

The Nativity of St. John the Baptist

June 24, 2018

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RIPE AND READY

Teachers and coaches know how to modify their tactics to reach various learners. God does the same with us, perfectly assessing the precise intervention we need in particular situations. God sent Jesus into the world at the ripest moment in human history. Although plenty of prophets, for centuries, had foretold the coming of the Messiah, the profound honor of meeting Christ himself fell to John the Baptist. The Gospel of Matthew tells us what this blessed prophet was like: "John wore clothing made of camel's hair and had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey." Out of an infinite variety of people throughout all of human history, God chose John the Baptist, in his wildness, to make us ready to meet the Son of God.

LEAST LIKELY TO SUCCEED

Few, if any, of us would be likely to choose John the Baptist as the one to prepare the world to meet its savior. Most of us would feel awkward around John, given his food and clothing choices, and his constant reminders to repent of our sins. John's own father, Zechariah, doubted God's providence when he learned his wife Elizabeth would give birth to John. As a punishment, the angel Gabriel removed Zechariah's ability to speak. Luke's Gospel reading today recounts the moment when Zechariah acknowledges God's plan for his son. He supports Elizabeth—who had trusted in God's providence all along—and regains his voice. Zechariah rejoices in God's wisdom, praising God to all their neighbors.

John's story reminds us how our instincts often run counter to God's wisdom. Though we avoid awkward and difficult people, God chooses a locust-eating man to show us the way to Jesus. The lesson of John the Baptist is never to underestimate the power and wisdom of God. This inspires hope! We, like John, are "fearfully, wonderfully made" (Psalm 139). God has beautiful plans for each of us.

Today's Readings: Is 49:1-6; Ps 139:1-3, 13-14, 14-15; Acts 13:22-26; Lk 1:57-66, 80

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MADURO Y LISTO

Los profesores y entrenadores conocen cómo modificar sus tácticas que ayuden a sus diferentes estudiantes. Dios hace lo mismo con nosotros, evaluando perfectamente la intervención precisa que necesitamos en situaciones particulares. Dios envía a Jesús al mundo en el momento más maduro en la historia de la humanidad. Aunque por siglos, muchos profetas habían anunciado la venida del Mesías, el profundo honor de conocer al mismo Cristo cayó sobre Juan el Bautista. El Evangelio de Mateo nos dice que este profeta bendecido era así: "Juan usaba ropa hecha con piel de camello y tenía un cinturón sobre su cintura. Comía insectos y miel silvestre". De una infinita variedad de personas a lo largo de toda la historia de la humanidad, Dios eligió a Juan el Bautista, en su vida salvaje, para prepararnos a conocer al Hijo de Dios.

MENOS PROBABLE PARA TENER ÉXITO

Pocos de nosotros, si es que alguno, probablemente elegiríamos a Juan el Bautista para preparar al mundo para encontrarse a su salvador. Muchos de nosotros nos sentiríamos incómodos estando cerca de Juan, por su comida y su forma de vestir y su constante insistencia de recordarnos del arrepentimiento de nuestros pecados. El mismo Zacarías, padre de Juan, dudaba de la providencia de Dios cuando supo que su esposa Isabel tendría a Juan. Como castigo, el ángel Gabriel le quitó el habla. La lectura del Evangelio de Lucas narra el momento en que Zacarías reconoce el plan de Dios para su hijo. Él apoya a Isabel, quien confió en la providencia de Dios todo el tiempo, y así recupera el habla. Zacarías se alegra de la sabiduría de Dios, alabando a Dios a todos sus vecinos.

La historia de Juan nos recuerda como nuestros instintos a menudo están en contra de la sabiduría de Dios. Aunque evitamos a las personas torpes y difíciles, Dios elige a un hombre que come insectos para mostrarnos el camino hacia Jesús. La lección de Juan el Bautista es nunca subestimar la fuerza y sabiduría de Dios. ¡Eso debe inspirarnos esperanza! Nosotros, como Juan, somos "temerosos, hechos maravillosamente" (Salmo 139). Dios tiene bellos planes para cada uno de nosotros.

