

# 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).



December 31, 2023

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

### 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

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### 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 2:22-40

I remember the first time my older sister asked me if I wanted to hold her newborn son. Terrified, I told her I didn't think it was a good idea. My résumé had nothing to suggest I would be a qualified baby holder. But she warmly told me, "I'll help you hold him." It struck me that she is baby's mother. She is the one who decides who is qualified to hold him. I took him in my arms and soon I began to feel comfortable with that tiny little warm cooing creature in my arms, and soon I no longer feared holding him. Now, twenty-seven nieces and nephews later, holding a newborn child is one of the great joys of my life.

Do we sometimes think that Jesus is given only to the highly qualified, special religious people? In the Gospel of Luke today we hear about the presentation of the Lord in the temple. The newborn son of God is passed around like a baton in a relay race, not guarded like a precious jewel or a breakable china dish. We can see him going from the arms of Mary to Joseph, then to the priest performing the ceremony, then to Simeon the old man, then to Anna the old widow. Each one receiving him and then handing him to the next. A tidal wave of joy and thanksgiving follows wherever he is placed.

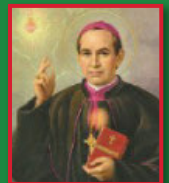
Believe me, you are qualified to hold Jesus in your arms. How can I say that with such confidence? Because the mother decides who is qualified. The Blessed Virgin, embodied in the Church, holds him out to you and me. She rejoices to place him in our arms to hold, and to hand him on, too.

— 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)

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.

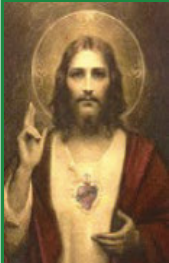
Please complete an online registration form at [samcsa.com](http://samcsa.com) or a printed one which you can find near the church entrance in the narthex. Return it to the parish office or drop it in the collection basket at your convenience.

I hope you feel welcome here!

Sincerely in Christ, Rev. Jan P. Klak

## 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.



St. Anthony Mary Claret  
First Friday Mass dedicated to  
the Sacred Heart of Jesus  
Friday, Jan. 5, 8 AM

**Dec/ 12 attendance total 326**

**Dec. 16/17 attendance & collection totals**

<b>Attendance</b>	<b>3,106</b>
<b>Regular Collection</b>	<b>\$ 30,687.57</b>
<b>SAMC Pantry</b>	<b>\$ 6,860.01</b>
<b>RE Bldg. Debt Reduction</b>	<b>\$ 5,295.09</b>
<b>Retired Religious</b>	<b>\$ 485.00</b>
<b>Candles</b>	<b>\$ 422.06</b>
<b>Gabriel Project</b>	<b>\$ 340.00</b>
<b>Capital Campaign</b>	<b>\$ 200.00</b>
<b>Misc. other donations</b>	<b>\$ 40.00</b>
<b>Christmas</b>	<b>\$ 10.00</b>

**Dec. 23/24 attendance & collection totals  
unavailable at press time.**

St. Anthony Mary  
Claret First Saturday  
Mass dedicated to the  
Immaculate Heart  
of Mary

Saturday, Jan. 6;  
Mass: 8 AM  
followed by exposition  
of the Blessed Sacrament,  
rosary & consecration  
prayers



## MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

**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 Sunday Dec. 31 obligation.)

**Monday, Jan. 1 \*\*\* PARISH OFFICE CLOSED \*\*\***  
**SOLEMNITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD**  
**10 AM** Spiritual Healing & Strength for Priests, Yesenia Gonzales, Consuelo Gonzales, Aristotle Vela, Ceile Ayres, & RCIA & Confirmation Students by M. Gonzales  
**7 PM** BB\* for Bea Peterson by Judy Hemingway

**Tuesday, Jan. 2**  
**8 AM** Conversion of Louis Gonzales, Sr. by Family

**Wednesday, Jan. 3**

**8 AM** Souls in Purgatory† by Mary Macias

**Thursday, Jan. 4**  
**8 AM** Walderico Elvena† by Chiapoco Family  
**6:30 PM** Bilingual Holy Hour  
**7:30 PM** For Religious Vocations

**Friday, Jan. 5**  
**8 AM** Nancy Otto† by Steve & Sylvia Hilbig  
Telesfora Elvena† by Chiapoco Family

**Saturday, Jan. 6**  
**8 AM** Spec. Int.: James & Henry Pawelek; Alois & Florence Olenick by Olenick Family  
**5 PM** Eva Valdez† by Daughter & Family  
BB\* for Isidro Luna by Family

**Sunday, Jan. 7**  
**8 AM** Lady Victoria Mbah† by Patrick & Lady Okafor  
**10 AM** For the Parish  
**12 PM** Alfred Elizondo† by Family  
**3 PM** Alejandro Davila† by Family  
**6 PM** In Thanksgiving: Guadalupe Ortega  
By wife: Catalina  
Theresa Schmitt† by Barbara Py

\*BB = Birthday Blessings

## HOW TO TAKE YOUNG CHILDREN TO MASS by Josh & Stacey Noem

Sometimes at the end of Mass a parishioner comes up to us and says “Your three children are SO well behaved!” Our standard response is either, “Thank you. We work at it” or “Thank you, some days are better than others.” The “better” days are the product of years of articles and brochures we read on taking children to Mass. Here is the distilled wisdom we rely upon.

