

1st Sunday of Lent

BEING LIKE GOD

The story of Adam and Eve, in Genesis 2 and 3, considers the origins of the trials and sufferings that we experience in human life. Part of the problem, the story suggests, is the human effort to be like God. Humans are therefore forbidden to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. The story is quite a contrast from Genesis 1, which proclaims that we are made in the image and likeness of God, and called to seek to become more like God. This creates a tension that points to a challenge in our life of faith: we are created both to embody God by developing our God-given human capacities, and also to live in radical trust and dependence on God. We are called to embrace and to live into this tension.

GOD'S BELOVED

When the people of Israel were freed from Egypt, they were declared to be God's chosen and beloved people. They wandered in the desert for forty years, often with great resistance, as God prepared them to enter the Promised Land.

Jesus' forty days in the desert echoes their story, and offer a contrast. At his baptism, just before being led into the desert by the Spirit, Jesus was declared by a voice from the heavens to be God's "beloved Son." So, twice in today's passage, he is lured with the words "If you are the Son of God . . ." The devil tempts Jesus to re-define his sonship of God on his own terms, instead of following his Father. Israel had failed to understand its identity as God's people, but Jesus demonstrates how to live as God's Beloved.

These contrasting stories of Israel and of Jesus present us with a challenge. We are regularly tempted to redefine our identity as Christians on our own terms, to make faith comfortable and non-threatening. This Lenten season can re-mind us to allow God to transform our minds and hearts on God's terms.

Today's Readings: Gen 2:7-9, 3:1-7; Ps 51:3-13, 17; Rom 5:12-19; Mt 4:1-11

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SIENDO COMO DIOS

La historia de Adán y Eva, en el libro del Génesis 2 y 3, es considerada como el origen del juicio y sufrimiento que experimentamos en la vida humana. Parte del problema, sugiere la historia, es el esfuerzo humano por ser como Dios. Por lo tanto, a los humanos se les prohíbe comer del árbol del conocimiento del bien y del mal. La historia es absolutamente un contraste de Génesis 1, donde se proclama que somos hechos a imagen y semejanza de Dios, y llamados a buscar hacernos más como Dios. Esto crea una tensión que se dirige a un reto en nuestra vida de fe: somos creados tanto para encarnar a Dios desarrollando nuestras capacidades humanas dadas por Dios, y también para vivir una confianza radical y dependencia en Dios. Estamos llamados a aceptar y vivir en esta tensión.

LOS AMADOS DE DIOS

Cuando el pueblo de Israel fue liberado de Egipto, fueron proclamados ser los elegidos por Dios y pueblo amado. Durante cuarenta años deambularon en el desierto, frecuentemente con gran resistencia, y Dios los preparó para entrar a la Tierra Prometida.

Los cuarenta días de Jesús en el desierto refleja esta historia, y ofrece un contraste. En su bautismo, justo antes de ser guiado al desierto por el Espíritu, Jesús fue declarado por una voz del cielo ser el "Hijo amado" de Dios. Así que dos veces en el pasaje de hoy, él es tentado con las palabras "¿Sí eres el Hijo de Dios . . ." El diablo tienta a Jesús para redefinir su filiación de Dios en sus propios términos, en lugar de seguir a su Padre. Israel falló en entender su identidad como el pueblo de Dios, pero Jesús demuestra cómo vivir como el amado de Dios.

Estas historias contrastantes de Israel y de Jesús nos presenta un reto. Regularmente estamos tentados a redefinir nuestra identidad como cristianos en nuestros propios términos, para hacer a la fe confortable y no amenazante. Este tiempo de Cuaresma podemos recordarnos permitir que Dios transforme nuestras mentes y corazones en los términos de Dios.

Lecturas de hoy: Gn 2:7-9, 3:1-7; Sal 51:3-13, 17; Rom 5:12-19 ;Mt 4:1-11

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Please Pray for the Sick

Prayer List Updates



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

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 21-22, 2020

| | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 5:00 PM | -\$1,236.98 | (140) |
| 8:00 AM | -\$ 362.00 | (064) |
| 10:00 AM | -\$1,199.00 | (163) |
| 12 NOON | -\$ 988.52 | (153) |
| IGBO Mass | -\$ 168.00 | |
| School Mass | -\$ 76.87 | |
| Children's Basket | -\$ 10.00 | |
| Religious Education | -\$ 413.52 | 2nd Collection |
| Mail In | -\$ 145.00 | |
| 2020 Gift of Giving | -\$ 235.87 | |
| TOTAL | \$4,835.76 | |

