

First Sunday of Advent

WIDENING OUR VISION

In daily life, it's easy to simply focus on the here and now. Life can be complex and rapidly changing. It's often plenty for us just to get through the day. Yet it seems that in Luke's Gospel today, Jesus is asking his followers, and us too, to widen our focus and see a larger reality.

We are asked to observe not only the routines of daily life, not only the large forces of history acting upon us, but also God bringing forth the birth of a new creation. Jesus asks us to see beyond today's troubles and watch God stirring up hope. We are to more truly see persons in need, those who experience violence, loss, or injustice. We are asked to see beyond the superficial during the Christmas shopping season, and to see Christ as ultimate Gift and gift-giver.

WAITING WELL

Today we begin Lectionary Year C, when the Gospel readings are frequently from the Gospel of Luke. Luke wrote for a community that wrestled with questions about what had happened and what had not (yet) happened. Some in the community had anticipated the promised return of Jesus during their lifetimes. In today's Gospel, Jesus does not offer a timetable for his coming, but asks us to watch and wait. We can learn to wait faithfully, not knowing what will happen next, but living in trust. Advent is a time to learn again about waiting well.

Many of the events we most cherish in life involve waiting: the birth of a child, graduation, a new job, retirement. How we receive these events often depends on how well we have waited and prepared. Waiting well is not passive. We often work hard to prepare for life's big events, both externally and in our hearts. We ready ourselves, but allow for surprises. Advent's preparation for Christmas mirrors our many waitings, knowing that God may come into our lives by surprise, without a timetable.

Today's Readings: Jer 33:14-16; Ps 25:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14; 1 Thes 3:12 — 4:2; Lk 21:25-28, 34-36 Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.,

EXPANDIENDO NUESTRA VISIÓN

En nuestra rutina de todos los días, es bien fácil enfocarnos en el aquí y ahora. La vida puede ser compleja y cambiar con rapidez. Frecuentemente, tenemos más que suficiente durante el día para irlo pasando. Sin embargo, parece que, en el Evangelio de Lucas de hoy, Jesús está pidiendo a sus seguidores, y a nosotros también, expandir nuestro objetivo y ver de una manera más amplia la realidad.

Se nos pide observar no solo las rutinas de la vida diaria, no solamente las fuerzas de la historia afectándonos, sino también a Dios ofreciéndonos el nacimiento de una nueva creación. Jesús nos pide ver más allá de los problemas de hoy y ver a Dios levantar nuestra esperanza. Estamos para ver más verdaderamente a personas necesitadas, aquellas que sufren a causa de la violencia, la pérdida o la injusticia. Se nos pide ver más allá de lo superficial durante el tiempo de compras navideñas, y que veamos a Cristo como el principal regalo y dador de regalos.

ESPERANDO BIEN

Hoy empezamos las lecturas del Año C del leccionario, esto quiere decir que durante la mayoría de los domingos leeremos el Evangelio de Lucas. Él escribió a una comunidad que luchó con preguntas de lo que había pasado y de lo que (todavía) no había pasado. Algunas personas en la comunidad anticiparon que la promesa de Jesús de su regreso sucedería durante sus vidas. En el Evangelio de hoy, Jesús no ofrece detalles del tiempo para su venida, sino que nos pide estar atentos y esperar. Podemos aprender a esperar fielmente, sin saber que será lo siguiente que va a pasar, sino vivir con confianza. El Adviento es un tiempo para volver a aprender acerca de esperar bien.

Muchos de los eventos que apreciamos en la vida suponen una espera: el nacimiento de un hijo, una graduación, un trabajo nuevo, la jubilación. La manera en cómo recibimos estos eventos depende de lo bien que nos hemos esperado y preparado. Esperar bien no es algo pasivo. A menudo, trabajamos arduamente para preparar los grandes eventos de la vida, tanto externamente y en nuestros corazones. Nos preparamos, pero permitimos las sorpresas. La preparación de Adviento para Navidad refleja nuestras muchas esperas, sabiendo que Dios puede venir a nuestras vidas sorpresivamente, sin que tenga fecha.

