

# St. Anthony Mary Claret

## Roman Catholic Church

6150 Roft Road • San Antonio, Texas 78253

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



December 24, 2023

Fourth Sunday of Advent

### Pastor

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

### Parochial Vicars

Rev. C. Arockiasamy,  
BA, B.Ph, B.Th., M.S.F.S.  
Rev. Thomas Olikkunnel,  
Ph.D., H.G.N.

### Deacons:

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

### Business Administrator

Luis E. Astorga, MBA

### Bookkeeper

Rose Ann Villafranca, BBA, MBA

### Assistant Bookkeeper

Sabrina Martinez

### Secretary

Elaine Wolf-Gentry, BS

### Director of Religious Education & Evangelization

Jennifer Rupert, C.Th.

### Religious Education Administrative Assistant

Brenda Gonzalez, BS

### Coordinators of Religious Education

Odilia Piña Bea Peterson

### RCIA/RCIC Coordinator

Director of Youth &  
Young Adult Ministry

Nita Feliciano

### Music Director

Paul Rauschhuber,  
BM, ME, MME

### Bulletin Editor

Sandy Salinas, BA

### Sacristans

Teresa Revilla  
Rita Valdez John Pena

### Grounds & Maintenance

Charlie Sievers  
Rafael Olmos Roger Ruiz

### GOSPEL MEDITATION: LK 1:26-38

Life is troubling. Who among us has not struggled with anxiety and difficulties, sometimes massive ones? I certainly have, as have many of my loved ones. If we do, does this mean that we don't trust the Lord or just need to toughen up?

I don't think so. How encouraging for us anxious and troubled souls to hear Luke describe the Blessed Mother Mary in these words, **"But she was greatly troubled at what was said."** An archangel has visited her. An inconceivable promise has been made to her. Her life has become wildly unpredictable, perhaps more so than any person before or since. The first point for us: the Lord is with her *precisely when she is troubled*. Her anxiousness and God's presence are not mutually exclusive. Christianity is not about a trance-like robotic indifference. It's about the presence of divine love. Even in—especially in—troubled circumstances.

Our troubled soul can become our greatest treasure. What seems so troubling at first to Mary becomes the best possible thing, Jesus, the Savior and Lord, is now her son. All the difficulties and troubles remain, and yet her movement into the fullness of God is accelerated. What is troubling you right now? This scripture invites us now, this week, to hear the Lord's messenger say to us what he said to Mary, **"Do not be afraid! You have found favor with God."**

— Father John Muir ©LPi



**"Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God." — Lk 1:35**

### 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)

Weekdays: 7:30 AM; Saturdays: 4 PM; Sundays: 4 PM

### Baptism - Required Class

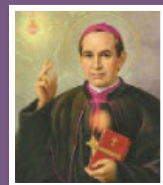
First Tuesday of the month: 7:30 PM. Call parish office to register.

**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.



## 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



Dec. 7/8 attendance total: 1,175

Dec. 9/10 attendance & collection totals

Attendance	3,219
Regular Collection	\$ 33,211.41
RE Bldg. Debt Reduction	\$ 5,004.99
Retired Religious	\$ 4,003.99
SAMC Pantry	\$ 1,316.99
Candles	\$ 337.75
Capital Campaign	\$ 50.00
Christmas	\$ 35.00
Solemnity of Mary	\$ 35.00
Gabriel Project	\$ 25.00
Misc. other donations	\$ 11.00

Dec. 16/17 attendance & collection totals unavailable at press time.

Next second collection:

Dec. 25 for Assumption Seminary

## 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.

## MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Saturday, Dec. 23

5 PM Robert Reynolds† by Wife: Lydia Reynolds

Sunday, Dec. 24 4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT MASSES\*  
(SUNDAY OBLIGATION MASSES)

