

# 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).



February 21, 2021

First Sunday of Lent

**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

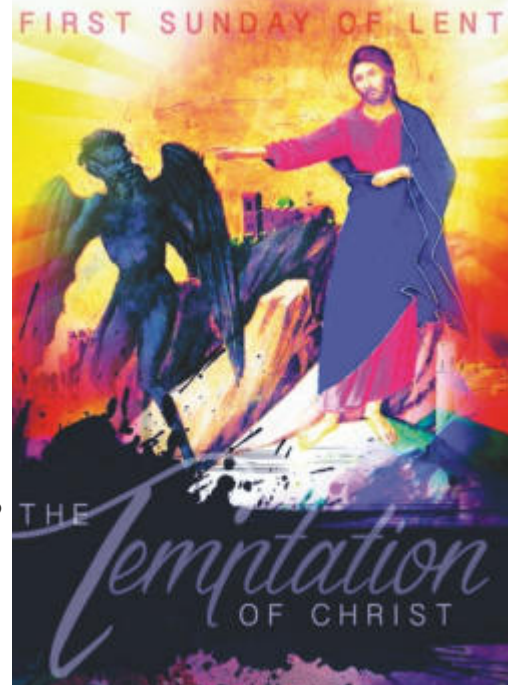
**GOSPEL MEDITATION:**

**MK 1:12-15**

St. Oscar Romero said, "Aspire not to have more, but to be more." These powerful words provide the perfect framework for a conversion oriented Lenten experience. God is giving us this Lenten sign to stop being concerned about what you have and focus on who you are. This requires that we create a desert space and listen more attentively for God to reveal His presence. It is all so wonderfully simple on the one hand and so incredibly challenging on the other. The message is simple: love God, neighbor, and self. Those simple words make great sense, but we struggle translating them into reality. Our attachments, compulsions, obsessions, addictions, routines, and busyness all anchor us to the "idol of the self," keeping us mired in our compulsive need for self-aggrandizement. It's not about us!

God vowed, long ago, to nurture, sustain and protect the relationship He has with His people. He called us into being, nurtures us in being, and sustains us in being. Without the Loving Divine Presence, all life would cease. Once we slow down a bit and clear away some of the clutter, we can see how the journey of our life is unfolding. We can see what brings us in and out of tune with God's love and how we can better imitate God's loving fidelity in our relationship with Him. In short, we will see our myopic short sightedness and figure out how we can better share the Divine Fire within with others. Lent isn't just about giving stuff up for forty days and indulging again at Easter. We need to push things much farther and wrestle with the question of how we can be

*(Cont'd on p. 2 →)*



**Celebration of the Mass**

Monday: 8 a.m.; 7:30 p.m.; Holy Hour 6:30 p.m.

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 Class:**

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

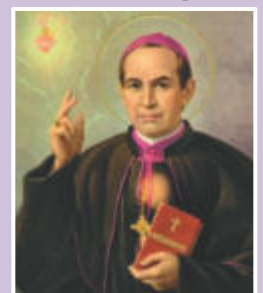
**Visitation of the Sick:** Call parish office to schedule visit.

**Funerals:** Call parish office prior to making arrangements.

**Marriage Prep:** Call parish office at least 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 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.



**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.

## 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 church entrance 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

Feb. 6/7 attendance & collection totals unavailable at press time.

## This Week in Our Parish

## Weddings:

Justin Moody & Mary Torres

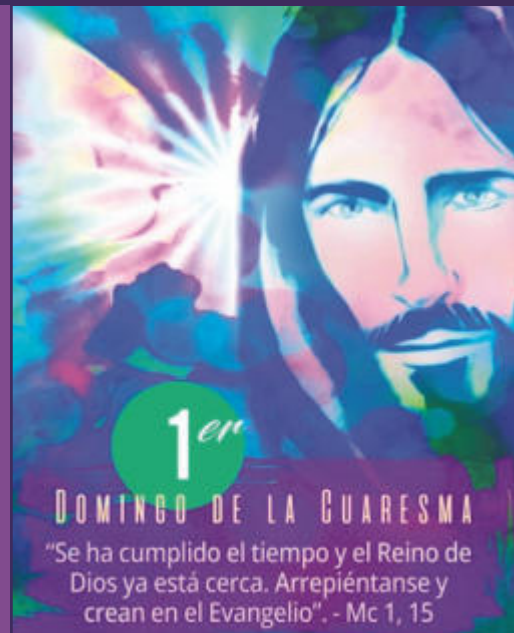
50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary:  
Rodolfo & Yolanda  
Navarro

GOSPEL MEDITATION, *Cont'd from page 1*

more. "Being more" means becoming more fully alive and in touch with the holiness of life and the divinity that lives in and empowers all beings and things. It is realizing that the "quality" of our presence is crucial to being an effective witness and herald of God's unconditional love.

