

7th Sunday of Ordinary Time

I AM THE LORD

Today's first reading concludes in classic Levitical style: "I am the LORD." Over and over again, the book of Leviticus punctuates its paragraphs with that simple statement: "I am the LORD." Relentlessly repeating that phrase, the word of God reminds us that God is the LORD—and we are not. We did not construct the world; we did not create ourselves. Remembering our status as mere creatures comes as a shock to us at times, especially when we flex and pose as masters of our own tiny universes. On the other hand, knowing we are "merely" God's beloved children can free us. When we accept that God is the source and summit of all wisdom, we approach life with a growing stillness, an openness to God's powerful action in the world.

HOLY AND PERFECT

Our openness to God's powerful action helps us understand Jesus' words in today's Gospel, when he demands that we become "perfect." Most of us shudder at the thought of having to be perfect. The idea of achieving perfection seems impossible, frankly. But, just before despair sets in, we recall that we are merely creatures. If God wants us to be "holy" and "perfect," as today's readings emphasize, then God will provide all we need to chip away at our imperfections. If we nurse a hateful grudge against someone and cannot imagine being free of the resentment, God can help. If we harm our own bodies through bad habits, the holy Spirit can strengthen our resolve and transform our daily behavior. If we long for advantage over others, if we are disgusted by the thought of loving "unworthy" people, if we overwhelmingly prefer comfort and stability over the wildness of lavish generosity—Jesus Christ, King of glory, can convert our timid hearts. These transformations take time, patience, and prayer. Sitting quietly to reflect over today's readings is an excellent kind of prayer, and an inspiring way to begin.

Today's Readings: Lv 19:1–2, 17–18; Ps 103:1-13; 1 Cor 3:16–23; Mt 5:38–48

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YO SOY EL SEÑOR

La primera lectura de hoy concluye con un estilo clásico del Levítico: "Yo soy el Señor". Una y otra vez el libro del Levítico marca sus párrafos con una frase sencilla: "Yo soy el Señor". Repitiendo constantemente esa frase, la palabra de Dios nos recuerda que Dios es el Señor, y no nosotros. Nosotros no hicimos el mundo, no nos creamos nosotros mismos. Recordando nuestro lugar como simples criaturas a veces nos asombra, especialmente cuando nos hacemos pasar como amos de nuestro pequeño universo. Por otro lado, sabiendo simplemente que somos los amados hijos de Dios puede liberarnos. Cuando aceptamos que Dios es el origen y cumbre de todo el conocimiento, nos enfocamos en la vida con una quietud creciente, una apertura a la poderosa acción de Dios en el mundo.

SANTO Y PERFECTO

Nuestra apertura a la poderosa acción de Dios nos ayuda a entender las palabras de Jesús en el Evangelio de hoy, cuando exige que seamos "perfectos". A muchos de nosotros nos da escalofrío el pensar en ser perfectos. Francamente la idea de llegar a ser perfectos parece imposible. Pero, justo antes que la desesperación aparezca, recordamos que somos simplemente criaturas. Si Dios quiere que seamos "santos" y "perfectos" como en lo enfatiza la lectura de hoy, entonces Dios proveerá todo lo que necesitamos para eliminar nuestras imperfecciones. Si guardamos rencor en contra de alguien y no podemos imaginar librarnos de ese resentimiento, Dios puede ayudar. Si dañamos nuestros propios cuerpos con malos hábitos, el Espíritu Santo puede fortalecer nuestra decisión y transformar nuestro comportamiento diario. Si anhelamos la ventaja sobre los demás, si nos disgusta la idea de amar a personas "indignas", si preferimos abrumadoramente la comodidad y estabilidad sobre la naturaleza de la abundante generosidad, Jesucristo, Rey de la gloria puede convertir nuestros corazones tímidos. Estas transformaciones requieren tiempo, paciencia y oración. Sentarse en silencio para meditar en las lecturas de hoy es un excelente tipo de oración, y una inspiradora forma de empezar.

