

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

APOCALYPSE THEN

There is a natural tendency in human nature to wonder about the future. We look for reassurances from psychics that all shall be well as we wander from cradle to grave (although we don't really want to know about that last part). But what if the predictions are not all rainbows and cherubim? The words of the prophet Malachi (possibly not his name) seem to embody the age-old concept of a "fire and brimstone" preacher in his warnings to the post-Exile Israelites, who were living as though they had either forgotten the Covenant or just didn't care anymore. We might know how that feels—when life has become so painful that we turn to the "lesser gods" of hedonism and self-medication.

APOCALYPSE NOW AND LATER

If we thought that Malachi's images were upsetting, the words of Jesus in the Gospel today are downright terrifying. He is trying to steel his followers for life in this vale of tears, especially the life of righteousness. His followers want to know when, how, where. But Jesus describes a general state of chaos and troubles, not giving any real data about their future. That's the point, isn't it? Even the most casual observer of history in those days could probably remember many instances of the earth in disorder as described by Jesus. There are wars, earthquakes, and persecutions in every age. The life of a disciple of Jesus is a constant state of bringing light into a darkling world. As Saint Paul scolds the Thessalonians because they had seemingly given up in expectation of the Apocalypse, Jesus admonishes his followers that discipleship requires always being ready and always remaining true to the mission.

And so, in light of these warnings, how do we sing our Psalm 98 song of praise in a land of fear and trembling about the future? It is our joyful confidence that the Lord "comes" to rule with justice and equity—not only in the future, but always.

Today's Readings: Mal 3:19–20; Ps 98:5 - 9; 2 Thes 3:7–12; Lk 21:5–19

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DESPUÉS EL APOCALIPSIS

Hay una tendencia natural en la naturaleza humana de preguntarse acerca del futuro. Buscamos seguridad por parte de los psíquicos de que todo estará bien, al mismo tiempo que deambulamos de la cuna a la tumba (aunque en realidad no queremos saber acerca de la última parte). Pero ¿y si las predicciones no son arcoíris y querubines? Las palabras del profeta Malaquías (posiblemente no es su nombre) parecen encarnar el antiguo concepto del predicador de "fuego y azufre" en sus advertencias a los israelitas del post exilio, quienes estaban viviendo como si hubieran olvidado la Alianza o que no les importaba más. Podríamos saber cómo se siente, cuando la vida se ha vuelto tan dolorosa que nos dirigimos a los "dioses menores" del hedonismo y la automedicación.

EL APOCALIPSIS AHORA Y DESPUÉS

Si pensamos que las imágenes del profeta Malaquías eran perturbadoras, las palabras de Jesús en el Evangelio de hoy son verdaderamente aterradoras. Él está intentando de equipar a sus seguidores para la vida en este valle de lágrimas, especialmente la vida de la justicia. Sus seguidores quieren saber cuándo, cómo y dónde. Pero Jesús describe un estado general de caos y problemas, sin dar ningún dato verdadero acerca de su futuro. Ese es el punto ¿cierto? Aun el observador más despreocupado de la historia en esos días podría probablemente recordar muchos ejemplos de la tierra en el desorden descrito por Jesús. Hay guerras, terremotos y persecuciones en todos los tiempos. La vida de un discípulo de Jesús está en un estado constante estado de llevar luz a un mundo oscurecido. Aunque san Pablo regaña a los tesalonicenses porque le parecía que se habían dado por vencidos en la espera del apocalipsis. Jesús advierte a sus seguidores que el discipulado requiere siempre estar listos y ser fieles a la verdadera misión.

Así que, a la luz de estas advertencias, ¿cómo cantamos nuestro salmo 98 de alabanza en una tierra de miedo y estremecimiento acerca del futuro? Nuestra alegría es la confianza de que el Señor "viene" a gobernar con justicia y equidad, no solo en el futuro, sino siempre.

