia" (en español): Clase comienza el domingo, 27 de enero.

Los adultos jóvenes mayores de 15 años son bienvenidos. El cupo es limitado. Se puede visitar stpaulcenter.com/journey-through-scripture para aprender más. Registrarse por teléfono con Felipe Forero: (210) 833-8552.

**2019 Bible Study Classes (English & Spanish)
Christmas Wish Book List
These make great gifts!**



These books can be used for deeper personal study to supplement the *Journey Through Scripture* series:



Genesis to Jesus and the Bible class: *A Father Who Keeps His Promises: God's Covenant Love in Scripture*

Bible & the Sacraments class: *Swear to God: The Promise & Power of the Sacraments*

Bible & the Mass class: *The Lamb's Supper: The Mass as Heaven on Earth*

Bible & the Virgin Mary class: *Hail, Holy Queen: The Mother of God in the Word of God*

Bible & the Church Fathers class: *The Fathers of the Church* by Mike Aquilina (English only)

Bible & Prayer class: *Prayer Works! Getting a Grip on Catholic Spirituality* by Matthew Leonard (English only)

Ignatius Series class to study and discuss the Book of Job (English only):

Ignatius Catholic Study Bible: Acts; Revised Standard Version, Second Catholic Edition.

FAITH & PRAYER

PRAY FOR VOCATIONS!

Join the St. Anthony Mary Claret Vocations Committee this month as they pray for local seminarians and for an increase in vocations to religious life.

These seminarians will be the recipients of your prayers this month:



Paul Melgarejo



Thomas Lyons

The committee also commends to your intercession a group committed to the consecrated life: **Disalced Carmelites.**

Lord, Jesus, we ask you to send more servants to your people. Choose from our parishes, from our homes, from our schools and colleges, an abundant harvest of apostles for your Kingdom: priests, sisters, brothers, deacons and lay ministers. We pray that those you call may never lose awareness of the dignity and need of their vocation.

O Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church, teach to all those the Master calls to say a joyful "yes" as you did at the Annunciation. Amen.

PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISH FAMILY

God, like a watchful shepherd, You care for us. You make the earth yield healing herbs and medicines and give us the knowledge to learn their power. Your creative love continues through the healing hands of doctor, pharmacist and nurse, and the healing counsel of priest, minister and friend. Bless us, and all who suffer, especially these members of our parish family. Our afflictions become a cross that burdens us with fear and uncertainty. Cast out our fear and revive our faith. Give us strength that we may be filled with hope. Let the Holy Spirit come to our aid that we might live each day in the joy for which You fashioned us. We pray for healing in body, soul and spirit that we may be Your servants in this world and enjoy the fullness of Your presence in the life to come. We make this prayer humbly, knowing we cannot restrict or direct Your saving grace. We give joyful thanks for Your compassion wherever we may find it. We ask all this in the name of the Lord Jesus who intercedes before You on our behalf. Amen.

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Laura Galindo | A.C. Garza |
| Dave Whitney | Olga & Rudy Faz |
| Carolyn Cole | Dee Hancock |
| Romana Garcia | Grace Heinze |
| Yareli Mendoza | Adrian & Erika Huerter |
| Jenna & Landon | Bill Jennings |
| Ondrusek | Robyn Marcum |
| Fernando Mascorro | Margie Morones |
| Ana Galinski | Tracy Oviedo |
| Sophia Hampton | Alyson Victoria Oviedo |
| S.T. | Linda Santos |
| Eloise Salazar | Mary Sledden |
| Maria Morales | Nancy Souhrada |
| Rosa Huerta | Bertha Trevino |
| Johnny Reyes | Roberto Trevino |
| Richard Keller | Gabby Truly |
| Barbara Vanegas | Bishop Yanta |
| Jack & Jeanette Donohue | Anthony Trevino |
| Rudy Navarro | |

GAUDETE SUNDAY



The Third Sunday of Advent is called *Gaudete Sunday*, the day when we light the pink candle on the Advent wreath (hence the 'pink candle' Sunday). Rose vestments are worn to emphasize our joy that Christmas is near. *Gaudete* means "rejoice". This day reminds us of the joy that is to come, and serves, amid this season of penance, as a kind of 'break' when we recall the hope we have because of the coming of Our Lord Jesus.

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

- Sunday 16: Zep 3:14-18a/Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-18
- Monday 17: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Mt 1:1-17
- Tuesday 18: Jer 23:5-8/Mt 1:18-25
- Wednesday 19: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Lk 1:5-2
- Thursday 20: Is 7:10-14/Lk 1:26-38
- Friday 21: Sg 2:8-14/Lk 1:39-45
- Saturday 22: 1 Sm 1:24-28/Lk 1:46-56
- Sunday 23: Mi 5:1-4a/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45



RESPECT LIFE

Intercessions for Life

For unborn children: that by the intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe, their human dignity will be recognized, respected, and protected by all from the moment of conception. We pray to the Lord.

Intercesiones por la Vida

Por los niños por nacer: para que por la intercesión de Ntra. Sra. de Guadalupe, todos reconozcan, respeten y protejan su dignidad humana desde el momento de la concepción. Roguemos al Señor.



Debra Bachleda
CPA, PC, Parishioner
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