

The Ascension of the Lord (Solemnity)

May 24, 2020

www.stjohnberchmans.com

HERE IS THE GAME PLAN

When we hear an excerpt from a particular Gospel, it is easy to get the details and stories from all the Gospels all mixed up and combined into one. Theologian Gerhard Lohfink called this "Making Gospel Soup!" To understand today's Gospel passage, we must realize that this is material particular to Matthew and in his telling it takes place right after the Resurrection. There has been no "doubting Thomases" or any of the other stories that we've heard since Easter.

How often have you made a plan at an event, saying, "If we get split up, just go back to the car and wait" or "Stay at the fountain in the mall—I'll find you!" Earlier in Matthew, Jesus told the women at the tomb to tell the disciples, "If something happens, head back to Galilee" (28:10). This was the game plan and was both a geographic reference and a spiritual one. "Go back to what you know, what you remember." They were confused and hurting, but did as Jesus said, returning to Galilee, specifically to the mountain where they had a powerful experience with him before. That would make it understandable that the disciples showed up but were a bit leery or doubting.

YOU'VE GOT THIS

Put yourself in the disciples' shoes. This is May, the season of graduations, new jobs, new cars, marriages, and so many other transitions as young people strike out on their own. Jesus reminded the disciples, "I have the power, and I've been teaching you for three years. Now you have the power. Go. Make Disciples. Baptize in the name of the Trinity. Teach them what I taught you." Surely the disciples were frightened, and Jesus must have felt both fear and pride. This was the moment that happens in every lifetime. It was time for these disciples, these students, his "children" to become the masters. And how did he reassure them? As parents and teachers and mentors have been doing for centuries. He smiled and reminded them, "Behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age." Or as we might say, "You've got this."

Today's Readings: Acts 1:1-11 Ps 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9; Eph 1:17-23; Mt 28:16-20

Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

AQUÍ ESTÁ EL PLAN DEL JUEGO

Cuando escuchamos un pequeño texto de un Evangelio en particular, es fácil tener los detalles y las historias de todos los evangelios mezclados y combinados en uno solo. El teólogo Gerhard Lohfink dice que esto es "¡Haciendo una sopa del Evangelio!" Para entender el pasaje del Evangelio de hoy, debemos darnos cuenta de que esta historia solo se encuentra en el Evangelio de Mateo y su historia sucede justo después de la Resurrección. No hay un Tomás incrédulo o alguna de las otras historias que hayamos escuchado desde la Pascua.

¿Qué tan frecuente haces un plan en un evento diciendo: "si nos separamos, regresa al auto y espera" o "quédate en la fuente del centro comercial, ahí te encuentro"? Antes en Mateo, Jesús dijo a las mujeres en el sepulcro decir a los discípulos: "que se dirijan a Galilea, y que allá me verán" (28:10). Este era el plan del juego tanto como una referencia geográfica como espiritual. "Vuelve a lo que sabes, a lo que recuerdes". Ellos estaban confundidos y lastimados, pero hicieron lo que Jesús dijo, regresar a Galilea, específicamente a la montaña donde antes tuvieron una experiencia poderosa con él. Eso haría entendible que los discípulos fueran y estuvieran un poco recelosos o incrédulos.

TIENES ESTO

Ponte en los zapatos de los discípulos. Este es mayo, el tiempo de graduaciones, nuevos trabajos, nuevos carros, matrimonios y muchas otras transiciones que los jóvenes emprenden por sí mismos. Jesús les recuerda a los discípulos: "Dios me ha dado toda la autoridad, les he enseñado por tres años. Ahora ustedes tienen la autoridad. Vayan y hagan discípulos. Bauticen en el nombre de la Trinidad. Enséñenles lo que yo les enseñé". Seguramente los discípulos estaban asustados, y Jesús debió haber sentido tanto miedo como orgullo. Este era el momento que sucede en todas las vidas. Era hora para que estos discípulos, estos estudiantes, sus "hijos" se hicieran los maestros. ¿Y cómo los tranquilizó? Como los padres, maestros y mentores lo han estado haciendo por siglos. Él sonrió y les recordó: "Por mi parte, yo estaré con ustedes todos los días, hasta el fin del mundo". O quizá podríamos decir: "Tienes esto".

Lecturas de hoy: Hch 1:1-11 Sal 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9; Ef 1:17-23; Mt 28:16-20

Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.



