

# 2nd Sunday of Lent

## BLEST TO BE A BLESSING

The first eleven chapters of Genesis tell the story of the tragedy of human separation from God. But God has not given up on humanity. God is on a mission to reconcile and heal all of creation. In today's reading from Genesis 12, we see the beginning of God's new strategy: to begin with a single person (Abram, later renamed Abraham) and family and form them into a distinct people, so that all peoples may see God's blessing in them, and share in this blessing.

God's chosen people are not selected simply to receive blessing, but to serve as examples and agents of blessing. God blesses people not only for their own benefit but for all. When we fully thank God, we also accept God's call to bless others. We the Church receive God's grace precisely so that we may share grace with others.

## LISTEN TO HIM

In today's Gospel describing Jesus' transfiguration, we hear of the disciples' vision of Jesus, Moses, and Elijah. Peter, perhaps understandably, responds by trying to enshrine the moment by building tents for them. However, God interrupts and speaks words identical to those spoken at Jesus' baptism: "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." But here God adds, "listen to him."

Listening to God can take various forms. At some moments, as when we receive new insight or are deeply moved, we want to jump into action. Sometimes this is appropriate and necessary. But sometimes God interrupts our eagerness, and calls us to further reflection or simply to listen in silence.

Reflection and action are of course both essential to our faith journey. Yet we recall that God may often speak through silence. Contemplative practice, rich in tradition within our Catholic faith, reminds us that God invites us to an encounter within silence. In contemplative prayer, we open ourselves and simply wait upon God. We might encounter a divine Presence beyond words.

**Today's Readings:** Gen 12:1-4a; Ps 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22; 2 Tim 1:8b-10; Mt 17:1-9

Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

## BENDITO POR SER UNA BENDICIÓN

Los primeros once capítulos del libro del Génesis cuentan la historia de la tragedia de la separación humana de Dios. Pero Dios no ha abandonado a la humanidad. Dios está en una misión para reconciliar y sanar a toda la creación. En las lecturas de hoy, del capítulo 12 del libro del Génesis, vemos el comienzo de una nueva estrategia de Dios: empezar con una persona sencilla (Abram, después llamado Abrahán) y familia y formarlos en personas diferentes, para que todas las personas puedan ver la bendición de Dios en ellos, y compartir esta bendición.

El pueblo elegido no fue elegido simplemente para recibir esta bendición, sino para servir como ejemplo y representantes de esta bendición. Dios bendice a las personas no solamente para su propio beneficio sino para el de todos. Cuando agradecemos plenamente a Dios, también aceptamos la llamada de Dios para bendecir a otros. Nosotros, la Iglesia, recibimos la gracia de Dios precisamente para que podamos compartir la gracia con los demás.

## ESCUCHÁNDOLO A ÉL

El Evangelio de hoy, describiendo la transfiguración de Jesús, escuchamos de los apóstoles la revelación de Jesús, Moisés y Elías. Pedro, comprensiblemente, responde intentando consagrar el momento construyendo chozas para ellos. Sin embargo, Dios interrumpe y habla con palabras idénticas a las habladas en el bautismo de Jesús: "Este es mi Hijo amado, en quien me complace". Pero aquí, Dios añade "escúchenlo".

Escuchar a Dios puede tomar varias formas. En algunos momentos, así como cuando recibimos nueva luz o estamos profundamente conmovidos, queremos ir a la acción. Algunas veces esto es apropiado y necesario. Pero otras veces, Dios interrumpe nuestro entusiasmo, y nos llama a una reflexión más profunda o simplemente a escuchar en silencio.

La reflexión y la acción son desde luego esenciales para nuestro camino de fe. Sin embargo, recordamos que Dios a menudo puede hablar a través del silencio. La práctica contemplativa, rica en tradición en nuestra fe católica, nos recuerda que Dios nos invita a un encuentro dentro del silencio. En la oración contemplativa, nos abrimos y simplemente esperamos en Dios. Podríamos encontrar la divina presencia más allá de las palabras.

**Lecturas de hoy:** Gn 12:1-4a; Sal 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22; 2 Tim 1:8b-10; Mt 17:1-9

Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.



