

Second Sunday of Lent

February 25, 2018

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TESTING, TESTING, TESTING

Often it can seem as if our faith is being tested. We can be asked, like Abraham, how much we are willing to sacrifice in obedience to God's call. Abraham appeared willing to sacrifice his most precious gift, his son, Isaac. Abraham went so far as to take the knife with which he could have ended his son's life. But God did not ask that of him. God asked only that he be willing and that he continue to listen. In Mark, it is the disciples who are tested to understand the vision that they are given of Jesus, visibly transformed from an ordinary man like themselves to beloved Son of God. Peter, impulsive Peter, speaks and plans an action. He is rebuked and told to listen. The test is not about action. The test is to listen.

LISTEN

Both Abraham and the disciples are called to listen. Abraham's action is stopped by a message from God. Isaac is spared because Abraham listened for the ongoing word of God in the midst of the most awful moment of his life. Peter's action is halted by the voice of God telling him to listen. The disciples listen but do not understand what Jesus tells them about his resurrection. But they do listen. How difficult is it for us to listen for the word of God amid the noise of daily life, the necessary and unnecessary chatter of work and home and all the places in between. How can we hear the word of God within the cacophony of our lives? We must listen. We listen by our intentional effort to create a place of peace and quiet within our lives that we maintain despite the noise that surrounds us. We build an ark to ride out the flood. We maintain a spring to survive in the desert. We hold dear our most sacred possession, the self that Jesus died to save, while still being willing to sacrifice it for God's call.

Today's Readings: Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18; Ps 116:10, 15, 16-17, 18-19; Rom 8:31b-34; Mk 9:2-10

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PROBANDO, PROBANDO, PROBANDO

A menudo se puede ver como si nuestra fe fuera probada. Se nos puede pedir, como a Abraham, cuánto estamos dispuestos a sacrificar por obedecer la llamada de Dios. Abraham parecía desear sacrificar lo más preciado que tenía, su hijo Isaac. Abraham casi toma un cuchillo con el cual podría haber terminado la vida de su propio hijo. Pero Dios no es lo que le había pedido. Dios le pidió solo que él estuviera dispuesto y que lo continuará escuchando. En Marcos, son los discípulos quienes son probados para entender la visión que se les ofrece de Jesús, visiblemente transformados desde un hombre ordinario, como ellos mismos, al Hijo amado de Dios. Pedro, el impulsivo de Pedro, habla y planifica una acción. Él es reprendido y se le pide que escuche. La prueba no es sobre la acción. La prueba es sobre escuchar.

ESCUCHAR

Tanto Abraham como los discípulos se les pide escuchar. La acción de Abraham es detenida por un mensaje de Dios. Isaac es salvado porque Abraham escuchó la Palabra de Dios justo ahí, en medio de aquel trágico momento de su vida. La acción de Pedro se detiene por la acción de Dios diciéndole que escuche. Los discípulos escuchan, pero no entienden lo que Jesús les dice acerca de su resurrección. Pero ellos escuchan. Qué tan difícil es para nosotros escuchar la Palabra de Dios en medio del ruido de nuestra vida diaria, la plática necesaria e innecesaria del trabajo, el hogar y los lugares en medio de ellos. ¿Cómo podemos escuchar a Dios con la cacofonía de nuestras vidas? Debemos escuchar. Escuchamos con nuestro esfuerzo intencional de crear un lugar de paz y silencio dentro de nuestras vidas el cual mantenemos pese al ruido que nos rodea. Construimos un arca para salir durante el diluvio. Mantenemos un oasis para sobrevivir en el desierto. Sostenemos nuestra más preciada posesión, el mismo Jesús que murió para salvarnos, mientras todavía estamos deseando sacrificarla por la llamada de Dios.

