

Sunday of Divine Mercy

April 8, 2018

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THE WOUNDS OF JESUS

In the Gospel passage from John, Jesus appears twice to his disciples, and both times Jesus shows them his wounds from his crucifixion. Thomas actually touches the wounds. Jesus' wounds did not disappear after the Resurrection. Jesus meant for his followers to know that his sufferings, and ours, are part of our encounter with him. Jesus revealed how God is present in our human suffering, joining us in our most painful moments with consolation and with mercy.

Suffering is a great mystery, and we cannot adequately explain or justify the many wounds we experience in life. However, in prayer God can open a way forward. The Holy Spirit might offer wisdom to perceive when or how our sufferings make healing or hope possible for others or for ourselves. When we enter into this mystery we follow Jesus, who radically trusted God to transform his sufferings into new life.

EMBODYING FORGIVENESS

In just a few verses, we see that the disciples received not only a new perspective on suffering, but a new energy and a new task in their lives. Their new energy, Jesus' very breath, is the Holy Spirit. Their new task, given in the same breath, is to embody God's forgiveness and proclaim this forgiveness to all. When Jesus appeared to them, he didn't castigate them for their abandonment and betrayal of him just days before. Jesus gave them the peace of being forgiven. He gave the Holy Spirit, so to forgive others.

The experience of being forgiven and forgiving others is at the heart of the Gospel. Jesus came to proclaim and to manifest God's desire to reconcile with God's very sons and daughters, us human beings. God is always working toward reconciliation and rejoices when any broken relationship is healed. When we accept forgiveness from God or from others, we are letting God into our hearts. When we forgive others or ourselves, we are participating in God's work.

Today's Readings: Acts 4:32--35; Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24; 1 Jn 5:1-6; Jn 20:19-31 Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

LAS LLAGAS DE JESÚS

En el Evangelio de Juan, Jesús se aparece dos veces a sus discípulos, y en esas apariciones Jesús les muestra las llagas de su crucifixión. De hecho, Tomás las toca. Las llagas de Jesús no desaparecieron después de su resurrección. Con eso, Jesús quiere que sus seguidores sepan que su sufrimiento, y los nuestros, sean parte de nuestro encuentro con él. Jesús reveló cómo Dios está presente en nuestro sufrimiento, uniéndose en nuestros momentos más dolorosos con consuelo y misericordia.

El sufrimiento es un gran misterio y no podemos explicar o justificar adecuadamente las muchas llagas que experimentamos a lo largo de la vida. Sin embargo, en la oración Dios puede abrir un camino por delante. El Espíritu Santo puede ofrecer sabiduría para percibir cuándo o cómo nuestros sufrimientos hacen posible la sanación o la esperanza para otros y para nosotros mismos. Cuando entramos en este misterio seguimos a Jesús, quien confió radicalmente en Dios para transformar sus sufrimientos a una nueva vida.

INCORPORANDO EL PERDÓN

En unos pocos versos, vemos que los discípulos no solamente recibieron una nueva perspectiva del sufrimiento, sino una nueva fuerza y una nueva tarea en sus vidas. Su nueva fuerza, el mismo aliento de Jesús, es el Espíritu Santo. Su nueva tarea, dada en el mismo aliento, es incorporar el perdón de Dios y proclamar ese perdón a todos. Cuando Jesús se les apareció, él no los castigó por haberlo abandonado o traicionado hacía solo unos días. Jesús les dio la paz de ser perdonados. Él dio el Espíritu Santo para que pudieran perdonar a los demás.

La experiencia de ser perdonado y perdonar a otros está en el corazón del Evangelio. Jesús vino a proclamar y a manifestar el deseo de Dios de reconciliarse con sus hijos e hijas, nosotros como personas. Dios está siempre trabajando hacia la reconciliación y se regocija cuando una relación rota es sanada. Cuando aceptamos el perdón de Dios y de los demás, así permitimos que Dios entre a nuestros corazones. Cuando perdonamos a otros o a nosotros mismos, participamos en el trabajo de Dios.

Lecturas de hoy: Hch 4:32--35; Sal 118 (117):2-4, 13-15, 22-24; 1 Jn 5:1-6; Jn 20:19-31 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 Traspeña	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 31 - APRIL 1, 2018

Easter Vigil 8:00 PM	-\$ 720.00	(120)
8:00 AM	-\$1,037.50	(179)
10:00 AM	-\$1,994.00	(335)
12:00 NOON	-\$ 632.00	(111)
School Mass	-\$ 87.45	
Easter Offering Envelopes	-\$1,368.00	
Rice Bowl	-\$ 880.00	
Holy Thursday	-\$ 325.00	
Good Friday	-\$ 400.00	
Capital Expenditures	-\$ 774.00	2nd Collection
2018 Gift of Giving	-\$ 193.51	
Mail In	-\$ 95.00	
TOTAL	-\$8,506.46	

Thank you for your continued support of our church!

