

Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 11, 2018

EARLY AND OFTEN

We are not an easy people to love. As Chronicles reminds us, we prefer sinfulness over goodness time and time again. Infidelity, abomination, pollution, mocking prophets—we do it all. And still God loves us. The psalm offers a beautiful image of the price we pay for living in the darkness of sin and evil when we know the beauty of living in the light. Alone, isolated, still we remember the beauty of life with God and we weep. God is rich in mercy. Time and time again God brings us back to life. Jesus' life was sacrificed to save ours. We are saved not by our works but by the gift of God. What more powerful words are there than those found in John: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life."

COME TO THE LIGHT

If our works cannot save us, then why are we doing all this hard work and sacrifice during Lent? Traditionally we were asked to give up something during Lent so that we might experience the loss and deprivation that the Old Testament talks about when we are estranged from God. More recently we have been asked to do something affirmative, to add something good to our lives instead of taking something bad away. Either way works because both are just means of waking us up to the way we live our lives, sometimes thoughtlessly indulgent, sometimes indifferent, but all too often isolated from what is at the center of God's life, i.e., love and sacrifice. Lent is a chance to live our lives as Jesus lived his. Jesus lived in the light of love, truth, and sacrifice. Lent is a chance to find that light in our own lives.

Today's Readings: 2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23; Ps 137:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6; Eph 2:4-10; Jn 3:14-21

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TEMPRANO Y FRECUENTE

No somos personas fáciles de amar. Así como nos lo recuerda el libro de Crónicas, preferimos la pecaminosidad sobre la bondad una y otra vez. La infidelidad, la abominación, la contaminación, los profetas burlones, lo hacemos todo. ¡Y Dios todavía nos ama! El salmo nos ofrece una imagen bella del precio que pagamos por vivir en la oscuridad del pecado y el mal cuando conocemos la belleza de vivir en la luz. Solos, aislados, todavía recordamos la belleza de la vida con Dios y lloramos. Dios es rico en misericordia. Una y otra vez Dios nos regresa a la vida. La vida de Jesús fue sacrificada para salvarnos. Estamos salvados no por nuestras obras sino por el don de Dios. Que palabras más poderosas son esas que se encuentran en Juan: "porque Dios amó tanto al mundo que le dio a su único Hijo, para que todo aquel que crea en él no muera, sino que tenga vida eterna".

SALIR A LA LUZ

Si nuestras obras no pueden salvarnos, ¿entonces por qué estamos haciendo todas estas obras y sacrificios durante la Cuaresma? Tradicionalmente se nos pide que dejemos o renunciemos a hacer algo durante la Cuaresma para que podamos experimentar la pérdida y privación de la que habla el Antiguo Testamento cuando estamos separados de Dios. Más recientemente se nos ha pedido hacer algo que tenga un sentido positivo, para añadir algo bueno a nuestras vidas en lugar de quitar algo malo. Cualquiera de esas maneras funciona porque ambas son medios de despertarnos de la vida que llevamos, algunas veces indolente, otras veces indiferente, pero más a menudo aislado de lo que está en el centro de la vida de Dios, por ejemplo: amor y sacrificio. La Cuaresma es una oportunidad para vivir nuestras vidas como Jesús vivió la suya. Jesús vivió en la luz del amor, la verdad y el sacrificio. La Cuaresma es una oportunidad para encontrar la luz en nuestras propias vidas. **Lecturas de hoy:** 2 Cr 36:14-16, 19-23; Sal 137:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6; Ef 2:4-10; Jn 3:14-21 Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.



Please Pray for the Sick

Prayer List Updates



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 Traspaña	Jacinta Weddel
Guadalupe Huerta	John Ruiz	Sara Navarro
Arleen Soliz	Frances Ramirez	Chris Muñoz
Alfredo Moreno	Evelyn Parra	Roxsandra Gallardo

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.

WEEKLY CONTRIBUTIONS

MARCH 3 - 4, 2018

5:00 PM	-\$1,176.50	(140)
8:00 AM	-\$ 724.80	(095)
10:00 AM	-\$1,762.75	(156)
12:00 NOON	-\$1,245.64	(224)
Children's Basket	-\$ 87.00	
School Mass	-\$ 58.06	
Capital Improvements	-\$1,058.65	2nd Collection
2018 Gift of Giving	-\$ 211.10	
Mail In	-\$ 266.00	
TOTAL COLLECTED	-\$6,590.50	

