

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

April 1, 2018

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FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT

Today's Gospel begins in darkness. Mary of Magdala comes to the tomb before dawn. She, then the two disciples, see the empty tomb, and are amazed and terrified. The passage stops before Jesus first appears, which allows us to pause and more fully notice their disorientation and confusion.

John's Gospel has many images of the passage from darkness to light and from blindness to sight. When Jesus cured the blind man in John 9, and raised Lazarus in John 11, their transition to the light was gradual and difficult. The disciples, too, were often slow and resistant to understanding what Jesus was saying and doing, both before and after the Resurrection.

THE LIGHT OF EASTER

In the first reading, Peter boldly and clearly proclaims the good news of Jesus' resurrection. Here it's important to observe that Peter, in the verses just before his speech, was profoundly disoriented by a vision. The vision, contrary to assumptions from his heritage, suggested that the Holy Spirit is inviting Gentiles, without obstacles, into the Jesus community. It began to dawn on Peter that the gospel is for everyone, without exception. The barriers between peoples were being blown open by the Spirit. Peter began to see a new and brighter world.

Most of us, most of the time, try hard to protect ourselves from being disoriented. Our traditions and past experiences keep us grounded and secure. However, often we grow in maturity and insight precisely because we are knocked off balance. God disrupts us enough to open us to what God wishes to teach us. We move from blindness to sight when we are first disoriented by the light, let go of the comfortable darkness, and open our eyes to new insight. As we begin the Easter season, the light of Easter is indeed bright. Easter reveals a world of opportunities to care for others and an abundance of grace to guide and sustain us.

Today's Readings: Acts 10:34-43; Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23; Col 3:1-4; Jn 20:1-9 Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

DE LA OSCURIDAD A LA LUZ

Hoy el Evangelio empieza en la oscuridad. María Magdalena viene al sepulcro antes del amanecer. Ella, y luego dos discípulos, ven el sepulcro vacío y al mismo tiempo están espantados y asombrados. El pasaje se detiene antes de la primera aparición, lo que nos permite hacer una pausa y notar completamente su desorientación y confusión.

El Evangelio de Juan tiene muchas imágenes del pasaje de la oscuridad a la luz y de la ceguera a la vista. Cuando Jesús sanó al hombre ciego en Juan 9, y devolvió la vida a Lázaro en Juan 11, su transición a la luz fue gradual y difícil. Los discípulos también fueron lentos y recios a entender lo que Jesús decía y hacía, tanto antes y como después de la Resurrección.

LA LUZ DE LA PASCUA

En la primera lectura, Pedro proclama claramente y con valentía la Buena Nueva de la resurrección de Jesús. Aquí es importante observar que Pedro, en los versos justo antes de su sermón, estaba profundamente desorientado por una visión. La visión, contraria a cualquier suposición a su herencia, sugirió que el Espíritu Santo estaba invitando a los gentiles, sin obstáculos, a la comunidad de Jesús. Pedro comenzó a entender que el Evangelio es para todos, sin excepción. Las barreras entre las personas estaban siendo abiertas por el Espíritu. Pedro empezó a ver un mundo nuevo y más brillante.

Muchos de nosotros, muchas de las veces, nos esforzamos por protegernos de estar desorientados. Nuestras tradiciones y las experiencias pasadas nos mantienen con los pies en la tierra y seguros. Sin embargo, a menudo maduramos y nos volvemos perspicaces precisamente porque estamos desequilibrados. Dios nos interrumpe lo suficiente para abrirnos a lo que Dios desea enseñarnos. Nos movemos de la ceguera a la luz, cuando primeramente estamos desorientados por la luz, dejamos que pase la comodidad de la oscuridad y abrimos nuestros ojos a una nueva percepción. Ahora, al comenzar el Tiempo de Pascua, la luz de la Pascua es de hecho brillante. La Pascua revela tanto un mundo de oportunidades para cuidar a los demás como una abundante gracia para guiarnos y sostenernos.

Lecturas de hoy: Hch 10:34-43; Sal 118 (117):1-2, 16-17, 22-23; Col 3:1-4; Jn 20:1-9 Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.



