# 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.



**Third Sunday of Advent** 

#### **December 13, 2020**

#### Pastor:

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

#### Parochial Vicar

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

#### Coordinator of Religious Education: Odilia Piña

Director of Religious Education & Evangelization:
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 & Tony Valdez

#### Grounds & Maintenance:

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 strengthen our own spiritual awareness, but to impact the community as a whole.

#### GOSPEL MEDITATION: JN 1:6-8, 19-28

Did you ever stop and realize that there is no earthly gain that can ever really satisfy us? Think of winning the Lotto. On this side of the winning ticket, it's all about the money, the new car, house, vacations, bank accounts, and infinite pleasures. The possibility of acquiring all of these earthly securities brings us back again and again to the purchase of a ticket. Then, one day we win! Our dreams are fulfilled, and happiness is on the horizon. Then one day, we wake up and realize that nothing has really changed, and I am not as satisfied as I thought I was or would be. I find myself living in my incompleteness and with my profound sorrow and grief. I did not find joy.

Glimpses of joy are possible but not by material means. They are brought to us through incredible experiences of connection that bring us face to



#### 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

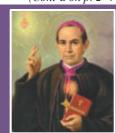
Gio

A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. - Jn 1:6-7

face with real and authentic faith, hope, and love. And, they are glimpses and do not last. The moment we find ourselves looking back at them, they are gone, and we find ourselves remembering the moment in memory. To carry joy within us is to realize that it is not something I create, manufacture or even acquire. It is not able to be purchased. It is a gift. My need for joy mirrors my need for eternity, for a Creator who has a claim on the very essence (Cont'd on p. 2 )

#### Celebration of the Mass

Monday: 8 a.m.; 7:30 p.m.; Holy Hour 6:30 p.m. First Monday of the month: 7:30 p.m. Healing Mass and administering of the Sacrament of the Sick Tuesday - Friday: 8 a.m.; Saturday Vigil Mass: 5 p.m. Sunday: 8 a.m., 10 a.m., 12 p.m., 3 p.m. (Spanish), & 6 p.m. Holy Days of Obligation: Check inside bulletin for times.



#### Reconciliation (Confession)

Wednesday and Thursday evenings only, 5 - 7 p.m.

#### Baptism - Required Classes:

First Tuesday 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 six months to one year prior to wedding. Must attend mandatory orientation session 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 fourth Thursday of March or September at 7 p.m.

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#### **IN OUR PARISH**

**Rosary Makers** 



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

#### GOSPEL MEDITATION, Cont'd from page 1

of who I am and desires a home within me. As C. S. Lewis discovered, joy is a surprise that speaks to my very soul and is given as gift by the God who loves me.

The beauty of Advent is found in discovering the beauty of the gift of joy. God has visited his people for no other reason than to show them where and how to find joy! All of our human and earthly joy experiences are always only glimpses. They never satisfy us, sustain us or fulfill us. It is only God who is the joy of my soul. Real, Divine experiences of joy catch us off guard, make us stop and become aware, bring a feeling of awe and rightness and have an eternal Otherness about them. Nothing created by humans can ever come close to this. We probably will not fully realize the truth of all of this until we actually meet God face to face in heaven one day. Then, in that sacred moment when our hearts leap for joy we will understand what we have been tirelessly searching for all along. Intense gratitude will most surely follow. ©LPi

#### Dec. 5/6 attendance & collection totals Attendance **Regular Collection** \$ 27,524.25 Debt Reduction 9,121.21 **Retired Religious** 2,750.00 **SAMC Pantry** 1,390.00 **Gabriel Project** 150.00 Capital Campaign 100.00 Candles 74.00



Juan les respondió: "Yo bautizo con agua, pero en m uno, al que ustedes no conocen, alguien que viene detrás de yo no soy digno de desatarle las correas de sus sandalias".