Lecturas de hoy: Mal 3:19–20a; Sal 98:5–9; 2 Tes 3:7–12; Lc 21:5–19

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Please Pray for the Sick

Prayer List Updates



Louie & Estefana Reyes	Sandra Jean Guerra	Celina Herrera
Arturo Parra	Kayla Scott	David Santoyo
Frances Vasaldua	Maria Langley	Eva Flores
Trini Torres	Irma Urias	Paul Muñoz, Sr.
Martin Ramos	Mary S. Martinez	Joe Espinoza
Daniel Hernandez	Frances Lozano	Virginia & Jose Ponce
Debra Sendejo	Mary Escalera	Victoria Orosco
Michael Sendejo	Maximus James Tobar	Henry Vidal
Ashley Arthur	Suzanne Gutierrez	Hope Esquivel
Annette Vega	Benny Martinez	Victor Cruz
Kevin Ryan Martinez	Edward Martinez	Tomas Johnson
David Ortiz	Terry Moreno	Deacon Jesus Rodriguez
Sammuel Cortez	Sarah Contreras	Rosalinda Esparza
Mary Lou Medina	Donnie Vordenbaum	Daniel Rodriguez
Inez De Los Santos	Gary Stanko	Rosie Flores
Frances Ramirez	Jose Flores	Jessica Diaz
Clara Perez	Ramiro Davila	Robert Campos
Sandra Amaya	Marty Carrera Tobias	Gloria Martinez
Danny Rae Schexnayder, Sr.	Jesse R. Diaz	

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.

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

NOVEMBER 9-10, 2019

5:00 PM	-\$1,064.00	(149)
8:00 AM	-\$ 573.00	(093)
10:00 AM	-\$ 961.00	(119)
12 NOON	-\$1,043.00	(237)
Children's Basket	-\$ 6.00	
Military Services	-\$ 745.25	
2019 Gift of Giving	-\$ 262.63	
Mail/Drop In	-\$ 477.00	
TOTAL	\$4,897.97	

SECOND COLLECTION

November 17, 2019 - Turkey Bingo

2019 GIFT OF GIVING

Contributions 11//9 - 10/19	\$ 262.63
RUNNING BALANCE TOTAL	\$18,160.02

Announcements

www.stjohnberchmans.com

Mass Intentions FOR THE WEEK



Saturday, November 16

5:00 p.m. † Luis Duran, Sr. - Family
Gift of Life Ernestine Diaz - Parents

Sunday, November 17

8:00 a.m. † Ernesto Rodriguez - Rodriguez Family
† Romana Gutierrez - Familia
† Guadalupe Alvarado - Familia
† Reynaldo Alvarado - Familia
Gift of Life Courtney Treviño - Nora Treviño

10:00 a.m. † Martin & Margaret Burrell - Daughter
† Edward Moreno - Wife & Family
† Cynthia Ann Urrea - Family
† Gloria Lloyd - Children
† Daniel C. Arzola - Family

12:00 p.m. † Paul Salinas - Family
† Guadalupe Saldaña - M/M Joe Ponce

Monday, November 18

Tuesday, November 19

12:00 p.m. † Christian Tienda

Wednesday, November 20

8:15 a.m.
For Health Marty Carrera Tobias

Thursday, November 21

12:00 p.m. † Hilda Elizondo Torres

Friday, November 22 - St. Cecilia, Virgin and Martyr

12:00 p.m. † Juan C. Velasquez

Saturday, November 23

5:00 p.m. † Frank Valdivia - Campos Family

Sunday, November 24

8:00 a.m.
Gift of Life Perla Rose Treviño - Nora Treviño

10:00 a.m. † Martin & Margaret Burrell - Daughter
† Daniel C. Arzola - Family
† Hortencia Rodriguez Watson - Husband & Family

12:00 p.m. For Our Parish Community

In Loving Memory

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

† Hilda Elizondo Torres



Sanctuary Light
Holy Souls in Purgatory
† Luis Duran, Sr.



FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parishioners and Friends:

As we approach the holidays, especially Christmas, I would like to thank each and every one of you for contributing every weekend with a \$1 donation in support of the needs of the families during the holidays. We have collected \$18,000 thanks to your generosity. Any family in need of assistance is asked to request an application in the parish office, or speak with me directly. I am looking forward to celebrating the birthday of our Lord and anticipate his second coming.