### Before Church

- Make sure children are well-fed right before Mass. They do not need to fast, nor will fasting help them to be on their best behavior during Mass. We personally do not think it is appropriate to take snacks into the pew. Our exception to this is a non-spill drink cup that bought us enough time to hear the homily once in a while.
- Beginning even with the smallest infants, dress them in some special clothing that they wear only for church or other special events. This does not have to be expensive and can be as simple as a nice pair of shoes. It helps them to identify what we do at Mass as different from everyday activity.
- Check your diaper bag to make sure it is stocked for any possible needs. Consider including a small toy or book that your child sees only on Sunday at Mass. These should be quiet and made of soft material so that they do not distract those around you from their prayer while they are being played with or in case they are dropped. Put on a fresh diaper or visit the bathroom right before walking out the door of your home or into the church.

### For toddlers or older children

- You might read the readings in the car on the way to church. This could even be the job of an older child. Then everyone hears them at least once in case someone has to step out during a portion of the Mass. Before going into the church take a moment to remind children what you are about to do. Make sure they know what their job is at Mass. For us, we say that their job is to be quiet/still, to participate by sharing their voices and to pray. Their job is also not to distract those around them from praying.

### At Church

- Sit up front. Yes, sit even in the first pew if it is appropriate at your parish. It can feel scary and even a little out of control the first few times, but it makes a world of difference for little ones to be able to see the action. Over time it also helps them to understand what is most essential about Mass without the distraction of rows and rows of backsides between them and the altar.
- We physically hold our children in our arms during Mass. In fact, we adopted the position that our children’s feet do not touch the ground during Mass until they are three years old. This helps in many ways. The children get a better view; as they grow and mature we can talk them through the stories and the actions; and we have a bit more control over their behavior. If an infant or toddler gets squirmy, often switching who is holding them is enough to calm them down. Otherwise we might play a quiet game of “point to the...candles, priest, altar, cross, etc.”
- During their two-year-old year, we begin to let our children stand for a portion of Mass or try sitting next to us quietly, instead of on our laps. Then when they turn three it is a special milestone to be big enough to stand, sit and kneel all on their own (although if they can’t see over the pew we have them stand during the kneeling portions of the Eucharistic Prayer).



(Cont'd on p. 4)



## HOW TO TAKE YOUNG CHILDREN TO MASS (cont'd from p. 3)

- If an infant or toddler makes a little noise during Mass and settles down right away, try not to feel self-conscious. Most folks except for those closest to you do not even notice. And even if they do notice, give your fellow parishioners credit for being adults who can focus through a small distraction.
- If a child cries or makes continual noise, it is best to calmly step out of the pew and take the child out of the main assembly until they have calmed down or are quiet. However, it is important to return to the worship space as soon as they are quiet, so that children do not begin to associate poor or disruptive behavior with a pass to get out of Mass. Just stand against the wall until it is appropriate to return to the pew. Our experience is that stepping out and returning even a few times is not nearly as disruptive as a crying baby and parishioners appreciate your consideration of their attempt to pray. Those that are parents understand completely.

### After Mass

- Praise your children abundantly for their good behavior.
- If they need some improvement, mention briefly how they might do better next week and explain why. Let them know that you will help them by trying to remind them before the next Mass.
- Answer questions children have about Mass and encourage them to understand the liturgy and its place in our lives.
- For older children consider taking time to discuss the readings and the homily.
- In taking our children to Mass we operate on the principle that we need to teach our children how to be in church as long as it does not distract others around us from their prayer. Some days are better than others, but the gift of passing on how we pray as Catholics is worth all of the challenges.



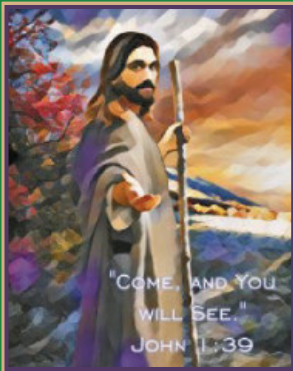
As parents, and leaders of our domestic church, we are responsible for forming our children in our Catholic faith. There is no more important experience to Catholics than the Mass, so it is crucial to help children understand and participate in liturgy as much as they are able. At times, it has seemed as though the only thing we accomplished at Mass was the exercise of standing and walking with a grumpy baby. But we also know that children do not remain little for long and they rise to our expectations. We will have plenty of opportunities to experience transcendent prayer at Mass when our children are teenagers or out of the house. For now, though, our primary job is to make sure they “get” what happens at Mass. We find that God has found ways to feed us, even on the most difficult of days with a teething toddler.

From [www.ForYourMarriage.org](http://www.ForYourMarriage.org), an initiative of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.  
Used with permission.

Another excellent article on this topic can be found here:  
<https://elizabethficocelli.com/avoiding-mass-hysteria/>.