8 AM Nancy Otto† by Kenneth Echtle

10 AM Larry & Margaret Lucido:

In Thanksgiving by Family

12 PM Carmen Celia Landin† by Her Children

2 PM Ascension Jacques† by Niece: Mary Hergert

Sunday, Dec. 24: CHRISTMAS OBLIGATION MASSES\*

5 PM Juliet Dogoldogel† by Priscilla Velasquez

7 PM For the Parish

12 AM Spiritual Healing for Jacelyn Carpenter & Julie Carlton

Monday, Dec. 25 CHRISTMAS OBLIGATION MASSES

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

12 PM Bert Bednarz†, Michael Bednarz† &  
Nancy Bednarz Otto† by Rose Moravits

3 PM BB\* for Terry Armendariz by Teresa Revilla

Tuesday, Dec. 26

8 AM Larry Joe Hartman† by Bea Peterson

Lelia Fischetti† by Raquepaw Family

Wednesday, Dec. 27

8 AM BB\* for Andy Wessell by Bea Peterson

Thursday, Dec. 28

8 AM BB\* for Ashley Salazar by Teresa Revilla

Friday, Dec. 29

8 AM BB\* for Michael Angel by Family

Saturday, Dec. 30

5 PM BB\* for Seth Peterson by Bea Peterson

Sunday, Dec. 31 SUNDAY OBLIGATION MASSES

8 AM Scott Raquepaw† by Raquepaw Family

10 AM Michael Maurath, Sr.† by Raquepaw Family

12 PM Michael Maurath, Jr.† by Raquepaw Family

3 PM For the Parish

VIGIL MASS FOR SOLEMNITY OF THE BLESSED  
VIRGIN MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD

5 PM Conversion of all Sinners by Family

(This Mass DOES NOT meet the Sunday Dec. 31 obligation.)

\*Refer to graphic on page 3 for Mass attendance obligations  
for Sunday, Dec. 24 & Monday, Dec. 25.

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED DEC. 25 & 26. \*BB = Birthday Blessings



## BLESSING OF A CHRISTMAS MANGER OR NATIVITY SCENE



In its present form the custom of displaying figures depicting the birth of Jesus Christ owes its origin to St. Francis of Assisi, who made the Christmas crèche or manger for Christmas Eve of 1223.

The blessing of the Christmas manger or nativity scene may take place on the Vigil of Christmas or at another suitable time.

When the manger is set up in the home, it is appropriate that it be blessed by a parent or another family member.

*All make the sign of the cross as the leader says:* Our help is in the name of the Lord.  
R/. Who made heaven and earth.

*One of those present or the leader reads a text of sacred Scripture, for example,*  
[Luke 2:1](#) (lines 1-8) or [Isaiah 7:10](#) (lines 10-15, the birth of Emmanuel).

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.  
R/. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

*The leader prays with hands joined:*

God of every nation and people, from the very beginning of creation  
you have made manifest your love: when our need for a Savior was great  
you sent your Son to be born of the Virgin Mary. To our lives he brings joy and peace,  
justice, mercy, and love. Lord, bless all who look upon this manger; may it remind us of the humble  
birth of Jesus, and raise our thoughts to him, who is God-with-us and Savior of all, and who lives and  
reigns forever and ever. R/. Amen.

## IMPORTANT: YOUR 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT & CHRISTMAS MASS ATTENDANCE OBLIGATIONS

### CHRISTMAS MASSES

SUNDAY, DEC. 24: 5 PM, 7 PM, 12 MIDNIGHT  
MONDAY, DEC. 25: 10 AM, 12 PM, 3 PM (SPANISH)

**IMPORTANT: ALL DAYTIME MASSES ON DEC. 24—8 AM, 10 AM, 12 PM, & 2 PM (SPANISH)—SATISFY THE SUNDAY OBLIGATION, NOT THE CHRISTMAS ONE, WHICH IS A HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION.**

Therefore, the faithful will need to attend a **fourth Sunday of Advent Mass** on the evening of Saturday, Dec. 23 or during the day on Sunday, Dec. 24 at the times listed above in yellow. **They will ALSO need to attend a Christmas Mass** either on the evening of Sunday, Dec. 24 or a daytime Mass on Monday, Dec. 25 at the times listed above in white.



## PARISH NEWS



### 2024 Women's English ACTS Retreat

Jan 11, 6 PM –  
Jan 14, 12 PM Mass  
Cordi Marian  
Retreat Center  
Cost: \$225



For info or to register, scan this QR code above or contact Cynthia Luna at 210-415-1399, Marie Garcia at 210-389-8996 or Catherine Esquivel at 210-317-8418.



### St. Anthony Claret Knights of Columbus #10090 & The Gabriel Project Diaper Drive

During December you may donate new 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.



This Week in  
Our Parish  
Quinceañera:  
Ryann Moran



### THE SUNDAY FUNNIES

Q: What is an elf's favorite kind of music?

A: Wrap music!

Q: What kind of photos do elves take?

A: Elfies!

