

Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 10, 2017

www.stjohnberchmans.com

THE WAY OF LOVE

Although today's readings might seem drearily preoccupied with sin, Saint Paul explains why sin is important to discuss: because every sin reduces the amount of love in the world. Paul turns the focus from sin to love when he writes, "Love is the fulfillment of the law" (Romans 13:10). What power that verse contains! If we begin each day by reciting that verse, we would be well on our way to a more generous life—not only avoiding sin as much as possible, but also actively seeking out ways to make life sweeter for our neighbors. Memorized verses inspire us when we face difficulties during the day, when we are irritated with someone, for example, or we need to make a decision. Remembering that "love is the fulfillment of the law" might truly help us avoid sin and do good in daily life.

THE WAY OF PRAYER

Learning a scripture verse by heart is, of course, a way of praying. In today's Gospel, Jesus encourages us to pray. Jesus firmly believes in the power of prayer, going so far as to guarantee results: "I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything for which they are to pray, it shall be granted to them by my heavenly Father." Jesus promises something else, too, something vitally important. More than a game of Go Fish in which we hope we "got what we asked for," prayer is a living encounter with Jesus himself: "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." Today's readings move us beyond the bare minimum and open an enormous world to us. We shun the pettiness of sin not because we fear punishment, but because we want to love others deeply. We pray to our great God not because we want to get favors from a divine vending machine, but because we want to spend time with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Today's Readings: Ez 33:7-9; Ps 95:1-2, 6-9; Rom 13:8-10; Mt 18:15-20

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EL CAMINO DEL AMOR

Aunque las lecturas de hoy podrían parecer tristemente preocupadas con el pecado, san Pablo explica porque el pecado es importante para discutir: porque cada pecado reduce la cantidad de amor que hay en el mundo. Pablo cambia el enfoque de pecado a amor cuando él escribe: "cumplir perfectamente la ley consiste en amar" (Romanos 10:13). ¡Que fuerza tiene ese versículo! Si empezamos a recitar esa frase, estaríamos bien en nuestro camino a una vida más generosa, no solo evitando el pecado lo más posible, sino también activamente buscando formas de hacer la vida más agradable para nuestros prójimos. Memorizar versículos nos inspira cuando enfrentamos dificultades durante el día, cuando estamos irritados con alguien, por ejemplo, o necesitamos tomar una decisión. Recordando que "cumplir perfectamente la ley consiste en amar" podría verdaderamente ayudarnos a evitar el pecado y hacer el bien en nuestra vida diaria.

EL CAMINO DE LA ORACIÓN

Aprender un versículo de la Biblia de memoria es, desde luego, una forma de hacer oración. En el Evangelio de hoy, Jesús nos anima a rezar. Jesús firmemente cree en el poder de la oración, avanzar es una garantía de obtener resultados: "Yo les aseguro también que, si dos de ustedes se ponen de acuerdo para pedir algo, sea lo que fuere, mi Padre celestial se lo concederá". Jesús promete algo más también, algo vitalmente importante. Más que un juego como el de Ir a Pescar en el cual esperamos "obtener lo que pedimos"; la oración es un vivo encuentro con el mismo Jesús: "pues donde dos o tres se reúnen en mi nombre, ahí estoy yo en medio de ellos". Las lecturas de hoy nos mueven más allá de lo pequeño y abre un mundo enorme para nosotros. Rechazamos la mezquindad del pecado no porque temamos el castigo, sino porque queremos a amar a nuestro prójimo profundamente. Oramos a nuestro Dios todopoderoso no porque queremos favores de una máquina que dispensa golosinas, sino porque queremos dedicar un tiempo con nuestro Señor y Salvador, Jesucristo.

Lecturas de hoy: Ez 33:7-9; Sal 95 (94):1-2, 6-9; Rom 13:8-10; Mt 18:15-20

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Please Pray for the Sick

Prayer List Updates



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
Paul and Grace Salinas	Frances Ramirez	Diana Calderon
Baby Alexander Gonzalez	Alex Tapia	Susan Perez

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

SEPTEMBER 2 - 3, 2017

5:00 PM	-\$1,490.00 (078)
8:00 AM	-\$ 851.50 (071)
10:00 AM	-\$1,344.00 (151)
12:00 NOON	-\$1,008.00 (142)
Capital Improvements	-\$ 869.83 Second Collection
2016 Gift of Giving	-\$ 259.49
School Mass	-\$ 87.12
Mail In	-\$ 125.00
TOTAL COLLECTED	-\$6,034.94

Second Collection

* September 10, 2017 - Victims of Hurricane Harvey

2017 GIFT OF GIVING

Contributions Sept. 2 - 3, 2017	\$ 259.49
RUNNING BALANCE TOTAL	\$12,026.29

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, September 9**

5:00 p.m. † Robert Sepulveda - Campos Family
Gift of Life Courtney Hopcus - Raquel
Gift of Life Socorro Castillo - Raquel

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
† Ryan Sanchez - Sanchez Family
12:00 p.m. † Teofilo De Los Santos - Family

**** HEALING SERVICE AFTER ALL MASSES**

Monday, September 11

12:00 p.m.