The illusion we have bought into causes us to believe that the wrong things and systems matter. We tirelessly fight to keep things the way they are, to return to the former ways of doing things or restore some nostalgic fantasy memory of "life in the good old days." Lent isn't about maintaining what we have or returning to something that is gone. It's about becoming something new. It's about being more focused, centered, convicted, and grounded so that we can be a person who truly loves and treasures being made in the image of God. The secret to Gospel living is not found in accumulating anything for ourselves, even merit points for heaven. Gospel living means learning how to live with less so that others can live with more. The thought of permanently giving something up makes us feel uncomfortable. Truth often does.

©LPi



## MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

## Saturday, Feb. 20

5 P.M. Bert & Michael Bednarz† by Martha Bednarz  
Guadalupe Amador† by Elizabeth Comparan

## Sunday, Feb. 21

8 A.M. Healing for Thalia Gonzales  
by Gonzales Family  
10 A.M. Francesco†, Maria†, Carmela†, Corrado†,  
Sebastiano†, & Giovanni† by Sal Spataro  
12 P.M. Salvador Lopez† by Rachel & Savannah  
3 P.M. Birthday Blessings for Iraida Cambana  
by Children & Family  
6 P.M. For the Parish

## Monday, Feb. 15

8 A.M. Knofel Mattox† by Langas Family  
6:30 P.M. Holy Hour  
7:30 P.M. For an End to Abortion

## Tuesday, Feb. 16

8 A.M. Lida Hernandez† by Family

## Wednesday, Feb. 17

8 A.M. Christian Marlu Delacalzada†  
by Lagura Francisco Family

## Thursday, Feb. 18

8 A.M. Birthday Blessings for Emmett Philip  
Peterson by Bea Peterson  
David Comparan† by Elizabeth Comparan

## Friday, Feb. 19 \*\*\* NO MORNING MASS \*\*\*

5:30 P.M. Spanish Stations of the Cross  
7 P.M. English Stations of the Cross  
7:30 P.M. Good Health for Lourdes Bilbao  
by Anne Merlo

## Saturday, Feb. 20

5 P.M. Doyle & Margery Shields†; Mary Lou  
Liskey†; Martha Ann Ladd†  
by Harold & Claire Shields

## Sunday, Feb. 21

8 A.M. Porfirio Mendoza, Sr. †  
by Mendoza, Jr. Family  
10 A.M. Rudy† & Selia Garcia†; Manuel† &  
Concepcion Espinoza† by Espinoza Family  
12 P.M. Birthday Blessings for Emma & Jean Olech  
by Olech Family  
3 P.M. Rosario Huemer† by Family  
6 P.M. Pete Hernandez, Jr. † by Wife & Daughter

## THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

# God's Gift of Forgiveness

A Pastoral Exhortation on the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation

## Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

"Peace be with you!" With these words, the Risen Lord greeted his frightened Apostles in the Upper Room on the day of his Resurrection. They were troubled, anxious, and fearful—much like each one of us at some point in our lives. Christ repeated the words, "Peace be with you." But then he added, "Receive the holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them" (Jn 20:19-23).

What an extraordinary gift! The Risen Lord was proclaiming that all the suffering he had just endured was in order to make available the gifts of salvation and forgiveness. He wanted the Apostles to receive these gifts. He wanted them to become apostles of this forgiveness to others.