Lecturas de hoy: Lv 19:1–2, 17–18; Sal 103:1–13; 1 Cor 3:16–23; Mt 5:38–48

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Please Pray for the Sick

Prayer List Updates



Danny Rae Schexnayder, Sr.	Eva Flores	Baby Sophia
Sandra Jean Guerra	Paul Muñoz, Sr.	Antonio Mendoza
Kayla Scott	Joe Espinoza	Sophie Alonzo
Maria Langley	Virginia & Jose Ponce	Helen Lloyd
Irma Urias	Victoria Orosco	Odilion G. Flores
Mary S. Martinez	Henry Vidal	JoAnn Almaguer
Frances Lozano	Hope Esquivel	Diana Calderon
Mary Escalera	Victor Cruz	Janie Ramirez
Maximus James Tobar	Tomas Johnson	Liz
Suzanne Gutierrez	Deacon Jesus Rodriguez	Ana Garcia
Terry Moreno	Rosalinda Esparza	Gina
Sarah Contreras	Daniel Rodriguez	Pedro Maldonado, Sr.
Jose Flores	Rosie Flores	Leonor Maldonado
Frances Ramirez	John Ruiz	Sandra Garza
Marty Carrera Tobias	Jessica Diaz	
Jesse R. Diaz	Robert Campos	
Celina Herrera	Gloria Martinez	
Kevin Ryan Martinez	Carlos Guardiola, III	
David Santoyo	Joe R. Martinez	

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

FEBRUARY 15-16, 2020

5:00 PM	-\$ 851.00	(102)
8:00 AM	-\$ 349.00	(065)
10:00 AM	-\$ 993.00	(123)
12 NOON	-\$1,406.00	(188)
School Mass	-\$ 72.50	
Children's Basket	-\$ 6.00	
Altar Flowers	-\$ 457.61	2nd Collection
Mail In	-\$ 333.00	
2020 Gift of Giving	-\$ 196.92	
TOTAL	\$4,605.03	

SECOND COLLECTION

February 23, 2020 - Religious Education

2020 GIFT OF GIVING

Contributions 2/15-16/2020	\$ 196.92
RUNNING BALANCE TOTAL	\$ 5,721.49

Announcements

Mass Intentions FOR THE WEEK



Saturday, February 22

5:00 p.m. † Lucy M. Valdez - Ponce Family
† Kimberly Treviño - Mother Jennifer Flores

Sunday, February 23

8:00 a.m. † Felicitas Juarez - Angelita Canales
† Mr. Guadalupe Treviño - Nora Treviño
† Eddie C. Vasquez - Wife
† Vicente Alvarez - Familia Alvarez

10:00 a.m. † Gloria Lloyd - Children
† Pedro B. Martinez - Family
† Ryan Sanchez - Sanchez Family
† Gene Toscano - Family

Gift of Life Travis Denn - Grandparents

12:00 p.m. † Paul G. Salinas - Family

Monday, February 24

Tuesday, February 25

12:00 p.m. † Rachel D. Faz

Wednesday, February 26 - ASH WEDNESDAY

8:15 a.m. In Thanksgiving Alice Lozano - Socorro & Raquel
7:00 p.m. † Justin Rey Martinez

Thursday, February 27

12:00 p.m. † Flora H. Carrasco

Friday, February 28

12:00 p.m. † Elvira Moreno

Saturday, February 29

5:00 p.m. † George Hernandez - Wife & Family
† Johnny Arocha - Wife & Family
Gift of Life Sandra Lockwood & Nelda Otte - Cousins

Sunday, March 1

8:00 a.m. † Mr. Guadalupe Treviño - Nora Treviño
10:00 a.m. † Isabel G. Chapa - M/M Ruben Verastigui
† Ryan Sanchez - Family
† Carmen & Albert Hinojosa - Alice Lozano
12:00 p.m. † Paul G. Salinas - Family

ASH WEDNESDAY

Prayer, fasting, and almsgiving: these disciplines, prescribed by Jesus himself in the Sermon on the Mount, along with strict instructions not to flaunt them in public to win recognition and praise (Matt 6:1-18), have been embraced by the saints at the beginning of every Lent for almost two thousand years. But mention Lent, and many react with a grimace or slight shudder—even now, years after official obligations have been reduced to a minimum! Begin the fast with joy! "Do you fast? Give proof by your works. If you see a poor person, take pity. An enemy, be reconciled. A friend gaining honor, don't be jealous." A positive approach! May the saints help us keep such a Lent!

—Peter Scagnelli, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parishioners and Friends:

Wednesday, February 28th is Ash Wednesday. You are all invited to join your fellow parishioners on Wednesday in receiving the ashes and in making a commitment to walk with Jesus for 40 days in the desert. I am excited and cordially invite you to become informed with the bulletin insert for a complete Lenten season schedule and in making a special effort to participate in all the spiritual activities which were carefully planned for you.

A Home Bound Committee has been established for the purpose of specifically addressing the needs of our brothers and sisters in need of assistance due to health reasons. This particular ministry intends to focus on those persons who are home or at a health care facility, elderly, sick and unable to attend Church. Please contact the office in case you know or are aware of parishioners in need of assistance.

