# 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.



**Second Sunday of Advent** 

#### **December 5, 2021**

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

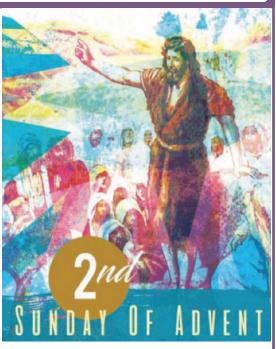
We, the people of St. Anthony Mary Claret Parish, have as our mission to open our hearts and doors to those from all walks of life so that they too may share in the everlasting presence of God.

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.

#### GOSPEL MEDITATION: LK 3:1-6

St. Ambrose shares some wisdom on our need to prepare the way and open the door for Christ. "You see that when the Word of God knocks hardest on your door, it is when his hair is wet with the dew of the night. In fact, he chooses to visit those who are in tribulation and trial, lest one of them be overwhelmed by distress. So, his head is covered with dew, with drops, when his body is laboring hard. It is important to keep watch so that when the Bridegroom comes, he is not shut out. If you are asleep and your heart is not keeping watch, he will go away without knocking; but if your heart is alert for his coming, he knocks and asks for the door to be opened to him." When life gets overwhelming and difficult and we find ourselves feeling a bit downhearted and miserable, these words can bring great comfort.



We sometimes choose to remain stuck in our uncomfortable darkness and being stuck becomes our norm. In this time of self-focus our hearts are closed to the graces and life God desires to give us. Wrapped in the robe of mourning and misery, we fail to see the mercy, justice, and love the Bridegroom wants to bring. If we take seriously the need to prepare the way for Christ and open our hearts in preparation for his visit, we can hear God's gentle voice calling us deep within. It beckons us to seek out its source and discover the inner calm and peace that can prevail over the darkness of despair. Sometimes our darkness is so dark that it may seem unsurmountable.

(Cont'd on p.  $2 \rightarrow$ )

### 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.

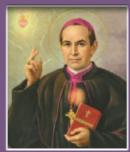
# Baptism - Required Class:

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.



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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 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

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

Trusting in the spiritual friends who journey with us, and God's promise may bring a glimmer of light even when it is most difficult to keep our hearts' doors open. Sometimes, the only light in the darkness is found in trusting the faith of others both past and present.

We have to trust that God has already begun the accomplishment of good work in us and that humanity is on an incredible journey to something wonderful and awesome. God is not done. When we open the doors of our hearts, straighten the paths of our lives, and prepare the way, Jesus can come with God's simple gifts of peace, grace, and joy. Life throws a great deal at us. It is easy to get tired and confused. We have to train our hearts to keep watch, discern what is of value, and forge ahead. Not allowing ourselves to become so weighed down by things and brought out of focus is a tremendous goal to achieve this Advent season. God is knocking. Answer the door. You will see and understand life in ways you never thought possible before.

Nov. 20/21 attendance & collection totals

Attendance	2,120
Regular Collection	\$ 25,076.15
RE Bldg. Debt Reduction	\$ 5,916.00
SAMC Pantry	\$ 1,095.00
Gabriel Project	\$ 740.00
Retired Religious	\$ 250.00
Candles	\$ 219.00
Capital Campaign	\$ 200.00
Rosary Makers	\$ 30.00

Nov. 24/25 attendance total 364

Nov. 27/28 attendance & collection totals

Attendance	2,514
Regular Collection	\$ 24,461.61
RE Bldg. Debt Reduction	\$ 5,934.00
SAMC Pantry	\$ 945.00
Candles	\$ 246.50
Gabriel Project	\$ 80.00



December 8: Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary A Holy Day of Obligation

MASS TIMES: Tuesday, Dec. 7, 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 8. 8 a.m. & 7 p.m.

### MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

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Saturday, Dec.	4
5 P.M.	Jes

5 P.M. Jesse Armendariz† by Teresa Revilla For St. Anthony Mary Claret Priests, Staff & Ministry Leaders by Staff

Sunday, Dec. 5

**8 A.M.** Vincent Carvalho† by Jeremias & Clarissa

Fernandes

**10A.M.** Andrew F. Kozar† by Dcn. Jerry & Pat Kozar

12 P.M. Blas L. Alvarado† by Daughter Debra

3 P.M. For the Parish

**6 P.M. Kelly Joseph Khattar**† by Rankin Family

Monday, Dec. 6

8 A.M. Spec. Int.: James & Henry Pawelek; Alois

& Florence Olenick by Olenick Family

6:30 P.M. Holy Hour

7:30 P.M. For Those Suffering an Agonizing Death

by Emma Ortiz

Tuesday, Dec. 7 \*\*\* NO MORNING MASS\*\*\*

7 P.M. BB\* for Jesse Vela by Gloria Casanova

Wednesday, Dec. 8 \*\*\* PARISH OFFICE CLOSED \*\*\*

8 A.M. Emma Blanche Wilson† by Daughter 7 P.M. Rudy & Selia Garcia†; Manuel &

Concepcion Espinoza† by Espinoza Family

Thursday, Dec. 9

**8 A.M. Hector Colunga**† by Colunga Family

Friday, Dec. 10

**8 A.M. BB\* for Alexis Macias** by Mary Macias

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

\* BB = Birthday Blessings

# SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMCAULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

On December 8, we celebrate the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, which references Mary's conception in her mother's womb without the stain of Original Sin:

