

Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 29, 2018

FAST AND SLOW

Our readings today offer a sharp contrast that hints at the wide variety of ways in which God works. In Acts, there is a rush of activity and profound change happens in a hurry. Paul, who was a leader in persecutions of the first Christians, has recently encountered Jesus on the road to Damascus. In today's passage, Paul has suddenly become a powerful witness for Jesus, risking his life and astonishing both the Christians and their enemies. This is God working fast, and everyone is trying to keep up!

In contrast, in today's Gospel from John, Jesus describes the vine and the branches bearing fruit. Vines and branches by nature act slowly and quietly. The passage itself is repetitive and meditative, inviting us to slow down and listen to what is happening under the surface. This speaks of the slow, patient work of God.

DISCERNMENT AND LOVE

The scriptures indicate that God often works on a long-term time frame. We might need our whole lives to learn some of God's lessons. The Church sometimes takes centuries to learn vital lessons about God. But within God's slow work, there are bursts of activity when the moment is ripe in God's eyes. We might perceive these bursts of God's grace, if we are able to see.

This fascinating mix of fast and slow can invite us again to deepen our practice of discernment. Discernment is the art of paying attention to God. It is the capacity to detect God's activity, which leads us toward bearing fruit and away from that which is fruitless. In our messy world, and aware of our personal frailties, discernment is often difficult. It helps to remember that God's activity is revealed in love. Whether fast or slow, God always works in love. We are called to perceive God's dramatic and sudden activities as well as God's deep and patient work of love in daily life and in our world.

Today's Readings: Acts 9:26--31; Ps 22:26-27, 28, 30, 31-32; 1 Jn 3:18-24; Jn 15:1-8

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RAPIDO Y LENTO

Nuestras lecturas de hoy ofrecen un fuerte contraste que sugiere la amplia variedad de las formas en las que actúa Dios. En el libro de los Hechos, hay gran y profunda actividad que sucede de manera rápida. Pablo, que fue un líder perseguidor de los primeros cristianos, acababa de tener un encuentro con Jesús en el camino a Damasco. En el pasaje de hoy, Pablo de pronto se ha convertido en un poderoso testigo de Jesús, arriesgando su vida y asombrando tanto a cristianos como a sus enemigos. Este es Dios que actúa de manera rápida y todos tratan de mantenerse al día.

En contraste, en el Evangelio de Juan, Jesús describe a la vid y sus ramas los sarmiento dando fruto. La vid y los sarmientos por su propia naturaleza actúan lenta y silenciosamente. El mismo pasaje es repetitivo y meditativo, invitándonos a ir despacio y a escuchar lo que está pasando debajo de la superficie. Esto habla del despacio y paciente trabajo de Dios.

EL DISCERNIMIENTO Y EL AMOR

Las Escrituras indican que Dios a menudo trabaja en un marco de tiempo a largo plazo. Podríamos necesitar nuestras vidas completas para aprender algo de las lecciones de Dios. A la Iglesia algunas veces le lleva siglos aprender lecciones vitales acerca de Dios. Pero dentro de este trabajo lento de Dios, hay ráfagas de actividad cuando el momento es lo suficientemente maduro a los ojos de Dios. Podríamos percibir estas ráfagas de la gracia de Dios, si es que así lo podemos ver.

Esta fascinante mezcla de rapidez y lentitud puede una vez más invitarnos a profundizar nuestra practica de discernimiento. El discernimiento es el arte de poner atención a Dios. Es la capacidad de detectar el trabajo de Dios, el cual nos guía para dar fruto y lejos de aquello que es estéril. En nuestro mundo desordenado, y consientes de nuestras flaquezas personales, el discernimiento a menudo es difícil. Nos ayuda a recordar que el trabajo de Dios se manifiesta en el amor. Ya sea rápido o despacio, Dios actúa en el amor. Estamos llamados a percibir el trabajo espectacular y repentino de Dios, así como el profundo y paciente trabajo de amor de Dios en la vida diaria en nuestro mundo.