Lecturas de hoy: Jr 33:14-16; Sal 25 (24):4-5, 8-9, 10, 14; 1 Tes 3:12 — 4:2; Lc 21:25-28, 34-36 Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.



Please Pray for the Sick

Prayer List Updates



Baby Gracie Bernal
Benito A. Perales
Francisco Angel Perales
Anselmo A. Perales
Mario Andres Perales
Martha Lucy Vega & Children
Jesse Vega
Jesse Mario Vega
Orlando L. Vega & Children
Roxsandra Gallardo
Paul Sifuentes
Lucy Clare Treviño
David Santoyo
Lupita Gomez
Irene Perez
Katelynn Rae Ramirez
Louie & Estefana Reyes

Frances Ramirez
Alex Hernandez
Jesse Diaz
John Ruiz
Pastor Stuart Julee
Victoria Cepeda
Mario Moreno
Arturo M. Moreno
Annmarie Vasquez
Roland Martinez, Sr.
Roland Martinez, Jr.
Olivia Ibarra
Baby Violet Flores
Connie Flores
Philip Saldaña
Linda Davila
Elva Benavides
Marco Mermea
Robert Campos

Petra P. Chavez
Sister Louise - OLLU
Aurora Perez
Frances Lozano
Alfredo M. Moreno
Celina Herrera
Yolanda Verastegui
Amy Gomez
Virginia & Jose Ponce, Jr.
Daniel Rogers
Santos Aguilar
Olivia Lopez
Hortencia Rodriguez
San Juanita Sanchez
Douglas Montey
Delia Riojas
Cecilia Espinoza
Estela De La Vega

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.

FINANCIAL REPORT NOT AVAILABLE



2018 GIFT OF GIVING

Contributions 11/24-25, 2018	\$
RUNNING BALANCE TOTAL	\$16,672.43

Announcements

www.stjohnberchmans.com

Mass Intentions FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, December 1

5:00 p.m. For Our Parish Community

Sunday, December 2

8:00 a.m. † Albert F. Hinojosa
† Pete Morales - Family
† Tina Flores - Penney

Gift of Life Carlos Treviño - Nora Treviño

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

12:00 p.m. † Robert Alejandro - Family

Monday, December 3

12:00 p.m.

Tuesday, December 4

12:00 p.m. † Hilda Martinez Valdez

Wednesday, December 5

8:15 a.m. † Angie Villarreal

Thursday, December 6

12:00 p.m. For All Holy Souls in Purgatory

Friday, December 7 - IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

7:00 p.m. † Justin Rey Martinez

Saturday, December 8

5:00 p.m. † Aurora Campos - Family

Sunday, December 9

8:00 a.m. † Ernestina & Guadalupe Huerta - Children
† Guadalupe Treviño - Nora Treviño
† Maria J. Terrazas - Angie Canales
† Librada Cadena - Grace Salinas

In Thanksgiving Las Guadalupeanas

10:00 a.m. † Magdaleno Meza - Robert & Rosie Gallegos
† Margaret & † Martin Burrell - Daughter
† Daniel C. Arzola - Family
† Ryan Sanchez - Sanchez Family

Gift of Life Ralph Rodriguez - Mom & Brothers

12:00 p.m. † Albert F. Hinojosa

In Loving Memory

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

† Hilda Martinez Valdez



Sanctuary Light

† Casimiro Bernal



From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Parishioners:

Today, Sunday, December 2nd, 2018, Advent Season officially commences. We are preparing for the second coming of the Lord. Jesus Christ who was born in Bethlehem of Judea. He became a man and took our human conditions in order for us to be saved. He died on the cross and gave us life everlasting. He promised us to return and take us all home to be with his Father, our Father, forever. As we prepare for Christmas, these next four weeks let us anticipate that second coming of the Lord in our lives. May His presence transform us and make us better people. May His presence also bring us together as the people of God rooted in love, kindness, forgiveness and compassion. We pray that the kingship of Jesus Christ of humility, understanding, service, acceptance, mercy and love characterizes this Advent Season.

