

3rd Sunday of Lent

HONEST AND OPEN WITH GOD

The story of the Israelites' grumbling and threatened revolt, and of God's response in our reading from Exodus today, grapples with difficulties of the life of faith. Those who place their lives in the hands of God, as Israel did by following Moses into the desert, may soon face troubling and fearful moments. Sometimes we lose what we think we need, or somehow find it difficult to get what we really need. In our busy lives, it's easy to gradually forget God's presence and action among us.

Moses' prayer to God and God's compassionate response of providing water resolve the situation. Perhaps it was Moses' admirable honesty in his dialogue with God that made a difference. Moses "cried out to the Lord" and he didn't know how God might respond. Honestly expressing our needs in prayer is essential to the life of faith. Waiting in openness to God's response is equally important.

WATER FOR OTHERS

The story of Jesus and the Samaritan woman, like the passage from Exodus, speaks of tired and thirsty people. Jesus is tired and thirsty from his journey. The Samaritan woman is not only tired of the difficult chore of obtaining water, but is thirsty for something more. Jesus presents himself as living water for her, able to satisfy a deeper thirst in her heart. Through his patience and compassion, he opens a new wellspring of God's sustenance for her.

How might we, like Jesus, be water for others in our thirsty world? We can take some cues from Jesus here. Jesus crossed boundaries of gender, ethnicity, and religious division. Jesus began in vulnerability, in need of hospitality from a stranger. His was a non-threatening, compassionate presence. Jesus did not begin by speaking about himself or God, but entered into ordinary conversation with her. He first attended to her practical realities and concerns, which led to deeper dialogue. Perhaps we have opportunities to follow Jesus' example.

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

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HONESTIDAD Y APERTURA CON DIOS

La historia de las quejas y amenaza de sedición de los israelitas, y la respuesta de Dios en nuestra lectura de hoy del libro del Éxodo, aborda las dificultades de la vida de fe. Aquellos que ponen su vida en las manos de Dios, como Israel lo hizo al seguir a Moisés en el desierto, quizá pronto enfrenten momentos desconcertantes y terribles. Algunas veces, desperdiciamos lo que pensamos necesitar, o de alguna manera encontramos dificultades para obtener lo que realmente necesitamos. En nuestras vidas ocupadas, poco a poco es fácil olvidar la presencia y acción de Dios en medio de nosotros.

La oración de Moisés y la respuesta compasiva de Dios al proveer agua resuelve la situación. Quizás fue la admirable honestidad de Moisés en su dialogo con Dios lo que hizo la diferencia. Moisés "clamó fuertemente al Señor" y él no sabía cómo Dios podría responder. Honestamente expresando nuestras necesidades en oración es esencial en la vida de fe. Esperar en la apertura de la respuesta de Dios es igualmente importante.

AGUA PARA LOS DEMÁS

La historia de Jesús y la mujer samaritana, como el pasaje del libro del Éxodo, habla de personas cansadas y sedientas. Jesús está cansado y sediento de su viaje. La mujer samaritana no sólo está cansada del quehacer difícil de obtener agua, sino que también está sedienta por algo más. Jesús se presenta ante ella a sí mismo como el agua viva, capaz de satisfacer una sed profunda en su corazón. Mediante su paciencia y compasión, él abre para ella un nuevo manantial del sustento de Dios.

¿Cómo podríamos, como Jesús, ser agua para otras personas en nuestro mundo sediento? Podemos tomar algunas señales de Jesús aquí. Jesús cruza fronteras de género, etnicidad y división religiosa. Jesús empieza vulnerable, con la necesidad de la hospitalidad de una desconocida. Su presencia era compasiva y no amenazante. Jesús no empezó hablando de sí mismo o de Dios, sino que entró en una conversación ordinaria con ella. Él primero atiende a sus necesidades prácticas y preocupaciones, que guían a un dialogo más profundo. Quizá tenemos la oportunidad de seguir el ejemplo de Jesús.

Lecturas de hoy: Ex 17:3-7; Sal 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9; Rom 5:1-2, 5-8; Jn 4:5-42

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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	Elena Gonzales
Celina Herrera	Gloria Martinez	Roxanne Joseph
Kevin Ryan Martinez	Carlos Guardiola, III	For All Afflicted with
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

MARCH 1 - 8, 2020

5:00 PM	-\$1,155.00	(104)
8:00 AM	-\$ 439.00	(094)
10:00 AM	-\$1,446.40	(142)
12 NOON	-\$1,296.00	(141)
School Mass	-\$ 283.83	
Good Samaritans	-\$ 461.46	2nd Collection
Mail In	-\$ 175.00	
2020 Gift of Giving	-\$ 246.48	
TOTAL	\$5,503.17	