An essential part of God's plan for the mother of his Son was that she be conceived free from Original Sin. "Through the centuries the Church became ever more aware that Mary, "full of grace" through God, was redeemed from the moment of her conception" (CCC, no. 491).

In anticipation that she was to bear the Son of God, Mary was preserved from the time of her conception from Original Sin. We call this the Immaculate Conception. No sin would touch her, so that she would be a fitting and worthy vessel of the Son of God. The Immaculate Conception does not refer to the virginal conception and birth of Christ, but rather to Mary's being conceived without inheriting Original Sin.

In the course of time, the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception became more precisely enunciated, as its truth—long supported by the universal popular devotion of the faithful—was better understood by deepening theological inquiry. In 1854, Pope Pius IX proclaimed this dogma infallibly: that is, in his role as supreme teacher of the Church, he declared that this doctrine is divinely revealed and must be accepted with faith by the entire

Church. (United States Catholic Catechism for Adults, 142-143)

Even before this tenet of the faith was formally declared, a long tradition of faith that held this belief that Mary was conceived without sin:

This feast was celebrated in some monasteries before the beginning of the eighth century and became widespread in the eighteenth century. In the United States, celebration of this observance predates the Declaration of Independence. The bishops commended the nation to the patronage of Mary under the title of the Immaculate Conception in 1846. It became a nationwide holy day in 1885. (Essential Guide to Seasons and Saints, 120)



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# Pope Francis' Prayer for the Immaculate Conception

O Mary, our Immaculate Mother, on your feast day I come to you, and I come not alone: I bring with me all those with whom your Son entrusted to me, in this city of Rome and in the entire world, that you may bless them and preserve them from harm.

I bring to you, Mother, children, especially those who are alone, abandoned, and for this reason are tricked and exploited. I bring to you, Mother, families, who carry forward life and society with their daily and hidden efforts; in a special way the families who struggle the most for their many internal and external problems. I bring to you, Mother, all workers, both men and women, and I entrust to you especially those who, out of need, are forced to work in an unworthy profession and those who have lost work or are unable to find it.

We are in need of your immaculate gaze, to rediscover the ability to look upon persons and things with respect and awareness, without egotistical or hypocritical interests. We are in need of your immaculate heart, to love freely, without secondary aims but seeking the good of the other, with simplicity and sincerity, renouncing masks and tricks. We are in need of your immaculate hands, to caress with tenderness, to touch the flesh of Jesus in our poor, sick, or despised brethren, to raise up those who have fallen and support those who waver. We are in need of your immaculate feet, to go toward those who know not how to make the first step, to walk on the paths of those who are lost, to find those who feel alone.

We thank you, O Mother, because in showing yourself to us you free us of all stain of sin; you remind us that what comes first is the grace of God, the love of Jesus Christ who gave his life for us, the strength of the Holy Spirit which renews all things. Let us not give in to discouragement, but, trusting in your constant help, let us engage ourselves fully in renewal of self, of this city and of the entire world. Pray for us, Holy Mother of God!

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# **RESPECT LIFE**

### Word of Life

"We must also recognize our sinfulness. When we survey the damage abortion has caused in our culture, we must repent for our sins of omission. We Christians bear some responsibility for our national shame. Some of us have supported pro-choice positions. Many of us have failed to change minds or win hearts. We've failed to convince the culture that all life has dignity. In the prospect of unspeakable evil, we've done too little, for too long, with tragic results."

— Denver Archbishop Samuel J. Aquila - January 22, 2013

#### Palabra De Vida

"También debemos reconocer nuestra tendencia de pecar. Cuando examinamos el daño que el aborto ha causado en nuestra cultura, debemos arrepentirnos de nuestros pecados de omisión. Nosotros, los cristianos tenemos cierta responsabilidad en nuestra vergüenza nacional. Algunos de nosotros hemos apoyado posiciones pro-elección. Muchos de nosotros no hemos logrado cambiar las mentes o ganar corazones. No hemos logrado convencer a la cultura que toda vida tiene dignidad. En la perspectiva Del mal indecible, hemos hecho demasiado poco, por mucho tiempo, con resultados trágicos".

- Arzobispo de Denver Samuel J. Aquila - el 22 de enero de 2013

#### **Intercessions for Life**

May God help us prepare the way of the Lord by acting with tenderness and compassion, especially toward the most vulnerable among us. Let us pray to the Lord.