In the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation, also called confession, we meet the Lord, who wants to grant forgiveness and the grace to live a renewed life in him. In this sacrament, he prepares us to receive him free from serious sin, with a lively faith, earnest hope, and sacrificial love in the Eucharist. The Church sees confession as so important that she requires that every Catholic go at least once a year.<sup>1</sup> The Church also encourages frequent confession in order to grow closer to Christ Jesus and his Body, the Church. By the grace of the Holy Spirit, we seek forgiveness and repentance, let go of patterns

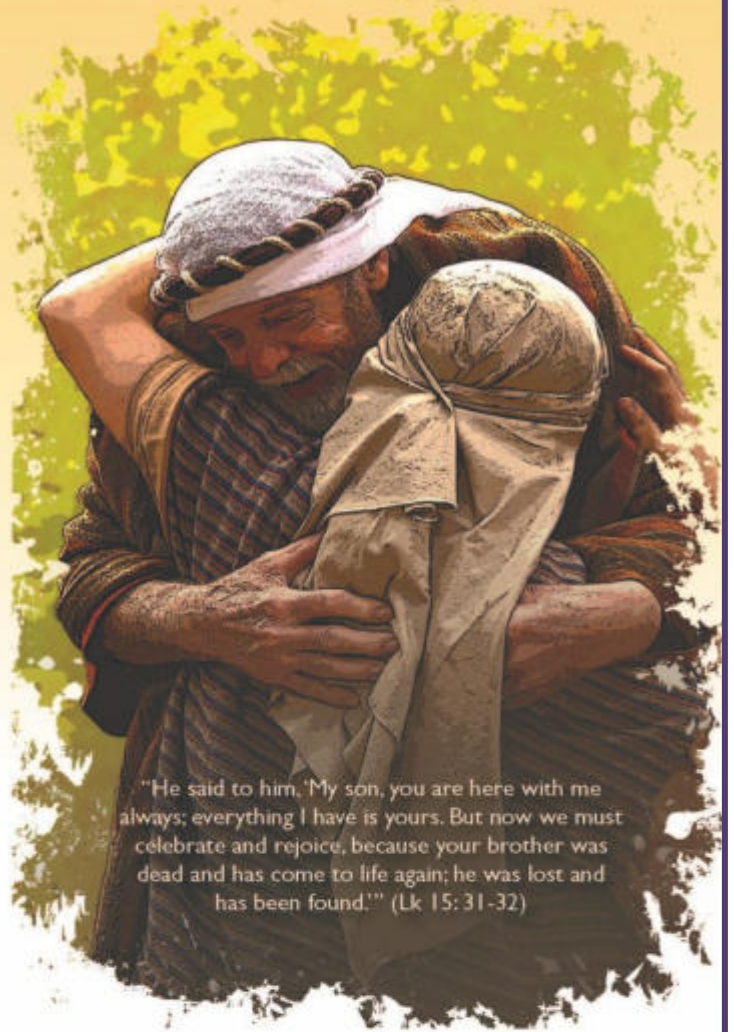
of sin, grow in the life of virtue, and witness to a joyful conversion. Since the graces of the sacrament are so similar to the purpose of the New Evangelization, Pope Benedict XVI has said, "The New Evangelization . . . begins in the confessional!"<sup>2</sup>

We bishops and priests are eager to help you if you experience difficulty, hesitation, or uncertainty about approaching the Lord in this sacrament. If you have not received this healing sacrament in a long time, we are ready to

FAITH  
WORSHIP  
WITNESS



JOURNEY  
WITH CHRIST



"He said to him, 'My son, you are here with me always; everything I have is yours. But now we must celebrate and rejoice, because your brother was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found.'" (Lk 15: 31-32)

welcome you. We, whom Christ has ordained to minister this forgiveness in his name, are also approaching this sacrament, as both penitents and ministers, throughout our lives and at this special moment of grace during Lent. We want to offer ourselves to you as forgiven sinners seeking to serve in the Lord's name.

During Lent—in addition to the various penitential services during which individual confession takes place—we bishops and priests will be making ourselves available often for the individual celebration of this sacrament. We pray that through the work of the Holy Spirit, all Catholics—clergy and laity—will respond to the call of the New Evangelization to encounter Christ in the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation. Come to the Lord and experience the extraordinary grace of his forgiveness!

1 *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, nos. 1457-1458.

