

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 12, 2021

Third 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

Tony Valdez

Parish Administrator:

Luis E. Astorga, MBA

Bookkeeper:

Rose Ann Villafranca, BBA, MBA

Secretary:

Elaine Wolf-Gentry, BS

Director of Religious Education

& Evangelization:

Jennifer Rupert, C.Th.

Coordinator of Religious Education:

Odilia Piña

Youth Ministry Coordinator:

Martie Kokotajlo

Music Director:

Paul Rauschhuber, BM, ME, MME

Bulletin Editor:

Sandy Salinas, BA

Sacristans:

Teresa Revilla

Rita 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.



3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

GOSPEL MEDITATION:

LK 3:10-18

"From silly devotions and sour-faced saints, good Lord, deliver us!"

— St. Teresa of Avila

We've all heard the adage, "Laughter is the best medicine." In many ways, it really is. When was the last time you really laughed? The gift of imagination allows us to see possible things that are yet to be. Imagine a world filled with laughter. We take life too seriously sometimes. Fear, uncertainty, pressure, negativity, disappointment, and myriad other human experiences can rob us of the joy needed for laughter. God never promised us an easy road, and we do have to take the course of our lives seriously. However, there is a balance to be sought and a possible joy that can be brought even to the

darkest and most challenging of encounters.

St. Therese of Lisieux reminds us that, "Joy is not found in the material objects surrounding us but in the inner recesses of the soul. One can possess joy in a prison cell as well as in a palace." Falling in love with God, who is present in all of creation, allows us to bring a depth of understanding to everything we do and experience. We can more easily see above and beyond things while pursuing the only One who can truly satisfy our hearts. When we realize that God, the king of Israel, is in our midst and with us, there is no further misfortune to fear. We can celebrate the wonder and beauty of God's gift of joy. It is no wonder that many saints radiate joy and have no reservations expressing laughter. They are happy because they have found a pearl of great price.

(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)

Saturdays: 4 p.m., Sundays: 4 p.m.

Baptism - Required Class:

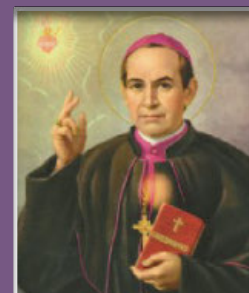
First Tuesday of the month, 7:30 p.m. Call parish office to register.

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.



IN OUR PARISH



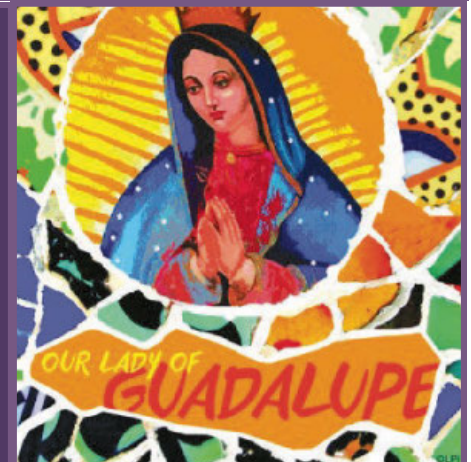
Welcome! As pastor of St. Anthony Mary Claret Catholic Church, I want to express welcome from all of us to you for choosing to become a member of our parish family. We hope you will always feel at home here and that our worship and other parochial services will fulfill your spiritual needs.

Please complete an online registration form at samcsa.com 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

Dec. 4/5 attendance and collection totals unavailable at press time.



GOSPEL MEDITATION, *Cont'd from page 1*

We celebrate with joy today with hearts filled with expectation, wonder, awe, and beauty as we ready ourselves, even more excitedly, for the coming of our Savior. Do not fear and do not be discouraged. If you haven't laughed in a while, why? Something is preventing you from expressing the magnificence of your soul and the presence of God who dwells within. God's power and presence within us assures us that we are loved and kept in that presence. What more is really needed? Rejoice and laugh in the presence of God! It really is the best medicine and a most perfect way to convince others that God is really with us. "Go ahead, laugh! Live your life with joy and serve the Lord with laughter! Joy, with peace, is the sister of charity. Serve the Lord with laughter" (St. Padre Pio of Pietrelcina). ©LPi



MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Saturday, Dec. 11
 5 P.M. **Spiritual Healing & Strength for Current & Future Descendants of Daniel R. † & Manuela M. Gonzales†** by Y. Gonzales
 BB* for Nate Olech by Olech Family

