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 Lent

February 25, 2024

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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> Assistant Bookkeeper Sabrina Martinez

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> Religious Education Administrative Assistant Brenda Gonzalez, BS

Coordinators of Religious EducationOdilia PiñaBea Peterson

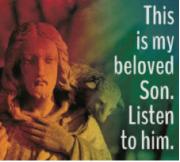
RCIA/RCIC Coordinator Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministry Nita Feliciano

> 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: MK 9:2-10

As a college student, my prized possession was an after-market car stereo. It was my pride and joy: glorious audio, eye-catching display screen, and multi-disc CD changer. It drained my hard-earned dollars, but it was totally worth it. It drenched me in music everywhere I drove. On Ash Wednesday of my senior year of college, Father Tom, the Jesuit priest at my university said, "Pray for God to tell you what he wants you to sacrifice for Lent." I did. In my heart, the answer came: "Give

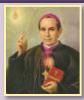
to tell you what he wants you to sacrifice for Lent." I did. In my heart, the answer came: "Give up listening to your car stereo for forty days." I winced. Not possible, I thought. Can't do it. I made other plans. The next morning, I was stunned to find that my car had been broken into, and my fancy stereo ripped out and stolen.

God's command to sacrifice what we love is no joke. This week in Genesis 22, God says: "Abraham!" "Here I am," he replied. Then God said, "Take your son, your only son, whom you love — Isaac — and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you." Believe me, I know. We like to be in control. It chaffs us that God sets the terms of what we must sacrifice, and how. But this is no impersonal, tyrannical process. Remember that God uses their names, Abraham and Isaac. God knows each one of us and the precious gifts He commands us to offer. Finally, our sacrifices are for our own good. Do we trust this enough to do what Father Tom asked me to do?

Lenten challenge: This week, I dare you to ask God: "What do you want me to give up?" He may ask for that which you love most. It will be something precious to you: time, money, a relationship, a dream, an opportunity. What matters is we trust Him and act sacrificially in line with His command. Whatever we sacrifice will of course come back to us as surely as the Risen Jesus — but that doesn't make it easy. — *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.

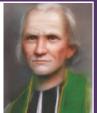


Welcome! As pastor of St. Anthony Mary Claret Catholic Church, I want to express welcome from all of us to you for choosing to become a member of our parish family. We hope you will always feel at home here and that our worship and other parochial services will fulfill your spiritual needs.

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

"YOU MUST ACCEPT YOUR CROSS; IF YOU BEAR IT COURAGEOUSLY IT WILL CARRY YOU TO HEAVEN."



-St. John Vianney, 1786-1859



St. Anthony Mary Claret First Saturday Mass dedicated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary Saturday, Mar. 2; Mass: 8 AM followed by exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, rosary & consecration prayers

| Feb. 14 attendance & co | ollection totals | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|--|
| Attendance Catholic Charities | 3,093 \$ 2,042,00 | |

Feb. 17/18 attendance & collection totals Attendance 3,368 Regular Collection \$ 43,119.00

| Regular Conection | Ψ | 45,115.00 |
|----------------------------|----|-----------|
| SAMC Pantry | \$ | 6,783.49 |
| RE Bldg. Debt Reduction | \$ | 3,714.97 |
| Candles | \$ | 512.93 |
| Catholic Charities | \$ | 300.00 |
| Gabriel Project | \$ | 240.00 |
| Black & Native Am. Mission | \$ | 75.00 |
| Rosary Makers | \$ | 30.00 |
| Church in Latin America | \$ | 10.00 |

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.

> NEXT BAPTISM CLASS: Tuesday, March 5

7:30 PM RE Bldg., 1st floor

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

| Saturday, Feb. | | Friday, N | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|---------------|--|--|
| 5 PM | P. Mendoza, Sr.† by Mendoza Family | | | |
| | Israel Anthony Boswell [†] by Boswell Family | 5:30 PM | | |
| Sunday Esh 1 | | 7 PM | | |
| Sunday, Feb. 2 | | 7:30 PM | | |
| 8 AM | Conversion of Hayden & Andrew Guidry | | | |
| 10 135 | by Family | Saturday | | |
| 10 AM | Teresa Robinette [†] by Friend of Family | 8 AM | | |
| 12 PM | For the Parish | | | |
| 3 PM | Alicia Hinojosa† by Adelina Fritz | | | |
| 6 PM | Souls in Purgatory† by Family | | | |
| Monday, Feb. 2 | 5 PM | | | |
| 8 AM | Jim Brasiel† by Family | | | |
| | BB* for Emmett Philip Peterson | Sunday, I | | |
| | by Bea Peterson | 8 AM | | |
| 6:30 PM | Holy Hour | 0 / 11/1 | | |
| 7:30 PM | For an End to Abortion | 10 AM | | |
| 7.50 I IVI | FOI all End to Abortion | IU AM | | |
| Tuesday, Feb. 27 | | | | |
| 8 AM | Millard Starling, Jr.† by Family | 12 PM 3 PM | | |
| Wed., Feb. 28 | | 5 F M 6 PM | | |
| · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · | Hanny Walft by Family | O F IVI | | |
| 8 AM | Henry Wolf† by Family | | | |
| Thurs., Feb. 29 | | | | |
| 8 AM | Souls in Purgatory [†] by Family | | | |
| | | | | |

