

# SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 4, 2022

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## NAME CALLING

We often change our tone of voice and vocabulary when we really want to get somebody's attention. Parents will add a middle name to indicate a child is in trouble (a middle *and* last name when the child is *really* in trouble). Change of tone and words invites attention, demanding a response. Today John the Baptist does a bit of name-calling: "You brood of vipers!" Even for someone like John, who regularly used potent vocabulary, this way of addressing the holy men—the Pharisees and Saducees—this level of name-calling stands out. Snakes were commonly understood as a representation of evil, and a poisonous snake in the ancient world held the power of life and death, as the holy men thought they did. Instead of thinking about their own power, John tells them to produce good fruit. We still get ourselves in trouble today when we think that we truly hold any type of power over others, when it's a power that belongs only to God.

## EMBRACING CHANGE

Words like John's might cause fear in us, or may hold us back, hesitant. Words like these can also invite us to change our lives. When we do so, we open ourselves to a core virtue of the Advent season: hope. Changing our lives can also open us up to a more vigorous presence of the gifts of the Holy Spirit—wisdom, understanding, counsel, strength, knowledge, and fear of the Lord—named in Isaiah today. Recall that it was in that very Spirit we were named for Christ at Baptism. Open your ears and heart to the voice of God, who knows the name given to you on that day. Respond not out of fear, but in love, to the ways that God is calling to you today; calling you to change what needs to be changed, and to welcome Christ today, as you will once again on Christmas day.

**TODAY'S READINGS:** Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Rom 15:4-9; Mt 3:1-12 Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

## LLAMAR POR EL NOMBRE

A menudo cambiamos el tono de voz y el vocabulario cuando queremos llamar la atención de alguien. Los padres añaden un segundo nombre para indicar que el niño está en problemas (un segundo nombre y un apellido cuando el niño está realmente en problemas). El cambio de tono y de palabras invita a la atención, exigiendo una respuesta. Hoy en día, Juan el Bautista hace un poco de nombre: "¡Cria de víboras!" Incluso para alguien como Juan, que utilizaba habitualmente un vocabulario potente, esta forma de dirigirse a los hombres santos -los fariseos y los saduceos- destaca este nivel de insultos. Las serpientes se entendían comúnmente como una representación del mal, y una serpiente venenosa en el mundo antiguo tenía el poder de la vida y la muerte, como pensaban los hombres santos. En lugar de pensar en su propio poder, Juan les dice que produzcan buenos frutos. Todavía hoy nos metemos en problemas cuando pensamos que realmente tenemos algún tipo de poder sobre los demás, cuando es un poder que sólo pertenece a Dios.

## ABRAZAR EL CAMBIO

Palabras como las de Juan pueden causar miedo en nosotros, o pueden retenernos, dudar. Palabras como éstas también pueden invitarnos a cambiar nuestras vidas. Cuando lo hacemos, nos abrimos a una virtud fundamental del tiempo de Adviento: la esperanza. Cambiar nuestras vidas también puede abrirnos a una presencia más vigorosa de los dones del Espíritu Santo -sabiduría, entendimiento, consejo, fuerza, conocimiento y temor del Señor- que se nombran hoy en Isaías. Recordemos que en ese mismo Espíritu fuimos nombrados por Cristo en el Bautismo. Abre tus oídos y tu corazón a la voz de Dios, que conoce el nombre que se te dio en aquel día. No respondas con miedo, sino con amor, a las formas en que Dios te llama hoy; te llama a cambiar lo que necesita ser cambiado, y a acoger a Cristo hoy, como lo harás de nuevo el día de Navidad.

**LECTURAS DE HOY:** Is 11:1-10; Sal 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Rom 15:4-9; Mt 3:1-12 Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.



