St. Anthony Mary Claret

Roman Catholic Church
6150 Roft Road • San Antonio, Texas 78253
Office: 210-688-9033 • Fax: 210-688-3575

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Send comments or questions to saclaret@saclaret.com



Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 22, 2019

Pastor:

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

Parochial Vicars:

Rev. Brian Garcia Rev. Tu Nguyen

Deacons:

Jerome (Jerry) Kozar, M.S. Arnaldo J. Figueroa Gene Festa Tom Elms

Parish Administrator:

Luis E. Astorga, MBA

Bookkeeper:

Rose Ann Villafranca, BBA, MBA

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 Maurice Flores

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

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.

GOSPEL MEDITATION: MT 1:18-24

Each Advent season, we prepare to welcome Jesus into the inns and stables of our hearts. But Jesus' coming wasn't welcomed by everyone with choirs of angels. For St. Joseph, the first coming of Jesus was a bit more complicated. "When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the Holy Spirit." For Joseph, opening his heart (and home) to Jesus meant, at best, appearing to all the world like a man who had impregnated his wife out of wedlock. At worst, he appeared a cuckold, raising the child of another man. God doesn't always appear the way we expect.

For some of us, the birth of Christ is a bit relationally complicated. Perhaps over the past few months, a loved one has died. This Christmas, you're taking it upon yourself



4[™] SUNDAY OF ADVENT

l hear a son and you are to name

"She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." - Mt 1:21

to keep up the traditions and hold the family together. Welcoming Jesus means welcoming grief. Perhaps it's a difficult relative (or two or three) and it's all you can do to bite your tongue and swallow your pride while they're under your roof. Welcoming Jesus means

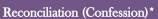
Celebration of the Mass

Monday 8 a.m., 7:30 p.m. preceded by Holy Hour at 6:30 p.m.

Every first Monday of the month 7:30 p.m. Healing Mass & administering of the Sacrament of the Sick

Tuesday - Friday 8 a.m. Saturday 5 p.m.

Sunday 8 a.m., 10 a.m., 12 p.m., 3 p.m. (Spanish), & 6 p.m. Holy Days of Obligations: Check inside bulletin for times.



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. No confessions on holy days of obligation or Fridays of Lent.

Baptism - Required Classes:

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

Visitation of the Sick: Call parish office to schedule visit.

Funerals: Call parish office prior to making arrangements.

Marriage Prep: Call parish office at least six months to one year prior to wedding. Must attend mandatory orientation session the third Thursday of March or September at 7 p.m.

Quinceañera Prep: Call parish office at least six months to one year prior to date of celebration. Child must be enrolled in religious education for at least one year. Must attend mandatory orientation session the fourth Thursday of March or September at 7 p.m.

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IN OUR PARISH



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 samesa.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, Rev. Jan P. Klak

Dec. 14/15 attendance & collection totals unavailable at press time.



The Christmas Mass schedule can be found on page 4.

Wednesday, Dec. 25**No 8 A.M. Mass /OFFICE CLOSED**

Carmen Isales Diaz† by Judy Ruiz

by Mr. & Mrs. Charles Conner, Jr.

Mr. & Mrs. Charles Connor†

GOSPEL MEDITATION, Cont'd from page 1

welcoming strife, discord, and tension.

Yet "do not be afraid," the angel says. Do not be afraid. Why? Because we celebrate the birth of "Emmanuel, which means 'God is with us." Before Jesus' earthly ministry would begin, Jesus would lose his father, Joseph. God is with us in our grief. Wherever Jesus went, he stirred up controversy and faced down challenging personalities. God is with us in our stress. The trick is, like Joseph, to allow supernatural grace to prevail. Joseph was a good man, filled with natural virtue in that he didn't want to "expose [Mary] to shame." Yet he was prepared to "divorce her quietly" all the same. Our natural abilities only take us so far. Where is receiving Jesus complicated this Christmas season? Are you relying on your own strength to get you through, or are you truly ready to accept the grace of Emmanuel, God with us?

LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Caldwell, Jr.† by Blanchard Family

Aufemia Garay† by Family

Have you ever asked God for a sign? What were you hoping to see? Signs validate our experience and give us assurance and direction. We tend to equate God's signs with miraculous or marvelous events. We even sometimes look for small gestures as signs that God is confirming a particular experience or choice we are making. Being overly preoccupied with receiving these kinds of signs from God can often signal a lack of faith. Is there anything that can convince us that God is real and with us on our journey? Yes. God's sign has already been given: the virgin shall conceive and bear a son and shall name him Emmanuel. Emmanuel, God with us, is God's most perfect sign and the only one we need. Our incarnate God is all we need to set us straight and validate our experience. Only Jesus can direct us to the Father, to our self, one another, and our world. When our lives are conformed to His, nothing else is needed.



Saturday, Dec. 21

12 A.M.

ADVENT RECONCILIATION: THIS SUNDAY, DEC. 22, 7:15 P.M. IN THE CHURCH

3 P.M.

6 P.M.

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

- 1				
	5 P.M.	Living & Deceased Members of the Houston	10 A.M.	John & Mary Krawczynski† by Martha Bednarz
		& Karpovage Families	12 A.M.	Daniel R. & Manuela M. Gonzales†; Tomasa
		by Bernice & Sam Houston		N. Cabezuela†; Sr. Victoria Hernandez†;
				Souls in Purgatory† by F. Gonzales
	Sunday, Dec. 22		3 P.M.	Santos & Petra Sanchez† by Teresa Revilla
	8 A.M.	Mary Padilla† by her Sister, Teresa	0 1 .1.1.	Santos & Tetta Santinez by Telesa Revina
	10 A.M.	Alan J. Ponce†; Margaret† & Albert	et† & Albert Thursday, Dec. 26	
		Suarez† by Alma Ponce	8 A.M.	Alberto Sanchez † by Martha Sanchez
	12 P.M.	Rose & Anton Sedlak† by Lucido Family		' •
	3 P.M.	Maria De Jesus Diaz†; Rudy Garcia, Jr.†;	Friday, Dec. 27	
		Norma Lisa Villanueva† by Mirelia Arguelles	8 A.M.	Birthday Blessing for Andy Wessel
	6 P.M.	Francis L.† & Lucille R. Fleming†		by Bea Peterson
		by Terry Saathoff		Birthday Blessing for Erica Bjornstad
	MID			by Bill & Jenny Bailey
Monday, Dec. 23			•	
	8 A.M.	In Thanksgiving to St. Anthony De Padua	Saturday, Dec. 28	
		by Parishioner	5 P.M.	Anniversary Blessings for James & Adelina
	6:30	Holy Hour		Fritz by Adelina Fritz
	7:30 P.M.	For the Parish	Sunday, Dec. 29	0
	Tuesday, Dec. 24 ***No 8 A.M. Mass /OFFICE CLOSED***			
			8 A.M.	Mary Spencer† by Wienecke Family
	5 P.M.	Norman Martin† by Dcn. Jerry & Pat Kozar	10 A.M.	For the Parish
	7 P.M.	Joseph† & Ella Kopech†; Joseph L. Stein†;	12 P.M.	Souls in Purgatory†, Jesus & Tila Vasquez
		Robert† & Floranna Stein†; Richard	2 D M	By Family

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Fourth Sunday in Advent

IN THESE FINAL DAYS OF ADVENT, CONSIDER GATHERING AS A FAMILY AROUND YOUR HOME NATIVITY SCENE TO SAY A BLESSING TOGETHER.

In its present form the custom of displaying figures depicting the birth of Jesus Christ owes its origin to St. Francis of Assisi, who made the Christmas crèche or manger for Christmas Eve of 1223.

The blessing of the Christmas manger or nativity scene may take place on the Vigil of Christmas or at another suitable time.

All make the sign of the cross as the leader says:

Our help is in the name of the Lord.

R/. Who made heaven and earth.