Lecturas de hoy: Hch 9:26--31; Sal 22 (21):26-27, 28, 30, 31-32; 1 Jn 3:18-24; Jn 15:1-8

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Please Pray for the Sick

Prayer List Updates



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	John Jimenez
Rose Loa Gallegos	Julio Ugalde, Jr.	Rosemary Ramirez
Roxanne & Linus Joseph	Armandina Flores	Sofia Delgado
David Colbath	Yvonne De Leon	Jose A. Ponce, Jr.
Victims of First Baptist	Delia Riojas	Terri Lopez
Church of Sutherland	Petra Chavez	F.J. Rodriguez
Springs, Texas	Carmen Solis	Eddie Villareal
Lisa Marie Rodriguez	Enrique Cepeda	David Diaz
Linda Davila	Andrew Arizmendez, Jr.	Annmarie Vasquez
Justin Rey Martinez	Alethea R. Ybarra	Graciela Puento
Brandon Rivas	Norma R. Morgan	Sarah Contreras

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

APRIL 21-22, 2018

5:00 PM	-\$1,323.00	(103)
8:00 AM	-\$ 631.50	(083)
10:00 AM	-\$1,376.00	(156)
12:00 NOON	-\$ 845.00	(158)
School Mass	-\$ 72.97	
Catholic Home Missions	-\$ 598.92	2nd Collection
2018 Gift of Giving	-\$ 214.51	
Mail In	-\$ 85.00	
TOTAL	-\$5,146.90	

Thank you for your continued support of our church!

Second Collection

April 29, 2018 - Religious Education

2018 GIFT OF GIVING

Contributions 4/21-22, 2018	\$ 214.51
RUNNING BALANCE TOTAL	\$ 9,036.05

Announcements

www.stjohnberchmans.com

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, April 28

5:00 p.m. † George Hernandez - Wife & Family

Sunday, April 29

8:00 a.m. † Guadalupe Treviño - Nora Treviño

† Ofelia Urbina - Hermana

† Josue Hid - Wife

In Thanksgiving 62nd Wedding Anniversary of
Frank and Lupe Rodriguez

In Thanksgiving 10th Anniversary - Spanish Ultreya

10:00 a.m. † Margaret & † Martin Burrell - Daughter

† Ida & † Amos Burrell - Family

† Aline Persyn - Family

† Ryan Sanchez - Sanchez Family

† Daniel C. Arzola - Family

In Thanksgiving 2nd Wedding Anniversary of
Richard & Sarah Sustaita

12:00 p.m. † Roman Gabriel Garcia - Mom

† Armando A. Rocha - Family

Gift of Life Jeanette H. Homan - Parents

Monday, April 30

Tuesday, May 1

12:00 p.m. † Rosalinda Ramos

Wednesday, May 2

8:15 a.m. † Rosendo H. Soto

Thursday, May 3

12:00 p.m. † Donald J. Borden

Friday, May 4

12:00 p.m. Isaias de Ecuador

Saturday, May 5

5:00 p.m. † Eddie Albert Vasquez - Mom

† Lupe Joe Olivarez - Family

Gift of Life Miguel Anoel Sweet - Mom

Sunday, May 6

8:00 a.m. † Guadalupe Treviño - Nora Treviño

† Juan Silva - Familia

† Ofelia Urbina - Hermana

10:00 a.m. † Jimmie Rodriguez - Wife Leonor

† Margaret & † Martin Burrell - Daughter

† Ida & † Amos Burrell - Family

† Aline Persyn - Family

† Ryan Sanchez - Sanchez Family

12:00 p.m. † Jesus Villarreal - Relative

In Loving Memory

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

Sanctuary Light

Sarah Contreras

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 we be inspired by the disciples' testimony to renew and be ready to become true witnesses of the world, divided by hatred, injustices, discrimination and envies.

