

# 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](http://www.samcsa.com).

Send comments or questions to [saclaret@saclaret.com](mailto:saclaret@saclaret.com).



December 20, 2020

Fourth Sunday of Advent

### 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:

### LK 1:26-38

In Blaise Pascal's work, *Pensees*, he says: "What else does this craving, and this helplessness, proclaim but that there was once in man a true happiness, of which all that now remains is the empty print and trace? This he tries in vain to fill with everything around him, seeking in things that are not there the help he cannot find in those that are, though none can help, since this infinite abyss can be filled only with an infinite and immutable object; in other words by God himself."

We have a difficult time accepting that fulfillment and happiness are not achieved by our own merits but through a relationship with God. We are hardwired for this relationship and it is in our DNA. The simple fact is that we come from God and are designed to return to God. If our beginning and our end define who we are, why would we not want to seek the One who can truly satisfy? The world does not realize that it is waiting. It is waiting for the birth of God in time, within one's soul and in eternity. We get so confused by seeking other momentary satisfactions that we misinterpret the hunger within. We crave God.

The union of God and humanity, revealed in Jesus Christ, is precisely what sets us on a straight path, orders our relationships, establishes proper focus and goals and tells us whose kingdom we really are meant to serve. We are so lost. God is with us. The prophet Nathan  
(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:

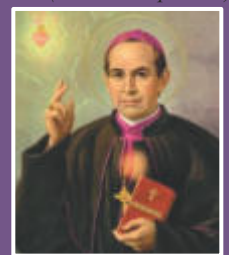
First Tuesday of the month, 7:30 p.m. Call parish office to register.

**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.



## 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 [samcsa.com](http://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, Rev. Jan P. Klak

**Dec. 12/13 attendance & collection totals unavailable at press time.**

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

told this to King David, the angel said this to Mary and the birth of Christ brings this Good News to us. We do not need to be busily looking for more things but must learn to find contentment and blessing in the One Presence. This is the beautiful simple message of Advent!

If you are feeling unsettled, anxious, angry, disgruntled, disconnected, unhappy, worried, fearful, off center, becoming overly self-indulgent, unable to spend time alone and without distraction, then there's a good chance you are lost. Now is the time to allow God to find you! Ponder the holy simplicity of Mary's call to be the Mother of God. "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." When we are helpless and at home with our emptiness, God will fill us. Our Savior has come. ©LPi



## 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.**

**Additional Christmas Masses are being offered to allow more people to attend while maintaining safety and comfort. Capacity: 350 per Mass. Preregistration not required. If capacity is reached, please attend another Mass time. Historically, 5 p.m., 7 p.m. and midnight Masses have the largest attendance. Consider attending a different Mass this year to allow all to participate safely. Questions? Call the parish office at 210-688-9033.**

## MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

**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  
10 A.M. Elvira Gonzales† by Louis Gonzales  
12 P.M. Mr. & Mrs. Jesus Elizondo† by Family  
3 P.M. For the Parish  
6 P.M. Elvira Gonzales† by Joanne Gonzales**

**Monday, Dec. 21**

**8 A.M. Rodolfo Meneses, Sr.†; Rodolfo Meneses, Jr.†; Rodel Meneses† by Rodelyn Khan  
6:30 P.M. Holy Hour  
7 P.M. Birthday Blessings for Elizabeth Surovic by Laura Surovic**

**Tuesday, Dec. 22**

**8 A.M. Alfredo L. Espinoza† by Espinoza Family**

**Wednesday, Dec. 23**

**8 A.M. Frank James† by Glenn James**

**Thursday, Dec. 24 \*\*\* PARISH OFFICE CLOSED \*\*\***

**1 P.M. Birthday Blessings for Ana Martinez by Anne Merlo  
3 P.M. Souls in Purgatory† by Family  
5 P.M. John F. Matthews† by Dennis, Helen & Orozco Family**

