

# Fifth Sunday of Lent

## March 18, 2018

### WRITTEN IN STONE

The rules written on the stone tablets given to Moses are easy to remember, if not so easy to follow. Today we learn that the rules are no longer outside ourselves but that God has written them on our hearts. God says, "I will be their God and they shall be my people." We are now bound in a relationship with God and are not just following God's rules. The model for the relationship is Jesus. Jesus, Son though he was, was made perfect through his suffering and became the source of salvation for all of us, who are far less than perfect. Jesus describes this relationship as a grain of wheat, whole unto itself, that falls into the embrace of the earth and is broken in order to produce the life-sustaining wheat.

### WRITTEN IN FLESH

When the rules are written on our hearts, we must look within to measure ourselves, to discover what God expects of us. We are not servants. We are God's people. We are not strangers or foreigners. We are God's people. This kind of relationship, like a deep friendship, a marriage, or parent and child, requires a whole-hearted commitment, a willingness to put the lives of others before our own. We share with Jesus such a relationship, a deep longing for God so that our lives have a meaning beyond their measure. Each of our lives is more than a series of experiences, events, accomplishments. Each of our lives embodies in our flesh the work of God that we see incarnated in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. This relationship expects more of us than rules. This relationship gives us more than rules. This relationship asks for our life and in return gives us eternal life and salvation.

**Today's Readings:** Jer 31:31-34; Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 14-15; Heb 5:7-9; Jn 12:20-33

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### ESCRITO EN PIEDRA

Las reglas escritas en las piedras que le fueron dadas a Moisés son fáciles de recordar, pero no fácil de seguir. Hoy aprendemos que las reglas no están afuera de nosotros, sino que Dios las escribió en nuestros corazones. Dios dice "Yo seré su Dios y ellos serán mi pueblo". Ahora estamos unidos en una relación con Dios y no sólo estamos siguiendo las reglas de Dios. El modelo para una relación es Jesús. Jesús, aun cuando es el Hijo, fue perfecto por medio de su sufrimiento y se hizo el origen de la salvación para todos nosotros que estamos lejos de la perfección. Jesús describe esta relación como un grano de trigo, entero en sí mismo, que cae en las entrañas de la tierra y se abre para producir el trigo que sustenta la vida.

### ESCRITO EN LA CARNE

Cuando las reglas están escritas en nuestros corazones, debemos mirar dentro para medirnos nosotros mismos, para descubrir lo que Dios espera de nosotros. No somos esclavos. Somos el pueblo de Dios. No somos forasteros o extranjeros. Somos el pueblo de Dios. Este tipo de relación, como una amistad de mejores amigos, un matrimonio, la de un padre o una madre con su hijo, requiere de un compromiso de todo corazón, una voluntad para poner la vida de los demás antes de la nuestra. Compartimos con Jesús esa relación, un profundo anhelo por Dios de que nuestras vidas tengan un significado más allá de su medida. Cada una de nuestra vida es más que una serie de experiencias, eventos, logros. Cada una de nuestra vida simboliza en nuestra carne la obra de Dios que vemos encarnada en la vida, muerte y resurrección de Jesús. Esta relación espera más de nosotros que reglas. Esta relación pide por nuestra vida a cambio de darnos la vida eterna y la salvación.

**Lecturas de hoy:** Jer 31:31-34; Sal 51 (50):3-4, 12-13,



### 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 Traspeña	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 CONTRIBUTION REPORT

**MARCH 10 - 11, 2018**

5:00 PM	-\$1,646.00	(185)
8:00 AM	-\$ 549.50	(092)
10:00 AM	-\$1,103.00	(136)
12:00 NOON	-\$ 776.00	(130)
School Mass	-\$ 99.86	
Catholic Relief Services	-\$ 698.80	2nd Collection
2018 Gift of Giving	-\$ 284.56	
Mail In	-\$ 360.00	
<b>TOTAL COLLECTED</b>	<b>-\$5,517.72</b>	

#### Second Collection

\* March 18, 2018 - Good Samaritans of SJB

### 2018 GIFT OF GIVING

Contributions 3/10 - 11, 2018	\$ 210.00
<b>RUNNING BALANCE TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 7,713.90</b>



## Mass Intentions for the Week

### Saturday, March 17

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

### 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  
 † Nieves Barrientes - Olivia Lopez

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

Gift of Life Ricky Cruz Sweet - Mom

### Monday, March 19

### Tuesday, March 20

12:00 p.m. † Ramiro Ayala, Jr. - Mom & Family

### Wednesday, March 21

8:15 a.m. † Arturo De La Vega

### Thursday, March 22

12:00 p.m. Isaias de Ecuador

### Friday, March 23

12:00 p.m. † Frank and Mary Barrera

### Saturday, March 24

5:00 p.m. † Manuel Campos - Family  
 Gift of Life Michael Herrera - Grandparents

### Sunday, March 25 - PALM SUNDAY

8:00 a.m. † Guadalupe Treviño - Nora Treviño  
 † Herlinda Cardenas - Daughter Lupita R.  
 † Irma Rosas - Grandchildren  
 † Roland Cuellar - Mom & Dad

10:00 a.m. † Daniel C. Arzola - Family  
 † Ryan Sanchez - Sanchez Family  
 † Babies Semersky De La Cruz - Family

12:00 p.m. † Melissa Herrera Jenkins - Family  
 † Roman Gabriel Garcia - Mom  
 † Nieves Barrientes - S & R Castillo

Gift of Life Jessica Herrera - Parents  
 Gift of Life Michael Herrera

## In Loving Memory

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

† Mary Ruth Villanueva

### Sanctuary Light

† Padre Pio  
 † Beatrice & Ignacio Gomez



## From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Parishioners:

On the fourth week of Lent, God continues to affirm God's covenant with us through God's son Jesus Christ, our Savior. The Gospel challenges us to listen to Jesus Christ by even risking our own lives for the Kingdom of God. As Jesus said to his disciples: "...unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit. Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates this life in this world will preserve it for eternal life." May we follow Jesus Christ in our lives at any cost.