The parish office has been without telephone line service for the past three weeks. This past Saturday, April 20th, the telephone line service has been restored. The temporary line number is 210.858-6920. The request for our number to be released by AT&T has already been submitted. As soon as AT&T releases the number, we will communicate with you. I apologize for the inconvenience this experience may have caused our parishioners.

We encourage parents and grandparents to enroll their children at St. John Berchmans Catholic School as soon as you can, to allow the school to make a budget for the Academic year 2018-2019. Thank you for entrusting us with your children. May God continue to watch over our Catholic schools as we instill Christian and Catholic values to our children.

We are back from Greece and had a very prayerful pilgrimage. We prayed for all of you and offered our daily concerns and wishes to the Lord, in the footsteps of St. Paul. I thank each one of you for your prayers and support. St. Paul has challenged us to care for each other and especially those in need and neglected.

We are very proud of Dominique who has accepted the role of Youth Minister. Dominique has developed into an awesome, dedicated, committed and faithful young lady and will ultimately focus on 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 7:00 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 April 21-22, only 22% had pledged or paid. Please consider making your pledge as soon as possible. I thank those of you who 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 church was being built up, and grew in numbers (Acts 9:26-31).

Psalm — I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people (Psalm 22).

Second Reading — Let us love not in word or speech, but in deed and truth (1 John 3:18-24).

Gospel — Remain in me, as I remain in you. I am the vine, you are the branches (John 15:1-8). The English translation of the Psalm Responses from *Lectioary for Mass* © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon: Acts 14:5-18; Ps 115:1-4, 15-16; Jn 14:21-26
Tue: Acts 14:19-28; Ps 145:10-13ab, 21; Jn 14:27-31a
Wed: Acts 15:1-6; Ps 122:1-5; Jn 15:1-8
Thu: 1 Cor 15:1-8; Ps 19:2-5; Jn 14:6-14
Fri: Acts 15:22-31; Ps 57:8-10, 12; Jn 15:12-17
Sat: Acts 16:1-10; Ps 100:1b-3, 5; Jn 15:18-21
Sun: Acts 10:25-36, 34-35, 44-48; Ps 98:1-4; 1 Jn 4:7-10

Events of the Week ~ April 29 - May 6, 2018

Sunday, April 29 - LAST DAY OF 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 30

12:00 p.m. **Communion Service** - Chapel
6:30 p.m. ACTS Team Meeting - Cafeteria

Tuesday, May 1

12:00 p.m. **Mass** - Chapel
6:00 p.m. School Advisory Council - Room 1
6:30 p.m. Guadalupana Meeting - Cafeteria
7:00 p.m. Spanish Prayer Group - Church

Wednesday, May 2

8:15 a.m. **Children's Mass** - Church
9:15 a.m. Rosary Makers - Offsite
6:30 p.m. Youth Core Meeting - Room 1
7:00 p.m. Vigil Team Workshop - Church

Thursday, May 3

12:00 p.m. **Mass** - Chapel
6:30 p.m. English Ultreya - Room 22
7:00 p.m. Youth Ministry - Room 1

Friday, May 4

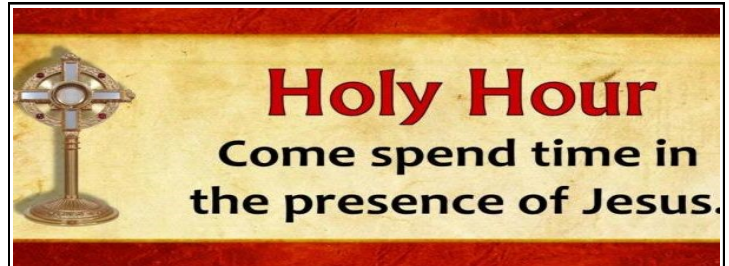
12:00 p.m. **Mass** - Chapel

Saturday, May 5

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

Sunday, May 6

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, MAY 3, 2018
9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

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. Thank you for your commitment to our beautiful place of worship and to our community.