SECOND COLLECTION

March 15, 2020 - Altar Flowers

2020 GIFT OF GIVING

Contributions 3/1 - 3/8/2020	\$ 246.48
RUNNING BALANCE TOTAL	\$ 6,468.77

Announcements

Mass Intentions FOR THE WEEK



Saturday, March 14

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

Sunday, March 15

8:00 a.m. † Mr. Jose Ramirez - Nora Treviño
Gift of Life † Ray Garza - Family

10:00 a.m. † Ryan Sanchez - Family
† Daniel Arzola - Familia
† Saldania/Arce Family - Sanchez Familia
† Simpson/Martinez Family - Sanchez Familia
† Sanchez/Prieto Family - Sanchez Familia
For Health † Sophie Alonzo - Aunt Connie

12:00 p.m. † Paul G. Salinas - Grace Salinas
† Dorothy Andrade - Micaela & Dorothy Castillo
† Bernie Aziz - Rodriguez amily
Gift of Life † Kathryn Gearheart - Mom & Dad
Gift of Life † Edward Diaz - Mom & Dad

Monday, March 16

Tuesday, March 17 - ST. PATRICK

12:00 p.m.
For Health † Louie & Estefana Reyes

Wednesday, March 18 - ST. CYRIL OF JERUSALEM

8:15 a.m. † Luis Duran, Sr. - Wife & Family

Thursday, March 19 - ST. JOSEPH

12:00 p.m. † Adelina Hatcher

Friday, March 20

12:00 p.m. † Maria Polanco

Saturday, March 21

5:00 p.m. For Our Parish Community

Sunday, March 22

8:00 a.m. † Mr. Guadalupe Treviño - Nora Treviño

10:00 a.m. † Gloria Lloyd - Children
† Daniel Arzola - Familia
For Health † Sophie Alonzo - Aunt Connie

12:00 p.m. † Paul G. Salinas - Grace Salinas

In Loving Memory

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

† Adelina Hatcher

Sanctuary Light

For the Health of
The World



FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parishioners and Friends:

The Archdiocese of San Antonio has officially disseminated precautionary guidelines regarding the coronavirus for parishes and schools.

St. John Berchmans will fully and immediately implement the following precautions:

- **Holy Communion will be distributed in the hand rather than on the tongue.**

- **Discontinue the distribution of the precious Blood of Jesus.**

- **Remove Holy Water from fonts at the church doors.**

- **Avoid physical contact (at Our Father prayer and sign of Peace).**

Hand sanitizers will be located at door entrances for your use.

We at St. John Berchmans are fully committed to your health and safety. I invite you to join me in praying for the victims, families and health professionals during this coronavirus. May we join our prayers with the rest of the world in seeking God's guidance during this difficult time.

Today, third Sunday of Lent, the people of God when faced with difficulties turned their back on God. Through the intercession of Moses, they were able to discover the goodness of the Lord. We are justified by faith through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Like a Samaritan woman, Jesus is our only hope who can provide us with living water. As we go through ups and downs may we always trust in the Lord.

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 three weeks 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.

May God bless you always,

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

Announcements

www.stjohnberchmans.com

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — When the people grumbled to Moses for water in the desert, the Lord heard and brought forth water from the rock for all to drink (Exo 17:3-7).

Psalm — If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts (Psalm 95).

Second Reading — God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit (Rom 5:1-2, 5-8).

Gospel — Ask, and you will be given living water so that you will never thirst again (John 4:5-42).

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: 2 Kgs 5:1-15b; Ps 42:2, 3; 43:3, 4; Lk 4:24-30
Tue: Dn 3:25, 34-43; Ps 25:4-9; Mt 18:21-35
Wed: Dt 4:1, 5-9; Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20; Mt 5:17-19
Thu: 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29;
Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22; Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a
Fri: Hos 14:2-10; Ps 81:6c-11, 14, 17; Mk 12:28-34
Sat: Hos 6:1-6; Ps 51:3-4, 18-21ab; Lk 18:9-14
Sun: 1 Sm 16:1b, 6-13; Ps 23:1-6; Eph 5:8-14; Jn 9:1-41

Events of the Week ~ March 15 - 22, 2020

Sunday, March 15

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

Monday, March 16

Tuesday, March 17 - ST. PATRICK'S DAY

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

Wednesday, March 18

8:15 a.m. Mass - Church
7:00 p.m. Youth Ministry - Formation House

Thursday, March 19

12:00 p.m. Mass - Chapel
6:00 p.m. Women's ACTS - Formation House

Friday, March 20

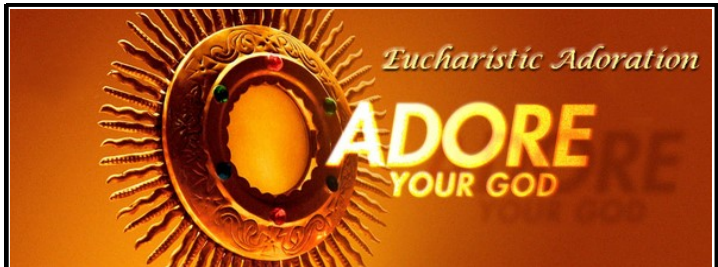
12:00 p.m. Mass - Chapel
7:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross - Church

