

Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 1, 2017

www.stjohnberchmans.com

BY WHAT AUTHORITY?

Today's Gospel describes the second half of a sharp exchange between Jesus and the Jewish religious leaders. They asked, "By what authority do you do these things?" Much of this dispute is about authority. How could Jesus claim to represent God's purposes? This question continues to resonate today. Who speaks for God? Who doesn't? How do we tell the difference?

Jesus' response is, look at the evidence. Look at how, in response to John the Baptist and to Jesus, people were healed in body and in spirit. Look how people found new intimacy with God, and how they turned away from their sin. The authority of John and of Jesus rested not in some position within the religious institutions, but in the grace and healing power evident in John and in Jesus.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

The readings today make it clear that to be a follower of Jesus you have to be able to change your mind. More precisely, we must allow God to change us, to transform our minds. For most of us, this can be really hard. This is why the readings speak so much about humility. Humility opens up our capacity to be transformed. Humility allows us to challenge our own thinking and behavior, so as to avoid self-justification on one hand, and self-denigration on the other hand.

Humility can be cultivated in the practice of reflection. This might mean claiming some time to allow God into our busy days. This might mean time away, through a retreat or day of quiet, perhaps with the help of a spiritual guide or director.

Humility can also be cultivated in actions of service. We learn Jesus' humility through washing each other's feet. We can place other's interests ahead of our own, and relinquish our need to be in control. When we cultivate humility, we create space within us to allow God to take residence and transform us.

Today's Readings: Ez 18:25-28; Ps 25:4-9; Phil 2:1-11; Mt 21:28-32 Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

¿CON QUÉ AUTORIDAD?

El Evangelio de hoy describe la segunda mitad de un argumento entre Jesús y los sumos sacerdotes y los ancianos del pueblo. Le preguntaron: ¿con qué autoridad haces estas cosas? Mucho de esta discusión fue acerca de la autoridad. ¿Cómo era posible que Jesús dijera que representaba los propósitos de Dios? Esta pregunta sigue escuchándose hasta el día de hoy. ¿Quién habla por Dios? ¿Quién no lo hace? ¿Cómo podemos diferenciarlos?

La respuesta de Jesús es ver a la evidencia. Miren cómo, en respuesta a Juan el Bautista y a Jesús, las personas son sanadas del cuerpo y el alma. Miren cómo las personas encontraron una nueva intimidad con Dios, y cómo cambiaron sus vidas de pecado. La autoridad de Juan y Jesús reposa no en algunos puestos de las instituciones religiosas, sino en la gracia y evidente fuerza sanadora de Juan y Jesús.

CAMBIANDO LA MENTE

Hoy las lecturas ponen claro que para ser un seguidor de Jesús uno tiene que cambiar la mente. Más precisamente, debemos permitir que Dios nos cambie, transforme nuestras mentes. Para muchos de nosotros, esto puede ser verdaderamente difícil. Es por esto que las lecturas hablan mucho acerca de la humildad. La humildad abre nuestra capacidad para ser transformados. La humildad nos permite cambiar nuestra forma de pensar y nuestro comportamiento, para así poder evitar por un lado la auto justificación, y por otro lado la auto denigración.

La humildad puede cultivarse en la práctica de la reflexión. Esto podría significar dedicar un tiempo específico a Dios dentro de nuestra ocupada lista de las ajetadas obligaciones. Esto podría significar dedicar un tiempo específico para un retiro de un día de tranquilidad, quizá con la ayuda de un director espiritual.

La humildad también puede cultivarse en obras de servicio. Conocemos de la humildad de Jesús en el lavatorio de pies. Podemos poner nuestros intereses por delante de los nuestros, y renunciamos a nuestra necesidad de estar en control. Cuando cultivamos la humildad, creamos un espacio dentro de nosotros para permitir que Dios haga su morada en nosotros y nos transforme.

