

Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 3, 2017

www.stjohnberchmans.com

OFFER IT UP!

As Saint Paul says, we can offer our personal experiences as a "living sacrifice." Let's offer up our daily prayers, thoughts, words, actions, joys, and sufferings. Let's unite our sacrifices to the perfect sacrifice of Jesus we celebrate in the Eucharist. Our sacrifices—little or big, happy or sad—become the stuff of miracles. Consider the example of the loaves and fishes we read about a few weeks ago. Jesus' tender heart pities the hungry crowds. Jesus asks the disciples to offer anything they can spare. Using the ridiculously inadequate offering of five loaves and two fish, Jesus goes to work. He blesses their offering, breaks it, and uses it to satisfy thousands. Baskets overflow. Jesus uses a tiny offering and transforms it into real help for people in need.

We too can offer sacrifices for Jesus to transform. When we are confronted with problems we know we can't solve, Jesus remains calm. He asks us to give what we can. Often, we have no confidence. We scoff at our own pathetic attempts. We cannot imagine how God could possibly use our boring little sacrifices of dishwashing, caregiving, or e-mail-managing to bless the world. But Jesus takes whatever we offer. He blesses it. He breaks it. He transforms it into grace for ourselves and for all people in need.

PRaise GOD!

The mystery of redemptive suffering transforms our lives, but it is not an easy mystery to accept. Suffering is not attractive. Especially when suffering afflicts innocent people, we cry out to God for justice and relief. Jesus' words today penetrate our hearts: "You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do." We beg the Lord to accept our suffering, then, and to transform it in ways we cannot imagine. Embracing the details and crosses of daily life, we look forward to the day when Jesus comes in glory, revealing to us how he used our sacrifices to bless the world.

Today's Readings: Jer 20:7-9; Ps 63:2-6, 8-9; Rom 12:1-2; Mt 16:21-27

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OFRECERLO

Así como san Pablo dice, podemos ofrecer nuestra experiencia personal como un "sacrificio vivo". Ofrezcamos nuestras oraciones diarias, pensamientos, palabras, acciones, alegrías y sufrimientos. Unamos nuestros sacrificios al sacrificio perfecto que celebramos en la Eucaristía. Nuestros sacrificios, pequeños o grandes, felices o tristes, se hacen la materia prima de los milagros. Considera el ejemplo de los panes y pescados que leímos hace unas semanas. El corazón de Jesús se entristece ante las multitudes hambrientas. Jesús pide a sus discípulos que ofrezcan cualquier cosa que les sobre. Usando lo irrisoria e inadecuada ofrenda de cinco panes y dos pescados, Jesús obra. Él bendice su ofrenda, parte el pan y lo comparte para satisfacer el hambre de miles. Las canastas rebozan. Jesús utiliza una pequeña ofrenda y la transforma en una ayuda verdadera para ofrecer a las personas más necesitadas.

Nosotros también podemos ofrecer sacrificios para que Jesús los transforme. Cuando tenemos que enfrentar problemas sabemos que no podemos resolverlos, Jesús permanece calmado. Él nos pide dar lo que podamos. A menudo, no tenemos confianza. Nos burlamos de nuestros intentos patéticos. No podemos imaginar cómo Dios podría posiblemente usar nuestros sacrificios pequeños aburridos de lavar los trastes, hacer la limpieza o enviar correos electrónicos para bendecir el mundo. Pero Jesús toma cualquier cosa que ofrezcamos. Él lo bendice. Lo parte. Lo transforma en gracia para nosotros y para todas las personas necesitadas.

¡ALABADO SEA DIOS!

El misterio del sufrimiento redentor transforma nuestras vidas, pero no es un misterio fácil de aceptarlo. El sufrimiento no es atractivo. Especialmente cuando el sufrimiento aflige a personas inocentes, levantamos la voz a Dios por justicia y alivio. Las palabras de Jesús hoy penetran nuestros corazones: "tú modo de pensar no es el de Dios, sino el de los hombres". Rogamos para que el Señor acepte nuestro sufrimiento y lo transforme en formas que no podemos imaginar. Abrazando los detalles y las cruces de la vida diaria, ansiamos el día cuando Jesús vuelva en su gloria, revelándonos cómo él usó nuestros sacrificios para bendecir al mundo.