Please Pray for the Sick

Prayer List Updates



Irma Urias	Henry Vidal	Diana Calderon
Mary S. Martinez	Hope Esquivel	Janie Ramirez
Frances Lozano	Victor Cruz	Liz
Mary Escalera	Tomas Johnson	Ana Garcia
Maximus James Tobar	Deacon Jesus Rodriguez	Gina
Suzanne Gutierrez	Rosalinda Esparza	Pedro Maldonado, Sr.
Terry Moreno	Daniel Rodriguez	Sandra Garza
Sarah Contreras	Rosie Flores	Elena Gonzales
Jose Flores	John Ruiz	Roxanne Joseph
Frances Ramirez	Jessica Diaz	Matthew Reyna
Marty Carrera Tobias	Robert Campos	Joe G. Martinez
Jesse R. Diaz	Gloria Martinez	For All Afflicted with
Celina Herrera	Carlos Guardiola, III	Coronavirus
Kevin Ryan Martinez	Joe R. Martinez	Melissa Muñoz
David Santoyo	Baby Sophia	Angelita Canales
Paul Muñoz, Sr.	Antonio Mendoza	Deacon Joe Diaz
Joe Espinoza	Sophie Alonzo	Roland Valverde
Virginia & Jose Ponce	Odilion G. Flores	Maria Langley
Victoria Orosco	JoAnn Almaguer	

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

sharing the gifts we have been given

May 16, thru	May 17, 2020
All Masses	\$3,382.00
Mother's Day	\$ 295.00
Online	\$ 195.00
TOTAL	\$4,095.00

Second Collection -

Sunday, May 24, 2020: Altar Flowers

2020 GIFT OF GIVING

Contributions 5/16- 5/17/2020 \$
RUNNING BALANCE TOTAL \$ 6,532.77

Announcements



Saturday, May 23

5:00 p.m. For St. John Berchmans Community

Sunday May 24

9:00 a.m. † Mary Seay - Visconti & Zamora Family
† Paul Salinas - Wife Grace Salinas
† Ryan Sanchez - Sanchez Family
Gift of Life Marcos Treviño - Norma Treviño
11:00 a.m. † Bernardino Villaseñor - Family

Monday, May 25

Tuesday, May 26

12:00 p.m. † Socorro Reyes - Socorro & Raquel

Wednesday, May 27

12:00 p.m. † Pauline Arocha

Thursday, May 28

12:00 p.m. † Fela Silva

Friday, May 29

12:00 p.m. † Cecilia Espinoza

Saturday, May 30

5:00 p.m. † George Hernandez - Wife & Family
† L/CPL Fernando Camarillo - Family

Sunday May 31

9:00 a.m. † Pauline Juarez - Angelita Canales
† Mr. Guadalupe Treviño - Nora Treviño
† Paul Salinas - Wife Grace Salinas
† Ryan Sanchez - Sanchez Family
Gift of Life Celia Villanueva - Family
11:00 a.m.
Gift of Life Enrique Castro - Castro Family

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

After 10 weeks of absence in the house of the Lord, I warmly welcome my parishioners back home. The church is in jubilation in reopening its doors to the faithful. We have put in place a Task Force Committee for the purpose of dealing with the challenges of the COVID-19. I salute all the volunteers who have been working diligently around the clock to ensure your safety in resuming our worship. Please be advised that the success of the implementations of the guidelines published last weekend, emailed to you, mailed to you and posted on Facebook, depends solely on your sincere cooperation and active involvement in the process. Please follow the guidelines and the directives of the ushers and hospitality.

Parishioners who are at high risk, vulnerable, elderly and those who feel extremely uncomfortable attending public mass are strongly encouraged to remain at home and participate by means of Catholic Television or life streaming of their parish. **They are exempt from the obligation of attending Sunday mass and day of obligation.**

Starting Tuesday, May 26th, our Parish Office will be open for business. Following the guidelines of social distancing only 2 parishioners at a time will be allowed in the office, one parishioner in the main office, another may sit in our waiting area. If there are more than 2 parishioners, we ask that others wait outside. We strongly encourage you to call the office rather than come in person. Thank you for your cooperation so that we may be able to serve our parishioners safely.

Our prayer of the rosary in the church will **end on Sunday, May 31st, at 6:00** p.m. on the celebration of Pentecost and the Solemnity of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary. We have been praying the rosary daily since March 14th **at 6:00** p.m. for a total of 76 days by May 31st. We encourage you to continue praying the rosary with families, friends or individuals as we continue to implore the intercession of the Virgin Mary, Mother of God.

I take this opportunity to officially thank the following individuals who have been instrumental during this transitional period.

