St. Anthony Mary Claret

Roman Catholic Church
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Office: 210-688-9033 • Fax: 210-688-0187

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Send comments or questions to saclaret@saclaret.com.



Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 18, 2022

Pastor:

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

Parochial Vicar

Rev. Arul Francis Arputham, M.A., B.Ed. MSFS

Deacons:

Jerome (Jerry) Kozar, M.S. Gene Festa Tom Elms Tony Valdez Jose Bermea

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: Kimberle Keneally, BA, M. Ed.

Music Director:

Paul Rauschhuber, BM, ME, MME

Bulletin Editor:

Sandy Salinas, BA

Sacristans:

Teresa Revilla Rita Valdez

Grounds & Maintenance:

Charlie Sievers

Rafael Olmos Roger Ruiz

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: MT 1:18-24

A seminary professor of mine once said, "Don't confuse enthusiasm for a virtue with the virtue itself." How easy it's been in my life as a priest to talk about the greatest of virtues — love — and totally fail to live up to its concrete demands!

Fortunately, our religion is not mainly about ideas or virtues but about persons. The angel of the Lord says to Joseph, "Do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit" (Mt.1:20). We don't know

exactly why Joseph was scared to receive Mary and therefore Jesus. We do know the solution: take Mary home. It's so concrete. Look at her. Listen to her. Talk to her. Protect her. Help her. Laugh with her. Eat with her. Rest with her. Christianity begins here for Joseph, so it must with us, too.

This week I challenge you to choose a concrete way to "take Mary into your home." Praying a weekly or daily Rosary is a proven way. Perhaps for you it's making a little shrine with a statue or image. Maybe it's praying a weekly Litany of Our Lady on Saturday night. Whatever it is, make sure it is a concrete action and do it. She will be there. Soon her virtues will follow, especially love.

— Father John Muir ©LPi

Celebration of the Mass

Monday: 8 am; 7:30 pm; Holy Hour 6:30 pm Tuesday - Friday: 8 am; Saturday Vigil Mass: 5 pm Sunday: 8 & 10 am; 12, 3 (Spanish), & 6 pm Holy Days of Obligation: Check inside bulletin for times.



Reconciliation (Confession)

Saturdays: 4 pm; Sundays: 4 pm

Baptism - Required Class:

First Tuesday of the month, 7:30 pm. 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. Attend mandatory orientation third Thursday of March or September at 7 pm.

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. Attend mandatory orientation fourth Thursday of March or August at 7 pm.

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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



(Confession)
THIS Sunday, Dec. 18, 7:15 PM
Several priests will be available
to hear your confessions.

Prepare your heart & soul for Jesus.

Dec. 3/4 attendance & collection totals

Attendance	3,149
Regular Collection	\$ 30,348.30
RE Bldg. Debt Reduction	\$ 7,517.00
SAMC Pantry	\$ 805.00
Candles	\$ 554.45
Gabriel Project	\$ 415.00
Capital Campaign	\$ 200.00
Retired Men & Women Religious	\$ 95.00
Christmas Offering	\$ 55.00
Solemnity of Mary	\$ 15.00

Dec. 10/11 attendance & collection totals unavailable at press time.





MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

3	a	tur	day	7, D	ec.	17	
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5 PM William Lisko† by Betsy Popham

Sunday, Dec. 18

8 AM Pedro Coronel† by Diana & Valdo Soliz 10 AM Alan J. Ponce†: Margaret† & Albert

Alan J. Ponce†; Margaret† & Albert Suarez†; Healing for Anthony Ponce

by Alma Ponce

12 PM Jesus & Natalia Elizondo† by Family

3 PM For the Parish

6 PM Healing for Tony & Rachel Delgado

& SJS by Rick & Sandy Salinas

7:15 PM Advent Reconciliation (Confession)

Monday, Dec. 19

8 AM BB* for August Adderholdt

by Jeanette Erickson

6:30 PM Holy Hour

7:30 PM Msgr. Lucian Brasley† by Bea Alvarez

Tuesday, Dec. 20

8 AM Margaret Rendon† by Alice Russell

Wednesday, Dec. 21

8 AM In Thanksgiving to St. Rose of Lima

by Maria Mikula

Thursday, Dec. 22

8 AM Telesfora Elvena† by Chiapoco Family

Friday, Dec. 23 *** PARISH OFFICE CLOSED ***

8 AM Michael J. Swierc† by Sam & Connie Lyssy

Saturday, Dec. 24

5 PM Santos & Olga Vasquez†

by Frank & Cindy Gonzalez

7 PM Joseph† & Ella Kopech†; Joseph L. Stein†;

Robert† & Floranna Stein†; Richard

Caldwell, Jr.† by Blanchard Family

12 AM BB* for Terry Armendariz

by Teresa Revilla

Sunday, Dec. 25

*** NO 8 AM OR 6 PM MASSES TODAY

10 AM For the Parish

12 PM Pedro Roque, Jr.† by Daughter Joan Fojas 3 PM Julia†, Padre Domingo†, Andres Vicente†,

Emelia†, Celia†, & Ebodio†

by Velasco Family

*BB = Birthday Blessings

RESPECT LIFE

Word of Life

"Jesus calls each of us to 'care for the other as a person for whom God has made us responsible' (EV 87*). ... The encyclical The Gospel of Life recognizes the full range of threats against human life, from poverty and malnutrition to murder and war. Particular emphasis, however, is placed on threats to life at its beginning and end—precisely when it is most in need of protection. In modern times, children in their mothers' wombs and those approaching the end of their lives are certainly among the 'least of these' in our world's estimation."

— USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, respectlife.org/live-the-gospel-of-life *Excerpt from Evangelium vitae, © 1995, Libreria Editrice Vaticana. Used with permission. All rights reserved.

Palabra De Vida

"Jesús nos llama a cada uno de nosotros a 'hacernos cargo del otro como persona confiada por Dios a nuestra responsabilidad' (EV 87*) ... La encíclica El Evangelio de Vida reconoce la gama completa de amenazas contra la vida humana, tales como la pobreza y desnutrición hasta el asesinato y la guerra. Hace énfasis particular, in embargo, en las amenazas a la vida al principio y al final—precisamente cuándo más necesita protección. En tiempos modernos, niños en el vientre materno y aquellos que se acercan al fin de sus vidas están ciertamente entre los 'menores de estos' en la valoración que les da nuestro mundo."

— Secretariado de Actividades, Pro-Vida de la USCCB, https://es.respectlife.org/live-the-gospel-of-life *Fragmento de Evangelium vitae, © 1995, Libreria Editrice Vaticana. Se usa con permiso. Se reservan todos los derechos.

Intercessions for Life

For all parents awaiting the birth of their child: may they look to the Blessed Mother and Saint Joseph and follow their example of cherishing and protecting human life. We pray to the Lord.

Intercesiones por la Vida

Por todos los padres que esperan el nacimiento de sus hijos: que miren hacia la Santísima Madre y San José y sigan su ejemplo de atesorar y proteger la vida humana. Roguemos al Señor.





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PARISH NEWS

St. Anthony Claret Pantry Report: November 2022

Utility assistance: \$3,192.61 Restock food pantry: \$ 7,566.38 Other client assistance: 200.00 Office expenses: 260.97 # Food bags distributed: 285 # People served: 840 # of home deliveries 31 # HEB gift cards distributed 77



Hours: Thursdays, 9 AM-12 PM Contact us at (210) 474-6888 or sacpantry@outlook.co. Thank you for supporting our mission.

St. Anthony Claret Knights of Columbus Council #10090





PROJECT Diaper Drive

Starting in December you can donate diapers to aid families in need. Drop them in the large plastic bin in the narthex.

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



The perfect gift for the special woman in your life: a God-filled weekend.

Women's ACTS Retreat

Jan 12-15, 2023 Cordi Marian Retreat Center For more info or to register, contact

Sonia Garcia at 210-391-1728, Cynthia Luna at 210-415-1399 or Valerie Galindo at 210-508-0485. Or, scan this QR code to register!



Here am I, Lord;
I come to do
your will.
Pealm 40:8-9



Our parish is seeking an assistant bookkeeper.
For info or to apply, visit https://archsa.org/employment.

This Week in Our Parish Weddings:

Victor Aguirre, Jr. & Christina Marie Candler

Ramon Reynaga Alcala & Amparo Montano Ornelas



SCAM ALERT!

WARNING:

Some parishioners have recently received emails requesting help or donations and falsely claiming to be from Fr. Jan or our deacons.

DO NOT RESPOND OR SEND DONATIONS!



NEVER MISS A BULLETIN!

View the bulletin any time on our website: http://samcsa.com/ or have it emailed directly to your inbox. Go to parishesonline.com, locate our parish with the search tool and click on "subscribe."

WHERE ARE MY ENVELOPES?



Our envelope company sent the December envelopes on Nov. 1. Many were scanned at the post office on Nov. 12. January envelopes were sent on Nov. 23. If you have not yet received yours, you may want to consider contacting the post office as that is where they may be.

In the meantime, you can use any envelope (include your envelope number), our welcome envelopes (available in the narthex) or donate online at www.samca.com.

We apologize for any inconvenience.