## 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 Morales	Raymond Serna	Guadalupe Rodriguez
Raymond Sarabia	Mary Martinez	Gayle Beaver

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 27, 2022

5 PM Mass	-\$ 775.00	
9 AM Mass	-\$ 725.00	
11 AM Mass	-\$ 1,676.00	
IGBO Mass	-\$ 97.00	
Thanksgiving Day Mass	-\$ 580.00	
Religious Education	-\$ 365.00	2nd Collection
IGBO Religious Education	-\$ 156.00	2nd Collection
Mail In	-\$ 148.00	
Gift of Giving	-\$ 224.70	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 4,746.70</b>	
<b>SECOND COLLECTION</b>		
<b>December 4, 2022 - Capital Improvements</b>		

## 2022 GIFT OF GIVING

Contributions ending Nov. 27, 2022	\$ 224.70
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 11,975.73</b>

# Announcements

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## Saturday, December 3

5:00 p.m. † Tomas Diaz - Olga Diaz  
† Raymundo Cruz, Sr. - Cruz Family  
† Santos Sanchez - Mary Jane Gomez  
Gift of Life Destini Santos - Mom

## Sunday, December 4

9:00 a.m. † Warren & Colleen Boone - Mark Boone  
† Maria J. Terrazas - Angelita Canales  
† Mr. Guadalupe Treviño - Nora Treviño  
† Daniel C. & Maria Arzola - Familia  
† Roberta K. Garza - Leonor Rodriguez

11:00 a.m. † Robert Gallegos - Wife & Children  
† Paul Salinas - Wife  
† Petra Chavez - Family  
† Ryan Sanchez - Family

For Health Cyndi & Rick Boone - Mark Boone

## Monday, December 5

## Tuesday, December 6

12:00 p.m. † Yolanda Almaguer - Friends  
For Health Sister Margaret, Fr. Janek & Maciej -  
Mark Boone

## Wednesday, December 7 - ST. AMBROSE

12:00 p.m. † Maria Polanco - Mary Martinez  
In Thanksgiving Chad & Chantal - Mom  
For Health Terry & Bo Boone - Mark Boone

## Thursday, December 8 - IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

8:15 a.m. † Priscilla Guerrero  
7:00 p.m. † Isidro Mata - Kim & Khloe Mata  
† Juan Velasquez - Daughter  
† Jose & Juanita Castillo - Family

For Health Baby Boone & Andrea - Family

## Friday, December 9

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

## TIPS TO CELEBRATE ADVENT

1. Fast, Pray and Give Alms
2. Make a Jesse Tree
3. Decorate for Advent
4. Have a Family Advent Wreath
5. Watch an Advent movie



## From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Parishioners and Friends:

Last Sunday, November 27th, 2022 we commenced the Advent season and the liturgical year A. I invite you to continue preparing in anticipation of the second coming of our Lord at Christmas time. Let us be kind, loving and understanding as our God is. May this Advent season bring us closer as a family and also secure us with Hope, peace, joy and justice for all. Please make a special effort to participate in the celebrations from your updated Advent schedule.

I thank all of you who attended and participated on the presentation offered by Sister Lourdes Leal, CDP, focusing on the season of Advent and Christmas. A special thank you goes to Sister Lourdes for an inspiring talk. May God continue to guide her on her effort to spread the Good News of Salvation.

Thanks to you, my parishioners, we have collected about \$12,000 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 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 sell as many tickets possible for the benefit of our parish community.

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

# Announcements

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## What's Happening This Week

### Sunday, December 4

9:00 a.m. Mass - Church  
11:00 a.m. Mass - Church

### Monday, December 5

### Tuesday, December 6

12:00 p.m. Mass - Church

### Wednesday, December 7

12:00 p.m. Mass - Church  
2:00 p.m. Coffee with Fr. Fidele

### Thursday, December 8 - PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

8:15 a.m. School Mass - Church  
7:00 p.m. Bilingual Mass - Church  
Immaculate Conception of the  
Blessed Virgin Mary - Holy Day of Obligation

### Friday, December 9

12:00 p.m. Mass - Church

### Saturday, December 10

5:00 p.m. Mass - Church



*Holy  
Eucharistic  
Adoration*

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

### READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon: Is 35:1-10; Ps 85:9ab, 10-14; Lk 5:17-26  
Tue: Is 40:1-11; Ps 96:1-3, 10ac, 11-13;  
Mt 18:12-14  
Wed: Is 40:25-31; Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10; Mt 11:28-30  
Thu: Gn 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98:1-4; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12;  
Lk 1:26-38  
Fri: Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Mt 11:16-19  
Sat: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80:2ac, 3b, 15-16, 18-19;  
Mt 17:9a, 10-13  
Sun: Is 35:1-6a, 10; Ps 146:6-10; Jas 5:7-10;  
Mt 11:2-11

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Mrs. Genevieve Robledo will be fully initiated into our faith this Saturday, December 3rd at St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church. She will be confirmed by the Bishop and will be 'Sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit.' We ask the community to pray for her that the gifts of this sacrament may fill her life with grace and abundant love. Let us help her in making the sacrament of confirmation as efficacious as possible. We welcome Mrs. Robledo into the Church and we await the blessing of her marriage to Mr. Sergio Robledo - St. John Berchmans, pray for us."

