

# Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 28, 2018

www.stjohnberchmans.com

## GOD IS GOD

God does not lord divine authority over us, even though God is Lord of heaven and earth. God wants what is best for all of humanity and for all of creation. God desires that we live for God and for others. Jesus teaches as "one having authority and not as the scribes," because Jesus is the source of whatever authority the scribes had, whether they carried out their authority well or not. Those who heard Jesus speak were in the presence of the very truth of God's love. There is no greater authority than this. There is more, however. We are given free will, and may choose to live as God desires, or to walk away from the path of holiness. The Israelites to whom Moses spoke had failed to live God's law of love in the past, and recognized their need for someone to speak the words of the Lord to them. In the simplest of terms, they understood that God is God, and that they were not God.

## WE ARE NOT GOD

We are not God. In our hearts, we know this. And yet, how often do we act as though we think we are? We might go to God in moments of weakness, difficulty, or trial and ask God for help, yet much of the time we go our own way. We hold onto a false sense of control, rather than finding freedom in reliance on God. Salvation history, as recorded in sacred scripture, shows us that there has been this tendency in humanity throughout the ages to try to be God, rather than to be *like* God. Such thinking does not work out well in the end. We are not God! Jesus came to express the depths of God's love. The authority with which he spoke and taught, healed and expressed forgiveness, is the authority of one who understands that love is the answer. Christ shows us the real transformation that is possible when we give God the authority. "Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

Today's Readings: Dt 18:15-20; Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 7-9; 1 Cor 7:32-35; Mk 1:21-28

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## DIOS ES DIOS

Dios no domina la autoridad divina sobre nosotros, aunque Dios es el Señor del cielo y la tierra. Dios quiere lo que es mejor para la humanidad y para toda la creación. Dios desea que vivamos para Dios y para el prójimo. Jesús nos enseña "como aquel que tiene autoridad y no como los escribas", porque Jesús es la fuente de cualquier autoridad que los escriban tuvieran, ya sea que cumplieran bien o no. Aquellas personas que escuchan a Jesús hablar estaban en la presencia de la verdadera verdad del amor de Dios. No hay autoridad más grande que esta. Hay más, sin embargo. Se nos da libre albedrío y podemos elegir vivir como Dios desea o alejarnos del camino de la santidad. Los israelitas a quienes Moisés había hablado, fallaron en cumplir las leyes de amor de Dios en el pasado y reconocieron su necesidad de que alguien les hablara las palabras del Señor. Sencillamente, ellos entendieron que Dios es Dios, y que ellos no eran Dios.

## NOSOTROS NO SOMOS DIOS

Nosotros no somos Dios. En nuestros corazones lo sabemos. Y sin embargo, ¿cuántas veces actuamos como si pensáramos que lo somos? Podríamos ir a Dios en momentos de debilidad, dificultad, tribulación y pedir a Dios su ayuda, pero muchas de las veces nos vamos por nuestro propio camino. Nos aferramos a una falsa sensación de control, en lugar de encontrar la libertad en la dependencia de Dios. La historia de la Salvación, como está registrada en las Sagradas Escrituras, nos muestran que ha habido esta tendencia en la humanidad durante siglos intentando ser Dios, en lugar de ser como Dios. Ese pensamiento no funciona bien al final. ¡No somos Dios! Jesús vino a expresar el profundo amor de Dios. La autoridad con la que habló y enseñó, sanó y expresó perdón, es la autoridad de uno que entiende que el amor es la respuesta. Cristo nos muestra la verdadera transformación que es posible cuando damos a Dios la autoridad "Que se haga tu voluntad, así en la tierra como en el cielo".

Lecturas de hoy: Dt 18:15-20; Sal 95 (94):1-2, 6-7, 7-9; 1 Cor 7:32-35; Mc 1:21-28

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## Please Pray for the Sick

### Prayer List Updates



Rick Contreras	Deacon Jesus Rodriguez	Springs, Texas
Brandon Rivas	Rosalinda Rodriguez	Lisa Marie Rodriguez
Liz Quintero	Connie Cardenas	Linda Davila
Justin Rey Martinez	Rosalinda Esparza	Christine Rosales
Antonio Aguero	Cynthia Sandoval	Yvonne Neilon
Elvia Diaz	Ismael Montañez	Ricky Lopez
M/M Margarito Compean	Estella De La Vega	Yamil Traspeña
Roberta Bobbie Garza	Diana Calderon	John Ruiz
Frances Ramirez	Susan Perez	Evelyn Parra
Alex Tapia	Guadalupe Huerta	Coach Lisa Robertson
Norma Morgan	Arleen Soliz	Angie Perez
Laura Reyes Gutierrez	Alfredo Moreno	Julio Ugalde, Jr.
Mary Garza	Delia Lopez	Armandina Flores
Jose A. Ponce, Jr.	Abigail Rodriguez	Yvonne De Leon
Elisa Casanova	Rose Loa Gallegos	Delia Riojas
Alexander Hernandez	Roxanne & Linus Joseph	Petra Chavez
Pedro Caballero	David Colbath	Carmen Solis
Eric Nave	Victims of First Baptist	Enrique Cepeda
Sofia Olivarez	Church of Sutherland	Andrew Arizmendez, Jr.