Lecturas de hoy: Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18; Sal 116 (115):10, 15, 16-17, 18-19; Rom 8:31b-34; Mc 9:2-10

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Please Pray for the Sick

Prayer List Updates



Norma Morgan	Arleen Soliz	Frances Ramirez
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

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 17 - 18, 2018

5:00 PM	-\$1,312.00	(150)
8:00 AM	-\$ 561.50	(081)
10:00 AM	-\$1,262.00	(146)
12:00 NOON	-\$1,344.00	(210)
Ash Wednesday	-\$ 478.97	(154)
School Mass	-\$ 178.11	
Black & Indian Missions	-\$ 823.50	2nd Collection
2018 Gift of Giving	-\$ 206.03	
Mail In	-\$ 202.00	
TOTAL COLLECTED	-\$6,368.11	

Second Collection

* February 25, 2018 - Religious Education

2018 GIFT OF GIVING

Contributions 2/17-18, 2018	\$ 206.03
RUNNING BALANCE TOTAL	\$ 7,088.45

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, February 24

5:00 p.m. † George Hernandez - Wife & Family
† Gene Toscano - Family
† Olivia Medina - Family
† Kimberly Michelle Treviño - Mom
Nelda C. Otto - Socorro & Raquel

Gift of Life

Sunday, February 25

8:00 a.m. † Cora Castillo - Linda Campbell
† Guadalupe Treviño - Nora Treviño
† Tere Oseguera - G. Lloyd
† Eddie Vasquez - Wife
† Josie Galvan - Daniel & Delia
10:00 a.m. † Daniel C. Arzola - Family
† Pedro B. Martinez - Family
† Ryan Sanchez - Sanchez Family
† Martin Burrell - G. Lloyd
† Lionel Medina, Sr. - Family
12:00 p.m. † Melissa Herrera Jenkins - Parents
† Simon Ruiz - Friends
† Frank Herrera - Delia
† Edna Womack - Friends

Monday, February 26

Tuesday, February 27

12:00 p.m. † Hector Ayala, Jr. - Ponce Family

Wednesday, February 28

8:15 a.m. † Johnny Arocha - Wife & Family

Thursday, March 1

12:00 p.m. † Jeannie Ybarra

Friday, March 2

12:00 p.m. Justin Rey Martinez

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

In Loving Memory

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



Sanctuary Light
Justin Rey Martinez



From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Parishioners:

Last week Jesus never succumbed to the devil's temptations during his endurance of 40 days in the desert because the Angels were serving him. Jesus taught us to resist the empty promises of the devil and to always rely on God. We do not live only by bread but most importantly by God and our Christian values.

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 for whatever amount they judge appropriate to contribute to the Campaign.

Our community of St. John Berchmans is required to raise \$352,00 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

LOVE LIFE
LIVE  LENT
TRANSFORM YOUR WORLD

Announcements

www.stjohnberchmans.com

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading - The sacrifice of Abraham, our father in faith (Gen 22:1-18)

Psalm - I walk before the Lord, in the land of the living (Psa 116)

Second Reading - God did not spare his own Son (Rom 8:31-34)

Gospel - This is my beloved Son (Mark 9:2-10)
The English translation of the Palm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon: Dn 9:4b-10; Ps 79:8, 9, 11, 13; Lk 6:36-38
Tue: Is 1:10, 16-20; Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21, 23; Mt 23:1-12
Wed: Jer 18:18-20; Ps 31:5-6, 14-16; Mt 20:17-28
Thu: Jer 17:5-10; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Lk 16:19-31
Fri: Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a; 17b-28a; Ps 105:16-21; Mt 21:33-46
Sat: Mi 7:14-15, 18-20; Ps 103:1-4, 9-12; Lk 15:1-3, 11-32
Sun: Ex 20:1-17; Ps 19:8-11; 1 Cor 1:22-25; Jn 2:13-25
Ps 95:1-2, 6-9; Rom 5:1-2, 5-8;

Events of the Week ~ February 25 - March 4, 2018

Sunday, February 25

7:30 a.m. Divine Mercy - Church
8:00 a.m. Spanish Mass - Church
10:00 a.m. Mass - Church
11:00 a.m.- 3 p.m. Spaghetti Fundraiser - Cafeteria
12:00 p.m. Mass - Church

Monday, February 26

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

Tuesday, February 27

12:00 Noon Mass - Chapel
7:00 p.m. Spanish Prayer Group

Wednesday, February 28

8:15 a.m. Mass - Church
9:15 a.m. Rosary Makers - Offsite
7:00 p.m. Reconciliation Service - Church

Thursday, March 1

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

Friday, March 2

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

Saturday, March 3

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

Sunday, March 4

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, MARCH 1, 2018
9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

"So you could not stay awake with Me for even one hour? Be on guard and pray that you may not undergo the test. (Matthew 26:40-41).