Please Pray for the Sick

Prayer List Updates



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 Traspaña	Jacinta Weddel
Guadalupe Huerta	John Ruiz	Sara Navarro
Arleen Soliz	Frances Ramirez	Chris Muñoz
Alfredo Moreno	Evelyn Parra	Roxsandra Gallardo
Delia Lopez	Coach Lisa Robertson	Elizabeth Quirotero
Abigail Rodriguez	Angie Perez	Toni Hernandez
Rose Loa Gallegos	Julio Ugalde, Jr.	Jesse Villarreal
Roxanne & Linus Joseph	Armandina Flores	John Jimenez
David Colbath	Yvonne De Leon	Rosemary Ramirez
Victims of First Baptist	Delia Riojas	Sofia Delgado
Church of Sutherland	Petra Chavez	Gloria Solis
Spring, Texas	Carmen Solis	Jose A. Ponce, Jr.
Lisa Marie Rodriguez	Enrique Cepeda	Terri Lopez
Linda Davila	Andrew Arizmendez, Jr.	F.J. Rodriguez

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.

YOUR STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

MARCH 24 - 25, 2018

5:00 PM	-\$1,029.00	(112)
8:00 AM	-\$ 746.59	(127)
10:00 AM	-\$1,837.75	(227)
12:00 NOON	-\$1,552.12	(289)
School Mass	-\$ 72.25	
Altar Flowers	-\$ 561.38	2nd Collection
2018 Gift of Giving	-\$ 342.91	
Mail In	-\$ 242.34	
TOTAL	-\$6,384.34	

Second Collection

* April 1, 2018 - Capital Improvements

2018 GIFT OF GIVING

Contributions 3/24 - 25, 2018	\$ 342.91
RUNNING BALANCE TOTAL	\$ 8,292.02

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, March 31 - EASTER VIGIL

8:00 p.m. † George Hernandez - Wife & Family
 † Diamantina Garcia - Sister
 † Rudy A. Moreno - Family
 † Martin & Margaret Burrell - Daughter
 † Jose, †Juana & †Jesus Castillo - Family

Gift of Life

Sunday, April 1 - EASTER SUNDAY

8:00 a.m. † Guadalupe Treviño - Nora Treviño
 † Albert Esteves - Friend
 In Thanksgiving Frank Rodriguez - Family
 In Thanksgiving Geraldine Lucio - Family
 10:00 a.m. † Jimmie Rodriguez - Wife Leonor
 † Ryan Sanchez - Sanchez Family
 † Juan C. Velasquez - Daughter
 † Ida & †Amos Burrell - Family
 † Aline Persyn - Family
 12:00 p.m. † Melissa Herrera Jenkins - Family
 † Jose Luis Gonzalez - Family
 † Irene Tello - Olivia
 † Roman Gabriel Garcia - Mom

Monday, April 2

Tuesday, April 3

12:00 p.m. † Benito P. Castro - Family

Wednesday, April 4

8:15 a.m. † Fr. Eddie Bernal

Thursday, April 5

12:00 p.m. † Irene Tello - Olivia

Friday, April 6

12:00 p.m. † Herminia Cruz - Family
 † Manuel T. Chavarria - Family

Saturday, April 7

5:00 p.m. † Inez Camarillo - Family
 † Raymundo Cruz - Family
 † Antonio S. Mireles - Family
 † Angelita S. Mireles - Family

Sunday, April 8

8:00 a.m. † Ernestina Huerta - Husband & Children
 † Guadalupe Treviño - Nora Treviño
 † Guadalupe Cadena - Grace Salinas
 † Juan Silva - Family
 In Thanksgiving Las Guadalupanas
 10:00 a.m. † Aurelia Garai - Family
 † Ryan Sanchez - Sanchez Family
 † Ida & †Amos Burrell - Daughter
 † Margaret & † Martin Burrell - Family
 † Aline Persyn - Family
 12:00 p.m. † Joe & Olivia Benavides - Family
 Gift of Life Socorro Murray - Nancy Ramirez

In Loving Memory

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



Sanctuary Light
For Our Military Men
& Women



From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Parishioners:

Today we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ...the victory of life over death, light over darkness and God over the devil. As Mary Magdalene, Mary, the mother of James, and Salome witnessed the empty tomb, a powerful message was delivered by a young man dressed in a white robe and sitting on the right side of the tomb." Do not be amazed. He has been raised; he is not here. Behold the place where they laid him. But go and tell his disciples and Peter, He is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him, as he told you."