Lecturas de hoy: Is 49:1-6; Sal 139 (138):1-3, 13-14, 14-15; Hch 13:22-26; Lc 1:57-66, 80

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Please Pray for the Sick

Prayer List Updates



Linda Davila	Andrew Arizmendez, Jr.	Graciela Puente
Justin Rey Martinez	Alethea R. Ybarra	Sarah Contreras
Brandon Rivas	Norma R. Morgan	Alfredo Cruz
Christine Rosales	David Santoyo	Gina Gonzalez
Yvonne Neilon	Roland Martinez, Jr.	Celia Hernandez
Ricky Lopez	Roland Martinez, Sr.	Delia Lopez
Yamil Traspeña	Sara Navarro	Alfredo Moreno
John Ruiz	Chris Muñoz	Howard Sixsmith
Frances Ramirez	Roxsandra Gallardo	Isidro Mata
Evelyn Parra	Elizabeth Quirotero	Celina Herrera
Coach Lisa Robertson	John Jimenez	Denise Schexnayder
Angie Perez	Rosemary Ramirez	Henry Quintero
Julio Ugalde, Jr.	Sofia Delgado	Armando Urdiales
Armandina Flores	Jose A. Ponce, Jr.	Victims and Families of
Yvonne De Leon	Terri Lopez	Santa Fe High School
Delia Riojas	F.J. Rodriguez	Mary S. Martinez
Petra Chavez	Eddie Villareal	Roland Valverde
Carmen Solis	David Diaz	Daniel Traspeña
Enrique Cepeda	Anmarie Vasquez	

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

JUNE 16-17, 2018

5:00 PM	-\$ 757.00	(090)
8:00 AM	-\$ 425.55	(094)
10:00 AM	-\$1,219.22	(168)
12:00 NOON	-\$ 957.50	(150)
Altar Flowers	-\$ 298.09	2nd Collection
Father's Day Envelopes	-\$ 424.00	
2018 Gift of Giving	-\$ 209.23	
Mail In	-\$ 225.00	
TOTAL	-\$4,431.59	

Thank you for your continued support of our church!

Second Collection

June 24, 2018 - Peter's Pence

2018 GIFT OF GIVING

Contributions 6/16-17, 2018	\$ 209.23
RUNNING BALANCE TOTAL	\$10,731.83

Announcements

www.stjohnberchmans.com

Mass Intentions FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, June 23

5:00 p.m. † George Hernandez - Wife & Family

Sunday, June 24

8:00 a.m. † Guadalupe Treviño - Nora Treviño
† Daniel M. Euresti - Family
† Ted Rodriguez - Rose Rodriguez
† Alejandro De Leon - Rose Rodriguez
† Octavio Lopez, Sr. - Rose Rodriguez

10:00 a.m. † Daniel C. Arzola - Family
† Margaret & † Martin Burrell - Daughter
† Ida & † Amos Burrell - Family
† Aline Persyn - Family
† Trinidad & Olivia Garcia - Family

12:00 p.m. For All Immigrant Children Separated from their Families
Gift of Life Virginia Ponce - Ponce Family

Monday, June 25

12:00

Tuesday, June 26

12:00 p.m.
Health of Daniel Traspeña

Wednesday, June 27

12:00 p.m. † Jeannie Ybarra

Thursday, June 28

12:00 p.m. Isaias de Ecuador

Friday, June 29

12:00 p.m. † George Cruz - Family
† Zulema Orosco - Family

Saturday, June 30

5:00 p.m. † Richard Muñoz - Muñoz Family

Sunday, July 1

8:00 a.m. † Guadalupe Treviño - Nora Treviño
† Sixto Martinez - Rose Rodriguez
† Rodolfo Niño - Rose Rodriguez
† Ramon Gonzalez - Rose Rodriguez
† Cesar Samuel Lopez - Esposa

10:00 a.m. † Mary Lou & Eloy Alvarado - Family
† Margaret & † Martin Burrell - Daughter
† Ida & † Amos Burrell - Family
† Aline Persyn - Family
† Daniel C. Arzola - Family

12:00 p.m. For Our St. John Berchmans Community

The Loving Memory

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

† Edgar Frank Aelvoet

Sanctuary Light

For All Immigrant Children
Separated from their Families



From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Parishioners:

I have created a small Liturgy Committee for the purpose of overseeing and planning yearly liturgical seasons and events such as Advent, Lent, ordinary time, talks, spiritual activities and Eucharistic celebrations. This small committee is comprised of Mrs. Linda Campbell, Mrs. Elida Gonzales, Ms. Edna Mosely and Ms. Stella Rico. Mrs. Linda Campbell has been appointed as liturgy coordinator with her assistant being Mrs. Elida Gonzales. I have full confidence that Linda and Elida will be most successful and invite all of you to rally behind them to improve our spiritual life.

I am very grateful to Mrs. Rosie Gallegos who has led the Bereavement Ministry for the past 15 years. Her dedication to this ministry is very remarkable and highly appreciated. Mrs. Dora Duran and Ms. Kathy Flores have agreed to undertake the leadership of the Bereavement Ministry. We wish them the best and pray that their involvement will have a very positive impact on the lives of those who have lost their loved ones.

