

MARY AND JOSEPH

Mary and Joseph play a key role in our Catholic devotional and spiritual life. No doubt, much of our devotion to Jesus' mother, Mary, and his foster father, Joseph, is rooted in our appreciation of their willingness to put themselves at the disposal of the will of God, to seek what God most desired of them and to carry it out. We find their example inspiring, and their proximity to the Lord consoling and encouraging. Knowing that they said yes to God in such dramatic and pivotal ways, even when there was so much at stake and there were so many obstacles to take into account, gives us much to ponder. Yet there is something else we must not forget: while God could have come to be with us as a child in any manner at all, God chose to be with us through the active and humble cooperation of a woman and a man, Mary and Joseph.

EMMANUEL

Of all of the names connected to our Lord, two stand out in the ways that they describe the identity and mission of the Lord: "Emmanuel: God is with us" and "Jesus: God saves." The most stunning thing about our Christian faith is that God is not distant, abstract, demanding, a god of wrath and military might. Rather, God desires to be near to us, in relationship, one with us in our challenges and in our joys. God is with us even when remaining with us will lead to betrayal, persecution, and violent death. God who is beyond all of this struggle remains with us so that we might transcend the limitations of our human nature in order to become more like God, to embrace the divine light that resides within each of us. As we approach the celebration of Christmas, consider this: what does it mean to you that God is with us, now and always? What does this call you to be and to do as a Christian, as a follower of God's Son, Jesus, who is with us and who saves us?

Today's Readings: Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24

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MARÍA Y JOSÉ

María y José tuvieron un papel protagonista en nuestra devoción y vida espiritual católica. Sin duda, gran parte de nuestra devoción a María, la madre de Jesús, y a José, su padre adoptivo, está enraizada en nuestra apreciación de su disposición a ponerse ellos mismo en las manos de Dios, para buscar lo que Dios más deseaba de ellos y a llevarlo a cabo. Descubrimos su ejemplo inspirador, y su cercanía con el Señor, consolador y esperanzador. Conociendo que ellos dijeron sí a Dios en esas formas fundamentales y extraordinarias, incluso cuando había tanto en juego y demasiados obstáculos a considerar, nos da mucho en que reflexionar. Sin embargo, hay algo más que no debemos olvidar; aunque Dios pudo haber venido a estar con nosotros como un niño de cualquier manera, Dios eligió estar con nosotros mediante la cooperación activa y humilde de una mujer y un hombre, María y José.

EMMANUEL

De todos los nombres asociado con nuestro Señor, hay dos que sobresalen en la forma que describen la identidad y misión del Señor: "Emmanuel: Dios con nosotros", y "Jesús: Dios salva". Lo más impresionante acerca de nuestra fe cristiana es que Dios no está lejos, es algo abstracto, exigente, un dios de ira y poder militar. Al contrario, Dios desea estar cerca de nosotros, tener una relación, estar con nosotros en nuestros desafíos y alegrías. Dios está con nosotros aun cuando permaneciendo con nosotros nos lleve a la traición, la persecución o una muerte violenta. Dios que está más allá de esta lucha permanece con nosotros para que podamos trascender las limitaciones de nuestra naturaleza humana para llegar a ser más como Dios, para abrazar la luz divina que reside dentro de cada uno de nosotros. Al acercarnos a la celebración de Navidad, consideremos lo siguiente, ¿qué significa para ti que Dios esté con nosotros, ahora y siempre? ¿Qué te llama a ser y hacer como cristiano, como seguidor del Hijo de Dios, Jesús, quien está con nosotros y nos salva?

Lecturas de hoy: Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24

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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 14-15, 2019

5:00 PM	-\$ 978.31	(103)
8:00 AM	-\$ 288.31	(068)
10:00 AM	-\$ 987.00	(119)
12 NOON	-\$1,194.00	(166)
Children's Basket	-\$ 32.00	
School Mass	-\$ 196.49	
Our Lady of Guadalupe	-\$ 246.54	(094)
Dikete Foundation	-\$ 679.67	
Mail In	-\$ 467.80	
2019 Gift of Giving	-\$ 207.54	
TOTAL	\$5,595.66	

SECOND COLLECTION December 22, 2019 - Good Samaritans

<u>2019 GIFT OF GIVING</u>	
Contributions 12/14-15/19	\$ 207.54
RUNNING BALANCE TOTAL	\$19,390.40

Announcements

www.stjohnberchmans.com

Mass Intentions FOR THE WEEK



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

Monday, December 23

Tuesday, December 24

6:00 p.m. † Luis Duran, Sr. - Family
† Daniel Traspaña, Jr. - Family
† Paul G. Salinas - Family
† Jason Guerra - Arocha Family
† Candelario & Mercedes Lopez - Olivia Lopez
For Health † Eva Flores

Wednesday, December 25

10:00 a.m. † Emma Mendez - Mendez Family
† Ryan Sanchez - Sanchez Family
† Mary Theresa Rodriguez - Family
† Jose Luis Gonzales - Family
† Melissa Herrera Jenkins - Family
Natividad A. Cruz
Gift of Life

Thursday, December 26

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

Friday, December 27

12:00 p.m. † Benito Castro - Family

Saturday, December 28

5:00 p.m. † Paul Salinas - John & Angie Diaz
† Francisco Arzola - Diaz Family
† Melissa Herrera Jenkins - Parents
Mary Alice Herrera - Family
Gift of Life