**7 P.M.**

**Joseph† & Ella Kopech†; Joseph L. Stein†; Robert† & Floranna Stein†; Richard Caldwell, Jr.† by Blanchard Family**

**9 P.M.**

**Birthday Blessings for Timothy Langas by Langas Family**

**12 A.M.**

**Birthday Blessings for Terry Armendariz by Teresa Revilla**

**Friday, Dec. 25**

**10 A.M.**

**\*\*\* PARISH OFFICE CLOSED \*\*\*  
Bert† & Michael Bednarz†; John† & Mary Krawczynski by Martha Bednarz**

**12 P.M.**

**Spiritual Healing/Strength for Humanity; Souls in Purgatory† by M. Gonzales**

**3 P.M.**

**Major Blanca Reyes† by Reyes Family**

**6 P.M.**

**Health, Healing & Recovery for Lindi Banda by Anne Merlo**

**Saturday, Dec. 26**

**5 P.M.**

**Larry Joe Hartman† by Bea Peterson  
Dcn. John Schoellman† by Audrey Schoellman**

**Sunday, Dec. 27**

**8 A.M.**

**Good Health for Cecilia Dominguez by Delia Dominguez**

**10 A.M.**

**Anniversary Blessings for William & Etta Tricksey by Etta Tricksey**

**12 P.M.**

**Alicia P. Hinojosa† by Adelina H. Fritz**

**3 P.M.**

**For the Parish**

**6 P.M.**

**Birthday Blessings for Andy Wessel by Bea Peterson**



## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

## Blessing of a Christmas Tree



Christmas is almost here! Have you blessed your Christmas tree yet?

According to custom, the Christmas tree is set up just before Christmas and may remain in place until the Solemnity of Epiphany. The lights of the tree are illuminated after the prayer of blessing.

In the home the Christmas tree may be blessed by a parent or another family member, in connection with the evening meal on the Vigil of Christmas or at another suitable time on Christmas Day.

*When all have gathered, a suitable song may be sung.*

The leader makes the sign of the cross, and all reply “Amen.”

The leader may greet those present in the following words:

Let us glorify Christ our light, who brings salvation and peace into our midst, now and forever.

**R/.** Amen.

In the following or similar words, the leader prepares those present for the blessing:

My brothers and sisters, amidst signs and wonders Christ Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea: his birth brings joy to our hearts and enlightenment to our minds. With this tree, decorated and adorned, may we welcome Christ among us; may its lights guide us to the perfect light.

One of those present or the leader reads a text of sacred Scripture, for example, Titus 3:4 (lines 4-7) or Ezekiel 17:22 (lines 22-24 4; I will plant a tender shoot on the mountain heights of Israel.)

**Reader:** The Word of the Lord.

**R/.** Thanks be to God.

The intercessions are then said. The leader says:

Let us ask God to send his blessing upon us and upon this sign of our faith in the Lord.

**R/.** Lord, give light to our hearts.

That this tree of lights may remind us of the tree of glory on which Christ accomplished our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. **R/.**

That the joy of Christmas may always be in our homes, let us pray to the Lord. **R/.**

That the peace of Christ may dwell in our hearts and in the world, let us pray to the Lord. **R/.**

After the intercessions the leader invites all present to say the Lord's Prayer.

The leader says the prayer with hands joined:

Lord our God, we praise you for the light of creation: the sun, the moon, and the stars of the night.

We praise you for the light of Israel: the Law, the prophets, and the wisdom of the Scriptures.

We praise you for Jesus Christ, your Son: he is Emmanuel, God-with-us, the Prince of Peace, who fills us with the wonder of your love. Lord God, let your blessing come upon us as we illumine this tree.

May the light and cheer it gives be a sign of the joy that fills our hearts. May all who delight in this tree come to the knowledge and joy of salvation. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**R/.** Amen.

The lights of the tree are then illuminated. The leader concludes the rite by signing himself or herself with the sign of the cross and saying:

May the God of glory fill our hearts with peace and joy, now and forever.

**R/.** Amen.

The blessing concludes with a verse from “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”:  
O come, thou dayspring, come and cheer; our spirits by thine advent here;  
disperse the gloomy clouds of night and death's dark shadow put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.



—From Catholic Household Blessings & Prayers



Catholic  
Current

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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: [www.JourneyThroughScripture.com](http://www.JourneyThroughScripture.com) 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 [cjaboytes@gmail.com](mailto:cjaboytes@gmail.com).

**WARNING:**

Some parishioners have received emails requesting help/donations and falsely claiming to be from Fr. Jan.

**DO NOT RESPOND**  
**OR SEND DONATIONS!**

***This Week in Our Parish***  
***Weddings:***

*Nathan Montenegro &  
Alissa Maria Gillen*

*Michael Garvin  
& Victoria Tamez*



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, 11, 18, 25**

For info, contact Lawrence Lucido at 210-473-4813 or [mrlaredo33@aol.com](mailto:mrlaredo33@aol.com); or, Grace Guerra-Gonzalez at 210-631-0400 or [grguerra@pvamu.edu](mailto:grguerra@pvamu.edu).



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## 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](https://remind.com/join/8fb2b)

High School parents remind101: [remind.com/join/6akb4e](https://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](https://remind.com/join/783gfeK)

Stay connected: like our SAMC Youth Ministry Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/SAMCYouth/>  
Questions/concerns? Contact Martie Kokotajlo, Youth Ministry Coordinator: [youthgroup@saclaret.com](mailto:youthgroup@saclaret.com).

