

Third Sunday of Lent

March 4, 2018

www.stjohnberchmans.com

LIVE BY THE RULES

Life might be easier if there were just a list of rules that we could follow. There is such a list in Exodus. Rules offer the false sense of security that if we follow them then we will have done enough. Our Christian faith, however, is rooted not in rules, but in Jesus Christ, whose life, death, and resurrection defy all the rules. Jesus knew that strength is born of weakness and wisdom born of foolishness. Jesus' life embodies that paradox. What Jesus knew when he went up to Jerusalem and entered the temple area was that his Father's house had been made a marketplace, a place of commerce, transactions, and exchange of goods for money. What the temple represents, who Jesus is, is a relationship, an ongoing relationship of one soul to another, of our souls to God.

RISE IN RELATIONSHIP

Rules are the most basic and primitive way to shape our behavior in accordance with larger principles and truths that go beyond rules. The rule says "You shall not kill," but the truth is that all life is sacred and must be protected and safeguarded. The rule is the least you can do. Jesus lived as if he were required to do not the least but the most. He lived as if he must not just protect and safeguard the lives before him. He lived as if he must sacrifice his own life for the lives of others. Jesus understood that the rules were not just about avoiding certain acts but were also about embracing certain truths. Not only must one not kill, one must have the strength to give one's own life for others if that is required. One must not lie but must speak the truth even when to do so seems foolish. These rules outline for us the beginning of our understanding of strength born of weakness, wisdom born of foolishness. Jesus shows us how much is really required.

Today's Readings: Ex 20:1-17 [1-3, 7-8, 12-17]; Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11; 1 Cor 1:22-25; Jn 2:13-25

Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

LOS DESIGNIOS DE DIOS

En uno de los pasajes más escuetos y poéticos en su carta a los corintios, Pablo anuncia que "predicamos a Cristo crucificado... [porque] para los llamados... Cristo es la fuerza y la sabiduría de Dios" (1 Corintios 1:23, 24). Los designios de Dios parecen irrazonables para los que quieren un dios falso y valores mundanos. Pero Cristo, en su crucifixión, desconcierta el razonamiento tanto de los hambrientos de poder como de los que creen que lo saben todo.

En una contundente denuncia de la estrecha mente de sus escuchas, hoy Jesús desbarata sus planes literal y figurativamente. En su reverencia por la casa de Dios, les deja saber claramente que lo que están haciendo es vulgar e insulta a Dios. Luego intenta abrirles sus débiles mentes con su comprensión del poder y la sabiduría de Dios que es la cruz. Para ellos parece debilidad y estupidez. Pero el generoso sacrificio de Jesús es exactamente lo que completa la alianza que simboliza el templo. El nuevo Templo es el propio cuerpo y sangre de Cristo.

MÁS SABIO QUE NUESTRA SABIDURÍA

Hoy, es fácil leer esta historia literalmente y condenar la estupidez de los allí descritos. Pero cuando tenemos miedo, ¿reaccionamos con el amor de Dios ante los que tememos o sucumbimos a la tentación de la violencia y el poder? Cuando nos encontramos con los que no estamos de acuerdo, los catalogamos de "malos" para justificar cualquier maldad que consideramos oportuna para descargar en ellos en nombre de nuestros "derechos"? Para ser honestos, debemos admitir que a todos nos cuesta ver cómo se aplica en nuestra vida diaria la verdad de Dios en esta historia.

Si sólo la interpretamos literalmente, nunca entenderemos lo que Dios nos está diciendo. Necesitamos escuchar con oídos diferentes la sabiduría de Dios y ver con nuevos ojos el poder de Dios que nos parecerá, aun en nuestra época, que es estupidez y debilidad. Aún luchamos con el mismo deseo mundano de poder y sabiduría como lo hicieron nuestros antepasados. ¿Podemos quedarnos quietos este domingo y dejar que Cristo nos llene con el poder y la sabiduría de Dios?