We have another committee being established entitled "Connecting Committee" for the purpose of reaching out to parishioners who have either been extremely busy to come to church, disengaged with the church or who have chosen to leave the church for multiple reasons or personal and family reasons. The Committee is determined to carry on the mission of inquiring who are those parishioners and inviting them to return home to the church. However, the responsibility of reaching out to our brothers and sisters fall on each one of us. We need to unify in building our community by inviting those who may have left to join us. Make a special effort to contact those that you may know who have left, reassure them of our love and concern. Eventually invite them back. We are disciples of Christ and are called to carry the mission of Christ.

I thank Dr. Citlali Maria Zentella and Binisa Zentella for a wonderful presentation and to all of you who were in attendance. Thanks also to the J.O.Y. ministry for a very successful retreat to prepare us for Lent, and for all of you who were in attendance.

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 cost is \$3,100 per person (double occupancy) which includes round trip airfare from San Antonio, 4 & 5 star hotels, breakfast, dinner, daily sightseeing, tips, daily Masses, airport taxes, fuel surcharges and assistance of professional local catholic guides. Invite family members and friends to join me in this memorable trip. Please stop by the office for a brochure or speak with me for more information.

May God bless you always,



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



Sanctuary Light
† Flora H. Carrasco



Announcements

www.stjohnberchmans.com

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — Take no revenge and cherish no grudge; love your neighbor as yourself (Leviticus 19:1-2, 17-18).

Psalm — The Lord is kind and merciful (Psalm 103).

Second Reading — You are the temple of God, and holy (1 Cor 3:16-23).

Gospel — Offer no resistance; love your enemies (Matt 5:38-48)
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: Jas 3:13-18; Ps 19:8-10, 15; Mk 9:14-29
Tue: Jas 4:1-10; Ps 55:7-11a, 23; Mk 9:30-37
Wed: Jl 2:12-18; Ps 51:3-17; 2 Cor 5:20 - 6:2; Mt 6:1-18
Thu: Dt 30:15-20; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Lk 9:22-25
Fri: Is 58:1-9a; Ps 51:3-6ab, 18-19; Mt 9:14-15
Sat: Is 58:9b-14; Ps 86:1-6; Lk 5:27-32
Sun: Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7; Ps 51:3-17; Rom 5:12-19; Mt 4:1-11

Events of the Week ~ February 23 - March 1, 2020

Sunday, February 23

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
3:00 p.m. IGBO Fellowship - Cafeteria

Monday, February 24

6:30 p.m. Lent Bible Study - Formation House

Tuesday, February 25

12:00 p.m. **Mass** - Chapel
6:30 p.m. Men's Bible Class - Formation House

Wednesday, February 26 - ASH WEDNESDAY

8:15 a.m. **School Mass** - Church
10:00 a.m. Liturgy of the Word - Church
12 Noon Liturgy of the Word - Church
4:00 p.m. Liturgy of the Word - Church
7:00 p.m. **Bilingual Mass** - Church

Thursday, February 27

12:00 p.m. **Mass** - Chapel

Friday, February 28

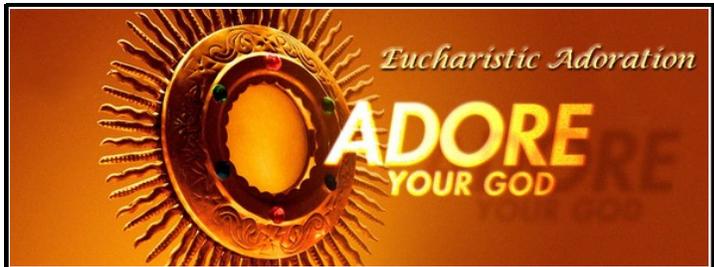
12:00 p.m. **Mass** - Chapel
7:00 p.m. **Stations of the Cross** - Church

Saturday, February 29

5:00 p.m. **Mass** - Church

Sunday, March 1

8:00 a.m. **Spanish Mass** - Church
10:00 a.m. **Mass** - Church
12:00 p.m. **Mass** - Church
2:00 p.m. Guadalupe Bingo - Cafeteria



THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2020
9:00 A.M. - 5 P.M.



ST. JOHN BERCHMANS SCHOOL

Enrollment for the 2020-2021 school year is now open. Please contact the school office at (210) 433-0411 to schedule a tour of our school.

A great big **Thank You** to all Alumni of St. John Berchmans Catholic School for your prayers and presence at this past week's event. May God continue to bless you in your life's endeavors!