## This Week in Our Parish Weddings:

Michael Andrew Santoy & Bethany Joy O'Brien

Antonio Terrazas, Jr. & Natalia Liane Esquivel



25.00



#### MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Saturday, Dec. 12

5 P.M. Daniel R.† & Manuela M. Gonzales†;

Tomasa N. Cabezuela†; Sr. Victoria Hernandez†; Souls in Purgatory†

by F. Gonzales

Michael Lee Rendon† by Alice Russell

Sunday, Dec. 13

8 A.M. Raymond Bendele†; Birthday Blessings for

Dennis Friedrichs by Bea Peterson

10 A.M. Alan J. Ponce†; Margaret† & Albert

Suarez† by Alma Ponce

12 P.M. Debra Saenz† & Robert Reynolds†

by Lydia Reynolds & Family

3 P.M. Joebany Robledo† by Arianna Salazar 6 P.M. Billie Sievers† by Charlie Sievers & Family

Monday, Dec. 14

**Birthday Blessings for Anissa Sanchez** 8 A.M.

by Family

6:30 P.M. Holy Hour

7 P.M. **Birthday Blessings for Alana Smith** 

by Jeanette Erickson

Tuesday, Dec. 15

8 A.M. Msgr. Lucian Brasley† by Bea Alvarez

Wednesday, Dec. 16 8 A.M. 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Blessings for Paul &

Leticia by Family

Thursday, Dec. 17

8 A.M. **Special Intention: Health & Conversion for** 

**Lorenza Flores** by Delia Dominguez

Friday, Dec. 18

8 A.M. For the Parish

Saturday, Dec. 19

5 P.M. Birthday Blessings for Irma Rodriguez

by Family

Sunday, Dec. 20

8 A.M. **Dr. Sara Lynch**† by Family

Elizabeth Fischer† by John Fischer Elvira Gonzales† by Louis Gonzales

10 A.M. Mr. & Mrs. Jesus Elizondo† by Family 12 P.M.

3 P.M. For the Parish

6 P.M. Elvira Gonzales† by Joanne Gonzales

#### THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

# What is special about the third Sunday of Advent?

For much of the Church's history, this Sunday had a special name: "Gaudete" Sunday. The traditions surrounding this Sunday go back as far as the fourth or fifth century, as does the season of Advent itself. Advent, our preparation for Christmas, was originally a forty-day penitential season like Lent. In fact, since it used to begin on November 12 (just after the Memorial of St. Martin of Tours), it was called "St. Martin's Lent."



"Gaudete Sunday" was the Advent counterpart to "Laetare Sunday," which marks the midpoint in Lent.

On Gaudete Sunday, the season of Advent shifts its focus. For the first two weeks of Advent, the focus can be summed up in the phrase, "The Lord is coming." But beginning with Gaudete Sunday, the summary might be, "The Lord is near." This shift is marked by a lighter mood and a heightened sense of joyous anticipation. Liturgically, the colors lighten as well. The priest usually wears rose-colored vestments, a hue seen only on Gaudete Sunday and Laetare Sunday. On this day, we light the third candle of the Advent wreath, which is also rose-colored, or if you prefer, pink.

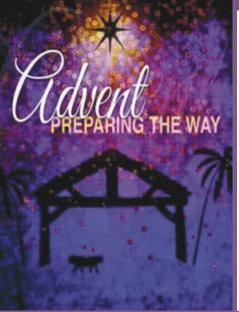
The word "Gaudete" is Latin for "Rejoice." In times when the focus of our anticipation is often on the negative and fearful, this celebration is a reminder that God who loves us is still in charge and that we await his coming not with fear, but with tremendous joy.



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SUNDAY FUNNIES



#### **RESPECT LIFE**

## Intercessions for Life/ Palabras de Vida

For all victims of human trafficking: that they may find hope and healing in the Lord who proclaims liberty to captives and release to prisoners.

We pray to the Lord.

Por todas las víctimas de la trata de personas: para que encuentren esperanza y sanación en el Señor que proclama libertad para los cautivos y perdón para los prisioneros.

Roguemos al Señor.

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#### **PARISH NEWS**



#### **Bible Study VIRTUAL Classes Available This Winter**

Journey Through Scripture Series: "The Bible and The Church Fathers" (online, English)\*

Fifth in the series, this 12-session Bible study is based on the Mike Aquilina's *The Fathers of the Church:* An Introduction to the First Christian Teachers (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.). Our Church is shaped by our fathers and mothers in faith, the earliest Christians. Our understanding of the liturgy is shaped by what Jesus' followers in the first centuries of the Church believed and practiced. Participants will meet weekly via Zoom for viewing DVDs, group discussion and fellowship. Two ONLINE times offered:

- English evening class begins Sunday, Jan. 3, 7:30 p.m.
- English morning class begins Tuesday, Jan. 5, 10 a.m.