## 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	
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 29 - MARCH 1, 2020**

5:00 PM	-\$1,058.00	(113)
8:00 AM	-\$ 451.00	(078)
10:00 AM	-\$1,744.17	(169)
12 NOON	-\$1,836.36	(206)
Church in Central Europe	-\$ 272.00	(241) Ash Wed.
School Mass	-\$ 173.48	
Children's Basket	-\$ 10.00	
Capital Improvements	-\$ 932.68	2nd Collection
Black & Indian Missions	-\$ 345.00	2nd Collection
Mail In	-\$ 695.00	
2020 Gift of Giving	-\$ 264.93	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$7,782.62</b>	

## **SECOND COLLECTION March 8, 2020 - Good Samaritans of SJB**

<b><u>2020 GIFT OF GIVING</u></b>	
Contributions 2/29-3/1/2020	\$ 264.93
<b>RUNNING BALANCE TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 6,222.29</b>

# Announcements

## Mass Intentions FOR THE WEEK



### 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  
† Daniel Arzola - Familia  
For Health Sophie Alonzo - Aunt Connie  
**12:00 p.m.** † Emma H. Mendez - Rose Marie Mendez,  
Daughter  
† Paul G. Salinas - Grace Salinas  
† Robert Ortiz - Family

### Monday, March 9

### Tuesday, March 10

**12:00 p.m.** † Esther Guevara

### Wednesday, March 11

**12:00 p.m.** † Domingo G. Espinosa

### Thursday, March 12

**12:00 p.m.** Isaias de Ecuador

### Friday, March 13

**12:00 p.m.** † Alfredo Cruz

### Saturday, March 14

**5:00 p.m.** † George Hernandez - Wife & Family

### Sunday, March 15

**8:00 a.m.** † Mr. Jose Ramirez - Nora Treviño  
**10:00 a.m.** † Ryan Sanchez - Family  
† Daniel Arzola - Familia  
For Health Sophie Alonzo - Aunt Connie  
**12:00 p.m.** † Paul G. Salinas - Grace Salinas  
Gift of Life Kathryn Gearheart - Mom & Dad  
Gift of Life Edward Diaz - Mom & Dad

## *In Loving Memory*

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

† **Domingo G. Espinoza**

## Sanctuary Light

† **Alfredo Cruz**



## FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parishioners and Friends:

Today, second Sunday of Lent, Jesus transfigured in the presence of Peter, James and John who were ecstatic. They experienced the glory and tenderness of the Lord and were tempted to remain on the mountain but were quickly reminded of the true glory which comes from Jesus. "He is my beloved son..." Abram also followed the will of God by engaging on a journey full of ups and down but solely relying on the mercy and guidance of God. May this Lenten Season allow us to intensify our prayers, life, fasting and engaging in actions of charity. I encourage you to build on these four 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 hands 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 28 days the Stations of the Cross will be presented every Friday at 7:00 in the evening. **Make a special effort to participate in all the Lenten activities we've carefully planned for you and are listed in the parish bulletin insert from several weeks ago. 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 also have a **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.fidele@stjohnberchmans.com

# Announcements

www.stjohnberchmans.com

## TODAY'S READINGS

**First Reading** — The LORD said to Abram: All the families of the earth shall find blessing in you (Gen 12:1-4)

**Psalm** — Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you (Psalm 33).

**Second Reading** — God has called us to a holy life, not because of our works but according to grace (2 Tim 1:8-10).

**Gospel** — Atop a high mountain, Jesus was transfigured before Peter, James, and John (Matt 17:1-9). The English translation of the Psalm Responses from *Lectio for Mass* © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon: Dn 9:4b-10; Ps 79:8, 9, 11, 13; Lk 6:36-38

Tue: Is 1:10, 16-20; Ps 50:8-9, 16-17, 21, 23; Mt 23:1-12

Wed: Jer 18:18-20; Ps 31:5-6, 14-16; Mt 20:17-28

Thu: Jer 17:5-10; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Lk 16:19-31

Fri: Gn 37:3-4, 12-13; 17-28; Ps 105:16-21; Mt 21:33-46

Sat: Mi 7:14-15, 18-20; Ps 103:1-4, 9-12; Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

Sun: Ex 17:3-7; Ps 95:1-2, 6-9; Rom 5:1-2, 5-8; Jn 4:5-42

## Events of the Week ~ March 8 - 15, 2020

### Sunday, March 8

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

### Monday, March 9

6:00 p.m. School Committee - Formation House

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

### Tuesday, March 10

12:00 p.m. Mass - Chapel

6:30 p.m. Bible Class - Formation House

### Wednesday, March 11

8:15 a.m. Mass - Chapel

6:30 p.m. ACTS Core - Formation House

7:00 p.m. Youth Ministry - Formation House

### Thursday, March 12

12:00 p.m. Mass - Chapel

6:00 p.m. Women's ACTS - Formation House

### Friday, March 13

12:00 p.m. Mass - Chapel

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

### Saturday, March 14

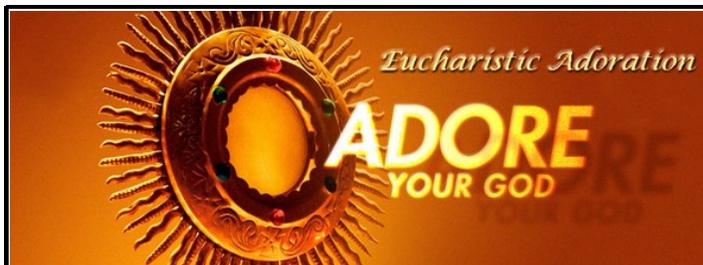
5:00 p.m. Mass - Church

### Sunday, March 15

8:00 a.m. Spanish Mass - Church

10:00 a.m. Mass - Church

12:00 p.m. Mass - Church



**THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 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.

We would like to thank everyone that came out to support our annual casino night. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