The Catholic Arts and Academic Competition CAAC was held on Saturday, February 22nd at St. Anthony High School. Students in grade 1st-8th represented St. John Berchmans. We are extremely proud of our boys and girls!!!



On behalf of Archbishop Gustavo and Father Fidèle, we invite you and your family to offer a sacrificial gift of love by participating in this year's Archbishop's Appeal, **Accompany with Joy, Give with Grace**. Your gift will support the formation of priests and deacons to serve you, your families, and individuals locally; support formation of lay leaders to serve as catechists; offer Catholic education to families in need; broadcast televised Mass; and share Christ's love as it feeds, clothes, shelters, and cares for the most vulnerable. Appeal Gifts can be given: 1) Using the parish envelope 2) online www.archsa.org/archbishops-appeal or 3) Call (210) 734-1604.

May God bless you for your willingness to Accompany with Joy, Give with Grace.

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
February 29, 2020 - Martinez/Santoyo Families



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



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!! GUADALUPANAS ANNUAL MEAT BINGO FUNDRAISER

Will be held on **Sunday, March 1, 2020** from 2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. in the school cafeteria. Cost is \$7.00 for 15 regular games, special bingos and a variety of prizes. There will also be food, refreshments and sweets available for purchase.

Come join us for a good time and help us as we continue to raise monies for our organization and church. Thank you as always for your support!

ST. JOHN BERCHMANS CYO

Our organization is currently registering for the 2020 Baseball/Softball/T-Ball Season. Ages: 3 years - 14 years old. Registration fee: \$70.00 per player and discount applies if more than one player in one family.

For information contact: Rachel Gonzales (210) 823-0017 or Liz Hernandez at (210) 842-0673.



CATHOLIC WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

Mark your calendars for the 2020 Catholic Women's Conference to be held on May 29 (Friday) & May 30, (Saturday) 2020, at St. Matthew's Athletic Center. Group registration will be done by Marie Sanchez and deadline for registration is Monday, May 11, 2020. For more information, please call (210) 433-7068.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

When was the last time you prayed the Station of the Cross in Church? This is a powerful way to contemplate, and enter into, the mystery of Jesus' gift of himself to us. When you pray Stations of the Cross you are tracing the footsteps of Christ, in his journey from being condemned to death to his resurrection. In knowing that our Lord and Savior died such a violent death for love of us, meditating on the Stations of the Cross becomes an experience where one can unite with Christ. This meditation allows you to contemplate Christ's suffering and His victory of sin and Satan.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

February 28, 2020 - Religious Education

March 13, 2020 - Youth/CYO/Altar Servers/J.O.Y.

March 6, 2020 - Guadalupana Society

March 20, 2020 - English Choirs



THE JOY OF MARRIAGE: WEDDING THE SPIRITUAL AND THE PRACTICAL

Morning Reflection in English for Couples

Date: Saturday, April 4, 2020

Time: 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Location: St. Dominic Catholic Church (5919 Ingram Road., San Antonio, TX 78228)

New to married life? Married for 20 years? Married and engaged couples who are looking to spend some quality time together in dialogue and community are invited to attend. Married couples will receive a special blessing during Mass! This bilingual Mass will be presided by Archbishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller, MSpS. Couples will hear a workshop presentation and have time for dialogue, light snacks, and refreshments. This event is free of charge but all couples must register to attend. Please note that child care will not be available. For more information, contact Yessica Marval (Event Coordinator) @ 210-734-1653 or yessica.marval@archsa.org.

FOOLISHNESS

Sometimes the idea of repentance seems old-fashioned, naïve, even foolish. But if you're looking for real foolishness, you'll find it in today's readings.

We begin with Leviticus and the admonition, "Take no revenge and cherish no grudge" (Leviticus 19:18). We've heard that message before, of course, so we might forget how far it is from the so-called "practical realities of life." Saint Paul warns us about being practical, though. Whoever considers oneself wise had better "become a fool," because "the wisdom of this world is foolishness in the eyes of God" (1 Corinthians 3:18, 19).

This "foolishness" continues in the Gospel: "Offer no resistance to one who is evil" (Matthew 5:39). In fact, offer the other cheek when you've been slapped. Hand over your coat as well as your shirt. Be like God, who sends sunshine and rain on the bad as well as the good. "So be perfect," says Jesus, "just as your heavenly Father is perfect" (5:48). Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

How can I allow the Spirit to guide me more fully? How will that affect how I treat both those who treat me well and those who mistreat me?