## 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.



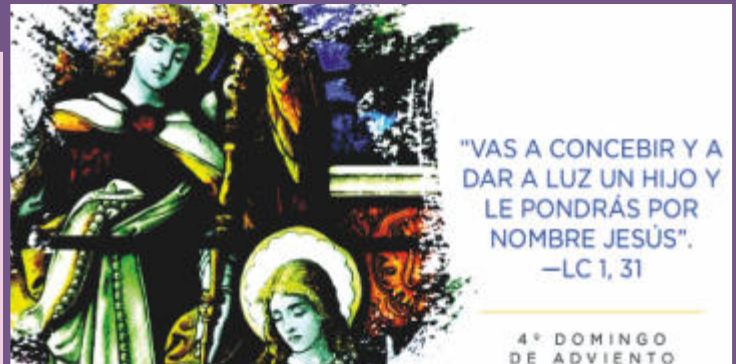
## PARISH NEWS

### St. Anthony Claret Pantry Report: Nov. 2020

Utility assistance:	\$2,712.57
Restock food pantry:	\$3,402.88
Other client assistance:	\$3,563.22
Office expenses:	\$ 174.19
# Food bags distributed:	245
# People served:	744
# of home deliveries	30
Thanksgiving baskets	68

Hours: Thursdays, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. Contact us at  
(210) 474-6888 or [sacpantry@outlook.co](mailto:sacpantry@outlook.co).

*Our SAC Pantry offers help with food,  
utilities, rent, and other needs.  
Your donations and prayers help us to  
help our neighbors.  
We are partners in this effort. Thank you.*



## THE SUNDAY FUNNIES

Romeo: "What would it take to make you kiss me under the mistletoe?"  
Juliet: "An anaesthetic."



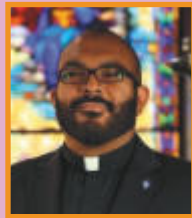
## FAITH & PRAYER

### 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.



**Alexius Ohaeri**



**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 Roff 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 Roff Road San Antonio, TX 78253
- ♦ Durante misa o dejándolo en la oficina parroquia

### Prayer to the Holy Family

Dear Lord, Bless our family. Be so kind as to give us the unity, peace, and mutual love that You found in Your own family in the little town of Nazareth.

Saint Joseph, pray for the head of our family. Obtain for him the strength, the wisdom, and the prudence he needs to support and direct those under his care.

Mother Mary, pray for the mother of our family. Help her to be pure and kind, gentle and self-sacrificing. For the more she resembles you, the better will our family be.

Lord Jesus, bless the children of our family. Help them to be obedient and devoted to their parents. Make them more and more like You. Let them grow, as You did, in wisdom and strength and grace before God and man.



### PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISH FAMILY

Jo Ann Niedenthal  
Rolf Smith  
Cesar & Patricia Calderon  
Bridget Dunlap  
Paul Rubio IV  
Diego Garduno  
Mary Helen Peterson  
Michelle Reynolds  
Karina Hernandez  
Kelton Sweet, Jr.  
Joanna Sweet  
Mark Finley  
Javier Calderon  
Jack & Jeanette Donohue  
George Aldaya  
Sandy Salinas  
Eloise Salazar

Maria Morales  
Richard Keller  
Rosa Huerta  
Barbara Vanegas  
Ray & Carolyn Cole  
A.C. Garza  
Olga Faz  
Rudy Navarro  
Bishop Yanta  
Nancy Souhrada  
Bill Jennings  
Dee Hancock  
Alyson 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 20:** 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/  
Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38

**Monday 21:** Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Lk 1:39-45

**Tuesday 22:** 1 Sm 1:24-28/Lk 1:46-56

**Wednesday 23:** Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Lk 1:57-66

**Thursday 24:** morning - 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/  
Lk 1:67-79

**Friday 25:** 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; day - Is 52:7-10/Heb 1:1-6/  
Jn 1:1-18

**Saturday 26:** Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Mt 10:17-22

**Sunday 27:** Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Col 3:12-21/Lk 2:22-40

### COMMUNITY NEWS



#### JOURNEYS OF HOPE

Join Deacon Tom and Mary Jane Fox

on a virtual pilgrimage to pilgrim destinations around the world on Journeys of Hope. Tune in every Wednesday at 8 p.m. on Guadalupe Radio, 89.7 FM. Our Dec. 23 broadcast will take us to the Basilica of the Nativity in Bethlehem. We will then travel to the Milk Grotto on Dec. 30. It is said to be the place where the Holy Family lived after the birth of Jesus before they went to Egypt. Journeys of Hope is available as a podcast at [www.pilgrimcenterofhope.org](http://www.pilgrimcenterofhope.org). For more info, contact Pilgrim Center of Hope at 210-521-3377.





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