

# First Sunday of Advent

**ICYMI**

Those who use social media or read news reports online are familiar with ICYMI, which is shorthand for “in case you missed it.” We might think of today’s readings as an “in case you missed it” announcement for these early days of Advent. We often think of Advent as the season that precedes Christmas, all about waiting and longing for the coming of the Christ child, which it is. Yet in the early weeks of Advent, we focus on the return of Christ at the end of time, and how we are called to be prepared for it.

Most of us do not spend much time thinking about the end of time or the prospect of Christ’s return in glory. We may not want to admit to ourselves that our actions or attitudes are far from the ways in which we know we should conduct ourselves as Christian people. Or maybe we are uncomfortable with the whole idea of final judgment. It makes us squirm, so we adopt an attitude of “out of sight, out of mind,” and go about our daily lives without much thought or reflection on who we are called to be as disciples of our Lord.

**HIT THE RESET BUTTON**

Advent is the beginning of a new liturgical year and can be a time for us to embrace the light of God’s love more deeply. If we realize that we are failing to live as we know we ought, let this season be a time to reset our commitment to living and growing as people of faith. While much of these next few weeks will be consumed by our preparations for Christmas, it is good for us to also take some time to take stock and commend our hearts and lives to Christ. Let us “stay awake” to Christ’s higher purposes, not out of a sense of dread or fear of judgment, but rather in anticipation of the advent, or coming, of our Lord.

**Today’s Readings:** Is 2:1–5; Ps 122:1–2, 3–4, 4–5, 6–7, 8–9; Rom 13:11–14; Mt 24:37–44

Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

**STP**

Hay tantas abreviaturas usadas en las redes sociales que solo toman las primeras letras de las palabras de la frase, una de esas es STP que algunas personas la interpretan como Se Te Pasó. Podríamos considerar que las lecturas de hoy como un anuncio de “se te pasó” en los primeros días de Adviento. A menudo pensamos del Adviento como el tiempo que precede al de la Navidad, todo acerca de esperar y anhelo por la venida de Jesús como niño, y así es. Aunque en las primeras semanas de Adviento nos enfocamos en el regreso de Jesús al final de los tiempos, y cómo somos llamados a estar preparados para ello.

Muchos de nosotros no pasamos mucho tiempo pensando acerca del final de los tiempos o la expectativa de la gloria del regreso de Jesucristo. Quizá no queremos admitir que nuestras acciones o actitudes están muy lejos de las maneras en las que sabemos debemos comportarnos como personas que siguen las enseñanzas de Jesús. O quizá estamos incomodos con la idea del juicio final. Nos hace avergonzarnos, así que adoptamos una actitud de “ojos que no ven, corazón que no siente” y vivimos nuestras vidas diarias sin mucho que pensar o reflexionar en quienes estamos llamados a ser discípulos de nuestro Señor.

**PRESIONA EL BOTON DE REINICIO**

Adviento es el inicio de un nuevo año litúrgico y puede ser un tiempo para nosotros de abrazar más profundamente el amor de Dios. Si nos damos cuenta que estamos fallando en vivir cómo sabemos que deberíamos, permitamos que este tiempo sea un tiempo de reinicio de nuestros compromisos para vivir y crecer como personas de fe. Aunque mucho de las siguientes semanas se llevarán tiempo para nuestra preparación para la Navidad, es bueno para nosotros también tomar algo de tiempo para tomar acciones y encomendar nuestros corazones y vidas a Cristo. Permitémoslo, “permanecer despiertos” a propósitos más altos de Cristo, que no son sin sentido de temor o miedo al juicio, sino al contrario en anticipar el Adviento o venida de nuestro Señor.

**Lecturas de hoy:** Is 2:1–5; Sal 122:1–2, 3–4, 4–5, 6–7, 8–9; Rom 13:11–14; Mt 24:37–44

Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.



**Please Pray for the Sick**

Prayer List Updates



- |                            |                      |                        |
|----------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| 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        | Carlos Guardiola, III  |
| Sandra Jean Guerra         | Celina Herrera       | Joe R. Martinez        |
| Kayla Scott                | David Santoyo        | Baby Sophia            |

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 23-24, 2019**

<b>5:00 PM</b>	<b>-\$1,363.00</b>	<b>(086)</b>
<b>8:00 AM</b>	<b>-\$ 365.00</b>	<b>(094)</b>
<b>10:00 AM</b>	<b>-\$1,194.00</b>	<b>(118)</b>
<b>12 NOON</b>	<b>-\$ 772.00</b>	<b>(305)</b>
<b>IGBO Mass</b>	<b>-\$ 139.00</b>	
<b>School Mass</b>	<b>-\$ 80.29</b>	
<b>Human Development</b>	<b>-\$ 427.00</b>	
<b>2019 Gift of Giving</b>	<b>-\$ 523.60</b>	
<b>Mail/Drop In</b>	<b>-\$ 402.00</b>	
	<b>TOTAL \$5,265.89</b>	

