

December 15, 2019

3rd Sunday of Advent

www.stjohnberchmans.com

WAITING AND HOPING

The people had been searching and waiting for generations for the Anointed One of God. They knew in their hearts that they needed someone to bring them back, to close the divide that had grown between God and God's people. John's baptism of repentance prepared them for the advent, or coming, of the Christ. John's message of repentance and the demands of faith, of justice, and care for the poor and oppressed, while comforting to the weak and vulnerable, was challenging to those in positions of power. Like prophets before him, he refused to ignore the promptings of God to speak God's word. And like many prophets who preceded him, John was imprisoned and eventually martyred.

We can relate to the people who went out into the desert to be baptized. They heard John's urgent call to repentance and his declaration that the Messiah was coming soon. They heard him express God's care for those who needed it most. They were compelled to hear and respond. Their lives were changed, as their hearts were opened to the reality of God's love to which John so powerfully gave witness.

GOD IS WITH YOU

We too ache for God's healing and peace. We wait for God to break into our lives with love. Who among us has not at times felt weak, feeble, afraid? Take heart, you are not alone. God is with you. God is ready to save us from the darkness of sin and lead us to joy in the presence of God's mercy. This is the message of Advent, and of the whole of the gospel: God desires so deeply to be with us that God came to be one with us in Jesus Christ.

Today's Readings: Is 35:1-6a, 10; Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10; Jas 5:7-10; Mt 11:2-11

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EN LA ESPERA Y CON ESPERANZA

El pueblo había estado buscando y esperando por generaciones al Ungido de Dios. Ellos sabían en sus corazones que necesitaban a alguien que los llevara de regreso, para terminar la división que había crecido entre Dios y su pueblo. El bautismo de arrepentimiento de Juan los preparó para el advenimiento o venida de Cristo. El mensaje de Jesús de arrepentimiento y exigencias de la fe, de la justicia y atención a los pobres y oprimidos, al tiempo que consuela a los débiles y vulnerables, era desafiante a aquellos en posiciones de poder. Como los profetas antes que él, rehusó ignorar los movimientos de Dios para hablar de la Palabra de Dios. Y como muchos profetas que lo precedieron, Juan fue hecho prisionero y después martirizado.

Podemos relacionarnos a las personas que fueron al desierto para ser bautizadas. Ellos escucharon el urgente llamado de Juan de arrepentimiento y su declaración que el Mesías estaba por venir. Lo escucharon expresar el cuidado de Dios por aquellos que más lo necesitaban. Ellos fueron obligados a escuchar y responder. Sus vidas cambiaron y sus corazones abiertos a la realidad del amor de Dios por el cual Juan fuertemente dio testimonio.

DIOS ESTÁ CONTIGO

Nosotros también anhelamos la sanación y paz de Dios. Esperamos que Dios interrumpa en nuestras vidas con amor. ¿Quién de nosotros no se ha sentido alguna vez frágil, débil o con miedo? Ánimo, no estás solo. Dios está contigo. Dios está listo para salvarnos de la oscuridad del pecado y guiarnos a la alegría en la presencia de la misericordia de Dios. Este es el mensaje de Adviento y de todo el Evangelio: Dios desea profundamente estar con nosotros por lo que Dios vino a ser uno con nosotros en Jesucristo.

Lecturas de hoy: Is 35:1-6a, 10; Sal 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10; Sant 5:7-10; Mt 11:2-11

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Please Pray for the Sick

Prayer List Updates



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
Maria Langley	Eva Flores	Antonio Mendoza
Irma Urias	Paul Muñoz, Sr.	Sophie Alonzo
Mary S. Martinez	Joe Espinoza	Helen Lloyd
Frances Lozano	Virginia & Jose Ponce	Odilion G. Flores

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 DECEMBER 7-8, 2019

5:00 PM	-\$ 899.00	(061)
8:00 AM	-\$ 455.00	(086)
10:00 AM	-\$1,131.00	(145)
12 NOON	-\$1,527.00	(240)
Children's Basket	-\$ 14.00	
School Mass	-\$ 53.95	
Immaculate Conception	-\$ 253.00	
Retirement for Religious	-\$ 635.52	
Mail In	-\$ 246.00	
2019 Gift of Giving	-\$ 238.27	
TOTAL	\$5,452.74	

