

# Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 24, 2017

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## A GENEROUS GOD

The parable in today's Gospel identifies a very strong human tendency to believe that everyone should get what they deserve. If we achieve more than others, we deserve to receive more: more money, more privilege, more honor. And so we anticipate that God will reward more liberally those who have done more for God.

Jesus says that God does things differently. The full day's wage in the story is like the gift of forgiveness and salvation, shared equally and abundantly with all. The full-day laborers complained that "you have made them equal to us, who bore the day's burden." They resented not being placed higher than the others, refusing to accept them as equals. Jesus is saying that, among God's people, there is no such pecking order. Regardless of background or achievements, we can accept everyone as brothers and sisters, and rejoice in God's generosity to everyone.

## THE FIRST AND LAST

In today's parable, had the laborers who worked all day been paid first, they likely never would have known that the late-starters had been paid the same wage, and would not have become jealous. In the way the story is told, though, both the justice and the mercy of God are revealed. The landowner gave a just wage to those who worked all day, and he was generously merciful to those who worked less.

When Jesus says that "the last will be first and the first will be last," he points to the kingdom of God. This is a kingdom where oppression is ended and divisions between people are healed. God brings justice and mercy to a world that sorely needs them. In the book of Revelation, Jesus is called "the first and the last," the Alpha and Omega. In Jesus, the first and the last are brought together to heal God's world. When we work for justice and show mercy, we join in Jesus' healing ministry.

Today's Readings: Is 55:6-9; Ps 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18; Phil 1:20c-24, 27a; Mt 20:1-16a

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## UN DIOS GENEROSO

La parábola del Evangelio de hoy identifica una tendencia fuertemente humana de creer que cada uno debe obtener lo que se merece. Si logramos más que otros, merecemos recibir más: más dinero, más privilegios, más honor. Y así anticipamos que Dios nos recompensará más libremente a aquellos que han hecho más por Dios.

Jesús dice que Dios hace las cosas de manera diferente. El salario de un día, en la historia es como el don de perdón y salvación, compartida igual y abundantemente con todos. Los trabajadores de tiempo completo se quejan diciéndole: "le pagas lo mismo que a nosotros que soportamos el peso del día y del calor". Les molestaba que no les hayan pagado más que a los otros, rechazando aceptarlos como iguales. Jesús dice que en medio del pueblo de Dios no hay tal jerarquía. Independientemente de antecedentes o logros, podemos aceptar a todos como hermanos y hermanas, y alegrarnos en la generosidad de Dios para todos.

## EL PRIMERO Y EL ÚLTIMO

En la parábola de hoy, había empleados que trabajaron todo el día y a los que les pagaron primero; ellos probablemente nunca hubieran conocido que los empleados que empezaron tarde su jornada habían recibido la misma paga y no habrían estado celosos. En la forma en que la historia se cuenta, tanto la justicia y la misericordia de Dios se revelan. El patrón dio un salario justo a los que trabajaron todo el día; y fue generosamente misericordioso con aquellos que trabajaron menos horas.

Cuando Jesús dice que "los últimos serán los primeros, y los primeros, los últimos", él apunta hacia el Reino de Dios. Este es un reino donde la opresión termina y las divisiones entre las personas son sanadas. Dios trae justicia y misericordia al mundo que gravemente las necesita. En el libro del Apocalipsis, Jesús llama a "los primeros y los últimos", el Alfa y el Omega. En Jesús, los primeros y los últimos se reúnen para sanar el mundo de Dios. Cuando trabajamos por justicia y mostramos misericordia, nos unimos en el ministerio sanador de Jesús.

Lecturas de hoy: Is 55:6-9; Sal 145 (144):2-3, 8-9, 17-18; Fil 1:20c-24, 27a; Mt 20:1-16a Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.



## Please Pray for the Sick

### Prayer List Updates



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
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 16 - 17, 2017

5:00 PM	-\$ 879.50 (092)
8:00 AM	-\$ 375.75 (072)
10:00 AM	-\$1,126.43 (161)
12:00 NOON	-\$1,234.50 (248)
Children's Basket	-\$ 8.25
Altar Flowers	-\$ 419.63 Second Collection
2016 Gift of Giving	-\$ 224.26
School Mass	-\$ 79.27
Mail In	-\$ 288.66
<b>TOTAL COLLECTED</b>	<b>-\$4,636.25</b>

**Second Collection - Sept. 24, 2017 - Religious Educ.**

## 2017 GIFT OF GIVING

Contributions Sept. 16 - 17, 2017	\$ 224.26
<b>RUNNING BALANCE TOTAL</b>	<b>\$12,433.12</b>



## Mass Intentions for the Week

### 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  
† Juan C. Velasquez - Daughters

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

### Monday, September 25

12:00 p.m.