**SECOND COLLECTION**

**December 1, 2019 - Capital Improvements**

**2019 GIFT OF GIVING**

<b>Contributions 11//23-24/19</b>	<b>\$ 523.60</b>
<b>RUNNING BALANCE TOTAL</b>	<b>\$18,944.59</b>

# Announcements

## Mass Intentions FOR THE WEEK



### Saturday, November 30

5:00 p.m. † Fr. Eddie Bernal - John & Angie Diaz

### Sunday, December 1 - FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:00 a.m. † Petra Chavez - Sisters

† Casimiro Bernal - Family

† Hilda Torres - Ultreya

Gift of Life Carlos Treviño - Nora Treviño

10:00 a.m. † Martin & Margaret Burrell - Daughter

† Daniel C. Arzola - Family

† Juan Saucedo - Friend Lupe

For Health Marty Carrera Tobias

12:00 p.m. † Arturo Dominguez - Family

† Guadalupe Saldaña - Mr. & Mrs. Joe Ponce

### Monday, December 2

### Tuesday, December 3 - ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

12:00 p.m.

Gift of Life Destini Santos - Diaz Family

### Wednesday, December 4 - ST. JOHN DAMASCENE

8:15 a.m. † Pedro Ruiz

### Thursday, December 5

8:15 a.m. Isaias de Ecuador

### Friday, December 6 - ST. NICHOLAS

12:00 p.m. † Alicia Suarez Escobedo

### Saturday, December 7 - ST. AMBROSE

5:00 p.m. † Aurora Campos - Campos Family

† Alice Palacios - Diaz Family

Gift of Life Tomas Diaz - Diaz Family

### Sunday, December 8

8:00 a.m. † Librada Cadena - Grace Salinas

† Maria J. Terrazas - Angelita Canales

† Guadalupe Treviño - Nora Treviño

† Hilda Torres - Ultreya

† David Medina - Sister

10:00 a.m. † Martin & Margaret Burrell - Daughter

† Edward Moreno - Wife & Family

† Justin Rey Martinez - Virginia Lucio

† Daniel C. Arzola - Family

Gift of Life Ralph Rodriguez - Mom

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

In Thanksgiving Karen Aragus - Husband Victor

## In Loving Memory

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



**Sanctuary Light**  
**Holy Souls in Purgatory**  
† Arturo Dominguez



## FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parishioners and Friends:

Today, Sunday, December 1st, 2019, we have officially commenced the Advent Season which will lead us to Christmas: the birthday of our Savior and also the anticipation of the second coming of our Lord. Let us take the following four weeks of Advent to prepare for this unique and excited opportunity to celebrate our Lord, and shine God's light into our lives.

As we approach the holidays, especially Christmas, I would like to thank each and every one of you for contributing every weekend with a \$1.00 donation in support of the needs of the families during the holidays. We have collected over \$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.

I announce with great excitement the tiles for the church floor are already in and the work is almost completed. **Please take good care of the new floor. Remember it cost us \$37,000 to complete this project.** The cushions for the pews are being fabricated and will be installed within three weeks. Thank you, as always, for your generosity, patience and support.

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.

An informal meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, December 10, 2019**, for any person interested in this pilgrimage. It will be at 7:00 in the evening in the Formation House. Please make an effort to attend. It is never too early to plan your summer vacation. Experience the Holy Land in the company of other friendly travel seeks.

May God bless you always,



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

# Announcements

www.stjohnberchmans.com

## TODAY'S READINGS

**First Reading** — All the peoples shall stream toward the LORD's house (Isaiah 2:1-5).

**Psalms** — Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord (Psalm 122).

**Second Reading** - It is the hour to cast off the dark and clothe ourselves in the light (Rom 13:11-14).

**Gospel** — Stay awake! Be prepared! The Son of Man will come when you least expect (Matt 24:37-44).

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: Is 4:2-6; Ps 122:1-9; Mt 8:5-11  
Tue: Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-13, 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, 19-27; Mt 7:21-27  
Fri: Is 29:17-24; Ps 27:1-14; Mt 9:27-31  
Sat: Is 30:19-26; Ps 147:1-6; Mt 9:35 - 10:1  
Sun: Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17;  
Rom 15:4-9; Mt 3:1-12

## Events of the Week ~ December 1 - 8, 2019

### Sunday, December 1 - FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:00 a.m. Spanish Mass - Church  
10:00 a.m. Mass - Church  
12:00 p.m. Mass - Church

### Monday, December 2

### Tuesday, December 3

12:00 p.m. Mass - Chapel  
6:00 p.m. Guadalupe Meeting - Formation House  
7:00 p.m. Eucharistic Minister & Lector Training - Church

