

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

November 27, 2022

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ON EDGE

There are numerous photographs of people who sleep on mountainside ledges, who carelessly dangle their feet into the space of geological chasms, and of course there's the iconic photograph of workers eating their lunch on a beam of the under-construction Chrysler building in New York. Some people seem attracted to these precarious, stomach-churning locations; many of us are not. More of us have had the experience of beginning a new stage in life, with the excitement and occasional stomach-churning newness of a moment that can put us a bit on edge. Advent—its first couple of Sundays in particular—has a similar role in the passage of time that we call the liturgical year. It's unlikely that the First Sunday of Advent makes many stomachs churn, but perhaps more would if we truly took it seriously that we are to make ourselves ready for the coming of the reign of God at any moment.

WALK IN THE LIGHT

When we encounter the daily news, it can seem as though Isaiah's prophecy of swords turned into plowshares is running in reverse, making despair seem wiser than hopefulness. This is where Advent as the brink of God's reign comes into play. Advent can be a time for each of us to de-weaponize, even in the smallest of ways, the world around us. Advent's days offer a chance to look for opportunities to make the world a bit more hopeful for others. As we head through Advent, the elevated focus we have when we are standing at those new moments, those new stages of life, can help us tune out the despair, so we might open our ears and hearts to Jesus. This way, we can turn our backs on gloom, and accept Isaiah's invitation to walk in the light of the Lord: Jesus Christ, the Word-made-Flesh!

TODAY'S READINGS: Is 2:1-5; Ps 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9; Rom 13:11-14; Mt 24:37-44

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EN EL BORDE

Hay numerosas fotografías de personas que duermen en las cornisas de las montañas, que cuelgan descuidadamente sus pies en el espacio de los abismos geológicos y, por supuesto, está la icónica fotografía de los trabajadores comiendo su almuerzo en una viga del edificio Chrysler, en construcción, en Nueva York. Algunas personas parecen sentirse atraídas por estos lugares precarios y estomacales; muchos de nosotros no. Somos más los que hemos tenido la experiencia de comenzar una nueva etapa en la vida, con la emoción y la ocasional novedad estomacal de un momento que puede ponernos un poco al límite. El Adviento -sus dos primeros domingos en particular- tiene un papel similar en el paso del tiempo que llamamos año litúrgico. Es poco probable que el primer domingo de Adviento haga que se revuelvan muchos estómagos, pero quizá lo harían más si nos tomáramos realmente en serio que debemos prepararnos para la llegada del reino de Dios en cualquier momento.

CAMINAR EN LA LUZ

Cuando nos encontramos con las noticias cotidianas, puede parecer que la profecía de Isaías de las espadas convertidas en rejas de arado va al revés, haciendo que la desesperación parezca más sabia que la esperanza. Aquí es donde entra en juego el Adviento como el umbral del reino de Dios. El Adviento puede ser un tiempo para que cada uno de nosotros desarme, incluso en lo más mínimo, el mundo que nos rodea. Los días de Adviento ofrecen la oportunidad de buscar oportunidades para hacer que el mundo sea un poco más esperanzador para los demás. A medida que avanzamos en el Adviento, el enfoque elevado que tenemos cuando estamos en esos nuevos momentos, en esas nuevas etapas de la vida, puede ayudarnos a sintonizar con la desesperación, para poder abrir nuestros oídos y nuestros corazones a Jesús. De este modo, podemos dar la espalda a la tristeza y aceptar la invitación de Isaías a caminar en la luz del Señor: Jesucristo, la Palabra hecha carne.

LECTURAS DE HOY: Is 2:1-5; Sal 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9; Rom 13:11-14; Mt 24:37-44

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Please Pray for the Sick

Prayer List Updates



Suzanne Gutierrez	Frank Rodriguez	Mark Martinez
Syl Vasquez, Jr.	Julissa Rodriguez	Cecilia Rodriguez
Sarah Contreras	Kay Towers	Albert Rodriguez
Marty Carrera Tobias	Miliana Bullock	Albert Casillas
Frances Lozano	Hope Esquivel	Robert Sanchez
Irma Urias	Lydia Soriano	Santos Tello
Mary S. Martinez	AB Cruz	Fred Guerra
Gina Gonzales	Robert Cruz	Marie Weaver
Galilea Romero	Celia Garcia	Vanessa Quintero
Flora Torres	Isidoro & Angie Muñoz	Mary Alice Vasquez
Iris Luna Sullivan	Deacon J. Rodriguez	Heath Herring
Sandy Guerra	Antonia Degollado	Joe Cevallos
Abraham Guerra	Baby Zaylee Gaitan	Jennifer Olivarez
Emma O. Velasquez	Bobby Rollins	Juanita Martinez
Leticia Lopez Barrera	Darlene Lopez	Maria Rios
Leticia Martinez	George Garnica	Virginia R. Lucio
Kenny De La Rosa	Adam Alonzo, Jr.	Teresa Moreno
Virginia Moralez	Raymond Serna	Guadalupe Rodriguez
Raymond Sarabia	Mary 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 FOR WEEK