Sunday, December 29

8:00 a.m. † Santos Canales - Angelita Canales
† Guadalupe Treviño - Nora Treviño
† Hilda Torres - Ultreya
10:00 a.m. † Martin & Margaret Burrell - Daughter
† Daniel C. Arzola - Family
† Ryan Sanchez - Sanchez Family
† Paul G. Salinas - Sanchez Family
† Sophie Alonzo - Aunt Connie
For Health
12:00 p.m. † Rosalinda Ramos - Family

In Loving Memory

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

† **Gloria Prieto Padron**

Sanctuary Light

Infant Leighton Geraghty



FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parishioners and Friends:

Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 22nd, puts us two days away from Christmas. I invite each one of you to get involved in celebrating the birthday of our Savior as we anticipate his second coming. The Advent Season has prepared us through words of hope, love, joy and peace. Please join us on Tuesday, December 24th, at our Christmas Eve Mass at 6 in the evening for the children and their parents. We will also have Christmas Carols on Tuesday the 24th at 11:30 in the evening followed by midnight Mass. We will celebrate a bilingual Mass at 10 in the morning on Christmas Day, December 25th. I wish each of my parishioners a Merry Christmas! My annual Christmas letter will be available on Christmas Day.

Each registered parishioner may collect their requested box of envelopes after Mass. Every parishioner has been issued a new 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 assistance which is extremely important. Please ensure you receive your complimentary calendar as well. The calendar is a small token of appreciation for your loyalty to our parish.

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

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TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading - You will be given this sign: The virgin shall conceive and bear a son (Isaiah 7:10-14).

Psalms - Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory (Psa 24).

Second Reading - God has called us to belong to Jesus Christ (Rom 1:1-7).

Gospel — The son born of Mary shall be called Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins (Matt 1:18-24).

*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: Mal 3:1-4, 23-34; Ps 25:4-5, 8-10, 14; Lk 1:57-66

Tue: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8-16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Lk 1:67-79

Wed: **Vigil:** Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-29; Acts 13:16-25; Mt. 1:1-25

Night: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-13; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14

Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ps 97:1-12; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20

Day: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18

Thu: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3-17; Mt 10:17-22

Fri: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Sat: 1 Jn 1:5 - 2:2; Ps 124:2-5, 7-8; Mt 2:13-18

Sun: Sir 3:2-14; Ps 128:1-5; Col 3:12-21; Mt 2:13-23

Events of the Week ~ December 22 - 29, 2019

Sunday, December 22

8:00 a.m. Spanish Mass - Church

10:00 a.m. Mass - Church

12:00 p.m. Mass - Church

Monday, December 23

Tuesday, December 24 - PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

6:00 p.m. Children's Mass - Church

11:00 p.m. Christmas Carols

12 Midnite Mass - Church

Wednesday, Dec. 25 - PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

10:00 a.m. Bilingual Mass - Church

Thursday, December 26

12:00 p.m. Mass - Chapel

Friday, December 27

12:00 p.m. Mass - Chapel

Saturday, December 28

5:00 p.m. Mass - Church

Sunday, December 29

8:00 a.m. Spanish Mass - Church

10:00 a.m. Mass - Church

12:00 p.m. Mass - Church

1:30 p.m. IGBO Community Mass - Church



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26, 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.



In observance of Christmas the Parish office will be closed on **Tuesday, December 24 and Wednesday, December 25, 2019.**

Regular business hours will resume on **Thursday, December 26, 2019.**

Fr. Fidèle, his staff and volunteers wish all of you the blessings of Peace and Happiness this holiday season.

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 28, 2019 - Hospitality**

Fourth Sunday of Advent December 22, 2019

They shall name him
Emmanuel, which means
"God is with us."
— Matthew 1:23



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



THE FOURTH AND LAST SUNDAY OF THE ADVENT SEASON is this weekend, and the fourth candle is lit on this day along with the first three. It is the angel's candle reminding of the heavenly hosts that proclaimed Christ's arrival with, "Behold, I bring unto you the tidings of great joy!"

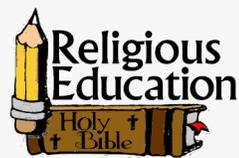
The culmination of the Advent season reminds us of the announcement of Christ's coming and that God is with us. Mary's proclamation calls us to be reminded that our joy does not rest solely in our material comfort or discomfort but in a divine promise that has been fulfilled in the eternal Word becoming flesh and God becoming like us in the deepest sense of the word. In the previous week, we saw joy as being regarded by God, and knowing that our difficult circumstances were not the entirety of our lives, of knowing that God regards us, and that God sees us. And from this space of joy, we see our lives in new ways.

The advent celebration of love is to recall and celebrate how God has filled and is filling every gap in our broken lives and in our broken world.

The students, faculty, and staff of St. John Berchmans Catholic School would like to thank Fr. Fidèle Dikete and our parish community members for all their generous support and prayers this past year.



We are thankful for all our blessings and are grateful for each and every one of you. We look forward to our continued unity in our service to Christ, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



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:

- ⇒ **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

TRUST IN GOD

On this final Sunday of Advent our scriptures focus on the historical birth of Jesus, who is son of David and Son of God, child and king, Jesus and Emmanuel.

Isaiah the prophet begs Ahaz to ask for a sign, to allow God to offer him reassurance of the survival of the Davidic dynasty. The king hypocritically refuses to "tempt the LORD" in that way (Isaiah 7:12), but the prophet foretells the birth of a son, an heir to the throne, who will prove the Lord's enduring protection of God's chosen lineage on the throne of David. The child will be called Emmanuel.

Matthew's reference to this history in his description of the birth of Jesus highlights the contrast between the faithless refusal of trust shown by Ahaz, and the complete trust in God shown by Mary and Joseph in bringing about the birth of Jesus Christ. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

What is my mission? What is God calling me to do? How can I fulfill my mission?