There are different ways to "watch one hour" with the Lord. One of the most powerful and fruitful ways to spend an hour in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament is called a "Holy Hour" because it is an hour spend in the presence of the Holy Eucharist: Christ, Himself, the One who alone is Holy. You can pray alone or with others, before Jesus in the Tabernacle in our Adoration Chapel.

ST. JOHN BERCHMANS SCHOOL

- **Registration** is currently underway for the 2018-2019 school year. An **Open House** will be held on Thursday, March 1 beginning at 6pm.
- **Spring Arts and Crafts Sale** on Sunday, March 18 from 11am - 3pm. Cost is \$20.00 per table. Food items for breakfast and lunch will be available for purchase.



Questions about any of the above information, please contact St. John Berchmans School at (210) 433-0411.

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Second Sunday of Lent; Penitential Rite for Candidates for Full Communion
Wednesday: Purim (Jewish observance) begins at sunset
Friday: Abstinence; First Friday; World Day of Prayer
Saturday: St. Katharine Drexel; First Saturday

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 3, 2018 - Eucharistic Ministers/Lectors



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



RECONCILIATION/CONFESSIONS - WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2018

Lent is a time when we try to come closer to our heavenly Father. During Lent one can make the extra effort to come to daily mass more often and it is also the time to reconsider the **Sacrament of Reconciliation**.

Please make a special effort to **reconcile with the Lord on Wednesday, February 28 at 7:00 p.m. in the Church**. We will have 4 priests available to hear your confessions. Remember it is your responsibility to confess our sins at least once a year and we can encounter the love and mercy of the risen Lord Jesus.

Fr. Fidele is extending the invitation to each one of you to attend this special and unique service, and is looking forward to seeing each one of you.

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 2 - Youth/CYO/Altar Servers
- March 9 - English Choirs
- March 16 - Spanish Choir/Ultreya
- March 23 - ACTS/KOC/Rosary Makers



LENTEN DISCIPLINE: #1 PRAYER

An emphasis on **PRAYER** during Lent is a way to stir up our love and ardor by having a deepening conversation with the Almighty. Remember that the light of God's love shines more brightly in the darkness of the recognition of our sinfulness.

We should also pray the Rosary which a traditional prayer of the Church which calls us to reflect on the various mysteries of our faith. Let us pray for the grace to fulfill our Lenten practices that we have decided upon.

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 1, 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 1, 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.

THE OBEDIENCE OF ABRAHAM AND JESUS

Strong in faith or weak in faith, God has a special place for all. Abraham was strong in faith, the very model of trust in God. And he tested Abraham by asking not for an ordinary sacrifice, which would have been a partial burning with the meat divided between God and the people and eaten by those who sacrificed, but for a holocaust, a total burning of the sacrificial animal. This type of sacrifice consecrated the entire offering to God alone. This is what God was asking of Abraham in offering his only son, Isaac. When Abraham demonstrated his obedience, that was enough. This story from today's scriptures foretells the completion of the blood sacrifices of the old covenant in the new covenant: the blood of God's own Son, offered to us on the cross and in the Eucharist. Abraham's obedience foreshadows the obedience of Jesus to God's promise of salvation. The obedience of Abraham is rewarded in the birth to him, through Isaac, of many nations. The obedience of Jesus is rewarded in the salvation of all people for all time. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

In the gospel, God says, "This is my beloved Son. Listen to him" (Mark 9:7). What is Jesus saying to me? What is Jesus asking me to do?