

Twenty-second Sunday In Ordinary Time

September 2, 2018

HUMAN TRADITION

It would be easy to wonder why the disciples ate “unwashed hands,” especially in those times when dust and dirt were plentiful and the disciples worked with their hands as fishermen. But these scriptures are not concerned so much with physical cleanliness as with spiritual cleanliness.

The Pharisees, who were so picky about following every letter of every law, had an “aha” moment in which they saw an opportunity to accuse Jesus and the disciples of breaking the law of Moses. Jesus responds in a very sensible way. He says, “Well did Isaiah prophesy about you hypocrites, as it is written:

*This people honors me with their lips,
But their hearts are far from me;
In vain do they worship me,
Teaching as doctrines human precepts.*

You disregard God’s commandment but cling to human tradition.”

TRADITION TODAY

The same could be said about some of today’s Christians, who are so enamored of the past that they cannot see that Jesus has brought about a new interpretation of tradition. Just as we celebrate birthdays with cake and candles, perhaps now with chocolate cake and tiny candles—whereas in the past it was only white cake and bigger candles—tradition adapts to the times while holding on to the essence of what was celebrated before. Tradition preserves the essence while changing the details, something that some of us may fail to grasp. Such people may want everything to be the same in every detail, and accuse others of failure to worship properly because they do not hold to past practices.

Like the Pharisees, sometimes we want to cling to the way things were done our childhood, never accepting change of any kind. We fail to see the essence of the tradition preserved in a new way of doing things. Perhaps we don’t understand the essence of tradition, or perhaps we are so unsure of ourselves that we want to be instructed strictly in the old ways, like the Pharisees who knew the law by heart and were quite comfortable practicing what poorer people had no way of doing perfectly. It was the poorer people who followed Jesus because he offered them hope.

It would be well for us to remember that the essence of tradition is the worship of God, not the preservation of human habits. We can learn to practice charity and love in emulation of others who have willingly, in following Jesus, held their faith to mean loving their neighbor.

Today’s Readings: Dt 4:1-2, 6-8; Ps 15:2-5; James 1:17-22, 27; Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

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TRADICIÓN HUMANA

Sería fácil preguntarse por qué los discípulos comían “sin lavarse las manos”, especialmente en aquel tiempo cuando el polvo y la suciedad proliferaban y los discípulos trabajaban con sus manos siendo pescadores. Pero estas Escrituras no están preocupadas demasiado tanto con la limpieza física sino con la limpieza espiritual.

Los fariseos, quienes eran tan escrupulosos siguiendo cada letra de los preceptos religiosos y la Ley, tuvieron un momento de “aja” en el cual vieron una oportunidad de acusar a Jesús y sus discípulos de no cumplir con la Ley de Moisés. Jesús les respondió en una manera muy sensible. Él dice: “¡Qué bien profetizó Isaías sobre ustedes, hipócritas, cuando escribió: *Este pueblo me honra con los labios, pero su corazón está lejos de mí. Es inútil el culto que me rinden, porque enseñan doctrinas que no son sino preceptos humanos!*

Ustedes dejan a un lado el mandamiento de Dios, para aferrarse a las tradiciones de los hombres”.

LA TRADICIÓN DE HOY

Lo mismo podría decirse de algunos de los cristianos contemporáneos, que están tan enamorados del pasado que no pueden ver que Jesús nos ha traído una nueva interpretación de la tradición. Así como celebramos los cumpleaños con pastel y velitas, quizá ahora con pastel de chocolate y velas decorativas, aunque en el pasado solo fue un pastel blanco y velas más grandes, la tradición se adapta a los tiempos y a su vez se sostiene en la esencia de lo que se celebraba antes. La tradición preserva la esencia aunque los detalles cambien, algo que algunos de nosotros no entendemos. Esas personas quizá quieran que todo sea de lo mismo en cada detalle y acusan a otros de no alabar correctamente porque no respetan como se hacían las cosas en el pasado.

Como los fariseos, algunas veces queremos aferrarnos a la forma en cómo se hicieron las cosas en nuestra niñez, nunca aceptando ningún tipo de cambio. Fallamos para ver la esencia de la tradición preservada en una nueva forma de hacer las cosas. Quizá no entendemos la esencia de la tradición, o quizás estamos inseguros de nosotros que queremos ser estrictamente instruidos en las antiguas formas, como los fariseos que conocían la ley de memoria y estaban muy cómodos practicando lo que los más pobres no tenían manera de hacer perfectamente. Fueron los más pobres quienes siguieron a Jesús porque él les ofreció esperanza.

Estaría bien para nosotros recordar que la esencia de la tradición es el culto a Dios, no la preservación de los hábitos humanos. Podemos aprender a practicar la caridad y el amor al emular a otros quienes deseándolo, siguen a Jesús, manteniendo su fe en el sentido de amar a su prójimo.