To learn more, visit: <a href="www.JourneyThroughScripture.com">www.JourneyThroughScripture.com</a> or download the new, free St. Paul Center of Biblical Theology app in the App Store. Open to ages 15 and older.

Journey Through Scripture Series (Spanish): online via Zoom; contact Felipe Forero at (210) 833-8552.

Ascension Press Bible Study - Jesus: The Way, the Truth, and the Life (online, English)\*

Jesus is our savior, our redeemer, our Lord, and our God. Our belief in Jesus is what makes us who we are as Catholics, and as Christians; but do we really know him as we should? This 10-session class explores the entirety of Jesus' life and what his life means for us as Catholics today. Participants will meet weekly via Zoom to view an engaging video presentation by Marcellino D'Ambrosio, Jeff Cavins, and Edward Sri, followed by group discussion and fellowship. Class begins in January.

\*For info or to register, contact Charolette J. (CJ) Garcia-Aboytes at (210) 843-1198 or <a href="mailto:cjaboytes@gmail.com">cjaboytes@gmail.com</a>.



WARNING:
Some
parishioners
have received
emails
requesting

help/donations and falsely claiming to be from Fr. Jan.

DO NOT RESPOND

OR SEND DONATIONS!

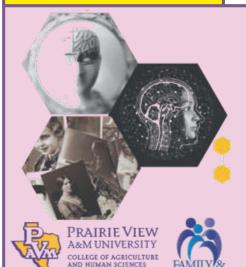
#### Aid mothers in need during the pandemic!

Donate new diapers through December. Leave donations in the large plastic bin outside the Gabriel House the 1st Tuesday or 3rd Thursday of the month.



St. Gerard Majella, patron and protector of expectant mothers, pray for us.





Cooperative Extension Program

St. Anthony Mary Claret Super Seniors & the Cooperative Extension Program-Bexar County present an online series:

IDENTIFYING MEMORY ISSUES: WHAT IS REALLY HAPPENING

Via Zoom @12 p.m. on Jan. 21, 28, Feb. 4, 8, 18, 25

For info, contact Lawrence Lucido at 210-473-4813 or mrlaredo33@aol.com; or, Grace Guerra-Gonzalez at

Third Sunday of Advent Page 5

#### **PARISH NEWS**



CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES THURSDAY, DEC. 24: 1 P.M., 3 P.M. (SPANISH), 5 P.M., 7 P.M., 9 P.M., 12 MIDNIGHT

> FRIDAY, DEC. 25: 10 A.M., 12 NOON, 3 P.M. (SPANISH), 6 P.M.

This year additional Christmas Masses will be offered to allow more people to attend while maintaining their safety and comfort. Capacity at each Mass is limited to 350 people. Preregistration not required. If capacity is reached, we request you attend one of the other Mass times. Historically, the 5 p.m., 7 p.m. and midnight Masses have the largest attendance. Please consider attending a different Mass this year to allow everyone to participate safely. Questions? Call the parish office at 210-688-9033.

#### YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

The St. Anthony Mary Claret middle and high school youth groups are meeting on Zoom!



High Schoolers (grades 9-12) meet via ZOOM 1st & 3rd Sundays, 7-8:30 p.m. Next meetings: Dec. 20; Get connected and stay informed with these links:

High Schoolers remind101: remind.com/join/8fb2b

High School parents remind101: remind.com/join/6akb4e



Middle Schoolers (grades 6-8) meet via ZOOM 1st & 3rd Sundays, 4:30-5:30 p.m. Next Meetings: Dec. 20; Get connected and stay informed with this link:

Middle school parents and youth remind101: remind.com/join/783gfek

Stay connected: like our SAMC Youth Ministry Facebook page: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/SAMCyouth/">https://www.facebook.com/SAMCyouth/</a> Questions/concerns? Contact Martie Kokotajlo, Youth Ministry Coordinator: <a href="mailto:youthgroup@saclaret.com">youthgroup@saclaret.com</a>.