Lecturas de hoy: Jer 20:7-9; Sal 63:2-6, 8-9; Rom 12:1-2; Mt 16:21-27

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Please Pray for the Sick

Prayer List Updates



Diana Calderon	Paul and Grace Salinas	Frances Ramirez
David Ortiz	Baby Alexander Gonzalez	Alex Tapia
Minerva Estrada	Alejandro De Leon	Norma Morgan
Jesse Mario Vega	Jimmie Rodriguez	Laura Reyes Gutierrez
Martha L. Vega & Children	Delia Riojas	Mary Garza
Maria Treviño	Petra Chavez	Jose A. Ponce, Jr.
Isabella Julianna Vega	Joe & Cecilia Espinosa	Elisa Casanova
Alfonso Ibarra, Jr.	Pablo Rodriguez	Alexander Hernandez
Melissa Rodriguez	Dolores Gonzalez	Pedro Caballero
Armando Rodriguez	Joe Moreno	Eric Nave
Norma Morgan	Clara Perez	Sofia Olivarez
Margaret Perez	Rick Contreras	Deacon Jesus Rodriguez
Angie Lopez	Brandon Rivas	Rosalinda Rodriguez
Maria Zapata	Liz Quintero	Connie Cardenas
Ruben Tey	Justin Rey Martinez	Rosalinda Esparza
Terri Lopez	Antonio Aguero	Cynthia Sandoval
San Juanita Sanchez	Elvia Diaz	Ismael Montañez
Jessica Diaz	M/M Margarito Compean	Estella De La Vega
Jesse Diaz	Roberta Bobbie Garza	Gary Stanko

We thank God for the healing of so many sick parishioners. Please be courteous and call the Parish Office if your loved one is no longer suffering or sick. Thank you.

WEEKLY CONTRIBUTION

FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS WILL NOT BE REPORTED UNTIL SEPTEMBER 10, 2017

5:00 PM	-\$
8:00 AM	-\$
10:00 AM	-\$
12:00 NOON	-\$
	-\$ Second Collection

2016 Gift of Giving -\$

Mail In -\$

TOTAL COLLECTED -\$

Second Collection

* September 3, 2017 - Capital Improvements

2017 GIFT OF GIVING

Contributions Aug. 26 - 27, 2017	\$ 186.12
RUNNING BALANCE TOTAL	\$11,598.11

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, September 2

5:00 p.m. Gene Toscano - Family
† Rudy A. Moreno - Family

Sunday, September 3

8:00 a.m. † Guadalupe Treviño - Nora Treviño
† Juan Silva - Family
† Mary Lou Alvarado - Family
† Roland Cuellar - Mom & Dad
† Micaela Vargas - Hernandez Family
10:00 a.m. † Deacon Cena - Wife & Family
† Daniel C. Arzola - Family
† Trinidad & Olivia Garcia - Family
† Ryan Sanchez - Sanchez Family
† Santos E. Garza - Reynero Family
12:00 p.m. † Teofilo De Los Santos - Family
† Yvonne Forde - Tillie Hernandez
† Rudy A. Moreno - Family

Monday, September 4

12:00 p.m.