### Tuesday, September 26

12:00 p.m. † Maria F. Solar

### Wednesday, September 27

8:15 a.m. † Daniel Gutierrez

### Thursday, September 28

12:00 p.m. Isaias de Ecuador

### Friday, September 29 -

12:00 p.m. Holy Souls in Purgatory

### Saturday, September 30 - NO 5 P.M. MASS

10:00 a.m.  
Gift of Life Roger G. Garcia, Sr. - Family

### Sunday, October 1

8:00 a.m. † Mario Cortez - Spanish Choir  
† Micaela Vargas - Hernandez Family  
† Ryan Sanchez - Sanchez Family  
† Sara Mesenberg - Daughters

Gift of Life Frances Ramirez - Nora Treviño

10:00 a.m. † Eloisa Herrera - Herrera Family  
† Victor Herrera, Jr. - Herrera Family  
† Victor Herrera III - Herrera Family  
† Rose Cantu Herrera - Herrera Family  
† David M. Herrera - Herrera Family

12:00 p.m. † Teofilo De Los Santos - Family  
† Yvonne Forde - Tillie Hernandez  
† Humberto Cabrera - Rosa Cabrera

## In Loving Memory

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

† **Guillermina S. Zamora**  
† **Maria F. Solar**

### Sanctuary Light

† **Guadalupe Cepeda**



## From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Parishioners:

This past Monday, September 18, 2017, I had the privilege of celebrating my 47th birthday with my Saint John Berchmans community. Thank you for your birthday wishes, words of appreciation, love, support, tokens of appreciation and gifts. I thank almighty God for allowing me to reach the milestone celebration of my 47th birthday. May God continue to nurture and guide me as your Pastor and shepherd in leading this beautiful community God has entrusted me with.

I invite all of you to continue praying and assisting the victims of Hurricanes Harvey and Irma in any capacity possible. Much appreciation is given to those of you who have contributed monetary donations and items needed to alleviate the pain and the suffering of the victims. ***"Whatever 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.

We are one week away from celebrating our Fall Festival. Please make sure you sell as many raffle tickets as possible and submit the monies to the Parish office as soon as possible. You are also asked to contribute with soda or water as we continue our "Six Pack Sunday"! 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 a very successful thanks to everyone's participation.

I am very pleased and excited to announce three bands: Home Town Boys, Los EnVivo Kings, and La Tropa F will be entertaining us at our Fall Festival 2017, September 30th from 12:00 noon until midnight. The success of our festival depends on the participation of each one of us. Come and have a good time!

May God bless you always,



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

# Announcements

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## TODAY'S READINGS

**First Reading** - Turn to the LORD, who is generous in forgiving (Isaiah 55:6-9).

**Psalms** - The Lord is near to all who call upon him (Psa 145).

**Second Reading** - Live your lives in a way worthy of the gospel of Christ (Philippians 1:20c-24, 27).

**Gospel** - The last will be first, and the first will be last (Matthew 20:1-16a). The English translation of the Psalm Responses from *Lectionary for Mass* © 1969.

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon: Ezr 1:1-6; Ps 126:1b-6; Lk 8:16-18  
Tue: Ezr 6:7-8, 12b, 14-20; Ps 122:1-5; Lk 8:19-21  
Wed: Ezr 9:5-9; Tb:13:2, 3-4abefghn, 7-8; Lk 9:1-6  
Thu: Hg 1:1-8; Ps 149:1b-6a, 9b; Lk 9:7-9  
Fri: Dn 7:9-10-14 or Rv 12:7-12; Ps 138:1-5; Jn 1:47-51  
Sat: Zec 2:5-9, 14-15a; Jer 31:10-12ab, 13; Lk 9:43b-45  
Sun: Ez 18:25-28; Ps 25:4-9; Phil 2:1-11; Mt 21:28-32

