

# Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

March 18, 2018

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## CONTRASTS

Jesus' last days are an experience of contrasts. The man Isaiah describes is courageous in the face of buffets and beatings. Jesus will not be disgraced or put to shame. Everything the priests, elders, soldiers, and friends do is intended to disgrace and shame Jesus. But they fail. Jesus is not without anguish and sorrow. He knows what it feels like to be abandoned and he expresses that in the garden and on the Cross. Yet still Philipians insists that Jesus will be exalted even though humbled and obedient to the point of death. Mark takes Jesus and us back and forth between strength and fear, between courage and humiliation, between obedience and anguish. What are we to make of these contrasts?

## RECOGNITION

Only a centurion, who with the women looking on from a distance sees Jesus breathe his last, knows what we are to make of this. We are to understand, even before the Resurrection, that "this man was the Son of God." How did the centurion know? The centurion knew because he stood facing Jesus, watching him, looking into his face as he died. Though everything was done to strip Jesus of his sense of self, never, ever did he give up his complete and total commitment to God his Father. Even in his anguish and abandonment, he cries out to God. We are left to imagine how his Father answered him, but whatever Jesus heard in his last moments, it left on his face and in his last breath so clear a sign of God's love that one of his crucifiers recognized who he was. The only thing left to Jesus when he died was the abiding certainty of his Father's love. That is a certainty that Jesus took with him to his grave and to his resurrection.

**Today's Readings:** Is 50:4-7; Ps 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24; Phil 2:6 -11; Mk 14:1 - 15:47 [15:1-39]

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## CONTRASTES

Los últimos días de Jesús son una experiencia de contrastes. El hombre que Isaías describe es valiente enfrentando las cachetadas y los golpes. Jesús no será deshonrado ni avergonzado. Todo lo que los sacerdotes, ancianos, soldados y amigos hacen, tiene la intención de deshonrar y avergonzar a Jesús. Pero ellos fallan. Jesús no está sin angustia o tristeza. Él conoce lo que es sentirse abandonado, así como lo manifestó en el jardín de los olivos y en la Cruz. Aun así, la carta a los filipenses insiste en que Jesús será exaltado, aunque humillado y obediente hasta la muerte. Marcos lleva tanto a Jesús como a nosotros de un lugar a otro, entre la fuerza y el temor, entre el valor y la humillación, entre la obediencia y la angustia. ¿Qué es lo que vamos a hacer de estos contrastes?

## RECONOCIMIENTO

Solo un centurión, quien con las mujeres observando desde lejos, notan el último aliento de Jesús, y sabe lo que debe hacerse. Debemos entender, aún antes de la Resurrección, que "este hombre era el Hijo de Dios". ¿Cómo lo supo el centurión? El centurión lo supo porque estaba parado viendo de frente a Jesús, observándolo, mirando hacia su cara en el momento de su muerte. Aunque se hizo todo para despojar a Jesús de su sentido de ser; nunca, nunca renunció a su total compromiso con Dios su Padre. Aún en su angustia y abandono, él clama a Dios. Nos quedamos imaginando cómo le respondió su Padre, pero aquello que Jesús escuchara en sus últimos momentos, dejo en su rostro y en su último aliento muy claro un signo del amor de Dios que uno de sus verdugos reconoce quién era. Lo único que le queda a Jesús cuando muere es la certeza permanente del amor de su Padre. Esa es una certeza que Jesús se llevó a su tumba y a su resurrección

**Lecturas de hoy:** Is 50:4-7; Sal 22 (21):8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24; Flp 2:6 -11; Mc 14:1 — 15:47 [15:1-39]

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## Please Pray for the Sick

### Prayer List Updates



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
Delia Lopez	Coach Lisa Robertson	Elizabeth Quirotero
Abigail Rodriguez	Angie Perez	Toni Hernandez
Rose Loa Gallegos	Julio Ugalde, Jr.	Jesse Villarreal
Roxanne & Linus Joseph	Armandina Flores	John Jimenez
David Colbath	Yvonne De Leon	Rosemary Ramirez
Victims of First Baptist	Delia Riojas	Sofia Delgado
Church of Sutherland	Petra Chavez	Gloria Solis

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

**MARCH 17 - 18, 2018**

5:00 PM	-\$1,337.00	(386)
8:00 AM	-\$ 685.00	(080)
10:00 AM	-\$1,354.00	(134)
12:00 NOON	-\$1,056.92	(147)
Good Samaritans	-\$ 552.80	2nd Collection
2018 Gift of Giving	-\$ 235.21	
Mail In	-\$ 96.00	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>-\$5,316.93</b>	

### Second Collection

\* March 25, 2018 - Altar Flowers  
Thank you for your continued support of our church!