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 \$352,000.00 with \$140,800.00 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** - I will place my law within them and write it upon their hearts. (Jeremiah 31:31-34)

**Psalm** - Create a clean heart in me, O God (Psalm 51)

**Second Reading** - Christ became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him (Hebrews 5:7-9)

**Gospel** - If a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it produces much fruit (John 12:20-33)

The English translation of the Psalm Responses from *Lectioy for Mass* © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon: 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29;  
Rom 4:13, 16-22; Mt 1:16, 18-24a  
Tue: Nm 21:4-9; Ps 102:2-3, 16-21; Jn 8:21-30  
Wed: Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95; Dn 3:52-56; Jn 8:31-42  
Thu: Gn 17:3-9; Ps 105:4-9; Jn 8:51-59  
Fri: Jer 20:10-13; Ps 18:2-7; Jn 10:31-42  
Sat: Ez 37:21-28; Jer 31:10-13; Jn 11:45-56  
Sun: Mk 11:1-10; Is 50:4-7; Ps 22: 8-24; Phil 2:6-11

## Events of the Week ~ March 18 - 25, 2018

### 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 p.m. **Mass** - Church

### Monday, March 19

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

### Tuesday, March 20

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

### Wednesday, March 21

8:15 a.m. **Mass** - Church  
9:15 a.m. Rosary Makers - Offsite

### Thursday, March 22

12:00 Noon **Mass** - Chapel  
5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Eucharistic Adoration - Chapel  
6:00 p.m. PTC Meeting - Cafeteria  
6:30 p.m. Ultreya English - Room 22  
7:00 p.m. Lenten Talk - Church

### Friday, March 23

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

### Saturday, March 24

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

### Sunday, March 25 - PALM SUNDAY

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 22, 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 spent in the presence of the Holy Eucharist.

Which is Christ, Himself, the One who alone is Holy. You can pray alone or with others, before Jesus in the Tabernacle in our Adoration Chapel.

## 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 24, 2018 - Boys & Girls Scouts

## SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Fifth Sunday of Lent; Third Scrutiny  
Monday: St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
Tuesday: Spring begins  
Friday: Abstinence; St. Turibius of Mogrovejo

### **Fifth Sunday of Lent - March 18, 2018**

*I will place my law within them and write it upon their hearts; I will be their God, and they shall be my people. - Jeremiah 31:33*

Remember God's love for us has no bounds. After all, we were created in God's own image. God has repeatedly rescued humanity from the consequences of sin and evil. Through God's Son, we freely have been given the ultimate gift of salvation. We can be a hopeful people, for throughout all human history, God's boundless love has saved us.



## BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

All requests must be sent by email to [osantoyo1104@gmail.com](mailto: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

## LENTEN SCHEDULE ACTIVITIES:

- **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.
- **ACTS Fish Fry Fundraiser** - Good Friday March 30, 2018 in the SJB School Cafeteria  
**Serving Times:** 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. **and** 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

## YOUTH MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENT - MARK YOUR CALENDARS

St. John Berchmans Youth Ministry will begin its Life Teen series every Thursday in room 1 of the School.

**Life Nights** are open to all youth in middle and high school starting April 5, 2018 from 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. For more information, contact **Dominique Dominguez** at 210.601.8680 or dominiquedominguez9957@yahoo.com

## 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 SCHEDULED:**  
**March 23 - ACTS/KOC/Rosary Makers**



## 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.

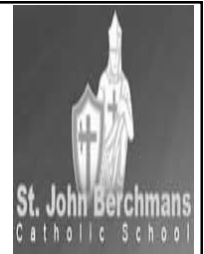
- ◇ Pre-PK Program Cost Similar or Less than Daycare
- ◇ Flexible Afterschool Care Program
- ◇ Extra Curricular Activities & Sports
- ◇ STEM Included in Curriculum

Big things are happening at our little school!!

- **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!



## SAVED BY GOD'S LOVE

Sometimes you'll hear someone say, "I'll forgive, but I won't forget." The implication is that they will always be ready to bring it up if you do anything like this again. But this is not the way God forgives. Jeremiah says God "will forgive their evildoing and remember their sin no more" (Jeremiah 31:34) Indeed, this is the way the Lord has operated throughout scripture, and this is the way God continue to forgive. This is the way we are to forgive each other.

Our Eucharist is the pledge of that indwelling of Christ, and of our response of praise and thanksgiving to God for the mercy, love, and kindness shown to us in forgiving our sins and cleansing our hearts of everything evil. God issues this invitation to intimacy by offering us the chance to have our sufferings transformed into the perfect love of the Savior, who first loved us. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

## QUESTION OF THE WEEK

When I forgive someone who hurt me, do I truly forget it or does it continue to affect our relationship? How can I let go of the injury? How can I be confident that forgetting it will help?