Sunday, Dec. 12
 8 A.M. **Nizza Deguzman†** by Lagura-Francisco Family
 10 A.M. **Alan J. Ponce†; Margaret† & Albert Suarez†; Healing for Anthony Ponce** by Alma Ponce
 12 P.M. **Liz Fischer†** by John Fischer & Daughter
 3 P.M. **For the Parish**
 6 P.M. **Billie Sievers†** by Charlie Sievers & Family
Israel & Manuela Esparza† by Alicia & Mario Longoria

Monday, Dec. 13
 8 A.M. **Raymond Bendele†; BB* for Dennis Friedrichs** by Bea Peterson
Rexel C. Meneses† by Family
 6:30 P.M. Holy Hour
 7:30 P.M. **Good Health for Andrea & Esteban Luna** by Family

Tuesday, Dec. 14
 8 A.M. BB* for Alana Smith by Jeanette Erickson

Wednesday, Dec. 15
 8 A.M. BB* for Melissa Slocumb by Mom

Thursday, Dec. 16
 8 A.M. Bill Tricksey† by Darlene Belanger

Friday, Dec. 17
 8 A.M. BB* for Anissa Sanchez by Family

Saturday, Dec. 18
 5 P.M. Richard Keller† by Keller & Rankin Families

Sunday, Dec. 19
 8 A.M. **Msgr. Lucian Brasley†** by Bea Alvarez
 10 A.M. **Francesco†, Maria†, Carmela†, Corrado†, Sebastiano†, & Giovanni†** by Sal Spataro
Mr. & Mrs. Jesus Elizondo† by Family
 12 P.M. BB* for Irma Rodriguez by Gibbs Family
 3 P.M. **Luis, Lucia & Vicente Feliciano†;**
 6 P.M. **Angela Gutierrez†** by Nita Feliciano

* BB = Birthday Blessings

FAMILY FAITH TRADITIONS

It's the Most Wonderful Time of Year

This blog post was originally published on USCCB's For Your Marriage website, as a part of the series "Keep the Faith" by Rob and Kathy Hayes.

Over the years, we've learned how to keep our sanity, but more importantly how to stay focused on the joyful message of Christmas and the preparation period of Advent.

We readily admit that some years we've felt a fair amount of stress as Christmas approaches. We're certainly not immune to the various pressures and traditions that "we just have to keep." Although there is no magic formula for a stress-free December, over our three decades of marriage we've settled into several traditions that help keep the focus on Christ's birth and contribute to what makes the season unique for our family.

Every year we celebrate Advent, Saint Nicholas (December 6), Saint Lucy (December 13), Saint Stephen (December 26), and Epiphany (January 6 or the Sunday after the Feast of Mary Mother of God). Our current parish also has a carol sing the Sunday evening before Christmas, which is always a great pause from the busyness leading up to the holiday. If that weren't enough, we celebrate our engagement date (two days prior to Christmas) by going out to dinner as a deliberate pause for the two of us amid all the activity.

We enjoy having an Advent Wreath on our kitchen table from the first Sunday of Advent until Christmas. We typically put up our Christmas decorations no earlier than two weeks before Christmas. This way, we're not tired of them by the time Christmas arrives and we're happy to keep them up through Epiphany to celebrate the entirety of the Christmas season.

Being a Coast Guard family, we often were not near our extended family, so our Christmas day was usually joyful but calm. We weren't on a tight schedule of trying to get to gatherings hosted by other family members.



While we were stationed in the Washington, DC area, we started a tradition of attending noon Mass on December 26th for the Feast of St. Stephen at the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception followed by a matinee movie (the only time in the year we see a movie in the theater) and dinner out.

We both come from families of generous gift-giving and wanted to keep gift-giving in perspective, so we settled on three gifts (plus a stocking) for our children — similar to Jesus' three gifts from the Magi. This tradition helped keep the volume of gifts in balance with what we were actually celebrating, especially when our children were younger.

Special meals are a big part of our Christmas traditions, so we have specific favorite meals and desserts for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Our schedule on Christmas Eve includes a fancy dinner, a picture of the kids dressed up in front of the tree, and then Christmas Eve Mass. Afterwards, the kids exchange their gifts with each other per the gift exchange they organize among themselves each year.