Task Force Committee for COVID-19: Victoria and Jorge Grajedo, John and Angie Diaz, Joan Orosco, Stella Velasquez, Rosario Gomez, Edna Mosley, Kathy Flores, Andrew Solis and Dolores Guardiola

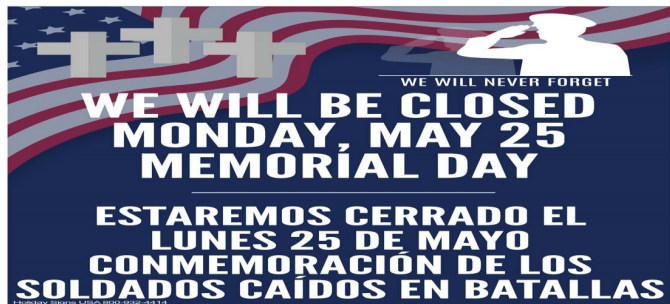
Evangelization Committee: Dolores Guardiola, Elida Gonzales, John and Angie Diaz, Tomas Torres, Jessica Ramos, Victoria and Jorge Grajedo

Driving and Safety of the Blessed Sacrament in the Neighborhood: Jaime and Rosario Gomez, Jim Cura, Edna Mosley and Joan Orosco, Elida Gonzales, Dolores Guardiola, Tomas and Ingrid Torres, John and Angie Diaz

Helpers for "15 Minutes Coffee with Fr. Fidele Dikete": Dolores Guardiola and Stella Velasquez and Destini Rico.

Sanitizing Church and Cleaning: Joan Orosco, Stella Velasquez, Edna Mosley, Sylvia Ramiro, Destini Rico,

Office Volunteers: Connie Peche, Kathy Flores, Raquel Castillo **(Message continued on next page)**



In Loving Memory

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

† Mary Seay

Sanctuary Light

† Lorenza Castro



Announcements

www.stjohnberchmans.com

(Pastor Message continued)

Good Samaritan: Angie Diaz

Office Staff: Stella Velasquez and Olivia Lopez

Ground Maintenance: Genevieve Perez, Richard Valenzuela and Gabriel Lara

Rosary and Mass Coordination: Joann Orosco and Roy Sanchez

Money Counters: Raquel Castillo, Kathy Flores, Nancy Ramirez

Bulletin Editor: Olivia Santoyo

Choir Director: Roy Sanchez

Altar Servers: Betty Dominguez and Pablo Hernandez

Sacristan: Joan Orosco

I challenge you to open up to our Mother, Mary, Mother of God as we pray the rosary during this month of May. May she intercede for us through her son Jesus Christ, our Savior, to guide our scientists in developing vaccines and medications to defeat COVID-19 and allow us to resume a normal life. I pray for those of you who may not join us for a variety of reasons to be assured of my prayers. We are all together in this situation.

God bless you.

Sincerely in Christ,



Fr. Fidèle Okitembo Dikete, Pastor

fr.fidele@stjohnberchmans.com

Events of the Week ~ May 24 - 30, 2020

Sunday, May 24 - THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

9:00 a.m. **Bilingual Mass** - Church
Facebook Livestream

11:00 a.m. **Mass** - Church

6:00 p.m. **Rosary**—Church

Monday, May 25

6:00 p.m. **Rosary**—Church

Tuesday, May 26

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

6:00 p.m. **Rosary**—Church

Wednesday, May 27

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

2:00 p.m. **15 Minute Coffee Break with Father Fidèle**—Facebook Livestream

6:00 p.m. **Rosary**—Church

Thursday, May 28

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

6:00 p.m. **Rosary**—Church

Friday, May 29

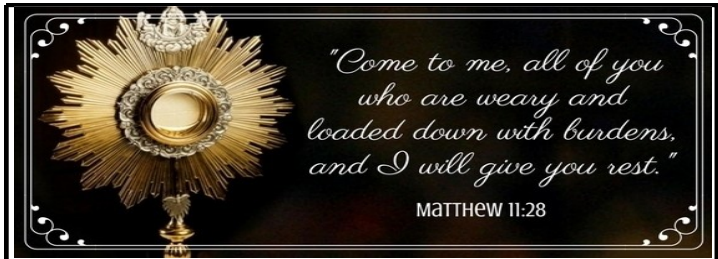
12:00 p.m. **Mass** - Church

6:00 p.m. **Rosary**—Church

Saturday, May 30

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

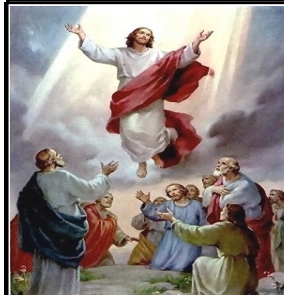
6:00 p.m. **Rosary**—Church



"Come to me, all of you who are weary and loaded down with burdens, and I will give you rest."

MATTHEW 11:28

Please note that Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is cancelled and the Chapel is closed until further notice. Thank you!



THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

The basic meaning of the Ascension—he returned to heaven, to the angels, to the glory he had before the foundation of the world (John 17). He ascended up into heaven, in his resurrected bodily form. He went from the human place on earth to the Father's place in heaven. His rightful place was in glory! And so he prayed that his Father would glorify him with the glory that he had before the foundation of the world. Jesus taught that in his Father's house were many "rooms" and that he was going to prepare a place for us, that where he was, there we might be also (John 14). What a marvel that is. His mission here was not merely to rescue us from judgment; it was to bring us home with him, so that we might be with him evermore. How amazing is the love of our Lord!

THANK YOU to all who have been extremely generous and financially able to support our parish during these troubling times. Your donations are greatly appreciated and assist us to fulfill our financial obligations.

Donations can be made as follows:

- Mail your check to the parish or stop by the office and deliver your weekly donation.

Or you may use any of the following:

- Cash App: \$StJohnBerchmans.Pay
- Pay-Pal: administrator@stjohnberchmans.com
- Venmo: [administrator@stjohnberchmans.com](https://www.venmo.com/administrator@stjohnberchmans.com)
- **Or call the office to use your credit card.**



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.



CONGRATULATIONS TO ST. JOHN BERCHMANS CATHOLIC SCHOOL CLASS OF 2020!!!

Stevvy Anessa Acosta
 James Michael Collier
 Simon Peter Jesus Garcia
 Rachel Isabel Gonzales
 Sunday Rose Herrera
 Allison Claire Hopcus
 Victoria Alexandria Lara
 Esther Renee Martinez

Esmeralda Renee Mermea
 Adrian Javier Morales
 Analiyah Gieselle Olivarez
 Jacob Matthew Reyes
 Clarice Emma Reynero
 Gabriella Kate Toscano
 Isabella Clare Toscano

Dear Lord:

Today we bring these young graduates before You, asking You to keep Your hand of protection upon them. Please guide their steps in the days ahead as they embark on this new journey before them. Grant them wisdom to make wise decisions according to Your will. May the road before them be paved with joyous opportunities that bring honor and glory to You!

In the precious name of Jesus. We pray. **AMEN**

We are proud of you and many blessings. May you stay safe and strong with the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Love always,

The Administration, Faculty and Staff of St. John Berchmans Catholic School

MEMORIAL DAY is the time to reflect on the sacrifices and services of the American soldiers, veterans and the U.S. military men and women. The American military is, has and will always recruit the best and finest young men and women of our country. We will continue to shower them with appreciation, support and prayers, as we have always done. Memorial Day is an opportunity for us to honor them and for all who work in the various branches of the military.



ORACION DEL ROSARIO

Nuestra oración del rosario terminará el domingo 31 de Mayo sobre la celebración de Pentecostés y la soledad de la Visitación de la Bendita Madre de Dios.

Hemos estado rezando el rosario desde el 14 de Marzo por un total de 76 días. Te animamos a que sigan rezando el rosario con familiares, amigos o otras personas, mientras seguimos implorando la intercesión de la Virgen María, Madre de Dios.

LECTURAS DE HOY

Primera lectura — Este Jesús que les han llevado volverá de la misma manera (Hechos 1:1-11).

Salmo — Entre voces de júbilo y trompetas, Dios el Señor asciende hasta su trono (Salmo 47).

Segunda lectura — Dios sentó a Jesús a su derecha en el reino de los cielos (Efesios 1:17-23).

Evangelio — Vayan, pues, y enseñen a todas las naciones (Mateo 28:16-20).

Salmo responsorial: Leccionario Hispanoamericano Dominicar © 1970.

Comisión Episcopal Española. Usado con permiso. Todos los derechos reservados.

“EMPUJADOS” A LA MISIÓN

Hay un personaje encantado en Las historias del Dr. Dolittle llamado “Pushmi-Pullyu” [equivalente a Mempujas-Tehalo]. Es una bestia con dos mitades idénticas, con una cabeza en cada extremo. Sea cual fuera la dirección en que camina la bestia, un extremo “empuja” y el otro “hala”. La fiesta de hoy refleja algo parecido en la vida de la Iglesia. En el libro de los Hechos de los Apóstoles, es la Ascensión de Cristo la que llama al Espíritu Santo, quien a su vez envía o “empuja” a la Iglesia a realizar su misión. Tal es el mensaje que hoy oímos decir a los ángeles cuando dicen a los amigos de Jesús que no se queden mirando hacia las nubes, sino que se pongan en acción. Es el mensaje del mismo Jesús en el Evangelio según Mateo, cuando los envía a bautizar: “yo estaré con ustedes todos los días, hasta el fin del mundo” (Mateo 28:20). Y es este mensaje, con fe llena de confianza en Jesús que ha ascendido con gritos de gozo, el que “nos empuja” hacia nuestro destino final. La vida del discípulo fiel, enviado al mundo con su misión, es la que un día conocerá la misma gloria resucitada y ascendida.

Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.