Second Collection

* March 11, 2018 - Catholic Relief Services

2018 GIFT OF GIVING

Contributions 3/3 - 4, 2018	\$ 211.10
RUNNING BALANCE TOTAL	\$ 7,503.90

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, March 10

5:00 p.m. † George Hernandez - Wife & Family
 † Fernando Camarillo, Sr. - Family
 † Barbara Vicente - Cruz Family

Sunday, March 11

8:00 a.m. † Ernestina Huerta - Husband & Children
 † Guadalupe Treviño - Nora Treviño
 † Guadalupe Cadena - Grace Salinas

In Thanksgiving Las Guadalupanas

10:00 a.m. † Daniel C. Arzola - Family
 † Louis Robles, Jr. - Robles Family
 † Ryan Sanchez - Sanchez Family
 † Edna Womack - Friends
 † Jimmie Rodriguez - Wife Leonor

12:00 p.m. † Jose Louis Gonzales - Family
 † Candelario & † Mercedes Lopez - Olivia Lopez
 † Irene Tello - Olivia Lopez
 † Mercedes Soto - Olivia Lopez
 † Nieves Barrientes - Olivia Lopez
 † Mary Martinez - Olivia Lopez

Monday, March 12

Tuesday, March 13

12:00 p.m. † Frances Tovar

Wednesday, March 14

8:15 a.m. For the Students & Staff of St. John Berchmans School

Thursday, March 15

12:00 p.m. Hilda Valdez

Friday, March 16

12:00 p.m. Joseph & Dolores Crittell

Saturday, March 17

5:00 p.m. † Beatrice & Ignacio Gomez - Virginia & Lydia
 † Barbara Vicente - Cruz Family

Sunday, March 18

8:00 a.m. † Jose Ramirez - Nora Treviño
 † Juan Silva - Familia

10:00 a.m. † Daniel C. Arzola - Family
 † Ryan Sanchez - Sanchez Family
 † Edna Womack - Friends
 † Jimmie Rodriguez - Wife Leonor

12:00 p.m. † Luis Duran, Sr. - Family
 † Rosemary House - Family

Gift of Life Ricky Cruz Sweet - Mom

In Loving Memory

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

† **Frances Tovar**



Sanctuary Light
Frances Ramirez



From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Parishioners:

Last week's readings conveyed that God signed with us a covenant by handing the 10 Commandments which shall become our guide every single day. In today's gospel, Jesus said to Nicodemus that "Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life." May Our Jesus Christ, who is our light, leads us in this Lenten Season to the resurrection through prayer, fasting and action of charities.

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.

I would like to also extend my sincere thanks and congratulation to Rosalinda Rodriguez, DRE 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 as we open a part time new position for CCD, Coordinator for Religious Education. Anyone with a religious experience background is asked to consider applying for the position.

This past Saturday and Sunday we showed the video that highlights the main components of the Capital Campaign. The goal is to reach \$60 million to fund a diverse balance of critical pastoral and financial needs. The Campaign intends to address the following challenges: strengthen our parishes; establish new parishes; fund Catholic Charities Outreach projects; build a pilgrimage center at Mission Conception; support lay ministry formation; modernize Assumption Seminary; strengthen campus ministry and renovate Catholic school.

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 whatever amount they judge appropriate to contribute to the Campaign.

Our community of St. John Berchmans is required to raise \$352,000 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

Announcements

www.stjohnberchmans.com

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — The wrath and the mercy of the LORD are revealed in the exile and liberation of the Chosen People (2 Chron 36:14-23)

Psalm — Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you! (Psalm 137)

Second Reading — God, who is rich in mercy, brought us to life with Christ (Eph2:4-10)

Gospel — The Son of Man must be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life

(John 3:14-21) 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 65:17-21; Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-13b; Jn 4:43-54
 Tue: Ez 47:1-9, 12; Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9; Jn 5:1-16
 Wed: Is 49:8-15; Ps 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18; Jn 5:17-30
 Thu: Ex 32:7-14; Ps 106:19-23; Jn 5:31-47
 Fri: Wis 2:1a, 12-22; Ps 34:17-21, 23; Jn 7:1-10, 25-30
 Sat: Jer 11:18-20; Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-12; Jn 7:40-53
 Sun: Jer 31:31-34; Ps 51:3-15; Heb 5:7-9; Jn 12:20-33