Lecturas de hoy: Dt 4:1-2, 6-8; Sal 15:2-5; Sant 1:17-22, 27; Marcos 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

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Please Pray for the Sick

Prayer List Updates



Rosemary Ramirez	Henry Quintero	Jesse Mario Vega
Sofia Delgado	Armando Urdiales	Orlando L. Vega & Children
Brandon Rivas	David Santoyo	Justin Rey Martinez
Jose A. Ponce, Jr.	Mary S. Martinez	Roxsandra Gallardo
Terri Lopez	Roland Valverde	Paul Sifuentes
F.J. Rodriguez	Elodia Gallegos	Lucy Clare Treviño
Eddie Villareal	Linda Davila	Lupita Gomez
David Diaz	Connie Tenorio	Irene Perez
Annmarie Vasquez	Andrew Villegas	Kaylan Rae Ramirez
Graciela Puente	Irene Perez	Louie & Estefana Reyes
Sarah Contreras	Yadira Traspeña	Frances Ramirez
Alfredo Cruz	Baby Gracie Bernal	Alex Hernandez
Gina Gonzalez	Benito A. Perales	Jesse Diaz
Celia Hernandez	Francisco Angel Perales	John Ruiz
Delia Lopez	Anselmo A. Perales	Pastor Stuart Juleen
Alfredo Moreno	Mario Andress Perales	
Howard Sixsmith	Martha Lucy Vega & Children	
Isidro Mata	Jesse Vega	
Celina Herrera		

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

AUGUST 25-26, 2018

5:00 PM	-\$ 854.85	(116)
8:00 AM	-\$ 632.72	(086)
10:00 AM	-\$1,368.95	(158)
12:00 NOON	-\$ 834.67	(202)
Religious Education	-\$ 543.13	2nd Collection
School Mass	-\$ 63.00	
2018 Gift of Giving	-\$ 212.39	
Mail In	-\$ 122.00	
TOTAL	-\$4,631.71	

Thank you for your continued support of our church!

Second Collection

September 2, 2018 - Capital Improvements

2018 GIFT OF GIVING

Contributions 8/25-26, 2018	\$ 212.39
RUNNING BALANCE TOTAL	\$12,488.48

Announcements

Mass Intentions FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, September 1

5:00 p.m. † Mary Lou Alvarado - Family
 † Jose, Emilio, Jose Jr. Estrada - Reynero Family
 † Eugenio Toscano - Family
 † Concepcion Solis - Family
 † Rudy Moreno - Family
 In Thanksgiving Blessed Virgin Mary - Leonor Rodriguez

Sunday, September 2

8:00 a.m. † Guadalupe Treviño - Nora Treviño
 † Juan Silva - Familia
 10:00 a.m. † Maria Elena Martinez - Family
 † Ryan Sanchez - Sanchez Family
 † Feliz, Basilisa, Aurelia, Santos Estrada - Reynero Family
 † Maria Isabel Castro - David & Mary Vela
 † Daniel C. Arzola - Family
 12:00 p.m. † Margaret & † Martin Burrell - Daughter
 † Ida & † Amos Burrell - Family
 † Aline Persyn - Family
 † Moises Lawrence Reyes - John & Diana

Monday, September 3 - LABOR DAY

12:00

Tuesday, September 4

12:00 p.m. † Mercedes Lopez - Olivia Lopez

Wednesday, September 5

8:15 a.m. † Alejandro De Leon - Rose Rodriguez
 Gift of Life Marcus Evan Torres

Thursday, September 6

12:00 p.m. † Jesus Villarreal - Relative

Friday, September 7

12:00 p.m.
 Gift of Life Helen Lloyd

Saturday, September 8 - Healing Service after Mass

5:00 p.m. † Robert Sepulveda - Campos Family
 † Moises Lawrence Reyes - John & Grandkids
 † Denise Guzman - Socorro & Raquel

Sunday, September 9 **

8:00 a.m. † Ernestina & Guadalupe Huerta - Children
 † Guadalupe Treviño - Nora Treviño
 † Victor Garcia - Willie Garcia
 † Sr. Rosario Juarez - Angie Canales
 In Thanksgiving Las Guadalupanas
 10:00 a.m. † Juan Alberto Martinez - Family
 † Hope Lopez - Family
 † Joel & Olivia Benavides - Family
 † Ryan Sanchez - Sanchez Family
 † Daniel C. Arzola - Family
 12:00 p.m. † Margaret & † Martin Burrell - Daughter
 † Ida & † Amos Burrell - Family
 † Aline Persyn - Family

**Healing Service on Sunday for 8am and 10am Mass only

The Loving Memory

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



Sanctuary Light
For Victims of Abuse



From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Parishioners:

Our convent facility known as the "Formation House" has undergone extensive remodeling and repair during these past six months. It has previously hosted Religious members of CICM in formation, including myself, and Notre Dame University students under a two year master degree program. The House is now available for rentals at a reasonable cost. The House will accommodate anniversaries, Fellowships, Baby Showers, Birthdays, Graduations, Reunions and other celebrations. Mr. Philip H. Saldaña has been officially appointed as manager of the facility and for the celebrations. If you should require more information, please contact Mr. Saldaña at 210) 589-9416 or the church office at 210) 434.3247. Please share this information with your families, relatives and friends.

