

Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 17, 2017

www.stjohnberchmans.com

FORGIVEN AND FORGIVING

In today's Gospel, Jesus calls his followers to forgive "seventy-seven" times. In other words, stop keeping track when forgiving others. But when we are hurt, this is really hard to do. In fact, to protect ourselves from further hurt, we might be inclined to do the opposite, and lash out. Jesus teaches the futility of this approach.

Jesus' parable of the unforgiving servant reminds us that in the course of our lives we have harmed others, and so distanced ourselves from God. We have also been harmed by others. Like the servant, we sometimes owe a debt, and sometimes others owe a debt to us. Here we are invited to stop the cycle of pain with the grace of mercy. We are called to imitate our God, who forgives wholeheartedly.

PROTECTING THE VULNERABLE

It is also tempting to view this teaching on forgiveness in isolation. This would suggest that the burden is placed entirely upon the offended person to go on forgiving, without mentioning any accountability on the part of the offending person. This interpretation can often be dangerous. The call to forgive should never be used as a cover for bullying or for oppressive relationships of any kind.

It is helpful to consider all of chapter 18 in Matthew's Gospel, which teaches about forgiveness and reconciliation, and the exercise of authority in the Christian community. Last week's Gospel (Matthew 18:15-18) provides guidance on how Christians can call to accountability someone who has hurt others, to protect the weak, and to seek reconciliation as a community. The parable we hear today reminds us that, like the master who protected the second servant from the cruelty of the unforgiving servant, God seeks to guard the most vulnerable from harm.

The Gospel of Matthew presented an alternative to the violence-based order of his day. Matthew described Jesus' vision of community, in which power is used at the service of all and the vulnerable are protected and cherished.

Today's Readings: Sir 27:30 — 28:7; Ps 103:1-4, 9-12; Rom 14:7-9; Mt 18:21-35

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SER PERDONADO Y PERDONAR

En el Evangelio de hoy, Jesús llama a sus seguidores a perdonar "setenta veces siete". En otras palabras, dejar de contar las veces que perdonamos a los demás. Pero cuando nos lastiman, es muy difícil de hacerlo. De hecho, para protegernos nosotros de más daño, podríamos estar inclinados a hacer lo opuesto y arremeter. Jesús nos enseña la inutilidad de esta propuesta.

La parábola del siervo impecable nos recuerda que en el curso de nuestras vidas hemos lastimado a los demás, y distanciado de Dios. También hemos sido lastimados por otros. Como el siervo, algunas veces tenemos deudas y algunas veces otros tiene alguna deuda con nosotros. Aquí se nos invita a detener el ciclo del dolor con la gracia de la misericordia. Se nos llama a imitar a nuestro Dios, quien perdona con todo el corazón.

PROTEGIENDO A LOS VULNERABLES

Es muy tentador ver esta enseñanza del perdón de manera aislada. Esto sugeriría que la carga se pone completamente en la persona ofendida que necesita perdón, sin mencionar la responsabilidad de la parte de la persona que ofendió. Esta interpretación puede ser peligrosa. La llamada a perdonar nunca debe ser usada para cubrir el acoso o cualquier tipo de relación opresiva.

Es de bastante ayuda considerar el capítulo 18 del Evangelio de Mateo, el cual nos enseña acerca del perdón y la reconciliación, y el ejercicio de la autoridad en la comunidad cristiana. El Evangelio de la semana pasada (Mateo 18:15-18) provee guía en cómo los cristianos pueden llamar a la rendición de cuentas a alguien que lastimó a otros, como el patrón que protege al segundo siervo de la crueldad del siervo impecable, Dios busca proteger a los más vulnerables de ser lastimados.

El Evangelio de Mateo presentó una alternativa basada en la violencia de su tiempo. Mateo describe la visión de la comunidad de Jesús, en el que el poder es usado al servicio de todos y los vulnerables son protegidos y amados.

Lecturas de hoy: Eclo 27:30—28:7; Sal 103 (102):1-4, 9-12; Rom 14:7-9; Mt 18:21-35

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Please Pray for the Sick

Prayer List Updates



| | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Jesse Mario Vega | Jimmié 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 |
| Alejandro De Leon | Norma Morgan | Guadalupe Huerta |

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 9 - 10, 2017

| | |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 5:00 PM | -\$1,048.00 (104) |
| 8:00 AM | -\$ 774.50 (098) |
| 10:00 AM | -\$1,272.00 (179) |
| 12:00 NOON | -\$ 890.00 (170) |
| 2016 Gift of Giving | -\$ 182.57 |
| School Mass | -\$ 79.97 |
| Mail In | -\$ 355.00 |
| | -\$4,602.04 |
| Hurricane Harvey | \$1,128.50 Special Collection |
| TOTAL COLLECTED | \$5,730.54 |

2017 GIFT OF GIVING

| | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Contributions Sept. 9 - 10, 2017 | \$ 182.57 |
| RUNNING BALANCE TOTAL | \$12,208.86 |



Mass Intentions for the Week

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

Monday, September 18

12:00 p.m.