HAVE A BLESSED  
*new year*

## 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 Mary  
Claret Young  
Adult Ministry**

Next meeting: Thurs., Jan. 11  
7-9 PM, RE bldg. room 1006

Open to those 18–33, single or married,  
who want to cultivate a vibrant community  
of faith, fellowship and service.

For info, contact Nita Feliciano at  
[youthgroup@saclaret.com](mailto:youthgroup@saclaret.com)  
or 210-688-9033, x209.

***Please note meetings are for adults only. No child-  
care is available.***



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

This is the LAST WEEKEND to donate new  
diapers to aid families in need! Drop them in the  
large plastic bin in the narthex.



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



### Important Religious Education Dates

**First Communion Parent Class:** Sunday,  
Jan. 7, 1:30-2:30 PM, Msgr. Hubertus Hall

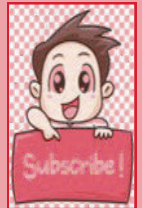
**Confirmation Parent Class:** Wednesday,  
Jan. 10, 6:45-7:45 PM, Msgr. Hubertus Hall

**No RE classes will be held  
Sunday, Jan. 14 or Wednesday, Jan. 17.**

### NEVER MISS A BULLETIN!

View the bulletin anytime on our  
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**Next live class at our parish: Sunday, Jan. 14.**

You must register prior to the first class at [ccli.org](http://ccli.org).  
For more info, email Chris or Nicole Glowe at  
[nfpglowe@yahoo.com](mailto:nfpglowe@yahoo.com).

\* Required course for all couples marrying in our parish.

### THE SUNDAY FUNNIES

My New Year's resolution is to stop  
hanging out with people who ask me  
about my New Year's resolution.

What is a New Year's resolution?  
Something that goes in one year and  
out the other.

Youth is when you're allowed to stay  
up on New Year's Eve. Middle age is  
when you're forced to.





## 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)

MASS TIMES:  
SUNDAY, DEC. 31, 5 PM  
MONDAY, JAN. 1,  
10 AM & 7 PM

JANUARY 1:  
SOLEMNITY OF

**MARY**  
HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

PRAY FOR THE SICK OF  
OUR PARISH FAMILY

Anita Ramirez  
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 Phinizy  
Catherine Smith  
Tony & Rachel Delgado  
Maurice Flores  
Tracey Kollmansberger  
Tony Salinas  
Alejandro De Luna  
Deacon Jerry Kozar  
Maggie Reyna

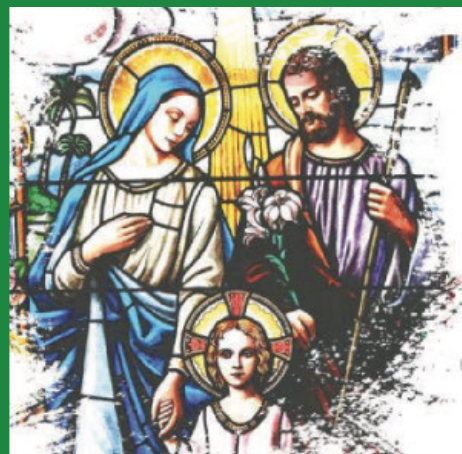
Fr. Patrick Martin  
Karina Hernandez  
Kelton Sweet, Jr.  
Joanna Sweet  
Javier Calderon  
George Aldaya  
Mary Helen Peterson  
Rosa Huerta  
Barbara Vanegas  
PK  
A.C. Garza  
Gilbert Niedenthal  
Javier & Mary Bautista  
SJS  
Olga Faz  
Jim Souhrada  
Bill Jennings  
Dee Hancock  
Tom Calderon 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 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  
Tuesday 2: 1 Jn 2:22-28/Jn 1:19-28  
Wednesday 3: 1 Jn 2:29—3:6/Jn 1:29-34  
Thursday 4: 1 Jn 3:7-10/Jn 1:35-42  
Friday 5: 1 Jn 3:11-21/Jn 1:43-51  
Saturday 6: 1 Jn 5:5-13/Mk 1:7-11  
Sunday 7: Is 60:1-6/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12



EL NIÑO IBA  
CRECIENDO Y  
FORTALECIÉNDOSE,  
SE LLENABA DE  
SABIDURÍA Y LA  
GRACIA DE DIOS  
ESTABA CON ÉL.  
— LC 2, 40

LA SAGRADA FAMILIA

QUE TENGAN UN BENDITO

*año nuevo*



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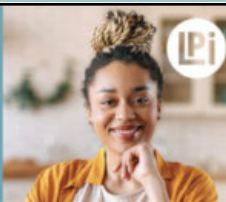
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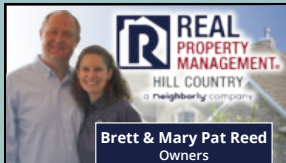
Aguirre Agencies - 2 Locations

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2430 E. Southcross - 210-533-6770

[gaguirrejr@allstate.com](mailto:gaguirrejr@allstate.com)



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Gary Carpenter

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Parishioner

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