I wish all of you students, teacher and parishioners a very restful summer. Please do not take a vacation from God. If you happen to travel outside of San Antonio, or even outside of Texas or the United States of America, please remember to attend mass on Sunday or everyday if possible. God blesses us with life, health, families, friends, great country, and we need to be grateful every single day. Let us worship Him as much as we can. I would also like to remind you that if you do not attend mass at St. John Berchmans during the summer time, please remember to either mail us your weekly monetary contribution or drop off your envelopes or monetary contribution in the Parish office. We need to continue to support our parish even during the summer. The parish's bills need to be paid even during vacation time. Thank you for your collaboration and generosity. May God guide you and protect you during the summer time.

The tickets for our annual Fall Festival raffle are now available. We have 10 wonderful prizes with \$5,000 being the first prize. I invite each family to sell at least 100 tickets for \$1.00 per ticket. We have ordered 50,000 tickets and I have personally taken 1,000 tickets. My expectation is that everyone sell as many tickets as possible. Remember the profit from our annual Festival will help us pay bills and eventually purchase an electronic marquee. I have trust and confidence in each one of you to rise to the occasion.

I thank all of you who have pledged or donated money toward the Capital Campaign. St. John Berchmans community is required to raise \$352,000 with \$140,800 the equivalency being 40% being returned to our parish to address three projects that we have identified for our community. As of the weekend of June 9 - 10, 2018 only 28% have pledged or paid. Please consider making your pledge as soon as possible. I thank those of you who have contributed toward the campaign.

May God bless you always,



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

Announcements

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TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading - I will make you a light to the nations (Isa 49:1-6)
Psalms - I praise you for I am wonderfully made (Psalm 139)
Second Reading - John heralded his coming by proclaiming a baptism of repentance (Acts 13:22-26).
Gospel - John is his name (Luke 1:57-66, 80). The English translation of the Psalms Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon: 2 Kgs 17:5-8, 13-15a, 18; Ps 60:3-5, 12-13; Mt 7:1-5
Tue: 2 Kgs 19:9-21, 31-36; Ps 48:2-4, 10-11; Mt 7:6, 12-14
Wed: 2 Kgs 22:8-13; 23:1-3; Ps 119:33-37, 40; Mt 7:15-20
Thu: 2 Kgs 24:8-17; Ps 79:1b-5, 8, 9; Mt 7:21-29
Fri: **Vigil:** Acts 3:1-10; Ps 19:2-5; Gal 1:11-20; Jn 21:15-19
Day: Acts 12:1-11; Ps 34:2-9; 2 Tm 4:6-18; Mt 16:13-19
Sat: Lam 2:2, 10-14, 18-19; Ps 74:1b-7, 20-21; Mt 8:15-17
Sun: Wis 1:13-15; 2:23-24; Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-13;
2 Cor 8:7, 9, 13-15; Mk 5:21-43

Events of the Week ~ June 24 - July 1, 2018

Sunday, June 24

7:30 a.m. Divine Mercy - Church
ACTS TACO SALE AFTER ALL MASSES
8:00 a.m. **Spanish Mass** - Church
10:00 a.m. **Mass** - Church
12:00 p.m. **Mass** - Church

Monday, June 25

12:00 p.m. Communion Service
6:30 p.m. ACTS Team Meeting - Cafeteria

Tuesday, June 26

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

Wednesday, June 27

9:15 a.m. Rosary Makers - Offsite
12:00 p.m. **Communion Service** - Chapel
6:30 p.m. Youth Core Meeting - Room 1

Thursday, June 28

12:00 p.m. **Communion Service** - Church
6:30 p.m. English Ultreya - Room 22
7:00 p.m. Youth Ministry - Room 1

Friday, June 29

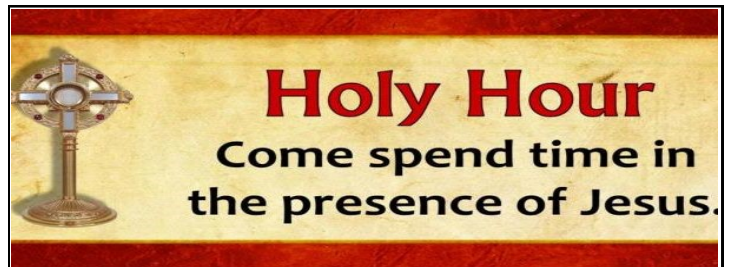
12:00 p.m. **Communion Service** - Chapel

Saturday, June 30

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

Sunday, July 1

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, JUNE 28, 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 ways is 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: Christ, Himself, the One who alone is Holy.