## 2018 GIFT OF GIVING

Contributions 3/17 - 18, 2018	\$ 235.21
<b>RUNNING BALANCE TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 7,949.11</b>

## Mass Intentions for the Week

### 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  
 † Andres Solis, Sr. - Solis 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

### Monday, March 26

### Tuesday, March 27

12:00 p.m. † Jeannie Ybarra

### Wednesday, March 28

8:15 a.m. † Michael Proscelle, Jr.

### Thursday, March 29 - HOLY THURSDAY

7:00 p.m. Justin Rey Martinez  
 Alejandro De Leon - Rose Rodriguez

### Friday, March 30 - GOOD FRIDAY

3:00 p.m. Via Crucis Passion of Christ

### Saturday, March 31 - EASTER VIGIL

3:00 p.m. † George Hernandez - Wife & Family  
 † Diamantina Garcia - Sister  
 † Rudy A. Moreno - Family  
 † Martin & Margaret Burrell - Daughter  
 † Jose, † Juana & † Jesus Castillo - Family

Gift of Life Cristina Santoyo - Family

### Sunday, April 1 - EASTER SUNDAY

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

In Thanksgiving Frank Rodriguez - Family

In Thanksgiving Geraldine Lucio - Family

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

† Ryan Sanchez - Sanchez Family

† Juan C. Velasquez - Daughter

† Ida & † Amos Burrell - Family

† Aline Persyn - Family

12:00 p.m. † Melissa Herrera Jenkins - Family

† Jose Luis Gonzalez - Family

† Irene Tello - Olivia

## *In Loving Memory*

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

† Michael Proscelle, Jr.



### Sanctuary Light

† Alejandro De Leon  
 † Rudy A. Moreno



## From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Parishioners:

Today we celebrate Palm Sunday. Palm Sunday reminds us of the triumphant entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem, knowing that he was about to face suffering, death and resurrection. We ultimately are celebrating the victory of life over death. Jesus Christ overpowered death and delivered us life...life everlasting. May we journey with Jesus as we carry our daily cross, during Holy Week, which will allow us to overpower doubts, fear, suffering and sins. May the conclusion of this Lenten Season enable us to resurrect with our Savior, Jesus Christ, by abandoning our bad habits. Let us all make a special effort to attend Holy Week celebrations, specifically the Triduum: Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday.

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.

Allow me also to extend my sincere thanks and congratulation to Rosalinda Rodriguez, Director of Religious Education 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.

The Capital Campaign 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 schools.

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 \$352,00.00 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

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## TODAY'S READINGS

**Gospel at the Procession with Palms** - Jesus' entry into Jerusalem (Mark 11:1-10 or John 12:12-16).

**First Reading** - In spite of my sufferings I am not disgraced. I am not put to shame (Isaiah 50:4-7).

**Psalm** - My God, my God, why have you abandoned me? (Psa 22).

**Second Reading** - Christ emptied himself, and God filled this emptiness with exaltation (Philippians 2:6-11).

**Gospel** - The account of Christ's passion according to Mark (Mark 14:1-15:47).  
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: Is 42:1-7; Ps 27:1-3, 13-14; Jn 12:1-11  
Tue: Is 49:1-6; Ps 71:1-6, 15, 17; Jn 13:21-33, 36-38  
Wed: Is 50:4-9a; Ps 69:8-10, 21-22, 31, 33-34; Mt 26:14-25  
Thu: Ex 12:1-8-14; Ps 116:12-18; 1 Cor 11:23-26 Jn 13:1-15  
Fri: Is 52:13 - 53:12; Ps 31:2, 6, 12-13, 15-17, 25;  
Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9; Jn 18:1 - 19:42  
Sat: Gn 1:1 - 2:2; Ps 104:1- 35; Mk 16:1-7  
Sun: Acts 10:34a, 37-43; Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23; Col 3:1-4