Cleaning Schedule of Ministries:

May 1, 2018 — CCD



SJB RUMMAGE SALE

Our next Rummage Sale is scheduled for Saturday, May 5, 2018 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Cost of space is \$10.00

If you have any questions, or wish to reserve a space, please contact Rosa Moreno at the parish office 210.858.6920.

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Fifth Sunday of Easter
Monday: St. Pius V
Tuesday: St. Joseph the Worker
Wednesday: St. Athanasius
Thursday: Ss. Philip and James;
National Day of Prayer
Friday: First Friday
Saturday: First Saturday; Cinco de Mayo

Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 29, 2018

*Let us love not in word or speech
but in deed and truth — 1 John 3:18*



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 210-434-3247 to fill out a registration form.

Announcements

www.stjohnberchmans.com



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2018 GUADALUPANA ORGANIZATION SCHOLARSHIPS

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

Application packets may be picked up in the Parish Office - Monday through Friday from 9am - 5pm. **Deadline for submission 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.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The last day of class for our religious education students will be on **Sunday, April 29, 2018.**

We pray that all of our students have a safe and restful summer and God willing will return next year for their continued religious education instruction. And we especially thank all of the dedicated teachers who assisted with our religious education program this school year.

ST. JOHN BERCHMANS VIGIL TEAM WORKSHOP

Our parish is looking for individuals to serve in this very important ministry. They assist with performing a rosary service which takes place before a Catholic funeral, and is usually held in the evening at a funeral home or in the Church.

At the present time, we have only a handful of parishioners who assist in this ministry and we are looking for additional assistance at this time. Mrs. Rosie Gallegos, who oversees our Vigil Team Ministry is conducting a Workshop on **Wednesday, May 2, 2018 at 7:00 pm in the Church** for new and existing members. For additional information, Mrs. Gallegos may be reached at 210.432.5762

NEW TIME FOR SUNDAY TV MASS

Heart of the Nation televises Sunday Catholic Mass on KMYS Channel 35 (CW) at 8:00 a.m. This is a new time for the Mass. We'd like to pass on this information with our congregation for individuals who are unable to get to church because of age, illness, or other struggles.

Prayer intentions for viewers, a Prayer for Spiritual Communion during distribution of the Holy Eucharist, and closed-captioning make Heart of the Nation's Sunday TV Mass a time of spiritual comfort. For online video of the Mass, visit www.HeartoftheNation.org. (For the faithful who can get to church, TV or online Mass does not fulfill the Sunday Mass obligation.)



REMEMBER MAY IS THE MONTH TO PRAY THE HOLY ROSARY

When you pray the Holy Rosary, you have the power of God in your hands. It will help you to find peace and serenity in your life. ***The Rosary is the weapon for these times.*** — Saint Padre Pio

The Guadalupe organization invites all parishioners and encourages all families to attend our recitation of the Holy Rosary the entire month of May. We gather Monday through Friday (weather permitting) in the Grotto at 6:00 p.m.

LIVING BRANCHES

The Gospel and second reading for this Fifth Sunday of Easter emphasize the need for us to remain in Christ, and he in us. This shared life finds expression in the image of the one vine and many branches. We become living branches of the vine, members of the Body of Christ through baptism, Eucharist, and confirmation, sacraments of sharing God's own life. The First Letter of John describes the fruit of this vine as active love of neighbor: **"And his commandment is this: we should believe . . . and love one another"** (1 John 3:23).

Our first reading from Acts shows us an example of someone who shares in Christ's life in the person of Saint Paul. Paul's fearless witness, even at the risk of his life, is proof to everyone that the risen Lord's Spirit truly fills him with life and is bearing fruit in him. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

How do I think God will prune my branch of the vine? What part of me is withered and should be burned? What part of me is bearing the most fruit? How can I make the vine stronger and healthier?