Tuesday, September 5

12:00 p.m.
Gift of Life Marcus E. Torres

Wednesday, September 6

8:15 a.m. † Mary Orosco - Share the Word

Thursday, September 7

12:00 p.m.
Health Justin Rey Martinez

Friday, September 8

12:00 p.m. For All On Our Parish Prayer List

Saturday, September 9**

5:00 p.m. † Robert Sepulveda - Campos Family

Sunday, September 10**

8:00 a.m. Guadalupe Mass
† Sr. Rosario Juarez - Angie Canales
† Ernestina Huerta - Husband & Children
† Juan Garcia - Guadalupe
† Guadalupe Treviño - Nora Treviño
10:00 a.m. † Jose Tagle - Family
† Daniel C. Arzola - Family
† Felipe y Dominga Reynero - Reynero Family
† Jose y Paula Estrada - Reynero Family
12:00 p.m. † Teofilo De Los Santos - Family

** HEALING SERVICE AFTER ALL MASSES

In Loving Memory

We pray for the souls of our dearly departed who have passed from our parish community:

Sanctuary Light

† Santos E. Garza



From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Parishioners:

Monday, September 4th, is officially Labor Day when we salute our hard working men and women who proudly provide for their families and their nation. St. Paul reminds us that it is necessary to work in order to meet our physical needs. Work is a value and we need to cultivate the work ethic in our children and grandchildren. I thank all of you for your labor and financial support of our community and parish and will forever be privileged to manage your stewardship. Let us pray that our fellow citizens who are seeking employment will soon be rewarded with a job to provide for their families.

I am very pleased and proud to announce our annual pilgrimage scheduled for next year on April 9 - 17, 2018 (9 days) entitled "Following in the Footsteps of St. Paul." We will have the opportunity to visit the sites where St. Paul preached, lived and was imprisoned such as Athens, Corinth, Thessalonica, Kavala and Philippi. Join your fellow parishioners on this unique and memorable pilgrimage. Total cost of the trip \$3,229.00 per person.

We welcome back our students from St. John Berchmans Catholic School. I pray that God blesses us with a very successful academic and spiritual year and highly encourage you to continue registering your children. At this time, we have 200 students enrolled for the 2017-2018 academic year and we are blessed to have earned your trust and vow to provide the best education for our children. We have made necessary adjustments to equip our school and teachers with the tools required in order to compete and provide the best education to our children.

I declare Sunday, August 20th, "Six Pack Sundays"! Each parishioner is asked to bring a six pack of soda according to the selected mass you attend for the following next 6 weekends. Parishioners who attend Saturday 5:00 afternoon mass are invited to bring Diet Coke and Sprite; the 8:00 Sunday morning mass will bring case of water; 10:00 Sunday morning mass will be asked to bring regular Coke; and the 12:00 noon mass will bring Dr. Pepper and Big Red. Please be generous, as we intend to make our Fall Festival very successful thanks to everyone's participation.

I am very pleased and excited to again announce that a contract has been finalized in obtaining three bands to entertain us for our Fall Festival 2017. The bands will be: Home Town Boys, Los EnVivo Kings, and La Tropa F. Please remember that our Festival is two short months away and everyone is requested to sell as many tickets as possible for our Fall Festival which is scheduled on Saturday, September 30th from 12:00 noon until midnight. The success of our festival depends on the participation of each one of us.

We welcome Mrs. Nora Garcia, as interim Principal for the academic school year 2017-2018. Mrs. Garcia is a dedicated, hard working, religious, and intelligent person with an extensive experience in Catholic School Education. She has been a vice principal in our school for over 15 years. We are excited and blessed to have Mrs. Garcia accept the opportunity to lead our school. We wish her a successful ministry in our school.

May God bless you always,

Father Fidèle Okitembo Dikete, Pastor
fr.fidele@stjohnberchmans.com

Announcements

www.stjohnberchmans.com

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading - The name of the LORD has become like fire burning in Jeremiah's heart (Jeremiah 20:7-9).

Psalms - My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God (Psa 63).

Second Reading - Be transformed; renew your mind; discern what is good (Romans 12:1-2).