It is with great excitement that I announce the tiles for the church floor have been ordered. We expect to initiate this project by next week. The work will be completed by sections and anticipate completion by Christmas. Thank you, as always, for your patience and supports.

It is with great excitement that I announce my future pilgrimage to the Holy Land! I will be leading a pilgrimage to The Holy Land for 10 days from June 2nd thru June 11th, 2020. We will explore and meditate in places where Jesus was born, worked, suffered, died and rose from the dead. We will also visit places where Mary, Mother of God, was born, where she raised Jesus and witnessed her son's suffering, death and resurrection. This is an opportunity for us to connect with scriptures and the reality. The trip's cost is \$3,100 per person (double occupancy) which includes round trip airfare from San Antonio, 4 & 5 star hotels, breakfast and dinner included, daily sightseeing, tips, daily Masses, airport taxes, fuel surcharges and the assistance of professional local catholic guides. Invite your family members and friends to join me in this memorable trip. If you intend to walk with me in this journey, please stop by the office for a detailed brochure or speak with me after Mass for more information.

FIRST MEETING TO DISCUSS DETAILS OF THIS TRIP will be held on Tuesday, December 10, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in the Formation House.

May God bless you always,

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

ST. JOHN BERCHMANS CATHOLIC SCHOOL IS IN NEED OF BUS DRIVERS! IF YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO IS INTERESTED, THEY MUST GET CERTIFIED THROUGH THE SAN ANTONIO ARCHDIOCESE. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT THE SCHOOL, AT (210) 433-0411. THANK YOU!

Announcements

www.stjohnberchmans.com

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — For those who fear the name of the Lord, the sun of justice will arise (Malachi 3:19-20a).

Psalms — The Lord comes to rule the earth with justice (Psalm 98).

Second Reading — Those who are living in idleness are urged to earn their own living (2 Thes 3:7-12).

Gospel — Jesus foretells the destruction of Jerusalem, the persecution of his followers (Luke 21:5-19).

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

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon: 1 Mc 1:10-15, 41-63; Ps 119:53-61, 134, 150-158; Lk 18:35-43

Tue: 2 Mc 6:18-31; Ps 3:2-7; Lk 19:1-10

Wed: 2 Mc 7:1, 20-31; Ps 17:1-15; Lk 19:11-28

Thu: 1 Mc 2:15-29; Ps 50:1-6, 14-15; Lk 19:41-44

Fri: 1 Mc 4:36-37, 52-59; 1 Chr 29:10-12; Lk 19:45-48

Sat: 1 Mc 6:1-13; Ps 9:2-19; Lk 20:27-40

Sun: 2 Sm 5:1-3; Ps 122:1-5; Col 1:12-20; Lk 23:35-43

Events of the Week ~ November 17 - 24, 2019

Sunday, November 17

8:00 a.m. Spanish Mass - Church

10:00 a.m. Mass - Church

12:00 p.m. Mass - Church

Monday, November 18

Tuesday, November 19

12:00 p.m. Mass - Chapel

Wednesday, November 20

8:15 a.m. Children's Mass - Church

6:30 p.m. RCIA - Formation House

Thursday, November 21

12:00 p.m. Mass - Chapel

7:00 p.m. Youth Group - Formation House

Friday, November 22

12:00 p.m. Mass - Church

Saturday, November 23

9:00 a.m. Ask A Lawyer - Formation House

5:00 p.m. Mass - Church

Sunday, November 24

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

1:30 p.m. IGBO Mass - Church

IGBO Reception following Mass @ Formation House

2:00 p.m. Turkey Bingo - Cafeteria



THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2019
9:00 AM - 5 PM

ST. JOHN BERCHMANS SCHOOL INFORMATION

5K Rewards for Winning - In honor of our great accomplishment, (winning the 5K Spirit Stick) students will have no homework all week (November 18-22). (I do recommend students read 20 minutes per day; do online work: DreamBox/Leaning A-Z daily).

And because we met our goal in the number of registrants, students have been granted dress down for the **entire week of November 18-22, 2019.**

Guidelines for dress down days:

Mon, Nov 18 - Students may wear warm ups or jeans with their spirit shirt or PE shirt.