Lecturas de hoy: Éx 20:1-17 [1-3, 7-8, 12-17]; Sal 19:8-11; 1 Cor 1:22-25; Jn 2:13-25 Copyright © J. S. Paluch Company



Please Pray for the Sick

Prayer List Updates



| | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Laura Reyes Gutierrez | Alfredo Moreno | Evelyn Parra |
| Mary Garza | Delia Lopez | Coach Lisa Robertson |
| Jose A. Ponce, Jr. | Abigail Rodriguez | Angie Perez |
| Elisa Casanova | Rose Loa Gallegos | Julio Ugalde, Jr. |
| Alexander Hernandez | Roxanne & Linus Joseph | Armandina Flores |
| Pedro Caballero | David Colbath | Yvonne De Leon |
| Eric Nave | Victims of First Baptist | Delia Riojas |
| Sofia Olivarez | Church of Sutherland | Petra Chavez |
| Deacon Jesus Rodriguez | Springs, Texas | Carmen Solis |
| Rosalinda Rodriguez | Lisa Marie Rodriguez | Enrique Cepeda |
| Connie Cardenas | Linda Davila | Andrew Arizmendez, Jr. |
| Rosalinda Esparza | Justin Rey Martinez | Alethea R. Ybarra |
| Cynthia Sandoval | Brandon Rivas | Norma R. Morgan |
| Ismael Montañez | Christine Rosales | David Santoyo |
| Estella De La Vega | Yvonne Neilon | Roland Martinez, Jr. |
| Diana Calderon | Ricky Lopez | Roland Martinez, Sr. |
| Susan Perez | Yamil Traspeña | Jacinta Weddel |
| Guadalupe Huerta | John Ruiz | Sara Navarro |
| Arleen Soliz | Frances Ramirez | Chris Muñoz |

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

FEBRUARY 24 - 25, 2018

| | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| 5:00 PM | -\$1,024.50 | (135) |
| 8:00 AM | -\$ 513.00 | (101) |
| 10:00 AM | -\$1,216.00 | (141) |
| 12:00 NOON | -\$1,100.00 | (185) |
| Children's Basket | -\$ 14.32 | |
| School Mass | -\$ 92.68 | |
| Religious Education | -\$ 422.64 | 2nd Collection |
| 2018 Gift of Giving | -\$ 204.35 | |
| Mail In | -\$ 140.00 | |
| TOTAL COLLECTED | -\$4,727.49 | |

Second Collection

* March 4, 2018 - Capital Improvements

2018 GIFT OF GIVING

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| Contributions 2/24 - 25, 2018 | \$ 204.35 |
| RUNNING BALANCE TOTAL | \$ 7,292.80 |



Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, March 3

5:00 p.m. † Arturo De La Vega - Wife & Family
 † Raymond Rosales - S & R Castillo
 † Frank Herrera - Delia
 † Barbara Vicente - Cruz Family
 In Thanksgiving † Edna Moseley - Family

Sunday, March 4

8:00 a.m. † Guadalupe Treviño - Nora Treviño
 † Agustine Garcia - Willie Garcia
 † Josie Galvan - Daniel & Delia
 10:00 a.m. † Daniel C. Arzola - Family
 † Trinidad & Olivia Garcia - Maria
 † Jo Ann Medina - Family
 † Ryan Sanchez - Sanchez Family
 † Edna Womack - Friend
 12:00 p.m. † Simon Ruiz - Friends
 † Francisco & Emma Davis - Davis Family

Monday, March 5

Tuesday, March 6

12:00 p.m. † Lucy Villarreal

Wednesday, March 7

8:15 a.m. † Mary Orosco

Thursday, March 8

12:00 p.m. † Isaias de Ecuador

Friday, March 9

12:00 p.m. † Frank Jimenez - Yolanda Flores

Saturday, March 10

5:00 p.m. † George Hernandez - Wife & Family
 † Fernando Camarillo, Sr. - Family
 † Barbara Vicente - Cruz Family

Sunday, March 11

8:00 a.m. † Ernestina Huerta - Husband & Children
 † Guadalupe Treviño - Nora Treviño
 † Guadalupe Cadena - Grace Salinas
 In Thanksgiving † Las Guadalupanas
 10:00 a.m. † Daniel C. Arzola - Family
 † Louis Robles, Jr. - Robles Family
 † Ryan Sanchez - Sanchez Family
 † Edna Womack - Friends
 † Jimmie Rodriguez - Wife Leonor
 12:00 p.m. † Jose Louis Gonzales - Family

In Loving Memory

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

† Bernardino M. Hernandez



Sanctuary Light

† Lucy Villarreal




From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Parishioners:

Last week's readings challenged us to listen to Jesus Christ, our Savior. We live in a society full of distracted and empty voices. Those empty voices offer us an apparent easy path to salvation. Jesus reminds us that there is no easy way to glory. Our path to salvation is a journey filled with heavy crosses. May we embrace daily challenges with faith and hope.