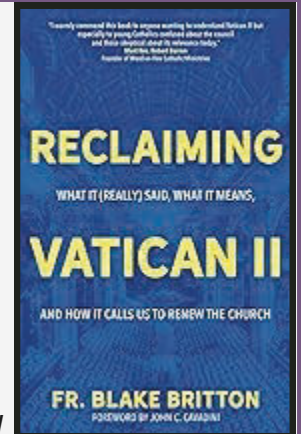


### Do you wonder what Vatican Council II taught—or didn't teach?

Join our upcoming study using Fr. Blake Britton's book *Reclaiming Vatican II* and the accompanying study guide. Both books may be ordered from Ave Maria Press or Amazon. Order no later than the last week of December to allow time to receive books and prepare for first class.

Four main Council documents will be studied: *Sacrosanctum Concilium*, *Lumen Gentium*, *Dei Verbum*, and *Gaudium et Spes*. All available free on the Vatican's website: [www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va).

Classes meet via Zoom for 11 Sundays, 6-7 PM, Jan. 7- Mar. 24. Email Marie DeGennaro at [mariedeg@hotmail.com](mailto:mariedeg@hotmail.com) when you have ordered your books or if you have any questions.



### COMMUNITY NEWS



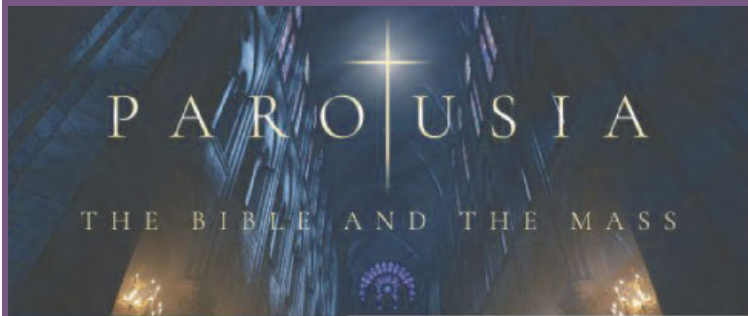
A ONE-ACT MUSICAL PRODUCTION BY Gian-Carlo Menotti  
Wednesday, Jan. 3, 7 PM  
St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church  
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For info, contact  
Cathy Nix at  
[jandcnix@gmail.com](mailto:jandcnix@gmail.com).



## PARISH NEWS



**Join us for an  
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BIBLE STUDY**

DISCOVER YOUR PLACE  
IN THE  
STORY OF SALVATION

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- † Experience the Mass as heaven on earth
- † Learn the deeper meaning of "Parousia"

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**Join this Zoom Bible study to  
learn more about the Mass!**

Same lesson offered  
3 times per week.

Sundays: 7:30-9 PM  
Tuesdays: 9:30-11 AM  
Thursdays: 7:30-9 PM

Start dates:

Sunday, Jan. 8; Tuesday, Jan. 9  
& Thursday, Jan. 11

End dates:

Sunday, Feb. 11, Tuesday, Feb. 13  
& Thursday, Feb. 15

To register, contact CJ Aboytes at  
210-843-1198  
or [CJaboytes@gmail.com](mailto:CJaboytes@gmail.com).

## In-person Bible Study Opportunity: Genesis to Jesus

What is the Bible, where does it come from, and what is its purpose? How are Catholics supposed to read the Bible and what story does it tell? These are the

ever-important questions answered in this class which is part of the St. Paul Center for Biblical Theology's dynamic Journey Through Scripture Bible study series designed to help ordinary Catholics grow in their knowledge of the Scriptures while deepening their understanding of the riches of our faith. Journey through Scripture takes a holistic approach, looking at the entire Bible and how all of its parts work together.

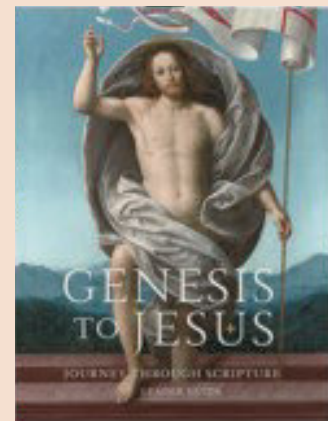
Basic level for RCIA candidates, parents and anyone interested in a Catholic Bible study. Classes run same time as Wednesday night religious education classes.

Jan 10-Feb 28, 6:30- 8 PM, RE building

Cost: FREE (up to \$30 if you choose to order workbook & video streaming from St. Paul Center)

To register, contact CJ Aboytes at 210-843-1198 or [CJaboytes@gmail.com](mailto:CJaboytes@gmail.com).

Order materials here: <https://stpaulcenter.com/studies-tools/journey-through-scripture/genesis-to-jesus/>.