Tuesday, September 19

12:00 p.m.

Gift of Life Sandra D. Martinez

Wednesday, September 20

8:15 a.m. OLM Rosary Makers - 10th Anniversary

Thursday, September 21

12:00 p.m. † Ryan Sanchez - Sanchez Family

Friday, September 22

12:00 p.m. † Rafaela De La Rosa

Saturday, September 23

2:00 p.m. Quinceanera - Laura Elena Chapa

5:00 p.m. † John Mendiola - Family

Sunday, September 24

8:00 a.m. † Guadalupe Treviño - Nora Treviño
 † Veronica Carreon - Antolina Zuniga
 † Jesus y Francisca Castorena- Family

10:00 a.m. † Elodia Silva- Family
 † Daniel C. Arzola - Family
 † Ryan Sanchez - Sanchez Family

12:00 p.m. † Teofilo De Los Santos - Family
 † Juan Gamez - Children
 † Humberto Cabrera - Rosa Cabrera

In Loving Memory

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

† Nieves Lopez Barrientes

Sanctuary Light

Holy Souls in Purgatory



From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Parishioners:

I thank all of you who attended the Holy Hour and also my parishioners who have contributed monetary donations and items needed to alleviate the pain and the suffering of the victims. Please be advised that help is still needed even if you wish to volunteer. We add in our prayers the victims of Hurricane Irma.

We are all shocked and saddened by Hurricane Harvey's catastrophic situation. Human lives have been lost 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 in contributing with either prayer or needed material 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.

The registration of St. John Berchmans Religious Education is ongoing. I ask parents and grandparents to register your children and grandchildren into our program. As our Catholic education is crucial to our faith and foundation as Catholics, we have the responsibility to raise our children according to our faith and beliefs. Please make an effort to convey this message to your family, friends and neighbors. I also invite any adults in need of sacraments such as: Baptism, First Communion and confirmation, or if you are considering marriage within the church and need either one or two sacraments to meet the requirements, must contact Rosalinda Rodriguez, Religious Education Director to register.

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 - Remember the commandments and hate not your neighbor (Sirach 27:30 - 28:9).

Psalm - The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger, and rich in compassion (Psalm 103).

Second Reading - Whether we live, or whether we die, we do so for the Lord (Romans 14:7-9).

Gospel - Forgive one another from your heart (Matt 18:21-35).
The English translation of the Psalm Responses from *Lectionary for Mass* © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon: 1 Tm 2:1-8; Ps 28:2, 7-9; Lk 7:1-10
Tue: 1 Tm 3:1-13; Ps 101:1b-3ab, 5-6; Lk 7:11-17
Wed: 1 Tm 3:14-16; Ps 111:1-6; Lk 7:31-35
Thu: Eph 4:1-7, 11-13; Ps 19:2-5; Mt 9:9-13
Fri: 1 Tm 6:2c-12; Ps 49:6-10, 17-20; Lk 8:1-3
Sat: 1 Tm 6:13-16; Ps 100:1b-5; Lk 8:4-15
Sun: Is 55:6-9; Ps 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18;

Events of the Week ~ September 17 - 24, 2017

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

Monday, September 18

12:00 p.m. Communion Service
6:30 p.m. Women in the Bible - Cafeteria

Tuesday, September 19

12:00 p.m. Mass - Chapel
7:00 p.m. Spanish Prayer Group - Church

Wednesday, September 20

8:15 a.m. Children's Mass - Church
9:15 a.m. Rosary Makers - Offsite

Thursday, September 21

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 22

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

Saturday, September 23

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

Sunday, September 24

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 21, 2017
9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

REMINDER TO PARENTS

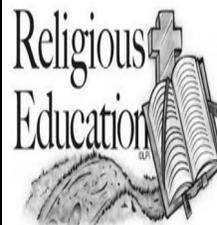
FAITH FORMATION CLASSES

BEGIN SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17th

Registration is ongoing for classes.

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.K3247 on Monday, Wednesday, or Fridays.