**RUMMAGE SALE re-scheduled to Saturday, April 4, 2020.** Time: 9:00 am - 2:00 pm Cost: \$10.00 per spot. Thank you!



Certified staff and IRS-trained volunteers are ready and available to assist clients with tax preparation! If you make **less than \$55,000 a year**, make an appointment with the Catholic Charities VITA team to file your refund for **FREE** to supplemental expenses, pay debt, or save money for transportation or housing.

To make an appointment, contact Jesica Enriquez or call (210) 222-2975.

### 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 14, 2020 - Eucharistic Ministers/  
Good Samaritans of SJB**



### BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

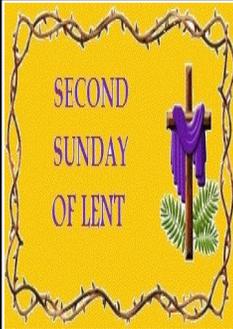
All requests must be sent by email to [osantoyo1104@gmail.com](mailto:osantoyo1104@gmail.com) and will be finalized for approval by Father Fidèle. We ask that you submit your requests at least two (2) weeks in advance for placement in the bulletin.



### 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



On this **Second Sunday of Lent**, we move from Jesus' retreat to the desert to his Transfiguration.

The story of Jesus' Transfiguration is told in the three Synoptic Gospels: Matthew, Mark and Luke. In each of those Gospels, the Transfiguration follows Jesus' first prediction of his death and his teaching about the costs of discipleship. Jesus' Transfiguration is a promise of Jesus' glory, his Resurrection.

On a mountain in today's reading, a voice affirms that Jesus is God's son in words reminiscent of the voice at Jesus' baptism. In addition, the appearance of Moses and Elijah on the mountain connects this story with God's relationship to the people of Israel. Moses and Elijah represent the Law and the Prophets, respectively. Together with Jesus, they represent God's complete Word.

The Transfiguration occurs in the presence of just three of Jesus' disciples: Peter, James, and John. In Matthew's Gospel, those disciples are among the first whom Jesus calls. The three men are identified as an "inner circle" among Jesus' disciples when Jesus asks them to accompany him to the Garden of Gethsemane just before his arrest.

## STATIONS OF THE CROSS

**Every Friday evening at 7 pm inside the Church.** Come join us in this time of meditation that allows you to contemplate Christ's suffering and His victory over sin and Satan.

### MINISTRY SCHEDULE

March 13th - Youth/CYO/Altar Servers/J.O.Y.  
March 20th - English Choirs

March 27th - Spanish Choir/Ultreya  
April 3rd - ACTS/Knights/Rosary Makers



## LENTEN DISCIPLINE: PRAYER

An emphasis on PRAYER during Lent is a way to stir up our love and ardor by having a deepening conversation with the Almighty. Remember that the light of God's love shines more brightly in the darkness of the recognition of our sinfulness.

We should also pray the Rosary which is a traditional prayer of the Church which calls us to reflect on the various mysteries of our faith. Let us pray for the grace to fulfill our Lenten practices that we have decided upon.

*Thank you!*

## FROM OUR GUADALUPANA ORGANIZATION

We had a successful BINGO this past Sunday, and wish to extend our special thanks to all who attended.

We are Thankful for your continued support of our efforts and hope you had a wonderful time and enjoyed our delicious food and sweets!

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

- We are taking orders for Holy Thursday Candles. If you are interested in purchasing one (\$3.00) or by the case (12 for \$36). Orders will be taken through Thursday, April 9th.
  - Also taking orders for Easter Lilies. Cost \$10.00 each
  - Bus Tour to visit the Seven Churches (\$10.00 per person) on Thursday, April 9 from 9pm-Midnite.
- Please contact Parish office at (210) 434-3247 regarding any of the above mentioned items.

## CHANGE

Lent is all about change and change is usually not easy. In order to change we have to leave something behind. Today we hear about a very old man who decides to answer God's call. Abram experiences a tremendous amount of change when he leaves everything behind, risking it all for God's promise. Jesus changes, is transfigured, right before the eyes of his disciples. The Lenten scriptures issue the call for us to change, to be transfigured, so that we, too, will soon share in the glory of God. What is it that the Lord is asking us to leave behind? Are we willing to take the risk for the promise made by God? These questions are at the heart of the Lenten journey of conversion. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

## QUESTION OF THE WEEK

How can I listen to Jesus over the next week? What is he telling me?