Lecturas de hoy: Ez 18:25-28; Sal 25 (24):4-9; Filip 2:1-11; Mt 21:28-32 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	Diana Calderon
Paul and Grace Salinas	Frances Ramirez	Susan Perez
Baby Alexander Gonzalez	Alex Tapia	Guadalupe Huerta
Alejandro De Leon	Norma Morgan	

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 23 - 24, 2017

5:00 PM	-\$1,044.00	(101)
8:00 AM	-\$ 816.50	(108)
10:00 AM	-\$1,502.00	(146)
12:00 NOON	-\$1,124.00	(283)
Children's Basket	-\$ 28.00	
Religious Education	-\$ 500.83	Second Collection
2016 Gift of Giving	-\$ 225.92	
School Mass	-\$ 98.20	
Mail In	-\$ 120.00	
TOTAL COLLECTED	-\$5,459.45	
	Second Collection	

* October 1, 2017 - Capital Improvements Fund

2017 GIFT OF GIVING

Contributions Sept. 23 - 24, 2017	\$ 225.92
RUNNING BALANCE TOTAL	\$12,659.04



Mass Intentions for the Week

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

Monday, October 2

12:00 p.m.

Tuesday, October 3

12:00 p.m. † Richard, †Olga Santoyo & † Kevin Santoyo

Wednesday, October 4

8:15 a.m. † Jeannie Ybarra

Thursday, October 5

12:00 p.m. † Justin Acap - Mom

Friday, October 6

12:00 p.m. † Rafaela De La Rosa

Saturday, October 7

5:00 p.m. † Aurora & Manuel Campos - Campos Family

† Mary Orosco - Genova Reyes

In Thanksgiving

Joel Benavides - Mom & Dad

Health

George Abrego - Joe & Elva Benavides

Sunday, October 8

8:00 a.m.

Guadalupe Mass
 † Ernestina Huerta - Husband & Children
 † Juan Garcia - Guadalupe
 † Guadalupe Treviño - Nora Treviño
 † Librada Cadena - Grace Salinas

10:00 a.m.

† Jose Luis Camas - Family
 † Daniel C. Arzola - Family
 † Ryan Sanchez - Sanchez Family
 † Juan C. Velasquez - Daughter
 † Fr. Eddie & Ernest Bernal - Cousin Noní

12:00 p.m.

† Juan & Juanita Gamez - Children
 † Magdalena Rodriguez- Rodriguez Family

In Loving Memory

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

† **Olivia Arriaga Lopez**

Sanctuary Light

Our Lady of the Rosary



From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Parishioners:

Our Fall Festival 2017 was very successful! Everyone worked so hard to assure the success of our festival and to celebrate the precious gift of our Saint John Berchmans community. All the glory is given to Our Creator for the gift of life, strength and the gift of faith and community. I would like to thank our chairpersons Diego Torres, Rosario Gomez, Richard Sustaita for their tireless work and leadership in planning this successful festival. I thank all the organizations and ministries for their contributions. To all the individuals and parishioners who contributed with monetary donations, soda, water, food, BINGO prizes, selling raffle tickets, manual work, setting up booths, cooking or counting money to assure that everyone had a good time. My appreciation also goes to my office staff for accommodating the planning and preparation for the success of the Festival. I am very proud of our community and will publish a detailed financial report next weekend.

Archbishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller has launched a Capital Campaign with the purpose of focusing on the needs of the Archdiocese of San Antonio, in particular, our parish community. We hope to focus on the construction of a gymnasium, that will benefit both the church and the school. Your full collaboration will assure the success of the project.

I invite all of you to continue praying and assisting the victims of Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, Maria and Jose, 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. ***"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.

May God bless you always,

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

Announcements

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading - When the wicked turn away from their wickedness they have committed and do what is right, they shall surely live (Ezekiel 18:25-28).

Psalm - Remember your mercies, O Lord (Psalm 25).

Second Reading - Consider others as better than yourselves; look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others (Phil2:1-11).

Gospel - Tax collectors and prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you (Matt 21:28-32). The English translation of the Psalm Responses from *Lectioy for Mass* © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon: Zec 8:1-8; Ps 102:16-21, 29, 22-23; Mt 18:1-5, 10
 Tue: Zec 8:20-23; Ps 87:1b-7; Lk 9:51-56
 Wed: Neh 2:1-8; Ps 137:1-6; Lk 9:57-62
 Thu: Neh 8:1-4a, 5-6, 7b-12; Ps 19:8-11; Lk 10:1-12
 Fri: Bar 1:15-22; Ps 79:1b-5, 8-9; Lk 10:13-16
 Sat: Bar 4:5-12, 27-29; Ps 69:33-37; Lk 10:17-24
 Sun: Is 5:1-7; Ps 80:9-16, 19-20; Phil 4:6-9; Mt 21:33-43