CHURCH CLEANING MINISTRY

Our parish is always in need of a few good hands every Saturday morning to help us clean our beautiful church. If interested, please contact Stella Rico at 464-0207 or join us at 8:00 am in the church foyer on Saturday mornings.

Cleaning Schedule of Ministries

Saturday, September 30, 2017 - SJB School



OUR NEXT PARISH RUMMAGE SALE

IS SCHEDULED FOR **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2017 FROM 9AM - 2 PM.**

If interested in purchasing a space for \$10.00, please contact Rosa Moreno at the parish office 434.3247.



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.

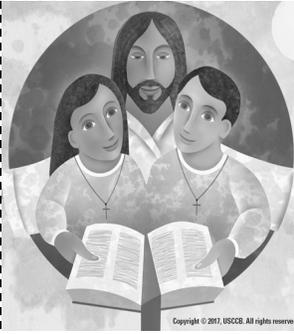


NEW TO OUR PARISH AND WANT TO REGISTER AS A NEW PARISHIONER?

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

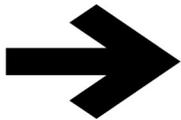
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CATECHETICAL SUNDAY 2017

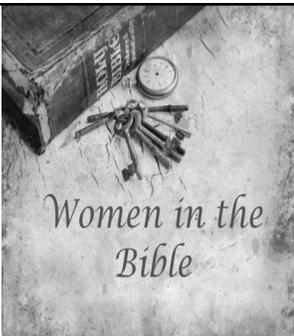
This year, the Church will celebrate Catechetical Sunday on September 17, 2017. The 2017 theme will be “**Living as Missionary Disciples.**” Those who the Community has designated to serve as catechists will be called forth to be commissioned for their ministry. Catechetical Sunday is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the role that each person plays, by virtue of Baptism, in handing on the faith and being a witness to the Gospel and also for all to rededicate themselves to this mission as a community of faith.

May God shower all of our Catechists with abundant graces and blessings for sharing their gift of faith and love with our parish community.



REMINDER TO ALL PARISHIONERS

We would like to remind and invite our parishioners that we hold a Communion Service on Monday at noon and Tuesday through Friday a noon Mass. Also the Parish Office will close Monday through Friday for lunch from 12:30 - 1:30 p.m. Thank you!



STUDY OF THE WOMEN IN THE BIBLE

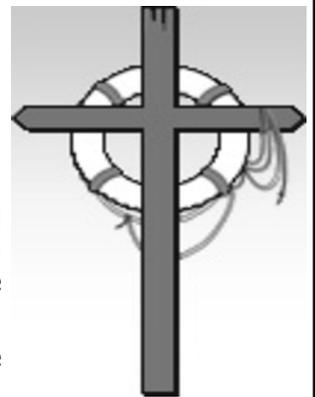
A study of the Women in the Bible will be held on Mondays at 6:30 p.m. in the school cafeteria. We will begin with the Women of the Old Testament on **Monday, September 11, 2017** for 10 weeks through **Monday, November 27, 2017**. We will break for the month of December to celebrate Advent. Then will 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.

IS YOUR MARRIAGE STRUGGLING? THERE IS HOPE. THERE IS HELP...

- Do you feel lost, alone or bored in your marriage?
- Has infidelity or addiction made your marriage an emotional wasteland?
- Are you frustrated, hurt, or angry with your spouse?
- Have you considered separation or divorce?
- Are you constantly fighting? Or do you simply shut down?

RETROUVAILLE is a highly successful program to Help Couples Heal and Renew their Marriages. Since 1977, tens of thousands of couples in hopelessly cold, unloving relationships, or on the verge of divorce, have restored their love for one another by attending the program.

The next course in San Antonio begins on **Friday, October 20, 2017**. For more information, or to register, go to HelpOurMarriage.org or call 210.848.3278.



FALL FESTIVAL BINGO

Will be held on Saturday, September 30, 2017 during our church festival from 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. in the school cafeteria.

However, we are still in need of prizes for the Bingo. We ask that prizes be new and of a \$10.00 value or more. Thank you for your support!

HOMILY HELPS

Jesus tells this story after Peter proposes as an extravagant limit of forgiveness, the biblical number of perfection, “seven times.” But Jesus recalculates, changing seven to seventy times seven, indicating infinity and challenging us to surpass even “perfection” with a forgiveness as wildly boundless as God’s forgiveness toward us. As Peter would learn later in tears after his own denial, we can only dare to cease forgiving others when we no longer need forgiveness ourselves.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Who needs my forgiveness? How might I start a “ripple of forgiveness” that could expand to a global tidal wave of unending forgiveness?