2 Pope Benedict XVI, Address to the Annual Course on the Internal Forum Organized by the Apostolic Penitentiary, [www.vatican.va/holy\\_father/benedict\\_xvi/speeches/2012/march/documents/hf\\_ben-xvi\\_spe\\_20120309\\_penitenzieria-apolonica\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/speeches/2012/march/documents/hf_ben-xvi_spe_20120309_penitenzieria-apolonica_en.html).

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON COVID-19 VACCINES



Read the full statement from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops chairmen here:  
[moral-considerations-covid-vaccines \(usccb.org\)](https://www.usccb.org/moral-considerations-covid-vaccines)

Available in Spanish at [usccb.org](https://www.usccb.org).

Additional info can be found here:  
<https://www.ncregister.com/interview/archbishop-naumann-on-the-ethics-of-covid-19-vaccines>

Or here: <https://lozierinstitute.org/update-covid-19-vaccine-candidates-and-abortion-derived-cell-lines/>

## 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.



## COMMUNITY NEWS



## Resilient in Faith and Service

Jesus watched the people make their temple offerings. Many wealthy people gave great sums from their surplus. But Jesus pointed to another as having given more than all the rest—a poor widow who shared two small coins. Grateful for the Lord's love and blessings, and resilient in faith and service, she gave everything she had back to God. She was the richest of all in love. The past year has been especially difficult. As the Archbishop's Appeal for Ministries begins, let us pray for the courage and conviction to follow the poor widow's example. In a spirit of love and with a generous heart, let us give willingly and joyfully to meet others' needs.

Help your parish meet 25% participation goal by making a gift today! You can make a one-time gift, a monthly pledge, or a recurring monthly gift. A recurring gift is a monthly gift with no end date. This gift will continue until you indicate otherwise.

- Text-To-Give, (210) 750-6712, Keyword: APPEAL
- Give online at [www.archsa.org/appeal](http://www.archsa.org/appeal)
- Complete the gift form sent to your home
- Use the pew envelope, or
- Make your gift by phone at (210) 734-1604

The Annual Appeal qualifies for many company matching gift programs and are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

PARISH NEWS

BIBLE STUDY

**No Greater Love: A Biblical Walk Through Christ's Passion**  
 A LENTEN VIRTUAL CLASS FROM ASCENSION PRESS  
 (English only)

We often hear about Jesus' passion and death, but imagine experiencing them for the very first time. As we walk with Jesus on his journey from his agony in the garden to his crucifixion on Calvary, we will unpack the Biblical background, prophecies, and especially, the ways Jesus is inviting us to walk more closely with him today. This is a five-part Bible study program that begins Feb. 21 at 6 p.m. Participants will meet via Zoom to view an engaging video presentation by Edward Sri, followed by lively group discussion and fellowship.

- To register, visit <https://study.ascensionpress.com/studies/54224/registrations/new>.
- Be sure to order the *study set* for \$24.95 (not just the \$14.99 book).
- For info, contact John DeGennaro at [john.degennaro.jr@gmail.com](mailto:john.degennaro.jr@gmail.com).



**Baptism Classes**

No classes in February  
 Next class: Tuesday, March 2  
 7:30 p.m., RE Bldg., 1st floor

**DONATE NOW**

**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 at parish office
- Su Generosidad es Apreciada!
- ◆ Dando en línea: <http://samcsa.com/>  
 ◆ Para ayuda: 210-688-9033.
- ◆ Correo: 6150 Roft Rd., San Antonio, TX 78253  
 ◆ Durante misa o dejándolo en la oficina parroquia

**WARNING:**



Some parishioners have received emails requesting help or donations and falsely claiming to be from Fr. Jan. **DO NOT RESPOND OR SEND DONATIONS!**

**THE SUNDAY FUNNIES**

"Timmy, did you know that wild falcons live to be about 13 years old?"

"No, Dad, I didn't."

"Yeah, son, it's true. All the falcons in the wild today were born in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. That means they're millennial falcons!"



**40 CANS FOR LENT**

Lent provides opportunity to show gratitude for God's gifts and to share those gifts with others.

Our parish's Knights of Columbus invite you to help needy families by making "40 Cans for Lent" part of your Lenten journey.

Simply donate a can of food or non-perishable food item for each of the 40 days of Lent. Drop off donations in the large bin outside the church.