In today's readings, God signs a covenant with us by handing over the 10 Commandments which shall become our guide every single day. May this Lenten Season allow us to live our lives according to God's Commandments and an absolute respect of the Temple of the Lord, which is the House of the Lord, and our body.

Lent helps to reflect on the mysteries of our Salvation which are: suffering, death and the resurrection of our Lord. The passion of Christ challenges us to make some sacrifices in order for us to have a tiny taste of what Our Lord endured in order for us to be saved. I invite you to focus on prayer, fasting and action of charities. May our prayers increase our faith, strengthen our resolute fast and translate our sacrifices into deed of charity and love.

This past Saturday and Sunday we showed the video that highlights the main components of the Capital Campaign. The passion of Christ challenges us to make some sacrifices in order for us to have a tiny taste of what Our Lord endured in order for us to be saved. I invite you to focus on prayer, fasting and actions of charities. May our prayers increase our faith, strengthen our resolute fast and translate our sacrifices into deeds of charity and love.

Many of you who are registered may have received a letter from the Capital Campaign Committee. I wholeheartedly encourage you to respond to the letter at your earliest convenience. I will be asking those who are not registered to pledge whatever amount they judge appropriate to contribute to the Campaign.

Our community of St. John Berchmans is required to raise \$352,000 with \$140,800 the equivalency being 40% which will be 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. Parishioners are being contacted by your fellow parishioners and myself to pledge for your contribution. Your contribution is based on your weekly donation for the past three years. Even if you are not registered, please consider participating 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

www.stjohnberchmans.com

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading - God gives the law through Moses (Exo 20:1-17)

Psalm - Lord, you have the words of everlasting life (Psalm 19)

Second Reading - We proclaim Christ crucified (1 Cor 1:22-25)

Gospel - Many began to believe in Jesus' name when they saw the signs he was doing (John 2:13-25)

The English translation of the Psalm Responses from the Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon: 2 Kgs 5:1-15b; Ps 42:2, 3; 43:3, 4; Lk 4:24-30
 Tue: Dn 3:25, 34-43; Ps 25:4-5ab, 6-7bc, 8-9; Mt 18:21-35
 Wed: Dt 4:1, 5-9; Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20; Mt 5:17-19
 Thu: Jer 7:23-28; Ps 95:1-2, 6-9; Lk 11:14-23
 Fri: Hos 14:2-10; Ps 81:6c-11ab, 14, 17; Mk 12:28-34
 Sat: Hos 6:1-6; Ps 51:3-4, 18-21ab; Lk 18:9-14
 Sun: 2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23; Ps 137:1-6; Eph 2:4-10; Jn 3:14-21

Events of the Week ~ March 4 - 11, 2018

Sunday, March 4

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

Monday, March 5

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

Tuesday, March 6

12:00 Noon Mass - Chapel
 6:00 p.m. Guadalupe Meeting - Cafeteria
 6:00 p.m. School Advisory Council - School
 7:00 p.m. Spanish Prayer Group - Church

Wednesday, March 7

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

Thursday, March 8

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

Friday, March 9

12:00 Noon Mass - Chapel
 7:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross - Church

Saturday, March 10

5:00 p.m. Mass - Church

Sunday, March 11 - NO CCD CLASSES

7:30 a.m. Divine Mercy - Church
HEALING SERVICE AFTER ALL MASSES
 8:00 a.m. Spanish Mass - Church
 10:00 a.m. Mass - Church
 12:00 noon Mass - Church



THURSDAY, MARCH 8, 2018
9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

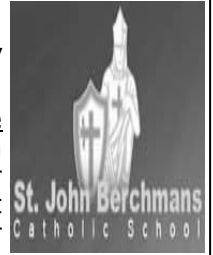


Next regular monthly meeting will be held on **Tuesday, March 6, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Brentwood Middle School Cafeteria.