Events of the Week ~ October 1 - 8, 2017

Sunday, October 1 - NO CCD CLASSES

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, October 2

12:00 p.m. Communion Service
 6:30 p.m. Women in the Bible - Cafeteria
 7:00 p.m. Mision Español - Church

Tuesday, October 3

12:00 p.m. Mass - Chapel
 6:30 p.m. Guadalupana Meeting - Cafeteria
 7:00 p.m. Mision Español - Church

Wednesday, October 4

8:15 a.m. Children's Mass - Church
 9:15 a.m. Rosary Makers - Offsite
 2:30 p.m. School Blessing of the Animals - Bell Tower
 6:00 p.m. Blessings of Animals - Bell Tower
 7:00 p.m. Mision Español - Church
 7:00 p.m. Knights of Columbus - School

Thursday, October 5

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Eucharistic Adoration - Chapel
 12:00 p.m. Mass - Chapel
 6:30 p.m. Ultreya English - School
 7:00 p.m. Mision Español - Church

Friday, October 6

12:00 p.m. Mass - Chapel
 7:00 p.m. Mision Español - Church

Saturday, October 7

9:00 a.m. Rummage Sale - Church parking lot
 5:00 p.m. ACTS Mass - Church

Sunday, October 8 - HEALING AFTER ALL MASSES

7:30 a.m. Divine Mercy - Church
 8:00 a.m. Spanish Mass - Church
 11:00 a.m. - 4:00pm SJB School Fundraiser Burger in a Bag
 10:00 a.m. Mass - Church
 12:00 p.m. Mass - Church



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



ST. JOHN BERCHMANS SCHOOL IS

HAPPY TO ANNOUNCE THAT WE

WILL HOLD BINGOS ON:

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3

COST: \$6.00 per card from 2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. and will be held in the school cafeteria. Please join us and support our school!

We will have food, refreshments and baked good available for purchase. For more information, please contact the school at 210.433-0411.

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

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 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



NATIONAL NIGHT OUT will be held on Tuesday, October 3, 2017 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Kennedy High School Football stadium parking lot. **The Thompson Neighborhood Association** would like to extend an invitation to our St. John Berchmans community to attend this FREE event. Snack, refreshments, DJ Music & Much More. All minors must be accompanied by an adult and remember to bring your lawn chairs.

This event is designed to:

- ⇒ Heighten crime and drug abuse prevention awareness
- ⇒ Strengthen neighborhood support and police-community partnerships
- ⇒ Generate support for and participation in local anticrime programs

MISION ESPAÑOL - Will be held from Monday, October 2 through Friday, October 6, 2017 from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. in the Church and will be conducted by the Familia Mejia, Itinerant Missionaries.

There will be topics, singing, and reflection. This will provide you with an opportunity to fill your life with renewed hope, faith and love.



FATHER FIDELE would like to inform our parish community that **Mr. Phillip Saldaña** will be our new Parish Hall Manager.

If anyone is interested in the rental of our church hall, please contact Mr. Saldaña at 210.589.9416. Thank you!

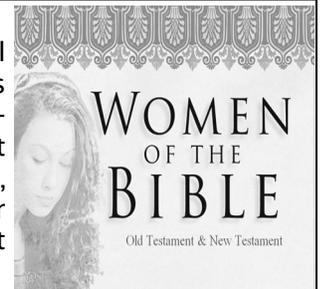
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

⇒ 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 also register prior to the class by calling Rosa Moreno at 210.434.3247.

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.



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.

HOMILY HELPS

"Oh, when the saints go marching in, I want to be in that number!" And there's no season quite like autumn, with nature dying in stages before our very eyes, to remind us that sooner or later, we all have to march in that parade. How close to the front do we expect to be? Remember Jesus' challenge at the beginning of Ordinary Time way back last winter? **"Be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect"** (Matthew 5:48). The danger comes when we begin to perceive ourselves as somehow eminently suited to a front-row seat, divinely destined to lead the parade. After all, we are among the few who always try to say yes to God in a world where so many say no.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

If at times I've been the one who said no, what would my saying yes to God look like in my life this week?