### Wednesday, December 4

8:15 a.m. School Mass - Chapel  
6:30 p.m. Knight of Columbus - Formation  
6:30 p.m. RCIA - Formation House  
7:00 p.m. Advent Talk - Church

### Thursday, December 5

12:00 p.m. Mass - Church  
7:30 p.m. Youth Group - Formation House

### Friday, December 6

12:00 p.m. Mass - Church

### Saturday, December 7 - HEALING AFTER MASS

9:00 a.m. Breakfast with Santa - Cafeteria  
5:00 p.m. Mass - Church

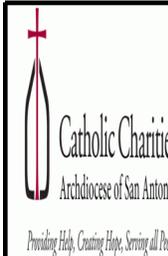
### Sunday, December 8 - HEALING AFTER 8 & 10 MASS

8:00 a.m. Spanish Mass - Church  
10:00 a.m. Mass - Church  
12:00 p.m. Mass - Church



## THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2019 9:00 A.M. - 5 P.M.

Please join us every Thursday from 9am to 5pm 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 its rays, neither can you come to Jesus exposed in the Blessed Sacrament without receiving the divine rays of His Grace, Love and Peace.



## LEARN TO MANAGE YOUR MONEY AND ACHIEVE YOUR GOALS!

- ⇒ Set realistic financial goals
- ⇒ Make wise spending decisions
- ⇒ Earn a good credit score
- ⇒ Understand your debt
- ⇒ Budget during financial hardships

Site: Guadalupe Community Center, 1801 W. Cesar E. Chavez Blvd., (210) 222-2975 on Wednesday, December 4th & 18th, 2019 at 2:00 pm.

Trained and IRS-certified staff from the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program provide life skills training on money management. Trainers discuss financial literacy about realistic goal setting, budget management, achieving healthy credit, and reducing debt to help clients achieve self-sufficiency for a secure future. For more information contact Alejandra Sanchez.

## 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

December 7, 2019 - Altar Servers/Liturgy Comm.  
December 14, 2019 - Youth/Young Adults



## 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 Fidèle. 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 foliage (and often a fifth white candle in the center). The purple candles represent the penitential nature of the season, while the pink candle calls to mind the respite of Gaudete Sunday.

## ARE YOU INTERESTED IN EXPANDING YOUR MINISTRY?? USE YOUR TIME, TALENTS AND TREASURE TO SERVE AS A EUCHARISTIC MINISTER OR LECTOR

Any parishioner who would like to serve as a Eucharistic Minister or Lector is invited to attend a training to be held on Tuesday, December 3 at 7:00 p.m. Father Fidèle will provide information to deepen our understanding of the Sacrament of the Eucharist. Any current Eucharistic Minister or Lector who did not attend a training session last year is also encouraged to attend.

Training information for Lectors will also be discussed.

Please contact Linda Campbell (210) 445-7283 Eucharistic Coordinator OR Stella Rico (210) 434-3247, Lector coordinator for more information.



## POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION FOR DECEMBER 2019

### Universal - The Very Young

That every country resolutely commits to taking the necessary measures to make the future of the very young, especially those who suffer, a priority.

## IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

- ⇒ TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3 AT 7:00 P.M. - EUCHARISTIC MINISTER/LECTOR TRAINING - CHURCH
- ⇒ WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2019 AT 7:00 P.M. - ADVENT TALK BY FATHER MICHAEL DEGEROLAMI IN THE CHURCH
- ⇒ MONDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2019 AT 7:00 P.M. - IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY BILINGUAL MASS
- ⇒ WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2019 AT 7:00 P.M. - RECONCILIATION SERVICE/CONFESSIONS IN THE CHURCH



## CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

It's that time of year again! If you would like to order a Christmas poinsettia in memory of a loved one, please contact the Parish Office at 210.434.3247. The altar will be beautifully 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!

## HOPEFUL EXPECTATION

Our liturgical year begins with the season of Advent—a time of hopeful expectation of the coming of the Lord. On the First Sunday of Advent we look forward to the end of time when we will awaken to the dawn of Christ's new day.

Today we hear Isaiah speak of a day when God's power will have brought universal peace and God's Word will have instructed all people, radiating God's "light" (teachings) into all of human society. Only when humanity walks "in the light of the LORD" (Isaiah 2:5), when all people desire to be instructed "in [God's] ways" (Isaiah 2:3), will the world be set aright and our deepest longings fulfilled. The reading from Romans calls us to "awake from sleep" for this final "day is at hand" (Romans 13:11, 12). Together this Sunday's scriptures proclaim our Christian faith that Jesus is the One who will finally come to fulfill God's plan of salvation.

## QUESTION OF THE WEEK

What am I doing that I would not want seen in the light of the day, or at the hour I do not expect?  
What do I need to do to change this?