| Friday, Mar. 1 | *** FIRST FRIDAY *** | | | |
|---|--|--|--|--|
| | *** NO MORNING MASS *** | | | |
| 5:30 PM | Spanish Stations of the Cross | | | |
| 7 PM | English Stations of the Cross | | | |
| 7:30 PM | David X. Martin [†] by Dcn. Jerry & Pat Kozar | | | |
| Saturday, Mar. 2 *** FIRST SATURDAY *** | | | | |
| 8 AM | Daniel R.† & Manuela M. Gonzales†; | | | |
| | Tomasa N. Cabezuela [†] ; Sr. Victoria | | | |
| | Hernandez [†] ; Sylvia L. Reyna; Souls in | | | |
| | Purgatory [†] by F. Gonzales | | | |
| 5 PM | Blessings for SAMC Ladies Group | | | |
| | Retreatants by SAMC Ladies Board Mbrs | | | |
| Sunday, Mar. 3 | | | | |
| 8 AM | Souls in Purgatory† by Mary Macias | | | |
| | Charlie Sievers, Jr. ⁺ by Family | | | |
| 10 AM | Angelica Feliciano de Gutierrez† & | | | |
| | Jose Maria Gutierrez-Padilla [†] by Family | | | |
| 12 PM | Maria de Jesus Munoz† by Family | | | |
| 3 PM | Inocencia Serrano† by Daughter | | | |
| 6 PM | For the Parish | | | |
| | | | | |

RESPECT LIFE

Seven Considerations While Navigating Infertility (Part 1 of 2)

We often assume parenthood happens 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.

The pain can become overwhelming. Social media posts of pregnancies, baby announcements, or pictures of newborns may intensify feelings of being alone in the ache for a child. Attending baby showers and being around children or pregnant women can be excruciating.



If you experience difficulty bringing a child into your family, know that you are not alone. God is with you, and his Church desires to walk with you. The following suggestions may be helpful to you on this journey.

- 1. **Start with Prayer**: God has a beautiful plan for your life as a married couple. Seek his guidance, and let the healing power of prayer, a conversation in which "heart speaks unto heart,"[1] strengthen you. Pope Francis encourages us to pray not only with commonly known prayers, "but also to pray in our own words."[2]
- 2. **Connect with Others:** A mentorship, a faith-based support group, or spiritual direction can offer comfort and provide new perspectives. Sharing your struggles with family, friends, or a therapist can also help ease the pain. Ask the saints for their intercession, and reflect upon the biblical stories of Sarah and Abraham, Hannah and Elkanah, and Elizabeth and Zechariah.[3]
- 3. Seek to Understand the Church's Teaching:* The sexual act expresses the marital covenant, repeating over and over again, "I give myself to you entirely, unreservedly, holding nothing back." In this mutual gift of self, so all-encompassing that it includes their potential for procreation, a husband and wife are united as one, giving full expression to their love. These two aspects of sexuality, the unitive and the procreative, are intertwined and are not meant to be separated. Suppressing the possibility of conception (i.e., contraceptive use) and creating life outside the marital sexual act (i.e., use of some reproductive technologies) both work against God's plan for married love and the gift of life. Pope Francis explains that "a child deserves to be born of that love" expressed between a husband and wife in intercourse, "and not by any other means, for 'he or she is not something owed ... but is a gift." [4]

4. Learn the Difference between Ethical and Unethical Interventions:*

Applying the Church's teaching means that, in short, procedures that introduce a third party into the process (such as surrogates or sperm/egg donors) are not morally acceptable. Additionally, substituting a laboratory action or anything else for intercourse, such as artificial insemination or *in vitro* fertilization (IVF), is also morally unacceptable. However, treatments that help facilitate conception through marital intercourse are morally ethical.

To be continued in next weekend's bulletin.

*Further explanation/information in resources listed below.

- [1] Pope Benedict XVI, Homily at the Mass with the Beatification of Venerable Cardinal John Henry Newman on September 19, 2010, (Vatican City: Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 2010).
- [2] Pope Francis, General Audience, May 7, 2014, (Vatican City: Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 2014).
- [<u>3</u>] Genesis 18:1-15, 21:1-8; 1 Samuel 1:1 2:11, 18-21; Luke 1:5-25
- [4] Pope Francis, Amoris laetitia, (Vatican City: Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 2016), nos. 80-81.

*Resources:

- United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. Life-Giving Love in an Age of Technology. Washington, DC: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2009.
- Natural Family Planning Program, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. "Reproductive Technology (Evaluation and Treatment of Infertility): Guidelines for Catholic Couples." Washington, DC: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2020.
- Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. Instruction Donum Vitae (Instruction on Respect for Human Life in Its Origin and on the Dignity of Procreation). Washington, DC: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 1987.
- Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. Instruction Dignitas Personae (The Dignity of a Person). Washington, DC: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2008.
- Support ministries, articles, podcast episodes, books, and more: www.usccb.org/topics/natural-family-planning/ infertility and www.usccb.org/LifeGivingLove.