Tuesday, September 12

12:00 p.m. † Nieves Lopez Barrientes

Wednesday, September 13

8:15 a.m. † Arturo De La Vega

Thursday, September 14

12:00 p.m. † Jacinto Morales

Friday, September 15

12:00 p.m. † David Solis

Saturday, September 16

5:00 p.m. † Beatrice & Ignacio Gomez - Virginia & Lydia

Sunday, September 17 - CATECHETICAL SUNDAY

8:00 a.m. † Gilberto Terrazas - Angie Canales
† Victor Garcia - Willie Garcia
† Humberto Sanchez - Frances Ramirez
† Gloria Euresti - Family
Gift of Life Sandra Treviño - Nora Treviño
10:00 a.m. † Eloy Alvarado - Family
† Louis Robles, Jr. - Robles Family
† Daniel C. Arzola - Family
† Ramona Ybarra - Ybarra Children
† Ryan Sanchez - Sanchez Family
12:00 p.m. † Luis Duran, Sr. - Wife & Family
† Teofilo De Los Santos - Family

In Loving Memory

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

Sanctuary Light

† Beatrice & Ignacio Gomez

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Parishioners:

I offer my heartfelt thanks to each of you who attended the Holy Hour liturgy celebration this past Thursday in support and solidarity of our brothers and sisters stricken by Hurricane Harvey. In addition to our spiritual support, we have organized a special collection for the weekend of September 9th and 10th. Catholic school students from the affected areas will be invited to attend, or enroll, in our school, tuition free for 90 days. For the persons interested in donating the following items: diapers, blankets, clothing, cases of bottled water, unused pillows, cleaning supplies, hygiene products, gift cards, and non-perishable products, please drop the items off at the main office of Catholic Charities located at 202 W. French Place, from 8:00 in the morning until 5:00 in the afternoon. If you wish to volunteer, please go to Catholic Charities' volunteer page: ccaosa.givepulse.com for updates about volunteering opportunities. You may also choose to contact Tanner Lopez at 210.849.1685 or Stephanie Vorpahl, Catholic Charities Outreach Coordinator at 210.440.6755.

It is understandable that we be shocked and saddened by the catastrophic situation caused by Hurricane Harvey. We have lost human lives along with immeasurable and unimaginable material damage where recovery will take time, but for us my brothers and sisters in Christ, we need to step up to the plate by contributing with either prayer or needed materials to alleviate the pain and suffering of our brothers and sisters affected by this harsh condition. ***"Whatsoever you do to the least of my brothers, that you do unto me."*** **Matthew 25:45.** Let us keep hope alive. May God bless the great state of Texas and all those affected by this tragedy.

Happy Grandparent's Day to you and for your commitment to your family. May God continue to bless you for all you do.

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 several weeks 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.

May God bless you always,

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

Announcements

www.stjohnberchmans.com

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading - Warn the wicked, trying to turn them from their ways (Ezekiel 33:7-9).

Psalms - If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts (Psa 95).

Second Reading - Owe nothing to anyone, except mutual love (Romans 13:8-10).

Gospel - If two agree about anything for which they pray, it shall be granted to them (Matthew 18:15-20).

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon: Col 1:24 - 2:3; Ps 62:6-7, 9; Lk 6:6-11
 Tue: Col 2:6-15; Ps 145:1b-2, 8-11; Lk 6:12-19
 Wed: Col 3:1-11; Ps 145:2-3, 10-13ab; Lk 6:20-26
 Thu: Nm 21:4b-9; Ps 78:1bc-2, 34-38; Phil 2:6-11; Jn 3:13-17
 Fri: 1 Tm 1:1-2, 12-14; Ps 16:1b-2a, 5, 7-8, 11; Jn 19:25-27 or Lk 2:33-35
 Sat: 1 Tm 1:15-17; Ps 113:1b-7; Lk 6:43-49
 Sun: Sir 27:30 - 28:9; Ps 103:1-4, 9-12; Rom 14:7-9; Mt 18:21-35