For many years we hosted an Epiphany party for our friends as a way to celebrate the end of the Christmas season. It was a great way to celebrate the close of the season, and there was less stress and less competition with other events, as it was after Christmas.

So, as Advent and Christmas approach, we look forward to our traditions to help us focus on the reason for the season. We pray for peace and hope in the coming of our Savior to displace our stress so that we may enjoy this wonderful time of the year.

Keep the Faith.



Catholic
Current

This blog post was originally published on USCCB's For Your Marriage website.
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Illustration: Getty Images

RESPECT LIFE

Word of Life

We are recognizing that a culture of life is also a culture of freedom and that a culture of death is a culture of oppression, indeed a dictatorship of relativism. ...Through [Mary's] intercession, may we be given the wisdom, courage and strength we need to employ our God-given liberty to protect life, to strengthen the family and to continue contributing mightily to the common good of society for the good of our nation, for the up-building of the Church and for the salvation of souls.

— Most Reverend William E. Lori, Archbishop of Baltimore, homily at "Mass for Life and Liberty," October 14, 2012

Palabra De Vida

Reconocemos que una cultura de vida también es una cultura de libertad y que una cultura de muerte es una cultura de opresión, en efecto una dictadura del relativismo. ...Por medio de la intercesión [de María], que recibamos la sabiduría, la valentía y la fortaleza que necesitamos para usar la libertad conferida por Dios para proteger la vida, fortalecer la familia y continuar contribuyendo poderosamente al bien común de la sociedad para el bien de nuestra nación, para la construcción de la Iglesia y para la salvación de las almas.

— Reverendísimo William E. Lori, Arzobispo de Baltimore, homilía en "Misa por la vida y la libertad", 14 de octubre de 2012

Intercessions for Life

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. Let us pray to the Lord.

Intercesiones por la Vida

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.

COMMUNITY NEWS

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PRAY AMONG BROTHER

MORNING MASS INVITATION
You are invited to attend morning Mass Saturday at 8:15am in St. Matthew's Church before beginning your CMC experience.

Most Rev. Gary Janak, LPC-S
Auxiliary Bishop of San Antonio

Mark Houck
The King's Men

John Sablan
World Ablesse

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Sat., Feb. 26, 2022,
St. Matthew's Athletic Center

Speakers include: Auxiliary Bishop of San Antonio Most Rev. Gary Janak, Mark Houck & John Sablan. Register at the early bird rate of \$45 (through 12/31) which includes lunch, conference packet, plus *Men of Hope* video series delivered to your personal email after the Conference. For more info, visit CMCSanAntonio.com or call Pilgrim Center of Hope at 210-521-3377.

Details here

PARISH NEWS

Silver Seniors Luncheon

Wed., Dec. 15, 12 p.m.
 Doors open at 11:30 a.m.
 Msgr. Hubertus Hall
 Eat, visit & enjoy an afternoon of Christmas music, photos with Santa, white elephant gift exchange and more! Bring donations of infant diapers to benefit the Gabriel Project.
 Open to ages 55 & over.
RSVP to Larry Lucido at 210-473-4813.
 In your charity, please keep our founder, Marjory Wendler, in your prayers.



St. Anthony Claret Knights of Columbus Council #10090 &



Christmas Diaper Drive

Donate infant diapers now through Jan. 9.
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DASH: Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension

Thursdays, Jan. 13 - Feb. 17 via Zoom

TOPICS

- Jan. 13: DASHing your way to improved health
- Jan. 20: Making a date with DASH
- Jan. 27: Be DASHing with fruits & vegetables
- Feb. 3: Make a DASH to shake your salty habit
- Feb. 10: DASHing with dairy
- Feb. 17: Uncovering added sugars

For info or to register:
 Lawrence Lucido at mrlaredo33@aol.com
 or Grace Guerra-Gonzalez at rguerra@pvamu.edu.



Coming this Spring.

The Knights of Columbus Present...

St. Anthony's Got Talent

Talent Competition

For all Ages

Details to Come

St. Anthony Claret Knights of Columbus Council 10090

is now recruiting new members!
Learn more about us, our benefits and a accomplishments.



Check us out this weekend, Dec. 11/12, outside the main doors after all Masses.



