

St. John Berchmans Catholic Church

1147 Cupples Road, San Antonio, TX 78226 210-434-3247 FAX 210-432-0431
www.stjohnberchmans.com



Welcoming and liturgical community celebrating the spiritual needs of God's people in the spirit of St. John Berchmans.
"My penance is to live the common life. I will pay greatest attention to the least inspiration of God." - St. John Berchmans

Parish Office Staff:

Fr. Fidèle O. Dikete, Pastor • Deacon Jesus Rodriguez

Stella Rico, Secretary
Olivia Lopez, Bookkeeper/Office Manager
Andrew Solis, Bus Maintenance
Christine McWilliams, WebMaster/ FB

Connie Peché, Family Records
Joan Orosco, Sacristan/Bereavement
Kathy Flores, Sacramental Records
Cynthia Sandoval, Director of Religious Education

Raquel Castillo, Office Volunteer
Olivia Santoyo, Bulletin Editor
Grace Salinas, Office Volunteer

Parish Office Hours:

Monday-Friday 9am-5pm
Saturday 10am-2pm

Mass Times:

Saturday Vigil 5pm-English
Sunday 9am-Bilingual
Sunday 11am-English

Weekday Services:

Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday 12 Noon

School Mass:

Wednesdays 8:15am (School Calendar)

Holy Days of Obligation:

Bilingual Mass at 7pm

Reconciliation:

Saturday 4:00pm or by appointment

Adoration:

Every Thursday 9am-5pm

Baptisms/Quinceñeras/Sweet 16:

Please contact office for more information

Baptism Classes:

Please contact office for more information

Weddings:

Father Fidèle Dikete, Pastor
Please make an appointment
six months in advance.

CCD:

Sunday 9:30am – 12 Noon

Good Samaritans of SJB:

Monday and Friday; 3pm - 5pm

SJB School: Nora Garcia, Principal - 210-433-0411

Parish Ministries

ACTS CORE FACILITATOR:

Emilio Semersky

esemersky@gmail.com

ALTAR SERVERS:

Eddie Campa

ecampa@swri.org

BOY & GIRL SCOUTS:

Aussie Mata

rotorwing2@gmail.com

CHOIRS:

Saturday 5pm Choir

John A. Campa

jhowardcampa@aol.com

Sunday 9am Choir

Roy Sanchez

rsanchez34@satx.rr.com

Sunday 11am Choir

Javier Saucedo

javierrufus@gmail.com

CYO:

Esmeralda "Ezmi" Tamez

ezmiet09@gmail.com

CAFETERIA RENTAL:

Cecilia Sandoval

cecilsand@yahoo.com

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Linda Campbell

linda40849@satx.rr.com

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Elida Gonzales

redg90@sbcglobal.net

GOOD SAMARITANS OF SJB:

John Diaz

Angie Diaz

johndiaz7538@sbcglobal.net

GUADALUPANAS:

Sylvia Quintana

squintana7678@gmail.com

FORMATION HOUSE RENTAL :

Cecilia Sandoval

cecilsand@yahoo.com

HOSPITALITY:

Kathy Flores

kflores0411@att.net

JOY MINISTRY:

Jessica Ramos

Chayo Gomez

jessicamosfischer@gmail.com

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LECTORS:

Stella Rico

stellav28@att.net

LITURGY COMMITTEE:

Joan Orosco

dorosco08@yahoo.com

PASTORAL COUNCIL:

Kimberly Mata

mata_kimberly@yahoo.com

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

Cyndi Sandoval

ventimochafrap@yahoo.com

ROSARY MAKERS:

Victoria Sanchez

SHARE THE WORD:

Rosalinda Garza

Garza_rosalinda@att.net

VIGIL TEAM:

Oralia Cantu

Dora Duran

dduran57@outlook.com

DECEMBER 17, 2023 - THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 17, 2023

www.stjohnberchmans.com

THE EYE OF THE BEHOLDER

Children who are poor make toys out of the unlikeliest things: milk cartons, nails, bottle caps, sticks, plastic bags, corn cobs, clothespins. Folks who have plenty consider these things trash—in fact, some poor children literally make their toys out of trash. Their abject need gives them a different perspective, seeing blessing where the rich see only waste.