ST. JOHN BERCHMANS WOMEN'S ACTS RETREAT

Scheduled for July 13 - 15, 2018 at St. Anthony Padua. Cost is \$170.00.

The retreat goals are to allow opportunities for women to focus on their faith and its application in their daily lives, to increase their presence at the liturgy and to cultivate friendship among members of the church community. If you are interested in attending this retreat, please contact: Sylvia Gomez, 210.215.4855, Kimberly Mata, 210.9957437 or Angie Diaz 210.919.2411.

CHURCH CLEANING MINISTRY

Our parish is always in need of a few good hands every Saturday morning to help us clean our beautiful church. Thank you for your commitment to our place of worship and to our community.

Cleaning Schedule of Ministries

June 30, 2018 — Boys & Girls Club

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: The Nativity of St. John the Baptist
Monday: Twelfth Week in Ordinary Time
Wednesday: St. Cyril of Alexandria
Thursday: St. Irenaeus
Friday: Ss. Peter and Paul
Saturday: The First Martyrs of the Holy Roman Church; Blessed Virgin Mary



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 210-434-3247 to fill out a registration form.

Announcements

www.stjohnberchmans.com

SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND FOR PETER'S PENCE

Thank you for your generous support of Pope Francis' work through the Peter's Pence Collection. Through this gift, you join in solidarity with him as a witness of charity. To learn more about the Peter's Pence collection, please visit www.vatican.va and search "Peter's Pence."



SOUTH TEXAS BLOOD & TISSUE CENTER WILL HOLD A SUMMER BLOOD DRIVE

Date: Sunday, July 8, 2018

Time: 10:15 am - 1:45 pm

Where: In the Church Parking Lot

Blood Donor Requirements:

Anyone who is 16 years old and weighs at least 120 pounds (with a parental consent form), or at least 17 years old and weighs at least 190 pounds, and in good general health can donate blood. Donors must present photo ID, last four digits of their Social Security number and their birth date.

All presenting donors will receive:

- A safe and secure donation experience
- Skilled care from our staff
- A wellness checkup and **Thank you Gift**
- Access to convenient online scheduling

CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES

If you a Parishioner of St. John Berchmans, you must use your contribution envelopes to be considered and recorded as a registered parishioner. In addition, at the end of the year you may request a letter of your yearly contributions to the church for income tax purposes. Thank you!

Si esta registrado en nuestra parroquia de St. John Berchmans debe utilizar los sobres de la contribución para ser consideradas y regrades como un feligrés registrado. Además, al fin del año puede pedir (solicitor) una carta de su contribución annual a la iglesia para declaración de impuesto. Gracias!

MCCULLOUGH HALL NURSING CENTER (MHNC)

This nursing center has long served as a Long Term Care facility for the Sisters of Divine Providence. Opened 46 years ago, the nursing facility has always provided quality care for people in their wisdom years. Now, in addition to the Sisters, MHNC is accepting laypeople as residents.

MHNC is a Skilled Nursing facility, with 51 beds, that accepts Medicare, Medicaid and private pay residents.

If you are interested in your love one enjoying life at MHNC, please contact Ms. Jessica Stemmerding, Administrator at 210.435.7711, extension 1164 or at jstemmerding@mchall.org.



FIRST EARLY BIRD DRAWING WINNER FOR SUNDAY, JUNE 17, 2018

MILLIE CLEVELAND - \$50.00 GIFT CARD

NEXT EARLY BIRD DRAWING SCHEDULED FOR SUNDAY, JULY 15, 2018

JOHN THE BAPTIST

Since June 24 falls on a Sunday this year, the Church has the opportunity for a more intense celebration of the birth of John the Baptist, who is often described as the last of the Old Testament prophets and the bridge between Judaism and Christianity. More commonly, John is known as the "precursor" of our Lord Jesus Christ. All the Gospels report John's basic message: Repent, the kingdom is near at hand. One greater than I is coming.

Though he was a wandering preacher who dressed in camel skins and ate grasshoppers, John's legacy is one of true royalty. His origins are similar to those foretold by God through the prophet Isaiah: "You are my servant, he said to me, Israel through whom I show my glory" (Isaiah 49:3). John's humility—"I am not he"—was surpassed only by that of his Lord Jesus, the humble servant who followed. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

How can I prepare the way for Jesus in my corner of the world? Can I recognize a desert somewhere in my world that is without Jesus' message of hope and comfort?