Gospel - Those who lose their lives for Jesus' sake will find

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon: 1 Thes 4:13-18; Ps 96:1, 3-5, 11-13; Lk 4:16-30, or, for Labor Day, any readings from the Mass "For the Blessing of Human Labor," nos. 907-911
Tue: 1 Thes 5:1-6, 9-11; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Lk 4:31-37
Wed: Col 1:1-8; Ps 52:10-11; Lk 4:38-44
Thu: Col 1:9-14; Ps 98:2-6; Lk 5:1-11
Fri: Mt 5:1-4a or Rom 8:28-30; Ps 13:6; Mt 1:1-16, 18-23
Sat: Col 1:21-23; Ps 54:3-4, 6, 8; Lk 6:1-5
Sun: Ez 33:7-9; Ps 95:1-2, 6-9; Rom 13:8-10; Mt 18:15-20

Events of the Week ~ September 3 - 10, 2017

Sunday, September 3

CCD REGISTRATIONS AFTER ALL MASSES

7:30 a.m. Divine Mercy - Church
8:00 a.m. Spanish Mass - Church
10:00 a.m. Mass - Church
12:00 p.m. Mass - Church

Monday, September 4 - PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

Tuesday, September 5

12:00 p.m. Mass - Chapel
6:30 p.m. Guadalupana Meeting - School
7:00 p.m. Spanish Prayer Group - Church

Wednesday, September 6

8:15 a.m. Children's Mass - Church
9:15 a.m. Rosary Makers - Offsite
7:00 p.m. KOC Council Meeting - School

Thursday, September 7

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Eucharistic Adoration - Chapel
12:00 p.m. Mass - Chapel
6:30 p.m. Ultreya English - School

Friday, September 8

12:00 p.m. Mass - Chapel

Saturday, September 9

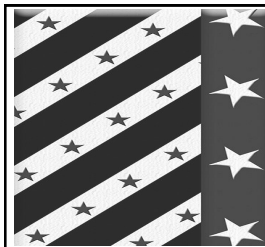
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Rummage Sale - Parking Lot
5:00 p.m. Mass - Church

Sunday, September 10

7:30 a.m. Divine Mercy - Church
ACTS TACO SALE AFTER ALL MASSES
8:00 a.m. Spanish Mass - Church
10:00 a.m. Mass - Church
12:00 p.m. Mass - Church



THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2017
9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.



In observation of
Labor Day
Our offices will be closed
Monday, September 4, 2017

ST. JOHN BERCHMANS FALL FESTIVAL RAFFLE TICKETS

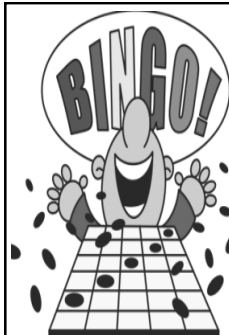
Support your parish by picking up your raffle tickets. Tickets may be picked up in the parish office and also important to submit monies for tickets sold. Cost is \$1.00 per ticket!

Grand prize: \$5,000 VISA Gift Card

CHURCH CLEANING MINISTRY

We are always in need of a few good hands every Saturday morning to help us clean our beautiful church. Your assistance is greatly appreciated, and one does not realize that it takes a lot of work and assistance from many individuals to prepare for Mass. Contact Stella Rico at 464-0207 or join us at 8:00 am in the church foyer on Saturday.

Cleaning Schedule of Ministries
Saturday, September 9, 2017 - Hospitality



FALL FESTIVAL BINGO

Will take place on Saturday, September 30, 2017 during our church festival from 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Additional details forthcoming.

However, we are in desperate need of prizes for the Bingo. We ask that prizes be new and of a \$10.00 and up value. Thank you!



BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

All requests must be sent by email to osantoyo1104@gmail.com for final approval by Father Fidele. We ask that you submit your requests at least two (2) weeks in advance for placement in the bulletin.



NEW TO OUR PARISH AND WANT TO REGISTER AS A NEW PARISHIONER?

If you are interested in registering as a new parishioner at St. John Berchmans Church, please contact our Parish Office at 434-3247 to fill out a registration form. Thank you!

Announcements

www.stjohnberchmans.com

2017 FESTIVAL T-SHIRTS

Festival T-Shirts will be sold after all masses beginning this weekend. Cost is \$10.00 per shirt (add \$2 per X after XL) and are available in several different colors (Red, Purple, Hot Pink and Bright Yellow) and sizes (Small - 4X). Elida Gonzales will be available to collect monies at mass weekends of 9/9-10 and 9/16-17.