Material poverty is a scourge on our planet, and we must never make excuses for it. We must work tirelessly for decent conditions for every human person. As we work, we can learn from the special perspective of our brothers and sisters who do not have enough to live. We can see how depending on others for resources can transform a rich person's trash into a poor child's treasure.

SPIRITUAL POVERTY

On this "Rejoice!" Sunday in Advent, we can pray in a particular way for an end to material poverty. Today's readings assure us that the kind of poverty God desires for us is spiritual poverty, a radical knowledge that all things come from God. Where material poverty can wound the human spirit, spiritual poverty cultivates boundless joy. John the Baptist provides a startling model for us. In all sincerity, he admits that he is not worthy to touch Jesus' sandals. John says this not to charm the crowds by being coy and self-deprecating. No, John embraces the truth that God is the source of all goodness. We are utterly dependent on God for all good things. We cannot do anything to earn God's favor; God simply provides for us because we need God. This is massively good news! No one could possibly care for us like God does. At our very best, we merely reflect God's brightness into the world. God's brilliant joy is exactly what we are called to. As Saint Paul says, "The one who calls you is faithful, and he will also accomplish it."

EL OJO DEL ESPECTADOR

Hay niños pobres que ingeniosamente crean juguetes de los objetos menos imaginables, como cartones o garrafones de leche, clavos, tapas de botellas de jugo o de refrescos, bolsas de plástico, olotes de maíz, pinzas de ropa. Por otro lado, hay algunas personas ricas que consideran esos objetos como basura; de hecho, algunos niños pobres literalmente hacen sus juguetes de la basura. Su necesidad les da una perspectiva diferente, ver una bendición donde los ricos solo ven basura.

La pobreza material es una plaga en el planeta, y nunca debemos hacer excusas sobre ella. Debemos trabajar incansablemente por condiciones decentes para cada persona. Al ir trabajando, podemos aprender desde la perspectiva de nuestros hermanos y hermanas que no tienen lo suficiente para vivir. Podemos ver como dependiendo de otras personas por recursos puede transformar la basura de una persona rica en un tesoro para un niño pobre.

POBREZA ESPIRITUAL

En este Domingo de Adviento de "¡Regocijo!" Podemos rezar en una forma particular para terminar con la pobreza material. Las lecturas de hoy nos aseguran que el tipo de pobreza que Dios desea para nosotros es una pobreza espiritual, un conocimiento radical de que todas las cosas vienen de Dios. En donde la pobreza material pueda herir el espíritu humano, la pobreza espiritual cultiva alegría sin límites. Juan el Bautista nos proporciona un modelo atractivo. Con toda sinceridad, él admite que no es digno de desatar las sandalias de Jesús. Juan dice esto no para encantar a las multitudes siendo tímido y despreciándose a sí mismo. No, Juan abraza la verdad que Dios es el origen de toda la bondad. Dependemos absolutamente de Dios para todas las cosas. No hay algo que podamos hacer para ganar el favor de Dios; Dios simplemente nos provee porque necesitamos a Dios. ¡Esto es una noticia muy abundante! Nadie posiblemente podría cuidar de nosotros como Dios los hace. Lo mejor nuestro, simplemente es reflejar el brillo de Dios en el mundo. La brillante alegría de Dios es exactamente a lo que estamos llamados. Así como san Pablo dice: "el que los ha llamado es fiel y cumplirá su promesa".



Please Pray for the Sick

Prayer List Updates



Sarah Contreras	Guadalupe Rodriguez	Joseph Kavanaugh
Marty Carrera Tobias	Lori Bañuelos	Rosie Gallegos
Frances Lozano	Joe Villanueva	Maritza Garcia
Irma Urias	Edith Flores	Saucedo Family
Mary S. Martinez	Isaiah Vasquez	Sandy Flores
Galilea Romero	Esther Nicholson	Liam Adrian Martinez
Iris Luna Sullivan	Valerie Vigil	Antonia Degollado
Emma O. Velasquez	Maldonado Family	Michael P. Ramirez
Leticia Martinez	Margie Zuniga	Alfred Marin
Kenny De La Rosa	Rosemary Flores	Maria Martinez
Raymond Sarabia	Anthony Ramirez	Lucy Treviño & Family
Frank Rodriguez	Carmen Garza	Angie Ramirez
Julissa Rodriguez	Gloria Rubio	Mickey S. Carrasco
Miliana Bullock	Lisa Brown	Robert Prieto
Lydia Soriano	Mary Herrera	Elizabeth Rose Valdez
Albert Casillas	Rebecca Zuniga	Blanca V. Herrera
Robert Sanchez	Rosa Elva Villaseñor	Muñoz Family
Vanessa Quintero	Lupe Gomez	Adela Moreno
Virginia R. Lucio	Angie Canales	

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.