As we begin our first week of Advent, we also officially end Ordinary Time and Liturgical Year B and commence Liturgical year C. The altar is decorated with Advent purple as we anticipate and celebrate the second coming of the Lord in our lives. Make time to attend the liturgical celebrations during this time of Advent and Christmas season.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend a special "Thank You" to everyone who participated in the St. John Berchmans 12th Annual Feast of Sharing. We are grateful and thankful to our SJB students, faculty, and SJB parishioners who filled bags with enough food to provide a Thanksgiving meal to over 25 families within our church community. Thanks to ACTS Core members who donated turkeys and for all who helped deliver brown bags to the families. May the grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, be with you during this Christmas season.

Christmas Gift of Giving, is open for any one or more families, in need of assistance this Christmas. Feel free to acquire the application form after each mass in the foyer or speak to me in person for more information. You may also refer a family with children that may benefit from this Christmas Gift of Giving. I thank each one of you for your generosity and continued support for the needy of our church community.

Each of my parishioners is cordially invited to join me next summer on my annual pilgrimage to Italy from June 10th thru June 20th, 2019. We will be visiting Venice, Florence, Padua, Assisi and Rome. Experience firsthand the opportunity to visit beautiful Basilicas, ancient Roman ruins, the Vatican Museum and an audience with Pope Francis. A brochure is readily available on request at the church office.

May God bless you always,



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

Announcements

www.stjohnberchmans.com

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — The days are coming when the LORD will fulfill the promise made to Israel and Judah (Jere 33:14-16).

Psalm — To you, O Lord, I lift my soul (Psalm 25).

Second Reading — Abound in love for one another and for all (1 Thess 3:12 - 4:2).

Gospel — Stand erect and raise your heads; your redemption is at hand (Luke 21:25-28, 34-36). 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: Is 2:1-5; Ps 122:1-9; Mt 8:5-11
Tue: Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Lk 10:21-24
Wed: Is 25:6-10a; Ps 23:1-6; Mt 15:29-37
Thu: Is 26:1-6; Ps 118:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27; Mt 7:21, 24-27
Fri: Is 29:17-24; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Mt 9:27-31
Sat: Gn 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98:1-4; Eph 1:3-6-12; Lk 1:26-38
Sun: Bar 5:1-9; Ps 126:1-6; Phil 1:4-6, 8-11; Lk 3:1-6

Events of the Week ~ December 2 - 9, 2018

Sunday, December 2 - CCD CLASSES RESUME

7:30 a.m. Divine Mercy - Church
8:00 a.m. Spanish Mass - Church
8:00 a.m. SJB School Arts & Crafts Show-Cafeteria
10:00 a.m. Mass - Church
12:00 p.m. Mass - Church

Monday, December 3

12:00 p.m. Communion Service - Chapel

Tuesday, December 4

12:00 p.m. Mass - Chapel
6:00 p.m. Guadalupana Meeting - Formation House

Wednesday, December 5

8:15 a.m. Children's Mass - Church
9:15 a.m. Rosary Makers - Offsite
6:30 p.m. Youth Core Meeting - Formation House

Thursday, December 6

12:00 a.m. Mass - Chapel
6:30 p.m. English Ultreya - Formation House
7:00 p.m. Reconciliation Svc/Confessions - Church
7:00 p.m. Youth Ministry - Formation House

Friday, December 7 - HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

7:00 p.m. Vigil Bilingual Mass - Church

Saturday, December 8 - PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

5:00 p.m. Mass - Church
7:00 p.m. David Kauffman In Concert - Church

Sunday, December 9

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
2:00 p.m. ACTS TOY BINGO - Cafeteria



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

Please join us every Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in our Chapel. Exposition of the Holy Eucharist is the REAL presence of our Lord and Savior. Just as you can't be exposed to the sun without receiving it's rays, neither can you come to Jesus exposed in the Blessed Sacrament without receiving the divine rays of His Grace, Love and Peace.



PARISH OFFICE will be closed on **Saturday, December 8, 2018** in observance of The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

This is also a Holy Day of Obligation.

POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR DECEMBER 2018

IN THE SERVICE OF THE TRANSMISSION OF FAITH:

That people, who are involved in the service and transmission of faith, may find, in their dialogue with culture, a language suited to the conditions of the present time.



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

December 8, 2018 — Martinez/Santoyo Families



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



WHAT IS ADVENT?

It is a period of preparation, extending over Sundays, before Christmas. The word Advent comes from the Latin *advenio*, "to come to", and refers to the coming of Christ. We need to prepare our souls to receive Christ worthily. Advent should be marked by increased *prayers, fasting and good works*. Our preparations, therefore should have all three in mind.

WHAT IS THE ADVENT WREATH?

Perhaps the best known of all the Advent symbols is the Advent wreath. It consists of four candles (3 purple and 1 pink) arranged in a circle with evergreen boughs (and often a fifth white candle in the center). The advent wreath corresponds to the four Sundays of Advent, and is blessed only on the First Sunday of Advent, and is simply lighted on the remaining Sundays. The purple candles represent the penitential nature of the season, while the pink candle calls to mind the respite of Gaudete Sunday. (the white candle, when used, represents Christmas).

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

It's that time of year again! If you would like to order a Christmas Poinsettia in memory of your loved one, please call the Parish Office at 210-434-3247 and ask for Mrs. Rosa Moreno. The altar will be decorated with the poinsettias and they may be picked up in the office after Christmas.

The cost per poinsettia is \$10.00 and we will sell only 65 poinsettias. Thank you!



ST. JOHN BERCHMANS CATHOLIC SCHOOL will have a **CHRISTMAS ARTS AND CRAFT SHOW ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2018 FROM 8AM - 2PM IN THE SCHOOL CAFETERIA.** Coffee, Hot Chocolate, breakfast and lunch items as well as pastries will be available for purchase.

UPCOMING IMPORTANT CHURCH EVENTS:

- ⇒ **RECONCILIATION SERVICE/CONFESSIONS** will be on **Thursday, December 6th at 7:00 pm** in the Church. All are encouraged to participate as we begin our season of Advent.
- ⇒ **VIGIL BILINGUAL MASS OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**
Friday, December 7 at 7:00 p.m. (Holy Day of Obligation)
- ⇒ **ADVENT MISSION NIGHT with David Kauffman, Saturday, December 8th at 7:00 p.m.**
Come join us as we prepare our hearts for the season of Advent. Led by our friend, David Kauffman.
- ⇒ **ST. JOHN BERCHMANS ACTS TOY BINGO**
Sunday, December 9, 2018 at 2:00 p.m. in the School Cafeteria. \$7.00 per card (15 regular games)
Donations for toys are greatly appreciated and you may bring them to the parish office. Thank you!

CATHOLIC MEN'S CONFERENCE - "MASTER, I WANT TO SEE." Mark 10:51

Date: Saturday, February 23, 2019 from 8am-5pm. Conference will be held at the Norris Conference Center located @ Park North Shopping Center, 618 NW Loop 410 Frontage Rd., #207. Presented by the Pilgrim Center of Hope. For information contact 210-521-3377. Applications are available in the church foyer.

THE PROMISE OF JUSTICE

We are in fairly good company when we ask God for justice. Often enough we hear and agree with the lament of the people of Israel asking God why the wicked prosper. However, when we call out for justice, we usually want someone to get his or her comeuppance. God's justice is something other than this, of course. God's justice comprises a wonderful rightness between God and humankind.

Today, Jeremiah looks ahead to a time when a just one will sprout from the shorn-off stump of Jesse of the house and family of David. Life was not fair in Jeremiah's time. Israel's kings held the promise of God's fidelity, but it was difficult to see how God's promise could be realized through them.

Nevertheless, Jeremiah lifts his voice and announces that the Promised One will come. Luke's Gospel echoes that announcement, and Paul is filled with sturdy encouragement. And so Advent begins with a promise.

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QUESTION OF THE WEEK

How can I prepare myself for the coming of Jesus, at Christmas and at the end of time?