Marriage Ministry Advent Celebration

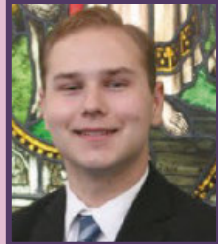


for married & engaged couples
 Friday, Dec. 17, 7-9 p.m., Msgr. Hubertus Hall
 Marriage is a gift. Celebrate how marriage fulfills us, makes us happy and provides someone who cares for us.
 RSVP to Roland & Sonia Garcia at marriageministrysamc@gmail.com no later than Dec. 15. **NO child care available.**

FAITH & PRAYER

PRAY FOR VOCATIONS!

Pray for our local seminarians and for an increase in vocations to religious life. This month we especially pray for these two seminarians:



Guillermo Cruz Hernández Dalton Moy

O loving and gracious God, Father of all, You bless Your people in every time and season and provide for their needs through Your providential care. Your Church is continually in need of priests, sisters and brothers to offer themselves in the service of the Gospel by lives of dedicated love. Open the hearts of Your sons and daughters to listen to Your call in their lives. Give them the gift of understanding to discern Your invitation to serve You and Your Church. Give them the gift of courage to follow Your call. May they have the spirit of young Samuel who found fulfillment in his life when he said to You, "Speak Lord, for Your servant is listening." We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Redeemer. Amen.

— Most Rev. Joseph A. Fiorenza, Archbishop Emeritus of Galveston-Houston

We also commend to your intercession this order committed to the consecrated life:
Cordi-Marian Missionary Sisters

SAINTLY WISDOM

This is how to pray *continually*: not by offering prayers in words, but by *joining yourself to God* through your *whole way of life* so that your life becomes one *continuous and uninterrupted prayer*.

— St. Basil the Great

PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISH FAMILY

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| Yolanda Barron | Karina Hernandez |
| Margaret Mary Lucido | Kelton Sweet, Jr. |
| Michael Gene Roberson | Joanna Sweet |
| Garry | Javier Calderon |
| Juanita & Francisco Rosas | George Aldaya |
| Stoltz Family | Mary Helen Peterson |
| Mary Flora | Eloise Salazar |
| Nellie Coronado | Maria Morales |
| Marilu Merlo | Rosa Huerta |
| Joe Borunda | Barbara Vanegas |
| Nelson Tamondong | A.C. Garza |
| Eugene Lovato | Manuel & Eloise Salazar |
| Tony Salinas | Javier & Mary Bautista |
| Alejandro De Luna | Olga Faz |
| Deacon Jerry Kozar | Bishop Yanta |
| Maggie Reyna | Nancy Souhrada |
| Rocio Gibbs | Bill Jennings |
| Fr. Patrick Martin | Dee Hancock |
| Cheryl Ferrell | Linda Santos |
| Tracey Kollmansberger | Tom Calderon Jr. |
| Bridget Dunlap | Sandy Salinas |

List is reserved for *names of parishioners and immediate family only*. You may submit up to **FOUR** names at a time. Names usually run for four weeks.

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

- Sunday 12: Zep 3:14-18a/Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-18
 Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Mt 21:23-27
 Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Mt 21:28-32
 Wednesday: Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21c-25/Lk 7:18b-23
 Thursday: Is 54:1-10/Lk 7:24-30
 Friday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Mt 1:1-17
 Saturday: Jer 23:5-8/Mt 1:18-25
 Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45

THE SUNDAY FUNNIES



What did the reindeer say before launching into his comedy routine? This will sleigh you!



CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

FRIDAY, DEC. 24 (NO MORNING MASS):

5 P.M., 7 P.M. & 12 MIDNIGHT

SATURDAY, DEC. 25:

10 A.M., 12 NOON, & 3 P.M. (SPANISH)

MASS TIMES TO FULFILL SUNDAY, DEC. 26 OBLIGATION

SATURDAY, DEC. 25: 5 P.M.

SUNDAY, DEC. 26: 8 & 10 A.M., 12 NOON, & 3 P.M. (SPANISH) & 6 P.M.

This year Christmas falls on a Saturday. As always, it is a **Holy Day of Obligation**. You may choose to attend Mass on **Friday, Dec. 24** or **Saturday, Dec. 25** at the times listed above in **red** to fulfill the Christmas requirement. The **regular Sunday Mass obligation still remains** for **Dec. 26** and you may choose to attend Mass at any of the times listed above in **blue**.



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