## Events of the Week ~ September 24 - Oct 1, 2017

### 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

### Monday, September 25

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

### Tuesday, September 26

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

### Wednesday, September 27

8:15 a.m. Children's Mass - Church  
9:15 a.m. Rosary Makers - Offsite  
6:30 p.m. 1st Communion Parent Mtg. - Church  
7:00 p.m. Knights of Columbus - School

### Thursday, September 28

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 29

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

### Saturday, September 30 - CHURCH FESTIVAL

### Sunday, October 1

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



**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2017**  
**9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.**

## FALL FESTIVAL BINGO

Our Church Bingo is right around the corner and 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 desperate need of prizes for the Bingo. We kindly ask that prizes be new and of a \$10.00 value or more. Thank you for your support!

## CHURCH CLEANING MINISTRY

Our parish is always in need of a few good hands every Saturday morning to help us clean our beautiful church. And ministries assigned please make note of your day and mark your calendars. If interested, please contact Stella Rico at 464-0207 or join us at 8:00 am in the church foyer on Saturday mornings. Spread the word!

## Cleaning Schedule of Ministries

Saturday, September 30, 2017 - All Choirs  
October 7, 2017 - ACTS

## REMINDER TO ALL PARISHIONERS AND VISITORS

- ◆ We kindly invite parishioners and visitors to our Communion Service held every Monday at noon and Mass Tuesday through Friday at noon.
- ◆ Also the Parish Office closes for lunch Monday through Friday from 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.



**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](mailto: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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Fr. Fidele is encouraging all individuals to become involved in the preparation of our Fall Festival which is scheduled to take place next weekend Saturday, September 30th from 12:00 noon until midnight. Each one of you is kindly asked to sell and submit your raffle tickets and also to volunteer within any capacity to support our effort in order to make our Festival a huge success.

**REMINDER:** We will have a 10 a.m. mass and not have a 5:00 p.m. mass on Saturday, September 30, 2017 due to our Parish Festival.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

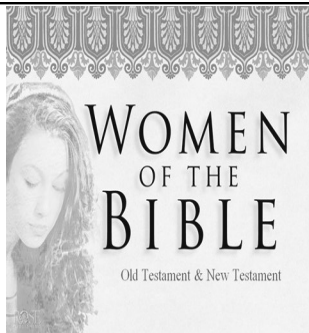
- ◆ First Communion Parent Meeting to be held on **Wednesday, September 27th at 6:00 p.m.** in the Church.
- ◆ Next Baptism class will be held on **Wednesday, October 4th at 6:30 p.m.** in room 22 of the school. If you are going to baptize a child, parents and godparents must attend a Baptism talk before the baptism ceremony. You must register prior to class by calling Rosa Moreno at the parish office 434-3247.



As autumn arrives, a procession of animals is led by churches for a special ceremony called the Blessings of the Animals. This custom is conducted in remembrance of St. Francis of Assisi's love for all creatures. People enjoy the opportunity to bring your animal companions to church for a special blessing. Please secure each pet with a leash or a cage.

JOIN US ON **WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2017 AT 6 P.M.** FOR A SERVICE BY THE BELL TOWER.

**ST. JOHN BERCHMANS SCHOOL CLASS OF 2018** will be hosting a **BURGER IN A BAG** (includes chips and a drink). Cost is \$7.00 and will be held on Sunday, October 8, 2017 from 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. and held at the School located at 1147 Cupples Road. We will also have delicious baked goods for sale. Please come by and support our students. For more information, please contact the school at 433.0411.



## 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 and meet for 10 weeks through **Monday, November 27, 2017**. We will break for the month of December to celebrate Advent. Then will resume 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.

## CALL UPON THE LORD

The very first line of today's first reading summons us to seek the Lord and to call upon God. This sentiment is echoed in the refrain for today's responsorial psalm: "The Lord is near to all who call upon him" (Psalm 145:18a). Saint Paul is the embodiment of someone who constantly sought the Lord. In the excerpt we read today from his letter to the Philippians, we find Saint Paul toward the end of his life, a life he describes as completely consonant with Christ. He writes, "For to me life is Christ" (Philippians 1:21). To find out what it means to live life completely in accord with Christ we need look no further than today's Gospel. There we find that God's love and mercy are immeasurable for all those who seek and call upon the Lord. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

## QUESTION OF THE WEEK

How will I begin serving as a member of God's "welcome wagon"? After all, God has welcomed even me.