### Intercesiones por la Vida

Que Dios nos ayude a preparar el camino del Señor actuando con ternura y compasión, especialmente hacia los más vulnerables entre nosotros Roguemos al Señor.



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# **PARISH NEWS**

St. Anthony Mary Claret Knights of Columbus Council #10090 Breakfast with Santa

Saturday, Dec. 11
9 a.m. – 12 p.m.
\$8/person
incl. pancakes,
sausage & drink
Activities for kids 12 & under.
Santa arrives at 9:30 a.m.



Children must be accompanied by an adult at all times.

Tickets on sale after all Masses this weekend.



Last month, the St. Anthony Claret Pantry distributed 76 \$30 HEB gift cards along with cake, icing and food bags for Thanksgiving.
This was all made possible through the generosity of our parishioners.

### **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.



Our parish choir is recruiting ADULT singers for Advent and Christmas seasons.

NOTE: These individuals will sing at the Christmas midnight Mass.

All voice parts needed. Rehearsals are Thursday evenings, 7-8:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. To sign up, contact music director Paul Rauschhuber at 210-865-4717 or <a href="mailto:prauschhuber@yahoo.com">prauschhuber@yahoo.com</a>.



#### BAPTISM CLASS

Tuesday, Dec. 7, 7:30 p.m. RE Bldg., 1st floor





In Sympathy...Our parish community mourns the loss of parishioner Carolyn Cole who recently passed away. We offer our deepest condolences to her husband Ray and to her family.

Go forth, Christian soul, from this world in the name of God the almighty Father, who created you, in the name of Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, who suffered for you, in

the name of the Holy Spirit, who was poured out upon you. Go forth, faithful Christian. May you live in peace this day. May your home be with God in Zion, with Mary, the Virgin Mother of God, with Joseph, and all the angels and saints. Amen.



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)

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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# **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 Mov** 

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

"Are we ready to receive Him? Before the birth



of Jesus, His parents asked for a simple dwelling place, but there was none. If Mary and Joseph were looking for a home for Jesus, would they choose...your heart, and all it holds? Let us pray that we shall be able to welcome Jesus at Christmas..."

- St. Teresa of Calcutta (Mother Teresa)



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

Yolanda Barron Michael Gene Roberson Garry Juanita & Francisco Rosas Stoltz Family Mary Flora Nellie Coronado Marilu Merlo Joe Borunda Nelson Tamondong Carolyn Cole Eugene Lovato **Tony Salinas** Alejandro De Luna Deacon Jerry Kozar Maggie Reyna Rocio Gibbs Fr. Patrick Martin Chervl Ferrell Tracev Kollmansberger **Bridget Dunlap** 

Karina Hernandez Kelton Sweet, Jr. Joanna Sweet Javier Calderon George Aldava Mary Helen Peterson Éloise Salazar Maria Morales Rosa Huerta Barbara Vanegas A.C. Garza Manuel & Eloise Salazar Javier & Mary Bautista Olga Faz Bishop Yanta Nancy Souhrada Bill Jennings Dee Hancock Linda Santos Tom Calderon Jr. 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 5: Bar 5:1-9/Phil 1:4-6, 8-11/Lk 3:1-6 Monday 6: Is 35:1-10/Lk 5:17-26 Tuesday 7: Is 40:1-11/Mt 18:12-14 Wednesday 8: Gn 3:9-15, 20/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/ Lk 1:26-38 Thursday 9: Is 41:13-20/Mt 11:11-15 Friday 10: Is 48:17-19/Mt 11:16-19 Saturday 11: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Mt 17:9a, 10-13 Sunday 12: Zep 3:14-18a/Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-18

#### **Pope Francis' Prayer Intention-December**

Let us pray for the catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God. May they be its witnesses, with courage and

creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit. O Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I offer You my prayers, works, joys, and sufferings of this day in union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass throughout the world. I offer them for all the intentions of Your Sacred Heart: the salvation of souls, reparation for sin, and the reunion of all Christians. I offer them for the



intentions of our bishops and in particular for those recommended by our Holy Father this month. Amen.

#### Intención del Santo Padre Francisco-Deciembre

Recemos por los catequistas, llamados a proclamar la Palabra de Dios: para que sean testigos de ella con valentía, creatividad y con la fuerza del Espíritu Santo.

Dios, Padre nuestro, yo te ofrezco toda mi jornada, mis oraciones, pensamientos, afectos y deseos, palabras, obras, alegrías y sufrimientos en unión con el Corazón de tu Hijo Jesucristo que sigue ofreciéndose a Ti en la Eucaristía para la salvación del mundo. Que el Espíritu Santo, que guió a Jesús, sea mi guía y mi fuerza en este día para que pueda ser testigo de tu amor. Con María, la madre del Señor y de la Iglesia, pido especialmente por las intenciones del Papa y de nuestros obispos para este mes. Amen.



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