ENDING NOVEMBER 20, 2022

5 PM Mass	-\$1,091.00	
9 AM Mass	-\$ 667.00	
11 AM Mass	-\$ 870.00	
Campaign Human Dev.	-\$ 219.00	2nd Collection
Religious Education	-\$ 275.00	
Mail In	-\$ 122.05	
On Line	-\$ 90.00	
Gift of Giving	-\$ 165.15	
TOTAL	\$ 3,409.20	



SECOND COLLECTION

November 27, 2022 - Religious Education

2022 GIFT OF GIVING

Contributions ending Nov. 20, 2022	\$ 165.15
TOTAL	\$ 11,751.03

Announcements

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Saturday, November 26

5:00 p.m. † Daniel Romero - Family
† Henry Z. Vidal - Family
† Raul Villarreal - Children
25th Anniversary of
Sarah & Rick Contreras - Family
Rosemary Flores - Family

Gift of Life

Sunday, November 27

9:00 a.m. † Margarita Ventura - Family
† Daniel C. & Maria Arzola - Familia
Carlos Treviño - Nora Treviño
Rosemary Flores - Family

Gift of Life

Gift of Life

11:00 a.m. † Paul Salinas - Wife
† Joann Almaguer - Family
† Louise C. Villarreal - Muñoz Family
† P.E. & Sulema Perez - Family
† Isidro Mata - Kim & Khloe Mata

Monday, November 28

Tuesday, November 29

12:00 p.m. † Richard Almaguer - Friends
Oscar Arcos - Sister

For Health

Wednesday, November 30

8:15 a.m. † Frances Ramirez - Mary Martinez
Hope Esquivel - Family

For Health

Thursday, December 1

10:00 a.m. † Daniel Romero - Family
Teresa Moreno - Sisters in Christ

For Health

Friday, December 2

12:00 p.m. † Inez De Los Santos - Mom Mary De Los Santos
St. John Berchmans Parish Community

For Health



From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Parishioners and Friends:

Today, November 27th, 2022 we have commenced the Advent season and the liturgical year A. I invite you to prepare in anticipation of the second coming of our Lord at Christmas time. Let us be kind, loving and understanding as our God is. Please make a special effort to participate in the celebrations from your updated Advent schedule.

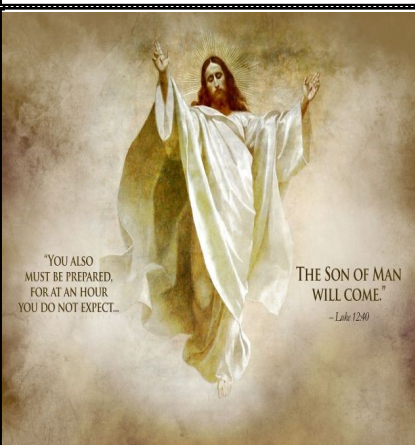
A special invitation is extended to our parish community to attend our Advent Presentation by Sister Lourdes Leal, CDP, on Thursday, December 1st at 7:00 in the evening in the church.

Thanks to you, my parishioners, we have collected over \$11,000 for the purpose of assisting parishioners in need during Christmas time. Applications are available in the foyer or in the parish office for families in need of assistance. Please return the application to me or to the parish office.

The tradition of playing Santa and presenting children with toys will be continued this year. On Friday, December 16th, after the Christmas Concert, I will be handing out gifts to all the children in attendance. To achieve success in this project, I greatly need your assistance by donating toys for children ranging in ages from 18 months thru teenagers. If you would, kindly wrap your toy and specify the gender and the age. Or if purchasing toys is not an option for you, gift cards in increments of \$10 which make great gifts as well. I am confident that my St. John Berchmans community will support me and our children with your generosity. May God bless you.

I invite you to support our Raffle Ticket project scheduled for Christmas Day after the 11:00 morning Mass. This will be the only monetary fundraiser this year and our goal has been set at \$35,000. Each adult or family is requested to pick up 100 tickets at the price of \$2.00 per ticket. Please make a special effort to pick up your tickets after Mass or in the office, and sell as many tickets possible for the benefit of our parish community.

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



1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"So too you also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come."



Announcements

www.stjohnberchmans.com

What's Happening This Week

Sunday, November 27 -

RELIGIOUS ED CLASSES RESUME

9:00 a.m. Mass - Church

11:00 a.m. Mass - Church

Monday, November 28

Tuesday, November 29

12:00 p.m. Mass - Church

Wednesday, November 30

8:15 a.m. Mass - Church

2:00 p.m. Coffee with Fr. Fidele

Thursday, December 1

12:00 p.m. Mass - Church

7:00 p.m. Advent Talk - Church
Sister Lourdes Leal, CDP -
Congregation of Divine Providence of San Antonio

Friday, December 2

12:00 p.m. Mass - Church

Saturday, December 3

5:00 p.m. Mass - Church

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon: Is 4:2-6; Ps 122:1-9; Mt 8:5-11

Tue: Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17;
Lk 10:21-24

Wed: Rom 10:9-18; Ps 19:8-11; Mt 4:18-22

Thu: Is 26:1-6; Ps 118:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a;
Mt 7:21, 24-27

Fri: Is 29:17-24; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Mt 9:27-31

Sat: Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Ps 147:1-6;
Mt 9:35 - 10:1, 5a, 6-8

Sun: Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17;
Rom 15:4-9; Mt 3:1-12

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — All the peoples shall stream toward the LORD's house (Isaiah 2:1-5).