Message printed on back of shirts:

"GREATER IS HE WHO IS IN ME THAN HE WHO IS IN THE WORLD". 1 John 4:4.

Thank you for your support!

LAST CHANCE!! LAST RUMMAGE SALE FOR THE YEAR 2017

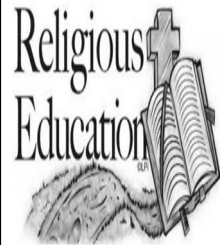
DATE: September 9, 2017
TIME: 9:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.
COST: \$10.00 per space



Questions? Please contact Rosa Moreno at the Parish Office, 210.434.3247.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE NEWS

The future of our Church depends on the faith of our children. Live it, teach it, proclaim it.



CCD REGISTRATIONS - CLASSES BEGIN SEPTEMBER 17, 2017

Registrations will take place after all the morning Masses. When registering, please bring your child's Baptism certificate if the child is baptized, or your child's birth certificate if your child is not baptized.

ADULT EDUCATION (RCIA AND ADULT CONFIRMATION)

Our parish community understand that we as individuals, and together as a community, are responsible for creating the kind of parish that is supportive of a Community of the Faithful.

The RCIA Team, under the guidance of Fr. Fidèle, directs this critical ministry on behalf of the total parish community of faithful. RCIA classes are held on Wednesday nights from 6:30-8:00 pm in Room 22 of the School Building.

Inquiry Classes' for all persons, unbaptized or baptized, who are considering joining the Catholic Church or for baptized Catholics who never completed their Sacraments of Initiation (Communion, Confirmation) **will begin on Monday, September 18.** Any question(s) regarding any aspect of the Catholic Faith is encouraged and answered by members of the RCIA Team in a very friendly environment.

Please bring your baptism certificate if you are baptized, or your birth certificate if you are not baptized. You may register at any time in August and September. Please bring your Baptism certificate if you are baptized or your birth certificate if you are not baptized.

For more information regarding the RCIA Programs please contact Rosalinda Rodriguez, the Faith Formation Coordinator at 434-3247 on Monday, Wednesday, or Fridays.

BAPTISM CLASSES

If you are going to baptize a child, parents and godparents need to attend a Baptism Talk before the Baptism ceremony. The Baptism Talks will be **held on the first Wednesday** of the month at 6:30 p.m. **These talks will NO LONGER be held on Sundays after the 12:00 Mass.** We will meet in room 22 of the school building. You must register prior to the class by calling Rosa Moreno in the Parish Office to register at 210.434.3247. You will be given a certificate of attendance. Below is a schedule of meetings for the next 10 months:

WEDNESDAY AT 6:30 p.m. IN ROOM 22 IN THE SCHOOL BUILDING:

September 6, 2017, October 4, 2017, **no class in November (All Saint's Day)**, December 6, 2017, January 3, 2018, February 7, 2018, March 7, 2018, April 4, 2018, May 2, 2018, June 6, 2018.

HOMILY HELPS

The price of "not conforming myself to this age" is steep, as Paul and Peter, like Jeremiah and Jesus before them, discovered (Romans 12:2). Losing life to find it. Forfeiting self to profit others. How lonely discipleship's journey would be, were not disciples past and present and Jesus journeying with us! Peter needed to learn, as do Christians in every age, including ours, that professing the faith is just the beginning. But what indescribable joy, even in the midst of suffering, to be channels for others of God's pardon and peace, the grace and goodness that always finds us when we lose ourselves for others and for God. Thus, the disciples then, and we now, need to learn that Jesus' way, our way, must be the way of the Cross.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Jesus bids me "deny myself" before "taking up the cross" and "following." What radical shift of values, reordering of priorities, refocusing of vision must take place in my heart as discipleship's non-negotiable Step Number 1?