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.

## CONTRIBUTION REPORT THIS WEEK

**JANUARY 20 - 21, 2018**

5:00 PM	-\$ 993.00	(145)
8:00 AM	-\$ 436.50	(074)
10:00 AM	-\$ 817.09	(135)
12:00 NOON	-\$1,443.26	(220)
Children's Basket	-\$ 3.00	
School Mass	-\$ 34.00	
Altar Flowers	-\$ 360.65	2nd Collection
2017 Gift of Giving	-\$ 193.06	
Mail In	-\$ 193.23	
<b>TOTAL COLLECTED</b>	<b>-\$4,473.79</b>	

### Second Special Archdiocese Collection

\*January 28, 2018 - Church in Latin America

## 2018 GIFT OF GIVING

Contributions 1/20-21, 2018	\$ 193.23
<b>RUNNING BALANCE TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 6,234.32</b>



## Mass Intentions for the Week

### Saturday, January 27

5:00 p.m. † M/M Pablo M. Gonzales - Olga Cuellar  
 † Raul Gonzales - Olga Cuellar  
 † Beatrice & Ignacio Gomez - Virginia & Lydia

### Sunday, January 28

8:00 a.m. † Guadalupe Treviño - Nora Treviño  
 † Tere Oseguera - G. Lloyd

Gift of Life  
 10:00 a.m. † Joe Ramirez - Frances Ramirez  
 † Daniel C. Arzola - Family  
 † Jimmie Rodriguez - Leonor  
 † Ryan Sanchez - Sanchez Family  
 † Andres/Concepcion Solis - Family  
 † Leticia Solis - Family

12:00 p.m. † Roman Gabriel Garcia - Mom  
 † Candelario & Mercedes Lopez - Olivia Lopez  
 † Mercedes Soto - Olivia Lopez

### Monday, January 29

### Tuesday, January 30

12:00 p.m.  
 For Health Frances Ramirez

### Wednesday, January 31

8:15 a.m. For the Children of St. John Berchmans School

### Thursday, February 1

12:00 p.m. † Lucy M. Valdez - Ponce Family

### Friday, February 2

12:00 p.m. † Mark Flores - Yolanda Flores  
 † Candelario & Mercedes Lopez - Olivia Lopez

### Saturday, February 3

5:00 p.m. For St. John Berchman Parish Community

### Sunday, February 4

8:00 a.m. † Guadalupe Treviño - Nora Treviño  
 † Daniel Traspaña, Jr. - Mom & Dad  
 † Gilberto Terrazas - Angie Canales  
 † Richard Hernandez, Jr. - Mom

10:00 a.m. † Daniel C. Arzola - Family  
 † Trinidad & Olivia Garcia - Maria  
 † Pedro E. Martinez - Family  
 † Ryan Sanchez - Sanchez Family

Gift of Life  
 12:00 p.m. † Leonor Rodriguez - Children  
 † Yvonne Forde - Tillie Hernandez  
 † Mercedes Soto - Olivia Lopez  
 † Candelario & Mercedes Lopez - Olivia Lopez  
 † Nieves Barrientes & Mary Martinez - Olivia Lopez  
 † Irene Tello - Olivia Lopez

## In Loving Memory

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

† Frank Herrera  
 † Joe Rubio

### Sanctuary Light

† Beatrice & Ignacio Gomez




## From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Parishioners:

The sacrament of Holy Eucharist is very important to us Roman Catholics. We are asked to receive the body and precious blood of Christ regularly especially on days of obligation, Sundays and special feasts. We need also to consider the sacrament of Reconciliation before we can receive the Holy Eucharist. It is a sacrament that needs to be taken very seriously. I ask those of you who have not gotten married in the church, to seriously consider having their marriage blessed in our church; in order for you to be in communion with the church. The body and precious blood of Christ nourishes your body and spirit. I am very open to accommodating you and exploring all options to get you married in the church.