May the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ move us from our mourning, empty promises, bad old habits and sins, and allow us to embrace a new vision filled with love, forgiveness, joy and understanding. Thank you to all who participated actively in the Holy Week celebration and especially the Triduum. My appreciation goes to the Liturgy Committee, the choirs, lectors, Extraordinary Ministers, Hospitality, Altar Servers, St. John Berchmans School, parish staff, Deacon Jesus Rodriguez and all of my parishioners.

I congratulate our 39 young men and women who were confirmed by Bishop Michael Boulette and those who received their First Communion and were confirmed by me at Easter Vigil Mass. I am very proud of you and encourage you to live up to your commitment by attending masses regularly, praying more and being the best witnesses of the risen Lord Jesus Christ.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Elida Gonzales, Youth Minister for more than 32 years, 22 years of which were dedicated to St. John Berchmans. Elida has been excellent and instrumental in guiding our youth. I would also like to thank Dolores Guardiola for her 6 years of dedication to the youth in our parish. Elida and Dolores have agreed to allow Dominique Dominguez, one of the youth they have formed and nurtured, to carry the torch. We are very proud of Dominique for developing into the awesome, dedicated, committed and faithful young lady she has become and will ultimately focus to her church mission. I am confident she will do very well. Please rally behind Dominique and her new leadership committee to lead our youth in their journey. Our youth are, and will always be, the future of our church. Here is the leadership committee of our youth: Dominique Dominguez, Raeann Cruz, Angie Diaz, Bobby Gallegos, Liz Gallegos, Alyssa Aragus, Brandon Cruz, Marisa Dominguez, Danielle Martinez and Rebecca Dominguez.

Allow me also to extend my sincere thanks and congratulation to Rosalinda Rodriguez, Director of Religious Education for her 10 years of dedication to the religious education program. Rosalinda, Elida as well as Dolores have done their ministry on a volunteer basis. Rosalinda has agreed to stay on as a Director of Religious Education until May. She will continue with the RCIA program.

I thank all of you who have pledged or donated money toward the Capital Campaign. Our community of St. John Berchmans is required to raise \$352,000 with \$140,80 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 new roof for the school building and modernize the technology of our school. As of last week only 12% have been pledged or paid. Please consider making you pledge as soon as possible. I thank those of you have contributed toward the campaign.

May God bless you always,

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

Announcements

www.stjohnberchmans.com

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading - Peter is an eyewitness: The Lord is risen (Acts 10:34-43).

Psalm - This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad (Psalm 118).

Gospel - Three witnesses, Mary, Peter, and John; each responds to the empty tomb (John 20:1-9) or Mark 16:1-7 (or, at an afternoon or evening Mass, Luke 24:13-35). 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: Acts 2:14, 22-33; Ps 16:1-2a, 5-11; Mt 28:8-15
Tue: Acts 2:36-41; Ps 33:4-5, 18-22; Jn 20:11-18
Wed: Acts 3:1-10; Ps 105:1-4, 6-9; Lk 24:13-35
Thu: Acts 3:11-26; Ps 8:2ab, 5-9; Lk 24:35-48
Fri: Acts 4:1-12; Ps 118:1-2, 4, 22-27; Jn 21:1-14
Sat: Acts 4:13-21; Ps 118:1, 14-15ab, 16-21; Mk 16:9-15
Sun: Acts 4:32-35; Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24; 1 Jn 5:1-6; Jn 20:19-31

Events of the Week ~ April 1 - 8, 2018

Sunday, April 1- EASTER SUNDAY

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, April 2

12:00 p.m. Communion Service - Chapel

Tuesday, April 3

12:00 p.m. Mass - Chapel
6:00 p.m. Guadalupana meeting - Cafeteria
7:00 p.m. Spanish Prayer Group - Church

Wednesday, April 4

8:15 a.m. Children's Mass - Church
9:15 a.m. Rosary Makers - Offsite
6:00 p.m. Scholarship Advisory Council- Cafeteria

Thursday, April 5

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

Friday, April 6

12:00 p.m. Mass - Chapel

Saturday, April 7

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

Sunday, April 8 - CCD CLASSES RESUME

7:30 a.m. Divine Mercy - Church
8:00 a.m. Spanish Mass - Church
10:00 a.m. Mass - Church
12:00 noon Mass - Church



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

Rosary Maker's Ministry



During the year 2017, Our Lady of the Missions Rosary Makers distributed 4, 291 rosaries. This was made possible by your financial support of our fundraisers.