Tue, Nov 19 - Students will be granted a free dress down day in compliance with handbook.

Wed., Nov 20 (Mass Day) Students may wear PE shirts with khaki pants, jeans, or warm-ups.

Thu., Nov 21 - Students will be granted a free dress down day in compliance with the handbook.

Fri, Nov 22 - Students will be granted a free dress down day in compliance with the handbook.

Students are welcomed to wear their spirit shirts, PE shirts or 5K run t-shirt. And Pizza Party for all students!

Thanksgiving Break: Mon, Nov 25 - Fri, Nov 29, 2019

Breakfast with Santa: Sat. Dec. 7, 2019 (9am-Noon)

Pre-Sale Tickets available in School Office.

(210) 433-0411

CHURCH CLEANING MINISTRY

Our parish is always in need of a few good hands every Saturday morning to help us clean our beautiful church.

"A short time devoted to taking care of the Lord's House is a small price to pay for all He does for us each and every day."

Cleaning Schedule of Ministries

November 23, 2019 - Santoyo/Martinez 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

ST. JOHN BERCHMANS ANNUAL FEAST OF SHARING

For over 10 years SJB parish and the school has provided a Thanksgiving Dinner with all the trimming to families in our parish community. Donations may be left at the Parish office between 10:00am to 5:00 pm, November 12th-22nd, Monday through Friday. **Please turn in your food items no later than Friday, November 22, 2019.** Volunteers will deliver the food to families within our SJB parish community on Saturday, November 23rd. Please contact Linda Campbell (210) 445-7283 if you have any questions or need information. God Bless You for your generosity!



POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION FOR NOVEMBER 2019

Universal - Communication and Reconciliation

That a spirit of dialogue, encounter and reconciliation emerges in the Near East, where diverse religious communities share their lives together.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES - CARITAS LEGAL SERVICES PRESENTS: ASK A LAWYER

Do you need a lawyer? Consultations are FREE!

- Guardianship/Wills
- Immigration Assistance
- Child Support
- Grandparent Rights
- Custody Rights
- Power of Attorney
- Crime Victim's Rights and other important issues.

Catholic Charities is coming to St. John Berchmans Catholic Church on **Saturday, November 23, 2019, from 9:00am - 12:00pm in the Formation House.**

For more information, call (210) 433-3256.

Disclaimer: *If you are currently represented by an attorney, we will not be able to consult you.*



JOIN THE 2020 CENSUS TEAM

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2020 Census jobs provide:

- ✓ Great Pay
- ✓ Flexible Hours
- ✓ Weekly Pay
- ✓ Paid Training

For more information or help applying, please call 1-855-JOB-2020

The US. Census Bureau is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

ANNUAL TURKEY BINGO

Scheduled for **Sunday, November 24, 2019. Bingo begins at 2:00 p.m.** and will be held in the School Cafeteria. Cost is \$7.00 per card - 15 games along with Specials. (No Refunds)

Please make plans to attend. There will be delicious food, sweets, and refreshments. Tickets may be purchased at the door.

WE ARE STILL IN NEED OF PRIZES FOR THE SUPER SPECIAL. THANK YOU!



LIFE IS HARD, BUT HAVE NO FEAR

Today's readings take a fearless look at reality and reach a conclusion that we all know: life is hard. The prophet Malachi preaches fire and brimstone, warning us that evildoers will perish in flames. Saint Paul offers his own warning to the Thessalonians: keep busy, but never become a busybody. He reminds Christians that the apostles themselves worked in "toil and drudgery" as a model for how we ought to contribute to our community. The Gospel returns to the apocalyptic tone of Malachi, describing the utter chaos of the end-times. We will know the end is near when violence, catastrophe, and hatred dominate the earth. But we must not fear! God's saving plan brings peace to our hearts. Malachi speaks of the sun's "healing rays," and Jesus himself promises to protect every hair on our heads. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Do I continue to meet my responsibilities even during difficult times? How can I bring myself to hope for healing justice in the midst of terrible events?