Tithes

STEWARDSHIP FOR THE WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 10, 2023

5 PM Mass	-\$	620.00
9 AM Mass	-\$	945.00
11 AM Mass	-\$	1,464.00
Immaculate Conception	-\$	526.00
School Mass	-\$	60.00
Good Samaritans of SJB	-\$	385.00 2nd Collection
Retirement Fund for Religious	-\$	396.00 2nd Collection
Mail In	-\$	565.00
Gift of Giving	-\$	257.10
TOTAL		\$ 5,218.10

SECOND COLLECTION

December 16-17, 2023

Altar Flowers

2023 GIFT OF GIVING

Contributions ending Dec. 10, 2023	\$	257.10
TOTAL	\$	14,075.56

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 16

5:00 p.m. † Eusebio Arocha - Family
 Gift of Life Yolanda Castillo - Family

Sunday, December 17

9:00 a.m. † Daniel C. & Maria Arzola - Family
 † Joe Ventura - Family
 Gift of Life Esteban Gonzales - Family

11:00 a.m. † Gina Gonzales - Mom
 † Luis Duran, Sr. - Wife & Family
 † Paul & Juan Salinas - Salinas Family
 † Suzanne Gutierrez - Salinas Family
 † Arthur Sanchez - Cindi Sanchez
 † Lydia G. Thompson - Araguz Family
 52nd Wedding Anniversary
 Oscar & Diana Calderon - Eva Rodriguez

Monday, December 18

Tuesday, Dec. 19

12:00 p.m. † Irene G. Paredes - Family
 † Juana E. Castillo - Family

Wednesday, December 20

8:15 a.m. † Aurora Moreno - Family
 For Health Adela Moreno

Thursday, December 21

12:00 p.m. † Delia Lopez - Parish Family
 † Mary Orosco - Parish Family
 For Health Blanca Herrera - Friends

Friday, December 22

12:00 p.m. † Maria Polanco - Parish Family
 † Frances Ramirez - Parish Family
 Gift of Life Aria Reese Flores - Family

REST IN PEACE

We offer condolences and sympathy to our parishioners and their families who have experienced the loss of their loved ones:

† Manuel Martinez, Jr.



THE SANCTUARY CANDLE LIT BY THE TABERNACLE BURNS FOR:

Adela Moreno
 Linda Campbell

Let us remember the lamp is a mark of honor. It is to remind the faithful of the presence of Christ, and is a profession of their love and affection.



Dear Parishioners and Friends:

I would like to thank all of you who have participated in our anticipatory Christmas celebrations of the second coming and birthday of our Savior. My appreciation goes to the Christmas committee for organizing the Santa visit in the neighborhoods, collecting and wrapping gifts and also to all the volunteers who assisted in wrapping gifts in the Formation House. Thank you to all the generous persons who donated over 600 gifts and money for a successful campaign in sharing gifts with children in our parish community and in 13 apartment complexes within our parish boundaries. Thank you for keeping hope alive in the midst of uncertainty, pain, doubt, hatred, wars and indifference.

I thank Javier Saucedo, the Rodriguez family and John Campa for an outstanding Christmas concert as well as all who participated. A special thanks, to Javier Saucedo, who has organized Christmas concerts for the past several years. May God continue to strengthen our resolution to worship God in songs and celebrations. Thanks also to all of you who participated in our Advent talk led by Fr Mike DeGerolami, reconciliation services, Our Lady of Guadalupe celebrated by Bishop Gary Janak and the posadas. May the last week of Advent point us to Emmanuel, God is with us.

Advent Season for this year 2023 ends on Sunday, December 24th after the 10:00 morning mass. Since Christmas falls on Monday, December 25th, 2023, the vigil Mass for Christmas will take place on Sunday, December 24th at 6:00 in the evening for the CCD children, all our children, parents, families and parishioners. Christmas Carols will be sung the same day from 11:00 at night until 12:00 midnight followed by midnight Mass on December 25th.