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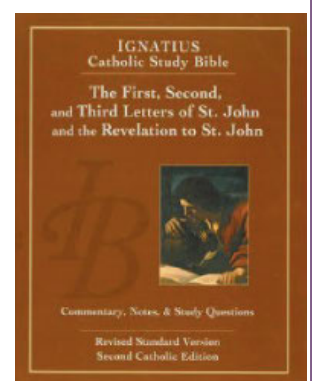
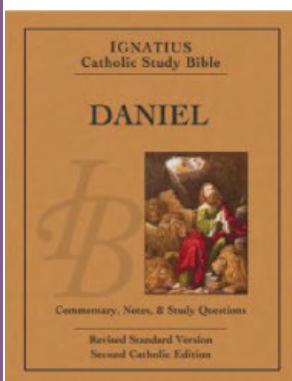
## In-person Bible Study Opportunity:

### The Book of Daniel followed by New Testament The Revelation to St. John

This course is for level 2 students who have some Bible study background. Purchase books on your own from Ignatius Press at [Ignatius.com](http://Ignatius.com) or any other book seller.

Classes begin Jan. 28 meeting twice a month in Msgr. Hubertus Hall on Sundays following 6 PM Mass. You are asked to attend the Daniel class as a preparation for the Revelation class.

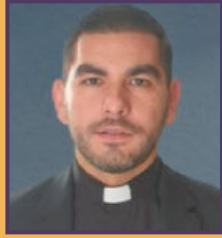
For info or to register, contact Jaime Carrillo at 210-849-3166 or [fishbread5000@yahoo.com](mailto:fishbread5000@yahoo.com) or CJ Aboytes at 210-843-1198 or [CJaboytes@gmail.com](mailto:CJaboytes@gmail.com).



## FAITH &amp; 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.

**Arturo Naranjo****Hong Nguyen**

Lord Jesus, Good Shepherd,  
may young people in our parish  
hear your call and follow your voice  
as they discern their vocations.  
Lead your people to heaven  
through the ministry of holy priests  
and consecrated men and women.  
Jesus, we trust in you! Amen.

We also commend to your intercession this order  
committed to the consecrated life:  
Daughters of Mary Help of Christians (Salesian Sisters)

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- ♦ In person: during Mass or at  
parish office

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- ♦ En persona: durante la misa  
o en la oficina parroquia

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

Mary Lou & Baby Lopez  
Anita Ramirez  
Claire Shields  
Delfino (Sonny) Ramirez  
Mary Lee Sloan  
Diana Martinez  
Gilbert Niedenthal  
Rodolfo Salinas  
San Juana de Lerma  
Annette D. Navarro  
CS  
Roz Voss  
Marge Lucido  
Bill Phinzy  
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  
Rosa Huerta  
Barbara Vanegas  
PK  
A.C. Garza  
Gilbert Niedenthal  
Javier & Mary Bautista  
SJS  
Olga Faz  
Jim Souhrada  
Bill Jennings  
Dee Hancock  
Tom Calderon Jr.

**NOTE: All names that have been running for longer than 4 weeks will run through the end of December 2023 and then be removed. If there is a need for them to run longer, contact the parish office.**

Please remember this list is reserved for *names of parishioners and immediate family only*. You may submit up to **TWO** names at a time which will usually run for four weeks.

**THIS WEEK'S READINGS**

**Sunday 24, 4th Sunday of Advent:**

2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Rom 16:25-27/  
Lk 1:26-38

**Sunday, 24, Christmas Masses--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**

**Monday, 25, Christmas Day: Is 52:7-10/Heb 1:1-6/  
Jn 1:1-18**

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

**Wednesday 27: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Jn 20:1a, 2-8**

**Thursday 28: 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Mt 2:13-18**

**Friday 29: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Lk 2:22-35**

**Saturday 30: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Lk 2:36-40**

**Sunday 31: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Col 3:12-21/Lk 2:22-40**

**Monday 1: Nm 6:22-27/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21**



“The King of Heaven deigned to  
be born in a stable because  
He came to destroy pride,  
the cause of man’s ruin.”

— St. Alphonsus Ligouri,  
Bishop and Doctor of the Church,  
1696-1787





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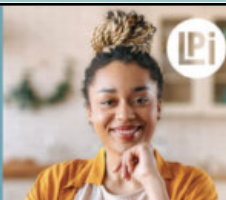
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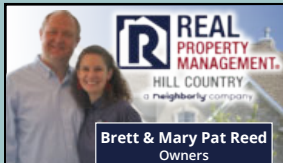
Cindy Aguirre & Gus Aguirre Jr



Aguirre Agencies - 2 Locations

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2430 E. Southcross - 210-533-6770  
[gaguirrejr@allstate.com](mailto:gaguirrejr@allstate.com)



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