Events of the Week ~ September 10 - 17, 2017

Sunday, September 10

7:30 a.m. Divine Mercy - Church

HEALING AFTER ALL MASSES

8:00 a.m. **Spanish Mass** - Church

ACTS TACO SALE AFTER ALL MASSES

10:00 a.m. **Mass** - Church

12:00 p.m. **Mass** - Church

Monday, September 11

12:00 p.m. Communion Service

6:30 p.m. Women in the Bible - Cafeteria

Tuesday, September 12

12:00 p.m. Mass - Chapel

7:00 p.m. ACTS Core - Room 22

7:00 p.m. Spanish Prayer Group - Church

7:00 p.m. Festival Meeting - Cafeteria

Wednesday, September 13

8:15 a.m. Children's Mass - Church

9:15 a.m. Rosary Makers - Offsite

Thursday, September 14

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 15

12:00 p.m. **Mass** - Chapel

Saturday, September 16

5:00 p.m. **Mass** - Church

Sunday, September 17 - CCD Classes Begin

7:30 a.m. Divine Mercy - Church

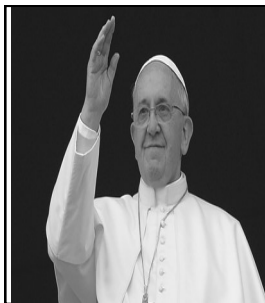
8:00 a.m. **Spanish Mass** - Church

10:00 a.m. **Mass** - Church

12:00 p.m. **Mass** - Church



THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2017
9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.



POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR SEPTEMBER 2017

PARISHES

That our parishes, animated by a missionary spirit, may be places where faith is communicated and charity is seen.

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 16, 2017 - CCD

WEEKLY CONTRIBUTION

AUGUST 26 - 27, 2017

5:00 PM	-\$ 735.00 (096)
8:00 AM	-\$ 494.50 (071)
10:00 AM	-\$1,253.00 (125)
12:00 NOON	-\$ 990.00 (140)
Religious Education	-\$ 365.55 Second Collection
2016 Gift of Giving	-\$ 168.69
Mail In	-\$ 305.00
TOTAL	-\$4,378.44

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

Second Collection

* September 3, 2017 - Capital Improvements

2017 GIFT OF GIVING

Contributions Aug. 26 - 27, 2017 \$ 168.69
RUNNING BALANCE TOTAL \$11,766.80



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.

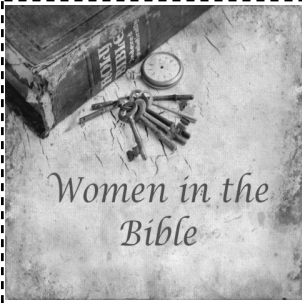


NEW TO OUR PARISH AND WANT TO REGISTER AS A NEW PARISHIONER?

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



STUDY OF THE WOMEN IN THE BIBLE

A study of the Women in the Bible will be held on Mondays at 6:30 p.m. in the school cafeteria. We will begin with the Women of the Old Testament on **Monday, September 11, 2017** for 10 weeks through **Monday, November 27, 2017**. We will break for the month of December to celebrate Advent. Then will continue to study the Women of the New Testament for 10 more weeks beginning Monday, January 8, 2018 and ending on Monday, March 26, 2018. There is no charge for the class, however the workbook sells for \$20.00. Anyone that is interested, please contact Cindy Sandoval by phone or text 210.291.1923 or email ventimochafrap@yahoo.com.

IMPORTANT FESTIVAL MEETING SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2017

Father Fidele is inviting all interested parishioners, members of all organizations and ministries, to attend our next festival meeting on **Tuesday, September 12, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the school cafeteria**. We are reaching a critical point and important information will be discussed and we need everyone's assistance to ensure that our festival is a successful one.



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2017

Today, we recognize all of the awesome grandparents in our country, and especially those within our St. John Berchmans community.

You are an integral part of the family and we pray for God's blessings of good health, peace and Thanks for filling the world with love! Amen

5K FUNDRAISER FOR ST. JOHN BERCHMANS CATHOLIC SCHOOL - SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2017

11th ANNUAL RUN WITH A MISSION 5K

LOCATION: Mission County Park #1

MASS: 7:30 a.m.

5K Runners, Walkers, and Kids Run (10 and under) \$15.00 Registration Fee until October 13, 2017

ST. JOHN BERCHMANS WILL RECEIVE \$15.00 FOR EACH PARTICIPANT WHO REGISTERS BY FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2017

LATE REGISTRATION: \$20.00 until October 27, 2017

If anybody registers by October 27th, SJB will receive the \$15.00 but \$5.00 will go Hope for the Future.

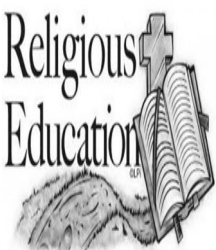
RACE DAY REGISTRATION: \$30.00 ON October 29, 2017. \$30.00 goes directly to Hope for the Future.

All participants must register online at www.archsa.org/hope/5k-run-iwht-a-mission-2017. For any other information or questions, please call SJB School 433.0411 and speak with Ms. Arocha or by email at laura.arocha@sjbsa.com or Mrs. Ortiz at julie.ortiz@sjbsa.com

2017 FESTIVAL T-SHIRTS

Festival T-Shirts will be sold after all masses and the 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). Festival committee members will be taking orders after all masses. Message printed on back of shirts:

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



CCD REGISTRATIONS - CLASSES BEGIN SUNDAY, 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)

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