Our next fundraiser will be held on **Saturday, May 5th and Sunday, May 6th** after all the Masses.

Thank you for your continued support of our efforts.

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 assigned, to fulfill your commitment on Saturdays. We thank you for your time to this important ministry!

Cleaning Schedule of Ministries:

April 7, 2018 - SJB School

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord
Monday: Monday within the Octave of Easter
Tuesday: Tuesday within the Octave of Easter
Wednesday: Wednesday within the Octave of Easter
Thursday: Thursday within the Octave of Easter
Friday: Friday within the Octave of Easter; First Friday; Julian Calendar Good Friday
Saturday: Saturday within the Octave of Easter; First Saturday

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord
April 1, 2018

"I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the LORD." - Psalm 118:17



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.

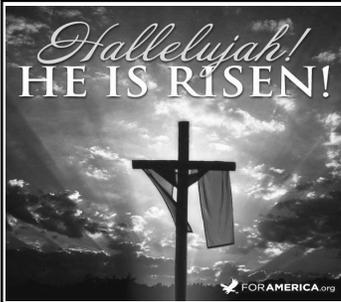


NEW TO OUR PARISH AND WANT TO REGISTER AS A NEW PARISHIONER?

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



EASTER SUNDAY

Today, Easter Sunday, we celebrate the resurrection of the Lord, Jesus Christ and the Lord's work for our redemption. We give great thanks for this gift. Let us set aside this wonderful day by making it holy and bringing ourselves closer to our God.

On behalf of Fr. Fidele and the parish office staff we wish all of you a happy and Holy Easter. May the risen Lord fill you with his love, compassion, joy and forgiveness.

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month



During the month of April, people across the country come together to raise awareness about child abuse and neglect prevention. The Archdiocese of San Antonio parishes and Catholic schools will be participating in the campaign to end child abuse. Children are our future and their safety and development affects us all. It is our duty as Catholics to keep children safe from abuse and neglect. It is also a campaign to remember all those children who have been abused. As a community, we can plan an important role in valuing children and strengthening their families.

Don't forget "**Blue Sunday: April 27, 2018, National Day of Prayer for Abused Children**" as we pray for victims of child abuse and for those who rescue them.

POPE FRANCIS' INTENTION FOR APRIL 2018

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE RESPONSIBILITY IN ECONOMIC MATTERS

That economists may have the courage to reject any economy of exclusion and know how to open new paths.



Our next church Rummage Sale is scheduled for **Saturday, April 7th from 9am - 2 pm.**

Cost is \$10 per space and there are prime spaces still available. For more information contact Mrs. Rosa Moreno at the parish office.

ST. JOHN BERCHMANS CATHOLIC SCHOOL Pk3 - 8TH Grade

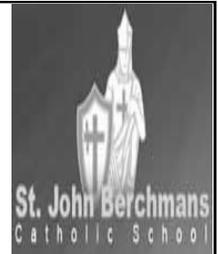
- **REGISTRATION** currently underway for the 2018-2019 school year.

Our school focuses on the **WHOLE** child, academically, spiritually, socially, and emotionally.

- ◇ Pre-PK Program Cost Similar or Less than Daycare
- ◇ Flexible Afterschool Care Program
- ◇ Extra Curricular Activities & Sports
- ◇ STEM Included in Curriculum

Big things are happening at our little school!!

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



PROCLAIM THE RISEN CHRIST

On Easter morning everything—the spring weather, the flowers, birds and butterflies, the people around us in their finery, the beautiful liturgy and music—everything seems to bear witness that Jesus Christ is risen today! Like the eyewitness accounts in today's scriptures, the glorious and joyful life all around us helps us to believe the good news of the Resurrection and sing "Alleluia!"

In the scriptures today we hear from Peter and Paul and John. All three speak with conviction about witnessing the resurrected Christ. John's Gospel account includes Mary of Magdala, who also was privileged to witness the Resurrection and tell others the good news. On this glorious Easter Sunday can we ourselves give eyewitness accounts that Jesus Christ is risen today, alive and active in our lives?

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QUESTION OF THE WEEK

How can I bear witness to the Good News of Jesus Christ in the world today? Can I take the risen Christ I receive in the Eucharist and make him present in my daily life?