## Events of the Week ~ March 25 - April 1, 2018

### 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 p.m. Mass - Church

### Monday, March 26

12:00 p.m. Communion Service - Chapel

### Tuesday, March 27

12:00 Noon Communion Service - Chapel  
7:00 p.m. Spanish Prayer Group - Church

### Wednesday, March 28

8:15 a.m. Children's Mass - Church  
9:15 a.m. Rosary Makers - Offsite

## HOLY TRIDIUM

### Thursday, March 29 - HOLY THURSDAY

6:00 p.m. Tenebrae - Youth Ministry - Church  
7:00 p.m. Bilingual Mass - Washing of the Feet  
9:00 p.m.- Midnite Adoration

### Friday, March 30 - GOOD FRIDAY

11:00 a.m. ACTS Fish Fry - Cafeteria  
3:00 p.m. Via Crucis Passion of Christ

### Saturday, March 31 - EASTER VIGIL

8:00 p.m. Bilingual Mass - Church

### Sunday, April 1 - EASTER 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



## HOLY THURSDAY, MARCH 29, 2018 Adoration Schedule

9pm - 10pm - Guadalupana Society/  
SJB School/Youth  
10pm - 11pm - Ultreya/CCD/Rosary Makers  
11pm - 12 Midnite ACTS/Knights/CYO

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

We will **not** conduct religious education classes on Sunday, April 1, 2018 due to the Easter holiday.

Celebrate this Easter with a heart filled with love and peace. Be thankful because Jesus gave us another chance to be a good person. Have a blessed and wonderful Easter!

On behalf of Father Fidele, the Catechists and myself, Rosalinda Rodriguez, we want to wish you the miracle that Easter bring you: renewed hope, faith, love and joy.

**Classes will resume on Sunday, April 8, 2018.**

## 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. We thank you for your time to this important ministry!

### Cleaning Schedule of Ministries:

March 31, 2018 - CCD

## SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord  
Monday: Monday of Holy Week  
Tuesday: Tuesday of Holy Week  
Wednesday: Wednesday of Holy Week  
Thursday: Holy Thursday; The Sacred Paschal Tridium  
Friday: Friday of the Passion of the Lord (Good Friday); Fast and Abstinence; Passover begins  
Saturday: The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night



## 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

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**PALM SUNDAY** commemorates the triumphal entrance of Christ in Jerusalem (Matthew 21:109) when palm branches were placed in His path, before His arrest on Holy Thursday and His Crucifixion on Good Friday.

It thus marks the beginning of the Holy Week, the final week of Lent, and the week in which Christians celebrate the mystery of their salvation through Christ's death and His Resurrection on Easter Sunday.

## **PASSION OF CHRIST**

We encourage all parishioners to attend this traditional Lenten service as we gather to reflect on the Passion of the Lord. Come and experience the love of Jesus for yourself. This play is enacted by the students of St. John Berchmans School.



**GOOD FRIDAY, March 30, 2018 at 3:00 p.m. in the Church**

- **Holy Thursday Candles**, please contact the Parish office. Orders will be taken until Thursday, March 29
- **Easter lilies** are still available, 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 still available and limited to 54 individuals.

## **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](mailto:dominiquedominguez9957@yahoo.com)



## **ACTS FISH FRY FUNDRAISER**

St. John Berchmans ACTS organization will host it's annual Fish Fry on Friday, March 30, 2018 in the School Cafeteria

**Serving Times:** 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. **and** 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

**Tickets:** \$7.00 per plate

**Plate includes:** Fish, Fries, Coleslaw and bread. Tickets available in Parish Office.

## **ST. JOHN BERCHMANS CATHOLIC SCHOOL Pk3 - 8TH Grade**

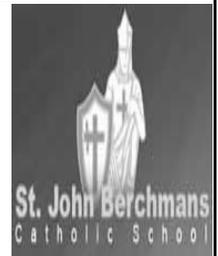
- **REGISTRATION** currently underway for the 2018-2019 school year.

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!!

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



## **PASSION**

The contrast between the processional reading in today's liturgy and the proclamation of the Passion is striking. We are given a glimpse of how profoundly the word of God is fulfilled in Jesus.

First he must be hailed as the Messiah, the One who is to come. He must be acknowledged by all, though they do not know what they are saying. They think he is the promised king, a worldly king of the Jews who will free them from the Roman occupation. They do not yet understand, even the disciples, exactly where this triumphal procession is leading. In our lives, we too do not know where we are going. It is in faith that we can follow Christ wherever he may lead us, trusting that death is not the end, nor evil the victor.

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## **QUESTION OF THE WEEK**

As we enter the final days of this Lenten journey, am I ready to respond to the Christ in others with loyalty, courage, and love in whatever condition I find them, through whatever difficulties they may have undergone?