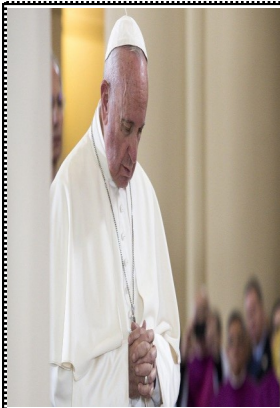
### GRIEF VIDEO

If you are experiencing problems with grief during this time, please access the following website:  
**davidkesslertraining.com**

### THE SANCTUARY CANDLE BURNS IN MEMORY OF:



**All Souls in Purgatory  
Teresa Moreno  
Hope Esquivel  
Marie Weaver**



**LORD JESUS CHRIST,**  
Throughout this season of Advent, we pray for evangelization and to so many catechists who seek to communicate the Gospel.

May all catechists, who have been summoned by the Lord to announce the Word of God be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

We welcome anyone to help us clean our beautiful church.

**Saturday at 8:00 a.m.**

**Ministry Scheduled**

**Martinez/Santoyo Families  
December 10, 2022**



**CHURCH  
CLEANING  
DAY**



### 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.



**SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT - PREPARING FOR JESUS**

We light a second purple candle on this second Sunday of Advent to represent the hope of Christ's coming to the world.

This week, we ask him to move us to action, so that we can prepare ourselves for both His coming at Christmas, and His second coming. He offers himself freely, but we must freely accept His offer in order to attain salvation.

Gods plan for humanity unfolded in the town of Bethlehem, the birthplace of the Messiah, joyously fulfilling a long-awaited promise. Today, we confidently wait for the Messiah's triumphant return.

**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.



**CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS**

It's that time of year again! If you would like to order your Christmas poinsettia in memory of a loved one, if interested, please contact the Parish Office at 210) 434-3247. The altar will be beautifully decorated with the poinsettias and they may be picked up in the office after Christmas.

The cost is \$10 each and we will sell only 60 poinsettias. Thank you!

**UPCOMING LITURGICAL EVENTS**  
**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

**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.\*\*\***

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2022 - OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE** - Regular Mass schedule will be followed

**LECTURAS DE LA SEMANA**

Lunes: Is 35:1-10; Sal 85:9ab, 10-14; Lc 5:17-26  
 Martes: Is 40:1-11; Sal 96:1-3, 10ac, 11-13; Mt 18:12-14  
 Miércoles: Is 40:25-31; Sal 103:1-4, 8, 10; Mt 11:28-30  
 Jueves: Gn 3:9-15, 20; Sal 98:1-4; Ef 1:3-6, 11-12; Lc 1:26-38  
 Viernes: Is 48:17-19; Sal 1:1-4, 6; Mt 11:16-19  
 Sábado: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Sal 80:2ac, 3b, 15-16, 18-19; Mt 17:9a, 10-13  
 Domingo: Is 35:1-6a, 10; Sal 146:6-10; Sant 5:7-10; Mt 11:2-11

**ARMONÍA**

¿Has conocido alguna vez un momento en el que, sólo por un breve instante, has sentido que todo estaba bien en el mundo? Es precisamente un momento así, que se extiende hasta la eternidad, el que describe el escritor de Isaías en la primera lectura de hoy: la perfección de todo, centrada en el espíritu de Dios, donde reinan el conocimiento, la justicia y el asombro ante la presencia de Dios. En ese paraíso, todos ven y piensan en armonía, como describe San Pablo en su carta a los Romanos. Incluso los animales con una animosidad natural entre ellos coexisten pacíficamente. Juan el Bautista comprendió que esas relaciones armoniosas no se producen sin más. Son el fruto de vivir en una relación correcta con Dios y con los demás.

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**PREGUNTA DE LA SEMANA**

¿ De que necesito arrepentirme y cómo puede mi arrepentimiento producir buenos frutos?