SECOND COLLECTION December 15, 2019 - Dikete Foundation

<u>2019 GIFT OF GIVING</u>	
Contributions 12/7-8/19	\$ 238.57
RUNNING BALANCE TOTAL	\$19,182.86

Mass Intentions FOR THE WEEK



Saturday, December 14

5:00 p.m. † Richard Muñoz - Muñoz Family
† Eusebio Rocha - Family
† Luz Arzola - Diaz Family

Sunday, December 15

8:00 a.m. † Guadalupe Treviño - Nora Treviño
† Guadalupe Lopez - Granddaughter

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

For Health Helen Lloyd - Genevieve Perez
For Health Sophie Alonzo - Aunt Connie

12:00 p.m. † Paul G. Salinas - Salinas Family
In Thanksgiving for CCD - DRE

Monday, December 16

Tuesday, December 17

12:00 p.m. † Manuela & Marcelo Gallegos - Family

Wednesday, December 18

8:15 a.m. † Luis Duran, Sr. - Family
† Murray Eby - Daughter

Thursday, December 19

12:00 p.m. † Juana & Jose Castillo - Family

Friday, December 20

12:00 p.m.
Gift of Life Veronica Leos

Saturday, December 21

5:00 p.m. † Raymundo Cruz, Sr - Family
Gift of Life Noah Idrogo - John & Angie Diaz

Sunday, December 22

8:00 a.m. † Guadalupe Treviño - Nora Treviño
† Hilda Torres - Ultreya
† Refugio Olvera - Children

10:00 a.m. † Martin & Margaret Burrell - Daughter
† Gloria Lloyd - Children
† Daniel C. Arzola - Family
† Ryan Sanchez - Sanchez Family
† Paul G. Salinas - Sanchez 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:

† Lydia Peña Saenz

Sanctuary Light

Helen Lloyd



FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parishioners and Friends:

Each registered parishioner who requested envelopes may collect their box of envelopes after Mass. Every parishioner has been issued a number for 2020. If you wish to register, or request envelopes, please speak with Stella Rico, parish secretary, for more information. Thank you for accepting this great responsibility in assisting your parish with financial aid which is extremely important.

I invite each one of you to join us for our Christmas concert to be held on Thursday, December 19th, at 7:00 in the evening. We will commence our concert with the Posadas and culminate with the Christmas concert. The parish choirs have been working very hard to provide you with a great Christmas concert. Make a special effort to attend and anticipate the birth of our Lord and his second coming. I thank Roy Sanchez for spearheading this important event.

On Monday, December 9th, we officially ended the opportunity to request applications for the *Gift of Giving* this Christmas 2019 having collected a total of 33 applications. 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 \$19,000 thanks and completely due to your generosity. Whatever money not utilized this year will become part of next year's campaign. I am looking forward to celebrating the birthday of our Lord and anticipate his second coming.

I announce with great excitement that the new floor has been installed and completed! Remember at all times the cost of \$37,000 to complete this project. It has been a great sacrifice to achieve this project, so it is only fitting that we take great care of our floor in order to maintain it for future generations. 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.

May God bless you always,



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

Announcements

www.stjohnberchmans.com

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — The barren deserts will rejoice and flower (Isaiah 35:1-10).

Psalms — Lord, come and save us (Psalm 146).

Second Reading — Be patient, for the coming of the Lord is as sure as the rain (James 5:7-10).

Gospel — Tell of what you hear and see: The blind regain their vision, the crippled their movement, the deaf their hearing. (Mat 11:2-11)

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: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a; Ps 25:4-9; Mt 21:23-27
Tue: Gn 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72:1-4, 7-8, 17; Mt 1:1-17
Wed: Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-19; Mt 1:18-25
Thu: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25; Ps 71:3-6, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25
Fri: Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-4ab, 5-6; Lk 1:26-38
Sat: Zep 3:14-18; Ps 33:2-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45
Sun: Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-6; Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24

Events of the Week ~ December 15 - 22, 2019

Sunday, December 15

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 - School Cafeteria

Monday, December 16

Tuesday, December 17

12:00 p.m. Mass - Chapel

Wednesday, December 18

8:15 a.m. School Mass - Chapel
6:00 p.m. School Christmas Program - Church
6:30 p.m. RCIA - Formation House

Thursday, December 19

12:00 p.m. Mass - Church
6:00 p.m. Posada Ceremony - Church
7:00 p.m. Christmas Concert - Church

Friday, December 20

12:00 p.m. Mass - Church

Saturday, December 21

9:00 a.m. OVASE Training - Formation House
5:00 p.m. Mass - Church

Sunday, December 22

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



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 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.