Please join us and become informed as we come together to discuss community needs, projects and other important concerns. Thank you!

ST. JOHN BERCHMANS SCHOOL

- **Registration** currently underway for the 2018-2019 school year.
- **Spring Arts and Crafts Sale** Sunday, March 18 from 11am - 3pm. Cost is \$20.00 per table. Food items for breakfast and lunch will be available for purchase.



If you have questions about any of the above information, please contact St. John Berchmans School at (210) 433-0411. Thank you!



SPECIAL THANKS to everyone who assisted with our **Spaghetti Fundraiser** this past weekend. We are grateful for all who bought tickets, who helped prepare the meal, and assisted with serving. Everything went smoothly.

It was a successful event and we are appreciative of everyone's 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. We also want to remind individual group ministries that are assigned, to fulfill your commitment on Saturdays. We thank you for your time and commitment in this important ministry!

Cleaning Schedule of Ministries:
 March 10, 2018 - Youth/Young Adults



BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

All requests must be sent by email to 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



WE ARE CALLED TO BE DISCIPLES OF JESUS

Pope Francis tells us that we are to missionary disciples of the Lord Jesus, but how can this be?

To take up Pope Francis' renewed call to be disciples, we ourselves must first be open to God in our own lives.

We live our discipleship by continuing to try and ensure that all of our actions, words, and deeds are a reflection of the person that God is calling us to be. Although at times we fall short of this goal, we will know that for Jesus we are a work in progress.

POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR MARCH 2018

FORMATION IN SPIRITUAL DISCERNMENT

That the Church may appreciate the urgency of formation in spiritual discernment, both on the personal and communitarian levels.



STATIONS OF THE CROSS - FRIDAYS AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE CHURCH

When was the last time you prayed the Stations of the Cross in our Church? Every Friday night at 7 p.m. our parishioners remember Jesus as He was condemned, carried His Cross, and was crucified and died for us! Please attend some, or all our Stations of the Cross this Lent. It can take on the reflection of the extent that you can personally come to experience the true love of Jesus for yourself.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

March 9 - English Choirs

March 16 - Spanish Choir/Ultreya

March 23 - ACTS/KOC/Rosary Makers



FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

- We are now taking orders for **Holy Thursday Candles**. If you are interested in purchasing one or by the case, please contact the Parish office. Orders will be taken until Thursday, March 29, 2018.
- If you are interested in purchasing one of the **65 Easter lilies** available, please contact Rosa Moreno at the Parish office. Cost is \$10.00 each.
- Fr. Fidele will be chartering a bus to take parishioners for the **Tour of the Seven Churches on Holy Thursday, March 29, 2018**. The tour will run from 9:00 p.m. to 12 midnight. Reservation cost: \$10.00 per person this will help us to defray cost of bus rental. Seating is limited to 54 individuals.
- Mark your calendar for our **LENTEN TALK on Thursday, March 22 at 7:00** p.m. in the Church. Msgr. Dennis Darilek, Pastor of St. James Church in Seguin will be our guest speaker.

KEEP HOLY THE SABBATH

There's no better way to deepen our Lenten practice than to review the Ten Commandments. They may sound like a list of rules but they form the foundation of the covenant between God and the Chosen people. The first three have to do with our right relationship to God and they each include the word "you."

And the one we busy people probably have the most problem with is keeping holy the Sabbath. We need to depend on God to discern how to observe real Sabbath time in our lives. The point of this commandment is that God has given us a great gift: one whole day per week when we are free to rest, worship God, sing, feast, love, and rejoice. As Psalm 19 proclaims: "The law of the LORD is perfect / refreshing the soul" (19:8). Our Sabbath rest is a great gift, to be received from God with joy, not with nitpicking.

Even among these commandments, God shows that the odds are tilted in humanity's favor. Punishment will be inflicted "down to the third and fourth generation,," which sounds awful, but mercy will be bestowed "down to the thousandth generation," basically forever (Exodus 20:5-6) God's anger does not last forever, but God's love does. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

How can I take the mercy and wisdom of God and pass it on to others in my day-to-day life? Am I providing an example of God's mercy in my relationships with others?