Our Fall Festival 2018 T-Shirts are currently on sale! They are available in two colors, navy and purple, with all sizes available for order. Each T-Shirt costs \$10.00 for children's sizes including medium and XL for adults. Any additional X size will cost \$2.00 more (2XL-4XL). Please become part of the celebration by placing your order as soon as possible and support our Fall Festival. You can order your T-shirt after each mass this weekend or you may order in the office. Thank you for your support and generosity.

Six Pack Sunday has begun and we invite each one of you to bring either soda or water packs, preferably in cans, according to the mass you attend. The following informs parishioners of their contributions' according to their preferred mass:

- 5:00 p.m. Saturday Mass: Big Red
- 8:00 a.m. Sunday Mass: Water
- 10:00 a.m. Sunday Mass: Sprite and Dr. Pepper
- 12:00 p.m. Sunday Mass: Regular Coke and Diet Coke

Your contributions toward Six Pack Sunday are greatly appreciated and will continue until Saturday, September 22nd. Please bring your soda or water contributions to Mass, or to the church office, at your convenience. Thank you again for all the initiatives towards our success for our Fall Festival 2018!

We welcome Victor and Karen Araguz as our new religious education coordinators for the Religious Education program. I invite the community to rally behind Victor and Karen for the success of the program and of our children and invite all Religion Education students to register by contacting Victor or Karen at this number 210.286.1369. The education of our children needs to be a responsibility of the entire community. "It takes a village to raise a child." The Religion Education Program starts on Sunday, September 9, 2018.

May God bless you always,

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

Announcements

www.stjohnberchmans.com

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading -For what great nation is there that has gods so close to it as the LORD, our God, is to us? (Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-8).

Psalm - The one who does justice will live in the presence of the Lord (Psalm 15).

Second Reading - Religion that is pure is this: to care for orphans and widows in their affliction (James 1:17-18, 21- 27).

Gospel - This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me (Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23). The English translation of the Psalm Responses from *Lectio* for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon: 1 Cor 2:1-5; Ps 119:97-102; Lk 4:16-30
Tue: 1 Cor 2:10b-16; Ps 145:8-14; Lk 4:31-37
Wed: 1 Cor 3:1-9; Ps 33:12-15, 20-21; Lk 4:38-44
Thu: 1 Cor 3:18-23; Ps 24:1bc-4ab, 5-6; Lk 5:1-11
Fri: 1 Cor 4:1-5; Ps 37:3-6, 27-28, 39-40; Lk 5:33-39
Sat: Mi 5:1-4a or Rom 8:28-30; Ps 13:6; Mt 1:1-16, 18-23
Sun: Is 35:4-7a; Ps 146:7-10; Jas 2:1-5; Mk 7:31-37

Events of the Week ~ September 2 - 9, 2018

Sunday, September 2- CCD REGISTRATION

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, September 3 - PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

Tuesday, September 4

12:00 p.m. Mass - Chapel
6:30 p.m. Guadalupana Meeting - Cafeteria
7:00 p.m. Spanish Prayer Group - Church

Wednesday, September 5

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

Thursday, September 6

12:00 p.m. Mass - Chapel
6:30 p.m. English Ultreya - Room 22
7:00 p.m. Youth Ministry - Room 1

Friday, September 7

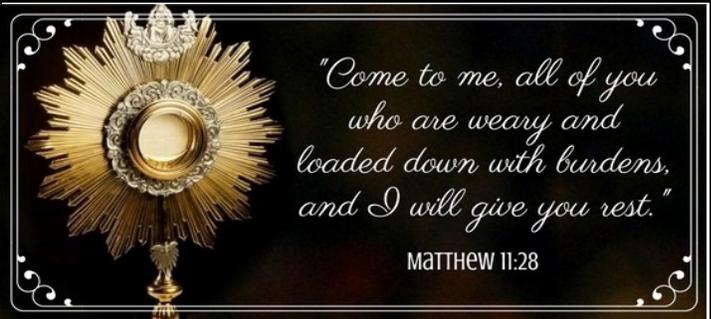
12:00 p.m. Mass - Chapel

Saturday, September 8

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

Sunday, September 9 - CCD BEGINS

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



*"Come to me, all of you
who are weary and
loaded down with burdens,
and I will give you rest."*

MATTHEW 11:28

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2018
9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

2019 MASS INTENTIONS

Our 2019 calendar for Mass Intentions is open. Donations are \$5 per intention. To schedule your Mass Intentions stop by the Parish Office. For any questions, please call the Office at 210.434.3247.