SECOND COLLECTION

March 1, 2020 - Black and Indian Missions

2020 GIFT OF GIVING

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Contributions 2/21-22/2020 | \$ 235.87 |
| RUNNING BALANCE TOTAL | \$ 5,957.36 |

Announcements

Mass Intentions FOR THE WEEK



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
† Sophie Alonzo - Aunt Connie
12:00 p.m. † Paul G. Salinas - Family
† Emma Mendez - Rose Marie Mendez

Monday, March 2

Tuesday, March 3

12:00 p.m. † Lucy Hermosa Villarreal

Wednesday, March 4

8:15 a.m. † Cristiano Chacon

Thursday, March 5

12:00 p.m. † Jeannie Ybarra

Friday, March 6

12:00 p.m. † Cecilia Espinoza

Saturday, March 7

5:00 p.m. † Fernando Camarillo, Sr. - Family
† Lilia Cabello - Daughters & Sons
Gift of Life Libby Castillo - Tias
In Thanksgiving Chad & Chantal - Family

Sunday, March 8

8:00 a.m. † Mr. Guadalupe Treviño - Nora Treviño
10:00 a.m. † Ryan Sanchez - Family
† Sophie Alonzo - Aunt Connie
12:00 p.m. † Emma H. Mendez - Rose Marie Mendez,
Daughter

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parishioners and Friends:

This past Wednesday, February 26th was Ash Wednesday. We officially initiated the Lenten Season. Traditionally, we are asked to intensify our prayer life, fast and engage in actions of charity. I encourage you to build on these three pillars of Lent and challenge you to extend their understanding. If I may also suggest that we make amendments with those we have offended, or have offended us, forgive even our enemies. We are called to holiness as our Father who is in heaven is holy. Let us be kind to each other, compassionate, understanding, loving and forgiving. We may also consider increasing our donation to our Saturday and Sunday collections. Our church is also in need of volunteers to clean it every Saturday. Remember also that Adoration takes place every Thursday from 9:00 in the morning until 5:00 in the afternoon. For the next 40 days we will be having the Stations of the Cross every Friday at 7:00 in the evening. **Make a special effort to participate in all the spiritual activities which were carefully planned for you as you reference insert from last week's bulletin. I wish you a prayerful and joyful Lenten Season. May the next several weeks bring us closer to the Lord and to our brother and sisters.**

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 identifying who those parishioners are and inviting them to return home to the church. However, the responsibility of reaching out to our brothers and sisters falls on each one of us. We need to unify in building our parish by inviting those who may have left to rejoin our community. We must make a special effort to contact those that you know who have left us, and reassure them of our love and concern. We are disciples of Christ and are called to carry the mission of Christ.

May God bless you always,



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



In Loving Memory

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

† Cristiano Chacon

Sanctuary Light

† Johnny Arocha



Announcements

www.stjohnberchmans.com

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — The man and the woman ate the fruit of the one tree that God had told them to avoid, and their shame overtook them (Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7).

Psalm — Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned (Psalm 51).

Second Reading — Death reigned from Adam to Moses, but now grace and life abound in Christ Jesus (Rom 5:12-19).

Gospel — Jesus was led into the desert by the Spirit and there he fasted for forty days and forty nights (Matt 4:1-11).

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: Lv 19:1-2, 11-18; Ps 19:8-10, 15; Mt 25:31-46
Tue: Is 55:10-11; Ps 34:4-7, 16-19; Mt 6:7-15
Wed: Jon 3:1-10; Ps 51:3-4, 12-19; Lk 11:29-32
Thu: Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Ps 138:1-8; Mt 7:7-12
Fri: Ez 18:21-28; Ps 130:1-8; Mt 5:20-26
Sat: Dt 26:16-19; Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8; Mt 5:43-48
Sun: Gn 12:1-4a; Ps 33:4-5, 18-22; 2 Tm 1:8-10; Mt 17:1-9

Events of the Week ~ March 1 - 8, 2020

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. Guadalupana Bingo - Cafeteria