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February 25, 2024

PARISH NEWS

2024 St. Anthony Mary Claret Ladies Retreat: A Day of Hope, Healing and Inspiration For women 18 & older March 2, 9 AM-6PM

At St. Anthony Claret's Msgr. Hubertus Hall Fee: \$20, incl. lunch

Guest Speaker: Mary Jane Fox, cofounder, Pilgrim Center of Hope Topic – Serenity, Courage & Wisdom: Three Virtues in Living a Life of Hope; A Journey to the Heart of Jesus

For info or to register, scan the QR code or contact Marietta Johnson at 281-740-2370 or Lorraine Kenyon at 210-872-6834.

Register is now through Feb. 29 or until capacity is reached.

After registering online, contact Marietta Johnson or Lorraine Kenyon to confirm your registration and make your lunch selection.

Congratulations!

Sid and Cynthia Luna are the 2024 recipients of the Lumen Gentium Award from Saint Anthony Mary Claret Catholic Church



Sid and Cynthia are one of the most faithful and sincere couples here at Saint Anthony Mary Claret Parish. They are living, in an extraordinary way, the Sacrament of Marriage and our Catholic faith. They have been parishioners and married for 20 years and have six children. Over the years, they have been involved in the following ministries:

CYNTHIA: Vacation Bible School, Respect Life, Money Counting

SID: Men's Club, Hospitality Ministry, Finance Council, Building Committee

They have both been involved in the ACTS Ministry as well.

All of these activities suggest their interest in the Universal, as well as the particular mission of our local and Archdiocesan Church. At the same time, Cynthia and Sid are very professional and generous human persons with a Christ-centered vision.



Fridays: Mar. 1, 8, & 22*; 5 PM until we run out Msgr. Hubertus Hall; dine in or take out \$10 for fried fish, French fries, hush puppies & cole slaw Cash, checks or credit cards accepted *No fish fry on Mar. 15 due to spring break.



Lent provides opportunity to show gratitude for God's gifts and to share those gifts with others.

Our parish's Knights of Columbus invite you to help needy families by making "40 Cans for Lent" part of your Lenten journey.

Simply donate a can of food or non-perishable food item for each of the 40 days of Lent. Drop off donations in the large bin in the narthex.

"And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." - Col 3:17





This Week in Our Parish Wedding: Michael Gordon Destefano & Angela Marie Ramirez



Second Sunday of Lent

PARISH NEWS

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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.





Edgar Hernandez

Javier Ramos

God our Father, You made each of us to use our gifts in the Body of Christ. We ask that You inspire young people whom You call to the priesthood and consecrated life to courageously follow Your will. Send workers into Your great harvest so that the Gospel is preached, the poor are served with love, the suffering are comforted, and Your people are strengthened by the sacraments. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

We also commend to your intercession this order committed to the consecrated life: Discalced Carmelite Friars



2° DOMINGO DE LA CUARESMA

Se formó entonces una nube, que los cubrió con su sombra, y de esta nube salió una voz que decía: "Este es mi Hijo amado; escúchenlo". En ese momento miraron alrededor y no vieron a nadie sino a Jesús, que estaba solo con ellos. - Mc 9, 7-8

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

Margaret Lucido Jenna Ondrusek Leo Garcia Marylen Dunk **Rosewell Guir** Dee Hancock Tracey Kollmansberger **Claire Shields** Delfino (Sonny) Ramirez Al Mares Diana Martinez Gilbert Niedenthal **Rodolfo Salinas** San Juana de Lerma

Annette D. Navarro **Maurice Flores Tony Salinas** Fr. Patrick Martin George Aldaya Mary Helen Peterson Barbara Vanegas A.C. Garza Gilbert Niedenthal Javier & Mary Bautista SJŚ Jim Souhrada Tom Calderon Jr.

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 25: Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/ Rom 8:31b-34/Mk 9:2-10 Mondav 26: Dn 9:4b-10/Lk 6:36-38 Tuesday 27: Is 1:10, 16-20/Mt 23:1-12 Wednesday 28: Jer 18:18-20/Mt 20:17-28 Thursday 29: Jer 17:5-10/Lk 16:19-31 Friday 1: Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a/ Mt 21:33-43, 45-46 Saturday 2: Mi 7:14-15, 18-20/Lk 15:1-3, 11-32 Sunday 3: Ex 20:1-17/1 Cor 1:22-25/Jn 2:13-25

COMMUNITY NEWS



Are you or someone you know divorced, widowed, or separated and hurting?

listen.accompany.heal

The March 15-17 Beginning Experience Weekend Retreat will help you move through the grief process. It offers an opportunity for turning the pain of loss into a growth experience. For more info, visit http://www.sanantoniobe.org/, call 210-724-9269, or e-mail sanantoniobe@vahoo.com.

THE SUNDAY FUNNIES

What do you call a Lent observer who is always hungry? The fasting and the furious.







For ad info. call 1-800-950-9952 • www.4lpi.com

St. Anthony Mary Claret, San Antonio, TX