2018 GIFT OF GIVING

Contributions 3/31-4/1, 2018	\$ 193.51
RUNNING BALANCE TOTAL	\$ 8,485.53



Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, April 7 - HEALING SERVICE AFTER MASSES

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

Monday, April 9

Tuesday, April 10

12:00 p.m. † Ruben Tey

Wednesday, April 11

8:15 a.m. † Jacinto Morales

Thursday, April 12

12:00 p.m.
 Gift of Life Frances Emma Treviño - Frances Ramirez

Friday, April 13

12:00 p.m. † David Solis

Saturday, April 14

5:00 p.m. † Robert Holbrook - Catholic Cemeteries
 † Virginia Ramos - Family
 † George Hernandez - Wife & Family
 † Beatrice & Ignacio Gomez - Virginia & Lydia

Sunday, April 15

8:00 a.m. † Eddie Albert Vasquez - Mom
 † Ofelia Urbina - Hermana
 † Romana Gutierrez - Familia

Gift of Life Frances Treviño - Nora Treviño

10:00 a.m. † Joe Riley - Family
 † Joe & Olivia Benavides - Family

In Thanksgiving Martha Gallegos - Mom Leonor

12:00 p.m. † Roman Gabriel Garcia - Mom
 † Margaret & Martin Burrell - Daughter
 † Ida & Amos Burrell - Family
 † Aline Persyn - Family

In Loving Memory

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

Sanctuary Light

† Beatrice & Ignacio Gomez



From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Parishioners:

We continue to celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ...the victory of life over death, light over darkness and God over the devil. 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. Today, Divine Mercy Sunday, we celebrate God's mercy and forgiveness. May we learn to forgive for the good of our soul and body but mostly because we are created in God's image, who is merciful and loving. God loves us so much that he sent us His only son to die for us and for our salvation.

I would like to thank all the persons who decorated our Church and altar on the occasion of Easter. Our church looks beautiful: Denise and Danny Schexnayder, Doran Duran, Joan Orosco, Enrique Cepeda, Daniel and Delia Traspaña. Your work was truly appreciated and made all of our celebrations most memorable. Thank you again for taking pride in your church.

St. John Berchmans parishioners and I are embarking on our journey to Greece to "Walk in the Footsteps of St. Paul" on Monday, April 9th thru Tuesday, April 17th. Please keep us in your prayers as we hope to be inspired by Paul's spirituality to Care for the Gentiles, the neglected by our society.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Elida Gonzales, for dedicating more than 32 years of ministry. Elida generously devoted 22 years to our St. John Berchmans Youth ministry and 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. Our youth meet every Thursday at 6:30 p.m. in classroom #1. Please encourage your children and grandchildren to join our youth group. Here is the leadership committee of our youth: Dominique Dominguez, Raeann Cruz, Angie Diaz, Bobby Gallegos, Liz Gallegos, Alyssa Araguz, Brandon Cruz, Marisa Dominguez, Danielle Martinez and Rebecca Dominguez.

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 the weekend of March 24 - 25, only 12% had 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 - The community of believers was of one heart and mind (Acts 4:32-35)

Psalm - Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting (Psalm 118).

Second Reading - Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is begotten by God (1John 5:1-6)

Gospel - The risen Christ come to his disciples with peace and the Spirit. (John 20:19-31)

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: Is 7:10-14; 8:10; Ps 40:7-11; Heb 10:4-10; Lk 1:26-38

Tue: Acts 4:32-37; Ps 93:1-2, 5; Jn 3:7b-15

Wed: Acts 5:17-26; Ps 34:2-9; Jn 3:16-21

Thu: Acts 5:27-33; Ps 34:2, 9, 17-20; Jn 3:31-36

Fri: Acts 5:34-42; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Jn 6:1-15

Sat: Acts 6:1-7; Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19; Jn 6:16-21