One of those present or the leader reads a text of sacred Scripture, for example, <u>Luke 2:1</u> (lines 1-8) or <u>Isaiah 7:10</u> (lines 10-15, the birth of Emm anuel).

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

R/. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

The leader prays with hands joined:

God of every nation and people, from the very beginning of creation you have made manifest your love: when our need for a Savior was great you sent your Son to be born of the Virgin Mary. To our lives he brings joy and peace, justice, mercy, and love.



Lord,
bless all who look upon this manger:
may it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus,
and raise our thoughts to him,
who is God-with-us and Savior of all,
and who lives and reigns forever and ever.
R/. Amen.

-From Catholic Household Blessings & Prayers



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PARISH NEWS



Looking for healthy fun?

Enjoy a variety of music and make new friends.

Join the St. Anthony Mary Claret line dancers
Tuesdays at 10-11:30 a.m. (with 2 breaks)
Msgr. Hubertus Hall
All ages welcome.

Questions? Contact Alice Russell @ 210-684-7862.



This Week in Our Parish Weddings:

- Adam Christopher Stalford & Kristine Guevara
- Joseph Michael Barajas
 Alyxandria Monique Castillo



TUESDAY, DEC. 24: 5 P.M., 7 P.M., 12 MIDNIGHT

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





Help our parish Knights of Columbus Council 10090 to keep kids warm this winter!

Some families lack the resources to adequately meet this need. A warm winter coat means mobility. Let's make life a little easier for them. *Drop off donations in the narthex through January.*





Do you want Financial Peace?

Financial Peace University is a 9-week program to guide couples and singles to pay off their debt and help them have a brighter future. Is it life-changing? Yes! Is it easy?

No, but we will provide support and encouragement. And, it's practical and do-able. If you are interested in taking this course in spring 2020 here at St. Anthony Claret, call Michelle Barrentine, facilitator, at 210-688-9273 (voice messages only).

Knights of Columbus Free Throw Competition Friday, Jan. 3, 6:30-9:30 p.m.

Mission Concepcion Sports Park (MCSP) 714 E Theo Ave, San Antonio, TX 78210

Free for boys & girls in the following brackets:

- Ages 9 11 (boys & girls competition)
- Ages 12 14 (girls competition)
- Ages 12 14 (boys competition)

Winners advance to district, regional and state tournaments.

Participants will need the following:

- Completed "Free Throw Championship Entry Form" (Pick up in the parish office.)
- · A copy of birth certificate

Learn more at https://www.kofc.org/en/programs/community/free-throw-championship.html#/ Questions? Email: council10090@gmail.com Fourth Sunday of Advent Page 5

YOUTH GROUP



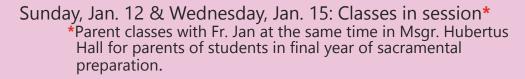
EDGE (middle school): Sunday, Dec. 22, 4-5:45 p.m., Msgr. Hubertus Hall

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

January Religious Education Calendar

Dec. 22 - Jan. 1 *** NO CLASSES - Christmas Break ***

Sunday, Jan. 5 & Wednesday, Jan. 8: Classes in session



Wed., Jan. 15: 6th Grade Sanctity of Life talk for all 6th graders NOT IN FIRST COMMUNION CLASSES. Topic: *Suffering and Life;* 6:45-7:45 p.m. in the church. This replaces their regular Jan. 12 or Jan. 15 RE class. Parents encouraged to attend.

Sunday, Jan. 19 & Wednesday, Jan. 22: *** NO CLASSES ***

Sunday, Jan. 26 & Wednesday, Jan. 29: Classes in session

CAN YOU HELP?

We have an urgent need for religious education teachers and assistants for the sessions listed below. To volunteer, contact Director of Religious Education Michelle Reynolds at reoffice@saclaret.com or210-688-9033, x204.