Psalms — We will rejoice as we go up to the Lord's house (Psalm 122).

Second Reading — It is the hour to cast off the dark and clothe ourselves in the light (Romans 13:11-14).

Gospel — Stay awake! Be prepared! The Son of Man will come when you least expect (Matt. 24:37-44).



Holy Eucharistic Adoration

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION
THURSDAY'S ONLY (CHAPEL)
9:00 AM -12 Noon & 2:00 - 5:00 P.M.**



Thank you for your generosity in donating food and turkeys for this year's Annual Feast of Sharing. Through your continued efforts we have provided to families within our parish community. This included senior citizens, and families from Perales and Winston Elementary schools.

SPECIAL THANKS TO ACTS for their donations and assistance in delivering the food.

SPECIAL THANK YOU to our anonymous donors and those who also donated towards the cost of the turkeys.

"I have shown you that...you must help others and keep in mind the words of the Lord Jesus who himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" Acts 20:35



The community and staff of St. John Berchmans parish extends their heartfelt condolences to the family of:

† **Pauline Vidal**

THE SANCTUARY CANDLE BURNS IN MEMORY OF: All Souls in Purgatory

**Teresa Moreno
Hope Esquivel**



We welcome anyone to help us clean our beautiful church.

**Saturday at 8:00 a.m.
Ministry Scheduled
December 3, 2022
Hospitality**



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.



OUR FASCINATING FAITH - THE SEASON OF ADVENT

WHAT IS ADVENT?

It is a period of four Sundays and weeks before Christmas. The word Advent means 'coming' in Latin, and refers to the coming of Jesus Christ into the world. We need to prepare our souls to receive Christ worthily. Advent should be marked by increased prayers, fasting and good works. We use this time of Advent to prepare and remember the real meaning of Christmas.

WHAT IS THE ADVENT WREATH?

Perhaps the best known of all the Advent symbols is the Advent wreath. It consists of four candles (3 purple and 1 pink) arranged in a circle with evergreen foliage (and often a fifth white candle). The purple candles represent the penitential nature of the season, while the pink candle calls to mind the respite of Gaudete Sunday.

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR!!!

Father Fidèle will continue his tradition of playing Santa this year. On Friday, December 16th, after the Christmas concert, he will be handing out gifts to all children in attendance.

In order for this event to be successful, Father needs your help and is asking for **toy donations for children ranging from 18 months to teenagers**. We ask that you kindly wrap your toy and specify gender and age. Or if purchasing toys is not an option for you, gift cards in increments of \$10 each will make great gifts as well. Thank you as always for your support of our efforts.



UPCOMING LITURGICAL EVENTS
MARK YOUR CALENDAR

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2022 - ADVENT TALK - 7 PM

Sister Lourdes Leal, CDP - Congregation of Divine Providence of San Antonio

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2022 - BILINGUAL MASS - 7 PM

Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary - Holy Day of Obligation

*****PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8TH.*****

LECTURAS DE LA SEMANA

Lunes: Is 4:2-6; Sal 122:1-9; Mt 8:5-11
Martes: Is 11:1-10; Sal 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Lc 10:21-24
Miércoles: Rom 10:9-18; Sal 19:8-11; Mt 4:18-22
Jueves: Is 26:1-6; Sal 118:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a; Mt 7:21, 24-27
Viernes: Is 29:17-24; Sal 27:1, 4, 13-14; Mt 9:27-31
Sábado: Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Sal 147:1-6; Mt 9:35 - 10:1, 5a, 6-8
Domingo: Is 11:1-10; Sal 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Rom 15:4-9; Mt 3:1-12

PERSONAS DE LUZ

Estamos llamados a reflejar la luz del amor de Dios a través de la forma en que vivimos nuestras vidas. Imagina el impacto que tendría si cada uno de nosotros se tomara a pecho esta llamada, cada día, en casa, en el trabajo o en la escuela, en nuestra parroquia, en el mundo. "Todas las naciones irán hacia ella", hacia el amor que sólo viene de Dios. Sin embargo, debemos admitir que muchas veces no somos faros de la luz de Dios. Nos dormimos, complacientes, prefiriendo ir por el camino fácil, que a menudo conduce a la oscuridad en lugar de al resplandor de la luz de Cristo. Al comenzar el tiempo de Adviento, San Pablo nos exhorta a despojarnos de las obras de las tinieblas, a despertar a la llamada de la luz y del amor. En el Evangelio de hoy, también Jesús nos dice que permanezcamos despiertos, que estemos preparados para recibir al Señor de la luz como personas de la luz.

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PREGUNTA DE LA SEMANA

¿ De que manera puedo caminar por las sendas del Señor en mi propia comunidad y con mi propia familia?