#### MASS ATTENDANCE GUIDELINES\*

Archbishop Gustavo's dispensation of Catholics from the obligation to participate in Sunday and Holy Days of Obligation Masses within the Archdiocese of San Antonio granted on March 13, 2020 is in effect until repealed. At-risk people or those with symptoms of the common cold, flu or Covid-19 should stay home.

#### Mass Participation, attendance & seating

- Masks will be required for all persons over age 10.
- There will be no exchange of peace by handshake or hug.
- Attendance will be limited to 50% of our normal capacity.
- Mass will be held in the main sanctuary.
- Sit at least 6 ft. from others. Families may sit together.
- Leave immediately after Mass.

#### Communion

- The Sacred Body of Christ will be distributed in the hand only.
- After the Eucharistic minister has placed the Sacred Body of Christ in your hand, lower your mask, consume the Body
  of Christ, re-mask and return to your seat.
- The Precious Blood of Christ will not be distributed.

Subject to change without notice. Visit the parish website at http://samcsa.com/ for a more detailed list.



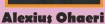
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#### **FAITH & PRAYER**

## PRAY FOR VOCATIONS!

We invite you and your family to pray for local seminarians and for an increase in vocations to religious life. These seminarians will be the recipients of your prayers this month.







**Edward Gonzales** 

God our Father, thank you for calling these men to prepare for the priesthood. Grant them the grace to grow closer to you through daily prayer. Help them form their personalities as credible witnesses to others. Bless them while they study Your word and the teachings of the Church and give them generous hearts to serve Your people. We ask this through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our great High Priest, Amen.

The committee also commends to your intercession this order committed to the consecrated life: Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

#### Your Generosity is Appreciated!

- Online giving: http://samcsa.com/ For help: 210-688-9033.
  - ♦ Mail: 6150 Roft Rd., San Antonio, TX 78253
    - ♦ During Mass or drop off at parish office

#### Su Generosidad es Apreciada!

- ♦ Dando en línea: http://samcsa.com/
  - Para ayuda: 210-688-9033.
- ♦ Correo: 6150 Roft Road San Antonio, TX 78253
- ♦ Durante misa o dejándolo en la oficina parroquia

#### PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISH FAMILY

Paul Rubio IV Evangeline Vasquez Eufemia Castillo Diego Garduno Mary Helen Peterson Michelle Reynolds Karina Hernandez Kelton Sweet, Jr. Joanna Sweet Mark Finley Harold Shields Javier Calderon George Aldaya Sandy Salinas Eloise Salazar Maria Morales Richard Keller

Rosa Huerta Barbara Vanegas Jack & Jeanette Donohue Ray & Carolyn Cole A.C. Garza Olga Faz Rudy Navarro Bishop Yanta Nancy Souhrada Bill Jennings Dee Hancock Alvson Oviedo Fernando Mascorro Linda Santos Tom Calderon Jr. Tracy Oviedo

IMPORTANT: Due to space limitations, list is reserved for names of parishioners and their immediate family only. You may submit up to FOUR names at a time. Names usually run for four weeks.

#### THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Sunday 13: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/1 Thes 5:16-24/

Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

Monday 14: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Mt 21:23-27

Tuesday 15: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Mt 21:28-32

Wednesday 16: Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21c-25/Lk 7:18b-23

Thursday 17: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Mt 1:1-17

Friday 18: Jer 23:5-8/Mt 1:18-25

Saturday 19: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Lk 1:5-25 Sunday 20: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/ Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38

#### **COMMUNITY NEWS**











A retreat to discern your calling in life. Don't spend your life wondering if you are called to the Priesthood or Religious Life



Register vocations@archsa.org 210-735-0553 (a) @savocations



Are you or someone you know divorced, widowed or separated and hurting?

The Coping with Life Alone program presented by Beginning Experience San Antonio will help you deal with the grief process. This 10-week online program helps participants come to terms with the major loss of a marriage, feelings surrounding that loss, and changes that are part of it.

Tuesdays: Jan. 12-Mar. 16, 7-9 p.m. \$40 covers workbook & sessions. For info, contact Barbara at (210) 256-2859 (leave message) or sanantoniobe@yahoo.com.



Debra Bachleda CPA, PC, Parishioner

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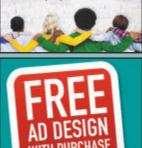
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