MEET OTHER YOUNG ADULTS FOR ADORATION, CONFESSION AND FELLOWSHIP.
Worship on the River Christmas Concert

Date: Tuesday, December 17, 2019
Time: 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. at San Fernando Cathedral
115 Main Plaza, San Antonio, Tx 78205
The Archdiocese of San Antonio Young Adult Ministry invites you to a special night with the Blessed Sacrament, fellowship, Hot chocolate and pan dulce, and Christmas music at San Fernando. Parking is limited and is available in the Frost Bank Garage - 601 N. Flores St., San Antonio, Tx 78205.

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 21, 2019 - Knights/Ultreya



BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

All requests must be sent by email to 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

Gaudete Sunday



GAUDETE SUNDAY

The Third Sunday of Advent is called Gaudete Sunday, the day when we light the pink candle on the Advent wreath (hence the 'pink candle' Sunday). Rose vestments are worn to emphasize our joy that Christmas is near.

Gaudete means "rejoice" in Latin. This day reminds us of the joy that is to come, and serves, amid this season of penance, as a kind of 'break' when we recall the hope we have because of the coming of Our Lord Jesus.

OVASE TRAINING

Next session for OVASE TRAINING will be held on Saturday, December 21, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. in the Formation House.

For individuals serving in any ministry within our St. John Berchmans parish community, Fr. Fidèle cannot stress the importance of completing this mandatory training and be informed that you will **NOT BE permitted** to participate in **ANY MINISTRY** if you do not attend. Thank you!



St. John Berchmans Religious Education program will **NOT** conduct classes on Sunday, **December 22** and Sunday, **December 29, 2019**.

Classes will resume on Sunday, January 5, 2020.

On behalf of our Religious education staff may you and your families enjoy a peace and joyous holiday season.

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES

ADOPT-A-SENIOR is collecting donations for Christmas gift baskets! Volunteers will deliver gift baskets and cheer to isolated Seniors this Christmas. Get involved by donating throw blankets, winter scarves, socks, and gloves, hand lotions, lip balms, and puzzle books to Catholic Charities Senior Services located at 202 W. French Place, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

For more information, please contact Lupe Morin at (210) 222-1294.

IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

- ⇒ THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2019
6:00 P.M. - LAS POSADAS - CHURCH
7:00 P.M. - CHRISTMAS CONCERT - CHURCH
8:00 P.M. - RECEPTION TO FOLLOW IN SCHOOL CAFETERIA
- ⇒ TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2019
6:00 P.M. - CHILDREN'S MASS (ENGLISH)
11:00 P.M. - CHRISTMAS CAROLS
12:00 P.M. - MIDNITE MASS (ENGLISH)
- ⇒ WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2019
10 A.M. - NATIVITY OF THE LORD - BILINGUAL MASS



REASON TO REJOICE

Violet is used throughout Advent to express its character as a season of spiritual preparation for Christmas and "the coming of the Lord." But on the Third Sunday of Advent, formerly known as *Gaudete* (Latin for "rejoice") Sunday, rose may be added to the liturgical environment. The entire liturgy is infused with a spirit of rejoicing.

Today's first reading and Gospel proclaim the reality of God's saving work in our midst. Isaiah exuberantly describes the idyllic transformation of all creation as a result of God's presence in the midst of the people. In the Gospel, Jesus connects Isaiah's prophecy with what is happening in his own ministry. In addition to the list of healings from Isaiah (the blind, the lame, lepers, and the deaf), Jesus' presence brings two other reasons for rejoicing: "The dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them" (Matthew 11:5). Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Even as I welcome Jesus into my heart, can I be patient for his full flowering? Can I be patient for his flowering in my neighbor and in the world?