Monday, March 2

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

Tuesday, March 3

12:00 p.m. Mass - Chapel
6:30 p.m. Bible Class - Formation House

Wednesday, March 4

8:15 a.m. School Mass - Church
6:30 p.m. Guadalupana Meeting - Formation

Thursday, March 5

12:00 p.m. Mass - Chapel
6:00 p.m. Homebound Ministry - Formation

Friday, March 6

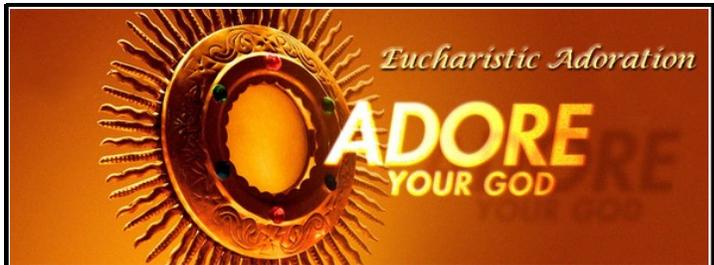
12:00 p.m. Mass - Chapel
7:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross - Church

Saturday, March 7

9:00 a.m. Rummage Sale - Parking Lot
5:00 p.m. Mass - Church

Sunday, March 8 - DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

8:00 a.m. Spanish Mass - Church
TACO SALE AFTER ALL MASSES - ACTS CORE
10:00 a.m. Mass - Church
12:00 p.m. Mass - Church



THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 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.

Do you want to know how you can help support St. John Berchmans Catholic School.

Join us for Casino Night!!

When: Saturday, March 7, 2020

Time: 6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Where: Temple Beth-el, 211 Belknap Place
San Antonio, Tx 78212

Cost: \$25.00 per person

Please contact our school office for additional information.



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.

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

March 7, 2020 - Altar Servers/Liturgy Committee



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.

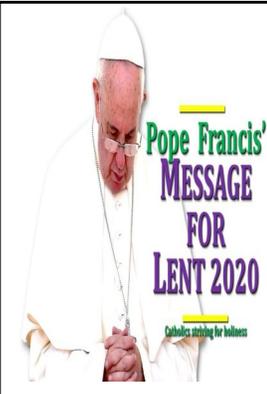


NEW TO OUR PARISH AND WANT TO REGISTER AS A NEW PARISHIONER?

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



In this Lent of 2020, I would like to share with every Christian. "Keep your eyes fixed on the outstretched arms of Christ crucified, let yourself be saved over and over again. And when you go to confess your sins believe firmly in his mercy which frees you of your guilt. Contemplate his blood poured out and with such great love, and let yourself be cleansed by it. In this way, you can be reborn ever anew." Jesus' Pasch is not a past event; rather through the power of the Holy Spirit is ever present enabling us to see and touch with faith the flesh of Christ in those who suffer

I ask Mary Most Holy to pray that our Lenten celebration will open our hearts to hear God's call to be reconciled to himself, to fix our gaze on the paschal mystery, and to be converted to an open and sincere dialogue with him. In this way, we will become what Christ asks of his disciples to be: the salt of the earth and the light of the world. (Mt. 5:13-14)

THOMPSON NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Cordially invites SJB parishioners to our monthly association meeting to be held on **Tuesday, March 3, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. in the Brentwood Middle School Cafeteria**. We look forward to seeing you there and ask that you spread the word in your neighborhood.

We discuss a host of topics and have city leaders address our organizations concerns and possible solutions

We also remind individuals to VOTE in the Primary Election on Tuesday, March 3, 2020!!!

Make your voice heard!



GUADALUPANAS ANNUAL MEAT BINGO FUNDRAISER THIS WEEKEND

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. Thanks for your support!!

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

March 6, 2020 - Guadalupana Society

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



FOR YOUR INFORMATION

- Holy Thursday Candles - Contact the Parish office to place orders.
- Tour of the Seven Churches, Thursday, April 9 from 9pm-Midnite. Additional information forthcoming.

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.

STRENGTH AGAINST TEMPTATION

The first Sunday of the season of Lent always includes a Gospel account of the temptation of the Lord Jesus in the desert by the devil. This year, the story is set against the backdrop of the first reading from Genesis, which recounts the very first temptation by the devil. That story is set in a garden of delight. The Gospel story is set in the desert. As believers, we know that temptation comes our way in our own gardens of delight as well as the deserts of our lives. As Lent begins, our attention is drawn to that temptation within each of us to become like God—we want control, power, and answers to all of life's difficult questions. As communities of faith, we are given this season of repentance so that we can join our hearts with others on the difficult journey of conversion. We look to God and to one another for strength against temptation.

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QUESTION OF THE WEEK

What was the last time I gave in to temptation? What wisdom have I gained since then?