**POPE FRANCIS' MONTHLY
PRAYER INTENTION**
September 2018
For Young People in Africa

That young people in Africa may have access to education and work in their own countries.

SIX PACK SUNDAYS

Please make note of Father Fidele's pastor message regarding "SIX PACK SUNDAYS" in support of our Fall Festival. We're humbly asking for our parish community's assistance in the following manner:

- 5:00 p.m. Saturday Mass: Big Red
 - 8:00 a.m. Sunday Mass: Water
 - 10:00 a.m. Sunday Mass: Sprite and Dr. Pepper
 - 12:00 p.m. Sunday Mass: Regular Coke and Diet Coke
- 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. It takes a lot of work and assistance from many individuals to prepare our church for Mass. We thank you for your commitment to our place of worship and to our community.

Cleaning Schedule of Ministries

September 8, 2018 — St. John Berchmans School



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



“UNITED: WE ARE ONE” - ST. JOHN BERCHMANS CHURCH FALL FESTIVAL
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2018 12 Noon - 12:00 Midnight

MUSIC LINEUP :

Massore

Los Desperadoz

Javier Galvan

La Justicia and Much More Entertainment

FOOD - DRINKS - BINGO - SILENT AUCTION - RAFFLE

****FREE ADMISSION****

Chairpersons: Richard & Sarah Sustaita, John & Angie Diaz, Ken & Sylvia Lore,
Jaime & Chayo Gomez

CONGRATULATIONS TO EARLY BIRD DRAWING WINNERS: Linda Rivera (July) and Gerard Longoria (August). **Reminder:** Please turn in Raffle ticket monies to the Parish Office.

WE ARE IN NEED OF FESTIVAL VOLUNTEERS. IF INTERESTED, PLEASE CONTACT CHAYO GOMEZ at (210) 219-2153. THANK YOU!!!

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE NEWS

*The future of our church depends on the faith of our children. It takes a village to raise a child.
Live it, teach it, proclaim it.*

Registration for Religious Education for the year 2018-2019 will take place on the following Sundays: September 2 and September 9. **Sessions begin on Sunday, September 9. IMPORTANT: Registration will be over on Sunday, September 16 for all Sacramental mandates.**

When registering, please bring your child's Baptismal certificate if the child is baptized, or your child's birth certificate if your child is not baptized. Cost is \$30.00 per child. If you are registering more than one child, cost will be \$25 per child. If you have any questions, please contact Victor or Karen Aragus at (210) 286-1369.

SEEKING CATECHISTS!!!

Do you have a love of the Faith and want to share it with others, please contact Victor or Karen Aragus at the above noted number. Training and support will be provided.



YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

Please join our Gatherings which are scheduled every Thursday in the Formation House.

Time: 7:00 pm - 8:30 p.m. Students in grades 6th—12th are welcome. For information regarding our Youth Ministry, please contact dominiquedominguez9957@yahoo.com

COME LEARN ABOUT THE MASS

Join us as we learn about the different parts of the mass and their respective meaning. Sessions will begin on Monday, September 10 and run through Monday, October 15, 2018. Time: 6:30 p.m. in the Formation House.

THE HIGHEST LAW

From time to time, newspapers and magazines will offer, as an item of “filler,” various laws that are still on the books but seem silly to us in our day and age. In one California city, it is illegal to have two indoor bathtubs in one house. Clean water, a precious commodity when the law was written, is now readily available, so the law seems silly. But the human value of protecting and preserving precious resources is still around, evident in many conservation laws that seem sensible to us. So it is with the laws of religious tradition. What Jesus scorns today is others' attitude toward ritual laws, an attitude that becomes nearly idolatrous when laws are observed for their own sake. Jesus teaches that observation of external ritual laws is of value only when they are emblems of our internal disposition toward the will of God. Our whole lives must follow the one ultimate law of God: to love God completely and to love neighbor entirely. Roman Catholicism is a tradition rich with customs, traditions, and even laws. As we continue to listen to the voice of Christ, we must always look into our own hearts and underneath our ritual practices to make sure that love of God and love of neighbor are what we prize above all. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

How can I avoid hypocrisy and embrace the spirit of God's commands? Am I merely fulfilling my Sunday obligation or am I a “doer of the word,” putting God's word into action?