Events of the Week ~ March 11 - 18, 2018

Sunday, March 11 - NO CCD CLASSES

7:30 a.m. Divine Mercy - Church

HEALING SERVICE AFTER ALL MASSES

8:00 a.m. Spanish Mass - Church

10:00 a.m. Mass - Church

12:00 p.m. Mass - Church

2:00 p.m. GUADALUPANA MEAT BINGO - Cafeteria

Monday, March 12

12:00 p.m. Communion Service - Chapel

6:30 p.m. Women of the Bible - Cafeteria

Tuesday, March 13

12:00 Noon Mass - Chapel

6:00 p.m. Guadalupe Meeting - Cafeteria

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

Wednesday, March 14

8:15 a.m. Mass - Church

9:15 a.m. Rosary Makers - Offsite

Thursday, March 15

12:00 Noon Mass - Chapel

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

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

Friday, March 16

12:00 Noon Mass - Chapel

7:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross - Church

Saturday, March 17

5:00 p.m. Mass - Church

Sunday, March 18

7:30 a.m. Divine Mercy - Church

8:00 a.m. Spanish Mass - Church

8:00 a.m. SJB SCHOOL SPRING ARTS AND CRAFTS SALE

10:00 a.m. Mass - Church

12:00 noon Mass - Church



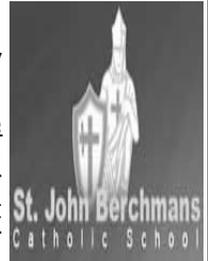
THURSDAY, MARCH 15, 2018
9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

Daylight Saving Time is March 11, 2018
Don't be late to church!



ST. JOHN BERCHMANS SCHOOL

- **Registration** currently underway for the 2018-2019 school year.
- **Spring Arts and Crafts Sale** Sunday, March 18 from 8 am - 3pm. Cost is \$20.00 per table. Food items for breakfast and lunch will be available for purchase.



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

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 17, 2018 - Hospitality

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Fourth Sunday of Lent; Second Scrutiny; Daylight Saving Time begins; Girl Scouting Sunday
 Friday: Abstinence
 Saturday: Saint Patrick



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

THIS MONTH'S LITURGY AT A GLANCE

The entire month of March is dedicated to the Sundays of Lent, from the third to the fifth, with a profound reflection of Jesus' example of humility and service. These Sundays give a powerful message of self-emptying to follow Christ, knowing that to take the cross is to find a more fulfilling life. We have an insistent promise from God who, in his mercy, does not look at the sins of his people, but over and over again offers salvation, with a generosity and unusual and almost extravagant sacrifice.

The week of March 25 - 31 is liturgically the riches of the entire year. Twice- on Palm Sunday and Good Friday -we read the entire narrative of the Passion of Christ. The liturgy of the Easter vigil is possibly the richest and most complete liturgical rite.

It is the night of the affirmation of our faith, of renewing our baptismal promises, and receiving the new catechumens to the Catholic community.



GUADALUPANAS ANNUAL MEAT BINGO

Sunday, March 11, 2018 at 2:00 p.m. in the school cafeteria. Cost \$7.00 for 15 regular games plus special Bingos with a variety of prizes. There will be food, refreshments and sweets available for purchase. Come join us for a good time and help us as we raise monies for our organization. Thank 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 16 - Spanish Choir/Ultreya

March 23 - ACTS/KOC/Rosary Makers



FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

- As per Father Fidele, **MARK YOUR CALENDAR** for **LENTEN TALK -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.
- Taking orders for **Holy Thursday Candles**, please contact the Parish office. Orders will be taken until Thursday, March 29, 2018.
- Also taking orders for **65 Easter lilies**, please contact Rosa Moreno at the Parish office. Cost is \$10.00 each.
- **Tour of the Seven Churches on Holy Thursday, March 29, 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.



★ **CATHOLIC MEN'S CONFERENCE:** Be a Man on a Mission. Gain a deeper understanding of your dignity as being created in the image and likeness of God; provide direction and resources to help transform yourself, your families, and society. Share a day with Archbishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller and speakers Fr. John Lager, Dr. John Bergsman and Tom Peterson. A brotherhood of men who seek God and are striving to follow Christ. Conference is taking place **March 16 - 17, 2018** at Greehey Arena, St. Mary's University. Register online: www.pilgrimcenterofhope.org or by phone 210.521.3377.

COMMUNAL RESPONSIBILITY

Today is the fourth Sunday of our Lenten preparation. The first reading is a bleak reminder of our sinfulness, our deafness to those who warn us, and the consequences of our continuing arrogance and destructiveness. The psalm tells us what it is like to be separated from the love of God. We weep and we remember. Ephesians offers us hope. God is merciful even though our sins have destroyed our lives. God saves us, not because of who we are but because of who God is. God's love raises us up from our sinful despair. John reminds us that although we deserve condemnation because of our repeated sinfulness, God so loved the world that God did what Abraham was asked to do. God sacrificed Jesus, the beloved Son, that we might be saved.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

How can I pass on the living water that I have received in baptism to others?