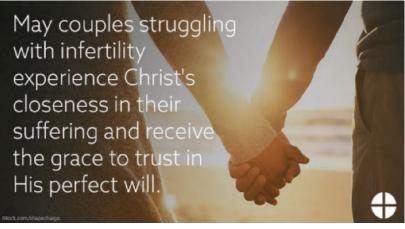
PRAYER & ACTION: FOR THOSE STRUGGLING WITH INFERTILITY

Pray

Our Father, 3 Hail Marys, Glory Be

Reflect

We can often assume that parenthood comes easily after "I do," but for many married couples, it does not. For some, the joy of conception never happens. Others suffer repeated miscarriages. Still others experience secondary infertility: after giving birth to one or more children, they are unable to have another. Infertility can be a profound cross for couples desiring a child, and



their suffering can become overwhelming. Social media posts of pregnancies, baby announcements, or attending baby showers may intensify the sense of being alone in their ache for a child. The pursuit of ethical medical treatments in hopes of conceiving can be physically and emotionally taxing and increase feelings of isolation. However, it is estimated that as many as 1 in 6 couples will struggle with infertility, meaning that you or someone you know is likely bearing this cross, often silently or without support.

We can all find hope in the truth that God does not abandon us in our suffering, even when we don't understand His will. The Church desires to walk with all those who bear the burden of infertility. Pope St. John Paul II clearly affirmed that couples who are unable to have children are "no less loved by God; your love for each other is complete and fruitful when it is open to others." It is important that all couples who experience infertility—and those who desire to offer them support—know that their love is still fruitful and their married life remains filled with meaning. We pray that couples struggling with infertility would know Christ's closeness in a special way and be confident in His perfect will for their marriage and family. May we strive to be channels of mercy to all who carry the cross of infertility through our own awareness, sensitivity, and support.

Reflection adapted from "Seven Considerations While Navigating Infertility" which can be found at https://www.respectlife.org/navigating-infertility.

Act (Choose one.)

- Pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet for all couples who carry the cross of infertility.
- Choose one day this week to abstain from sweets or your favorite snack as a reminder to draw close to Christ in times of suffering and trust in His plan for our lives.
- Offer some other sacrifice or prayer that you feel called to do for this month's intention.

One Step Further

Learn more about the struggle of infertility through the experiences of four Catholic couples and how the Church can respond with sensitivity and compassion in this podcast:

https://soundcloud.com/usccbclips/made-for-love-ep-9-love-that-is-fruitful-in-infertilty.

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Come, LORD JESUS!

THE SUNDAY FUNNIES

It was just before Christmas and the magistrate was in a happy mood. He asked the prisoner who was in the dock, "What are you charged with?"

The prisoner replied, "Doing my Christmas shopping too early."

"That's no crime," said the magistrate. "Just how early were you doing this shopping?"

"Before the shop opened," answered the prisoner.



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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:



Robert Shelton



Joseph Duque

St. John Vianney's Prayer for Priests

God, please give to your Church today many more priests after your own heart. May they be worthy representatives of Christ the Good Shepherd. May they wholeheartedly devote themselves to prayer and penance; be examples of humility and poverty; shining models of holiness; tireless and powerful preachers of the Word of God; zealous dispensers of your grace in the sacraments. May their loving devotion to your Son Jesus in the Eucharist and to Mary his Mother be the twin fountains of fruitfulness for their ministry. Amen.

We also commend to your intercession this order committed to the consecrated life: Congregation of the Congregation of Maronite Lebanese Missionaries



Rudy Barrera Minerva Bridges Nellie Coronado Vanessa Mehdi Stoltz Family Diego Garduno Josephine Thornton Marge Lucido Dennis Bergkamp Bill Phinizy Catherine Smith Tony & Rachel Delgado **Maurice Flores** Tracey Kollmansberger **Tony Salinas** Alejandro De Luna Deacon Jerry Kozar Maggie Reyna Fr. Patrick Martin

Karina Hernandez Kelton Sweet, Jr. Joanna Sweet Javier Calderon George Aldaya Mary Helen Peterson Maria Morales Rosa Huerta Barbara Vanegas A.C. Garza Manuel Salazar Javier & Mary Bautista SJS Olga Faz Jim Souhrada Bill Jennings Dee Hancock Linda Santos Tom Calderon Jr.

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.

ADVENT PRAYER TO BE LIKE MARY



Blessed Mother, Mary, as we reflect on your yes to bring the Savior into the

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Sunday 18: Is 7:10-14/Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24 Monday 19: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Lk 1:5-25 Tuesday 20: Is 7:10-14/Lk 1:26-38 Wednesday 21: Sg 2:8-14/Lk 1:39-45 Thursday 22: 1 Sm 1:24-28/Lk 1:46-56 Friday 23: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Lk 1:57-66 Saturday 24: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Lk 1:67-79 Sunday 25: Is 52:7-10/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18

world, we ask that you be with us as we strive to bring Jesus to all those we encounter.

In this season of joyful hope, we turn to you for guidance. May we imitate your loving example, and steadfastly bring peace and justice to our world.

When we are tempted to distance ourselves from another, give us the grace to say yes to charity.

When we are frustrated, let us listen with our hearts to our neighbors.

When we are disappointed, help us seek new solutions as you did when the inn was full.

Let us embrace our own need for poverty and humility in order to work toward creative solutions for our world as we await the coming of Christ. Amen.

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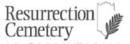


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