This past Tuesday, January 9th, a meeting was held with the lectors, Extraordinary ministers and leaders of the community for the purpose of discussing important issues. We all agreed that the body of Christ is extremely important, consequently, everyone should make an effort to come to the Extraordinary ministers in order to receive the body and the precious blood of Christ. This policy applies also to all choir members and musicians. All are required to approach the Extraordinary ministers and to make themselves available to receive Christ in the Eucharist. However, any person not able to approach the Extraordinary ministers because of physical challenges and/or handicaps, the body and precious blood of Christ will be taken to them. We are a very compassionate and understanding community. All Extraordinary ministers are asked to abide by this policy. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

We also discussed the Capital Campaign, how it would affect our community and the importance of each parishioner participating actively to the Capital Campaign. As you may recall, the Capital Campaign was initiated by Archbishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller to fund a diverse balance of critical pastoral and financial needs. The goal is to reach \$60 million and to address the following challenges: strengthen our parishes, establish new parishes; fund Catholic Charities Outreach projects; build a pilgrimage center at Mission Conception; support lay ministry formation; modernize Assumption Seminary; strengthen campus ministry and renovate Catholic Schools.

Our community of St. John Berchmans is required to raise \$380,000 with \$152,000 the equivalency being 40% being returned to our parish to address three projects that we have identified for our community; put a new floor in the church, put a part of a new roof for the school building and modernize the technology of our school. You will be contacted soon by your fellow parishioners and myself to pledge for your contribution. Your contribution is based on your weekly donation for the past three years. Those who are not registered are also asked to participate as well to meet our goal. The capital campaign will be extended for a three year period. I invite you to be generous and sacrifice for our archdiocese, our parish community and school.

May God bless you always,



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

# Announcements

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## TODAY'S READINGS

**First Reading** - Moses spoke to all the people, saying: "A prophet like me will the LORD, your God, raise up for you" (Deut 18:15-20).

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

**Second Reading** - Brothers and sisters: I should like you to be free of anxieties (1 Cor 7:32-35).

**Gospel** - The people were astonished at Jesus' teaching (Mrk 1:21-28).

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: 2 Sm 15:13-14, 30; 16:5-13; Ps 3:2-7; Mk 5:1-20  
Tue: 2 Sm 18:9-14, 24-30 - 19:3; Ps 86:1-6; Mk 5:21-43  
Wed: 2 Sm 24:2, 9-17; Ps 32:1-2, 5-7; Mk 6:1-6  
Thu: 1 Kgs 2:1-4, 10-12; 1 Chr 29:10-12; Mk 6:7-13  
Fri: Mal 3:1-4; Ps 24:7-10; Heb 2:14-18; Lk 2:22-40  
Sat: 1 Kgs 3:4-13; Ps 119:9-14; Mk 6:30-34  
Sun: Jb 7:1-4, 6-7; Ps 147:1-6; 1 Cor 9:16-23; Mk 1:29-39

## Events of the Week ~ Jan. 28 - February, 2018

### Sunday, January 28

7:30 a.m. Divine Mercy - Church  
8:00 a.m. **Spanish Mass** - Church  
10:00 a.m. **Mass** - Church  
11:00 a.m. **SJB 8th GRADE BBQ FUNDRAISER**  
12:00 p.m. **Mass** - Church

### Monday, January 29

12:00 p.m. **Communion Service** - Chapel  
6:30 p.m. Women of the Bible - Cafeteria

### Tuesday, January 30

12:00 Noon **Mass** - Chapel  
7:00 p.m. Spanish Prayer Group  
7:00 p.m. Liturgy Meeting - Parish Office

### Wednesday, January 31

8:15 a.m. **Mass** - Church  
9:15 a.m. Rosary Makers - Offsite

### Thursday, February 1

12:00 Noon **Mass** - Chapel  
6:30 p.m. Ultreya English - Room 22

### Friday, February 2

12:00 Noon **Mass** - Chapel  
6:00 p.m. Holy Name Meeting - School

### Saturday, February 3

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

### Sunday, February 4

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



**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2018**  
**9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.**

**HOLY NAME SOCIETY** will hold its first meeting of the year on Friday, February 2, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in the school.

We encourage all parishioners to attend and assist us build up this important ministry. For more information, please contact Mr. Rocky Aranda at 210.846.3128.

## CHURCH CLEANING MINISTRY

Our parish is always in need of a few good hands every Saturday morning to help us clean our beautiful church. We also want to remind individual group ministries that are assigned, to fulfill your commitment on Saturdays. The past several months we have had only a couple of individuals show up on their assigned weekend and in some instances **NO ONE AT ALL!** We thank you for your time and commitment in this important ministry!

### Cleaning Schedule of Ministries:

February 3, 2018 - Guadalupanas

## RUMMAGE SALE

Time to clean out your closets and bring them to our first 2018 Church Rummage Sale scheduled for **Saturday, February 3** from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Cost per space is \$10.00. For more information or to reserve a space, please call our office and contact Rosa Moreno at 210.434.3247.

## SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time;  
Catholic Schools Week  
Wednesday: St. John Bosco  
Friday: The Presentation of the Lord;  
Groundhog Day; First Friday  
Saturday: St. Blaise; St. Ansgar; First Saturday;  
Blessing of Throats; Blessed Virgin Mary



## BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

All requests must be sent by email to [osantoyo1104@gmail.com](mailto:osantoyo1104@gmail.com) and will be finalized for 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 210434-3247 to fill out a registration form.

# Announcements

www.stjohnberchmans.com

Catholic  
Schools  
Week



## CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK JANUARY 28 - FEBRUARY 3, 2018

We invite you to celebrate Catholic Schools Week. Catholic Schools develop the person with good morals and the faith of the Church and will greatly impact the future of the Church. We have a great school here at St. John Berchmans. I encourage you to pray with me for all of our students, parents, teachers and administrators of all our Catholic Schools as they continue to educate and proclaim the Gospel message.

We invite you to attend an Open House at St. John Berchmans School scheduled on Tuesday, January 30, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.

## ST. JOHN BERCHMANS SCHOOL HOSTING ANNUAL 8TH GRADE BBQ PLATE SALE

DATE: SUNDAY, JANUARY 28, 2018

PLATE PICK UP TIME: 11 AM - 3PM

LOCATION: 1147 Cupples Road, San Antonio, TX 78226

COST: \$7.00 PER PLATE (Chicken, Sausage, Rice, Beans and trimmings)

All proceeds go towards their 8th grade field trip to Boston and New York

Thank you for your support of our School!



## ARCHBISHOP'S APPEAL 2018

On behalf of Archbishop Gustavo and Father Fidele, we invite you and your family to serve our brothers and sisters in need through the 2018 Archbishop's Appeal. Your prayers and gift to this year's Appeal are essential to continue serving homeless children and mothers, bringing spiritual support to the hospitalized, forming future priest and deacons to provide the Sacraments of our faith in our communities and so much more! If you have already responded to the Archbishop letter sent to your home, thank you!

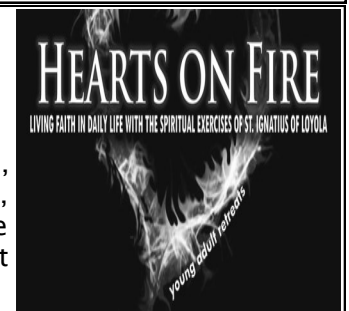
If you have not had an opportunity, we invite you to pray and consider how you and your family can renew your gift or make your first gift to this year's Appeal. Online gifts can be made at [www.archsa.org/archbishops-appeal](http://www.archsa.org/archbishops-appeal) or by calling the Office of Archbishop's Appeal at 210.734.1604. Thank you and May God bless you.

## ATTENTION ALL YOUNG ADULTS

"HEARTS ON FIRE"

LIVING FAITH IN DAILY LIFE WITH THE SPIRITUAL EXERCISES OF  
ST. IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA

A Young Adults Retreat has been scheduled for Friday - Saturday, February 2 - 3, 2018 and will be hosted at Our Lady of Guadalupe Shrine, 1321 El Paso Street, 78207, in the Brother Gus Hall. The cost is \$20.00 to register, and for more information, go to [POPEPRAYERUSA.NET/HEARTSONFILE](http://POPEPRAYERUSA.NET/HEARTSONFILE) or call Lee Thielan at 210.371.3701.



## TRUE PROPHETS

In Deuteronomy today we hear that God's very words will fill the mouth of a true prophet, but a false prophet will, in a manner of speaking, put mere mortal words into God's mouth. In Mark's Gospel, we see Jesus teaching and healing as a true prophet, one filled with the authority of God's own voice. The whole history of our church is filled with both true and false prophets. Some false prophets were extremely popular and quite well-versed in scripture, and even held positions of authority. But in today's Gospel we learn that Jesus' fame spread because he taught with authority; he wasn't an authority because he was popular or famous. Elsewhere, we also learn from him, in his desert temptation confrontations with Satan, that anyone can quote scripture, even against God's purposes. Today we hear that his authority was not like that of the scribes, who held the official positions of religious authority in his day. Our work is to do our best to discern the true prophets in our midst, and to be true prophets as well. The psalmist tells us how to do this: by not hardening our hearts when God speaks. If we truly listen to God, it will be God's very words filling our mouths. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

## QUESTION OF THE WEEK

What kind of "unclean spirits" afflicting some people do I encounter? Do I risk becoming unclean myself when encountering those who are afflicted? Can I overcome that risk?