- RE HELP WANTED!
 - Sunday 10:45-11:45 a.m. session: 2 teacher assistants needed
 - ♦ Sunday 4:45-5:45 p.m. (high school): 3 lead teachers & 3 teacher assistants needed
 - Wednesday 5:15-6:15 p.m. session: 5 teacher assistants needed
 - Wednesday 6:45-7:45 p.m. session: 2 teacher assistants needed
 - Wednesday 6:45-7:45 p.m. (high school): 2 teacher assistants needed

THE SUNDAY FUNNIES

After being away on business for a week before Christmas, Bob thought it would be nice to bring his wife a gift.

"How about some perfume?" he asked the sales clerk at the department store. So she showed him a bottle of $^{\rm s}_{75}$ perfume.

"That's a bit much," said Bob. The woman then returned with a smaller bottle costing \$50.

Bob complained, "That's still a lot of money."

Growing disgusted, the woman brought out her smallest little bottle of \$25 perfume. Bob whined, "No, no...what I'd like to see something really cheap!"

The clerk handed him a mirror.

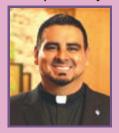


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FAITH & PRAYER

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:





Michael Coronado

Blavne Riley

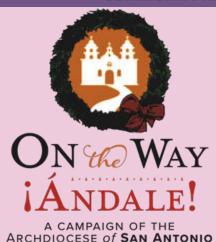
Father, we're your people, the work of your hands. So precious are we in your sight that you sent your Son, Jesus. Jesus calls us to heal the broken-hearted, to dry the tears of those who mourn, to give hope to those who despair, and to rejoice in your steadfast love. We, the baptized, realize our call to serve. Help us to know how. Call forth from among us priests, sisters, brothers and lay ministers. With our hearts you continue to love your people. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.

The committee also commends to your intercession this order committed to the consecrated life:

Daughters of Mary Mother of Mercy.

Our Lady, Queen of Peace, pray for us!

COMMUNITY NEWS



In the weeks leading up to Christmas, it seems everywhere we turn, we are pushed to spend more, do more, entertain more, and generally rush around at a frantic pace—all to create a "perfect" Christmas day (Catholic Stewardship

Consultants). But as Paul says in his letter to the Romans, "Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ." (Romans 1:7) We must remember that this is the time of peace and joy. Spend time with Jesus this Christmas and prayerfully consider making a pledge to the On the Way - ¡Ándale! Campaign. It will give you peace and joy.

Merry Christmas and have a wonderful new year! *Visit www.ontheway-andale.org to make a gift.*

PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISH FAMILY

Annette & Dave Whitney Mary Navarro Sid Wall Judith Wall Mary Lee Sloan Linda Izaguirre Harold Shields Javier Calderon Ray & Carolyn Cole George Aldaya Sandy Salinas Ana Ġalinski Jack & Jeanette Donohue Eloise Salazar Maria Morales Rosa Huerta Richard Keller Barbara Vanegas A.C. Garza Olga & Rudy Faz

Rudy Navarro Bishop Yanta Nancy Souhrada Bill Jennings Dee Hancock Alvson Oviedo Fernando Mascorro Grace Heinze* Paul Allen* Dave Whitney* Romana Garcia* Adrian & Erika Huerter* Margie Morones* Tracy Oviedo* Linda Santos* Mary Sledden*Bertha Trevino* Gabby Truly* Linda Santos Tom Calderon Jr.

Italicized names with an asterisk (*) on this list need updating. For those names to REMAIN on this list, you must contact us or names will be removed in January. Email saclaret@saclaret.com or call 210-688-9033 no later than Monday, Dec. 30. Updated list begins January 2020. IMPORTANT: Due to space limitations, list is reserved for names of parishioners and their immediate family only.

Names usually run 4 weeks.

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Sunday 22: Is 7:10-14/Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24 Monday 23: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Lk 1:57-66 Tuesday 24: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Lk 1:67-79 Christmas Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 Midnight: Is 9:1-6/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14 Wednesday 25: Is 52:7-10/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 Thursday 26: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Mt 10:17-22 Friday 27: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Jn 20:1a, 2-8 Saturday 28: 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Mt 2:13-18

Sunday 29: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Mt 2:13-15, 19-23



The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger."



Debra Bachleda CPA, PC, Parishioner

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