We will have one more Christmas bilingual Mass on December 25th at 11:00 in the morning. Make a special effort to participate and join our fellow parishioners in celebration of the birth of our Savior and God, Jesus Christ.

I am launching a scholarship initiative to offer \$1,000 to each new registered student attending St. John Berchmans Catholic School for the academic year 2024-2025. The goal is to register 50 new students. I will be sponsoring a 5K on Mother's day weekend, Saturday, May 11, 2024 at Woodlawn Lake Park. Please spread the news and recruit as many new students as you can for our school. Together we can make a difference!

I encourage you to sign up for our parish directory professional photograph. You may also consider volunteering in any capacity you can to make this directory a success. A parishioner who signs up will receive a directory and an 8X10 free portrait.

May God bless you!

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



GAUDETE SUNDAY - REJOICE

The Third Sunday of Advent is Gaudete Sunday, the day when we light the pink candle on the Advent wreath. Rose vestments are worn to emphasize our joy that Christmas is near. We are halfway through Advent-so much closer to Christmas.

This celebration is a reminder that God who loves us is still in charge and that we await his coming not with fear, but with tremendous joy.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

◆ Parish Office will be closed on the following dates for Christmas:

Monday, December 25, 2023

Tuesday, December 26, 2023

On behalf of Fr. Fidèle and the entire office staff we wish you a Merry Christmas and a joyful holiday season!

- ◆ **Donation envelopes** will be ready for distribution this coming weekend. Please stop by our table located in the foyer and pick them up.
- ◆ **Calendars** will also be available for all parishioners.



We welcome anyone to help us clean our beautiful church every **Saturday at 8:00 a.m.** Ministry Scheduled for: **December 23rd - HOSPITALITY**

IMPORTANT LITURGICAL EVENTS

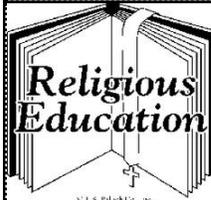
- ◆ **Sunday, December 24**
10:00 AM - Bilingual Mass
6:00 PM - Christmas Vigil Mass (Children's Mass)
11:30 PM - Christmas Carols
12 AM - Christmas Midnite Mass
- ◆ **Monday, December 25th**
11 AM - Bilingual Mass

SJB CHURCH DIRECTORY

Reminder to schedule your Photo appointments. Everyone photographed will receive a complimentary 8X10 portrait and directory. A variety of poses, backgrounds, portrait sizes, finish and framing options are available. Questions? Contact the Parish office. **Dates to schedule your appointment:** Dec 27 (Wed), 28 (Thu), 29 (Fri) & 30 (Sat).

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon: Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13,18-19; Mt 1:18-25
 Tue: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-6, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25
 Wed: Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-6; Lk 1:26-38
 Thu: Sg 2:8-14; Ps 33:2-3,11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45
 Fri: 1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8; Lk 1:46-56
 Sat: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Ps 25:4-5, 8-14; Lk 1:57-66
 Sun: 2 Sam 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38



REMINDER:

Due to our Christmas break we will not conduct Religious Education classes on **Sunday, December 24th** and on **Sunday, December 31st**.

Classes will resume on **Sunday, January 7, 2024.**

On behalf of the entire staff we wish you a joyous and holiday season!



Sunday, December 17

9:00 a.m. MASS - Church
 11:00 a.m. MASS - Church

Monday, December 18

7:00 p.m. RCIA Classes - Formation House

Tuesday, Dec. 19

12:00 p.m. MASS - Church

Wednesday, December 20

8:15 a.m. SCHOOL MASS - Chapel
 2:00 p.m. 15 Minute Coffee with Fr. Fidèle

Thursday, December 21

9:00a.m. - 5:00p.m Eucharistic Adoration - Chapel
 12:00 p.m. MASS - Chapel

Friday, December 22

12:00 p.m. MASS - Church

Saturday, December 23

8:00 a.m. Church Cleaning - Hospitality
 5:00 p.m. MASS - Church



BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

All requests must be sent by email to osantoyo1104@gmail.com and will be finalized for approval by Father Fidèle. **Bulletins are printed on Thursdays.**



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

We encourage all newcomers to register and get to know your parish community. Please contact our Parish Office at 210-434-3247 to fill out a registration form.