Saturday, March 21

5:00 p.m. Mass - Church

Sunday, March 22

8:00 a.m. Spanish Mass - Church
10:00 a.m. Mass - Church
12:00 p.m. Mass - Church
1:30 p.m. J.O.Y. Ministry - Formation House



THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2020
9:00 A.M. - 5 P.M.

No disaster can overtake you,
No plague can come near your dwelling;
For He shall give His angels charge over you,
To keep you in all your ways.

Psalm 91:10-11

SCHOOL FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

Please join us for a day of fun as we begin our fundraising events for St. John Berchmans School.

On Sunday, May 3, 2020 we are hosting a trip to Kickapoo Casino in Eagle Pass, Texas.

We will be accepting registrations after all Masses. We ask that you reserve your seat and help support our efforts for this worthwhile cause - our beloved St. John Berchmans School!!

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 21, 2020 - Youth/Young Adults

March 28, 2020 - 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.

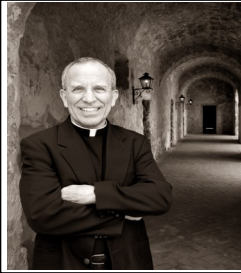


NEW TO OUR PARISH AND WANT TO REGISTER AS A NEW PARISHIONER?

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



LENTEN TALK TUESDAY, MARCH 17 AND WEDNESDAY MARCH 18, 2020 AT 7:00 P.M.

Fr. Fidèle is cordially inviting our parish community to come and listen to Fr. David Garcia, a well-known priest, who was instrumental in protecting our historic missions and churches. Fr. Garcia is now retired and is a motivational speaker. Everyone is sure to benefit from his “pearls of wisdom.”

So mark your calendars for this coming week **Tuesday, March 17 and Wednesday, March 18 at 7:00 p.m. in the Church.**

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. We need Jesus now more than ever!

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

March 20th - English Choirs
March 27th - Spanish Choir/Ultreya

April 3rd - ACTS/Knights/Rosary Makers



LET’S TAKE A LOOK, LLC - ATTENTION CHURCH MEMBERS!!!

Let’s Take A Look is excited to sponsor St. John Berchmans HEALTH FAIR, scheduled for Thursday, March 26, through Saturday, March 28, 2020.

Services provided are:

- ◆ Non-Invasive Cardiac ANS scan - \$199
- ◆ 3D Neuropathy Sudo Scan - \$199
- ◆ Office Consultation Fee - \$30 (consultation will be made for 305 E. Ramsey Rd.)

These scans are typically twice this amount however, a discount cost is being extended to parishioners. For additional information, or to schedule an appointment contact Linda, RN (210) 557-3830 or Brenda Gallegos (210) 537-6168. Thank you!

INFORMATION FROM THE PARISH OFFICE

- ◆ 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 orders for Easter Lilies which will be placed at the altar. 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.

ST. ANDREWS CONVENT

Will be hosting a Rummage Sale at the St. Andrew’s Convent (Multi-purpose Building) located at 2318 Castroville Road, San Antonio, TX 78237. Corner of Castroville Rd and 36th Street

DATE: Saturday, March 21, 2020 TIME: 9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

Items for sale include:

- ◆ Computers, Monitors, Furniture, Antique Sewing Machines
- ◆ Mattresses, Medical Equipment, Dishes
- ◆ Piano, AND LOTS MORE!!!

THIRST

Each time today’s Gospel story is read, I can’t help but think of the many television commercials I’ve seen depicting perspiring athletes lifting a beverage to their lips while the scorching sun beats down on them. Our culture has definite ideas about how to quench thirst. Today, those ideas are turned upside down. The Samaritan woman operates, initially, on the TV commercial level. She asks Jesus for the flowing water so that she will not have to keep coming to the well. Jesus then talks about what real thirst is, and how he, and he alone, can quench that thirst. Lent calls us to find those places deep within ourselves where we thirst. In our thirst, as did the Israelites, we cry out to God asking for springs of living water. Deep down we know that only the Lord can satisfy these thirsts. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

What do I thirst for spiritually? Can I find sustenance in the life-giving water I have received? How can I share this living water with those around me?