Sun: Acts 3:13-15-19; Ps 4:2-9; 1 Jn 2:1-5; Lk 24:35-48

Events of the Week ~ April 8 - 15, 2018

Sunday, April 8

7:30 a.m. Divine Mercy - Church

GUADALUPANA FUNDRAISER AFTER ALL MASSES

8:00 a.m. **Spanish Mass** - Church

10:00 a.m. **Mass** - Church

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

Monday, April 9

12:00 p.m. **Communion Service** - Chapel

Tuesday, April 10

12:00 p.m. **Communion Service** - Chapel

7:00 p.m. Spanish Prayer Group - Church

Wednesday, April 11

8:15 a.m. **Children's Mass** - Church

9:15 a.m. Rosary Makers - Offsite

7:00 p.m. ACTS Core Meeting - Cafeteria

Thursday, April 12

12:00 p.m. **Communion Service** - Chapel

6:30 p.m. English Ultreya - Room 22

7:00 p.m. **MANDATORY Eucharistic Minister Training Workshop** - Church

Friday, April 13

12:00 p.m. **Communion Service** - Chapel

Saturday, April 14

5:00 p.m. **Mass** - Church

Sunday, April 15

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

ADORATION OF THE EUCHARIST IS A SPECIAL TIME



- ❖ To visit Jesus, the converging point of the sufferings of humanity
- ❖ To give him thanks for our redemption
- ❖ To praise Jesus' love, the manifestation of God's mercy
- ❖ To thank God for granting us grace, joy and hope
- ❖ To be united with Jesus in the sacrament of love

THURSDAY, APRIL 12, 2018
9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

EVERY SECOND SUNDAY OF THE MONTH Fr. Fidele conducts Healing, Blessing and Sacrament of the Sick after all masses. This will take place this weekend.

We are so thankful and blessed to Father Fidele for his love and concern for our church community.

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



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.

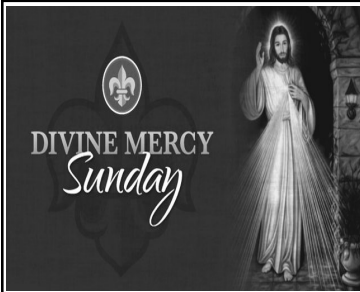


NEW TO OUR PARISH AND WANT TO REGISTER AS A NEW PARISHIONER?

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



DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY is celebrated on the Sunday after Easter, the Octave of Easter. It is based on the Catholic devotion to the Divine Mercy that Saint Faustine Kowalska reported as part of her encounter with Jesus, and is associated with special promises from Jesus. The floodgates from heaven are wide-open and Jesus offers us the total forgiveness of all sins and punishment to any soul, even the most hardened sinners, who go to Confession and receive him in Holy Communion.

Many people also pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet through the year, especially at 3 p.m., the time when Christ died on the Cross.

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS: ALL CURRENT AND NEW INDIVIDUALS INTERESTED IN SERVING THE CHURCH AS A EUCHARISTIC MINISTER are invited to attend the **MANDATORY** annual workshop scheduled for **Thursday, April 12, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in the Church.**

This is a very important ministry in our parish, and Father Fidele always encourages us to take a more active role in our parish and particularly at our Masses. So if you have that desire to better serve our Lord now is the time, this in-depth **MANDATORY** training will answer all your questions and prepare you to carry out this ministry. If you have any questions, please contact our Parish Office.

2018 GUADALUPANA ORGANIZATION SCHOLARSHIPS

St. John Berchmans' Guadalupe Organization is accepting scholarship applications for the 2017-2018 school year.

Application packets may be picked up in the Parish Office - Monday through Friday from 9am - 5pm. Deadline for submission of applications is **Tuesday, May 1, 2018 by 5pm.** Late applications will not be accepted after this date. If you have any questions, please contact Rosemary Semersky at (210)420.4288.



ACTS CORE ORGANIZATION would like to thank everyone who purchased a plate for our Annual ACTS Fish Fry. It was a great success and the word is the plate was delicious.

We appreciate your continued support of our ministry and hope you and your family enjoyed a wonderful Easter.

ST. JOHN BERCHMANS CATHOLIC SCHOOL PK3 - 8TH Grade

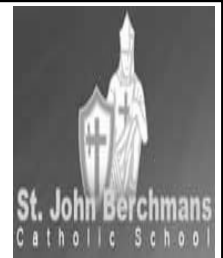
- **REGISTRATION** currently underway for the 2018-2019 school year.

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!



SO THAT YOU MAY BELIEVE

On Divine Mercy Sunday, we celebrate the boundless mercy of God, who throughout history has forgiven those who have turned away. Jesus preached forgiveness extensively in his ministry, enshrining it in the prayer he taught his disciples.

In this Sunday's Gospel reading, taken from the conclusion of John's Gospel, the author tells us that he has chosen to record these events so "that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that through this belief you may have life in his name" (20:31).

The letter of John echoes this idea by saying that "[e]veryone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is begotten by God" (5:1)—what we might refer to as being "born again." Our reading from the Acts of the Apostles for this Second Sunday of Easter shows us exactly what it looks like when believers are born again through faith. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Whom can I forgive who has hurt me or someone I love? Can I put my trust in God, the author of all mercy? Can I believe that forgiving my neighbor I am allowing the Spirit to work through me and am participating in the gift of divine mercy?