*"And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." - Col 3:17*



**COMMUNITY NEWS**

**Loved One in Jail or Prison?**

**Let Us Help You**



Criminal Justice Ministry  
 Archdiocesan Office  
 (210) 734-1980

[www.archsa.org/criminal-justice](http://www.archsa.org/criminal-justice)

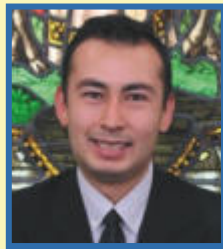
**FAITH & PRAYER**

**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.



**Moses Castro**



**Guillermo Cruz Hernandez**

Loving and gracious God, your son Jesus reminded us: "To love one another as I have loved you" (John 15:12). May we never forget Jesus' words in all that we do. We pray for an increase of vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and consecrated life in the Archdiocese of San Antonio. Give us the gifts of the Holy Spirit so we can serve you more faithfully in our own vocations of married, single, religious or priestly life. Help us to support one another in our vocations and to work together to build up your kingdom here on earth. Amen.

The committee also commends to your intercession this order committed to the consecrated life:  
***Missionaries of the Holy Family***

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

- |                       |                     |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Leticia Andrea Guerra | Mary Helen Peterson |
| Mary Keeton           | Sandy Salinas       |
| Tracey Kollmansberger | Eloise Salazar      |
| Teresa Santellanes    | Maria Morales       |
| Patricia Gonzales     | Rosa Huerta         |
| Dennis Bergkamp       | Barbara Vanegas     |
| Jo Ann Niedenthal     | A.C. Garza          |
| Bridget Dunlap        | Olga Faz            |
| Diego Garduno         | Bishop Yanta        |
| Michelle Reynolds     | Nancy Souhrada      |
| Karina Hernandez      | Bill Jennings       |
| Kelton Sweet, Jr.     | Dee Hancock         |
| Joanna Sweet          | Linda Santos        |
| Javier Calderon       | Tom Calderon Jr.    |
| George Aldaya         |                     |

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 21: Gn 9:8-15/1 Pt 3:18-22/Mk 1:12-15
- Monday 22: 1 Pt 5:1-4/Mt 16:13-19
- Tuesday 23: Is 55:10-11/Mt 6:7-15
- Wednesday 24: Jon 3:1-10/xLk 11:29-32
- Thursday 25: Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25/Mt 7:7-12
- Friday 26: Ez 18:21-28/Mt 5:20-26
- Saturday 27: Dt 26:16-19/Mt 5:43-48
- Sunday 28: Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/  
Rom 8:31b-34/Mk 9:2-10



February 17 - March 28  
**40 DAYS FOR LIFE**

**HELP SAVE LIVES IN SAN ANTONIO!**

Protect mothers and children by joining this worldwide mobilization to pray and fast for an end to abortion.

Through prayer, fasting, peaceful vigils, and community outreach, 40 Days for Life has inspired 1,000,000 volunteers!

With God's help, these are the proven results in 25 coordinated campaigns:

- 16,742 babies saved from abortion
- 196 abortion workers converted
- 104 abortion centers closed

Here's how to take part in 40 Days for Life in our community:

- Vigil location - Planned Parenthood, 2140 Babcock Rd.
- Vigil hours - 7 am to 7 pm daily; no Sundays
- Local contact - Cathy Nix [info@sacfl.org](mailto:info@sacfl.org) or 210-668-1993
- Learn more, get involved and sign up for prayer times by visiting [40daysforlife.com/SanAntonio](http://40daysforlife.com/SanAntonio)



**LENTEN FASTING & ABSTINENCE**



**Fasting**

Ash Wednesday  
Good Friday

Ages 18-59

**Abstinence**

Every Friday during Lent

Ages 14+

**How do we fast?**

When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal, as well as two smaller meals that together are not equal to a full meal.

**Am I excused from fasting and abstinence?**

Those that are excused from fast and abstinence outside the age limits include the physically or mentally ill including individuals suffering from chronic illnesses such as diabetes. Also excluded are pregnant or nursing women.

For more information on fasting and abstinence, visit [uscbb.org](http://uscbb.org).





**DEBRA BACHLEDA**  
CPA, PC, Parishioner

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**Gary Carpenter**  
EA, NTPF Fellow  
Parishioner

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**Dr. Beverly Kotara Wiatrek**  
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**534-8863**  
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