

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 11, 2022

www.stjohnberchmans.com

PATIENCE . . . NOW!

A friend walked me through his newly planted garden to help me see how it would look in spring. He finally stopped and said, "You can't picture any of this, can you?" I couldn't until I saw it in full bloom the following springtime. Then I could understand why he planted the seeds where he had. Then I saw the beauty and bounty that his planting represented. "Tell John what you hear and see," Jesus says to John's disciples. The signs of the Messiah proclaimed by the prophets are beginning to bloom. Look and see! Hear the singing of those once mute and the rejoicing of the crowds who witness these works. The beauty and the bounty of our generous God are all around.

JUST IMAGINE

James wrote to a community experiencing hardship, like the exiled Israelites in today's first reading. Isaiah and James exhort people to trust that they will see God's presence in their midst once again, so be patient. That's easier said than done, isn't it? Saint Francis de Sales says to be patient with everyone, and most of all with ourselves. Patience means accepting suffering and delay without becoming angry or upset. Easier said than done. Praying for this virtue each day, sometimes often throughout the day, does help. Breathe in the Spirit of God and say, "Give me patience, Lord." Then exhale anger, upset, and impatience. Staring at a garden won't make a shoot spring up any faster; however, giving thanks for the seed, the water, the soil, and the Giver of all life can deepen our trust that the garden will grow. So be patient. Rejoice always. See and be the signs of God's beauty and bounty in our world today.

TODAY'S READINGS: Is 35:1-6a, 10; Ps 146:6-10; Jas 5:7-10; Mt 11:2-11

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PACIENCIA . . . ¡AHORA!

Un amigo me paseó por su jardín recién plantado para ayudarme a ver cómo quedaría en primavera. Al final se detuvo y dijo: "No puedes imaginarte nada de esto, ¿verdad?" No podía hasta que lo vi en plena floración la primavera siguiente. Entonces pude entender por qué plantó las semillas donde lo hizo. Entonces vi la belleza y la abundancia que su plantación representaba. "Cuenten a Juan lo que escuchan y ven", dice Jesús a los discípulos de Juan. Los signos del Mesías anunciados por los profetas empiezan a florecer. ¡Miren y vean! Escuchen el canto de los que antes eran mudos y el regocijo de las multitudes que son testigos de estas obras. La belleza y la generosidad de nuestro Dios generoso están por todas partes.

IMAGENES

Santiago escribió a una comunidad que pasaba por dificultades, como los israelitas exiliados de la primera lectura de hoy. Isaías y Santiago exhortan a la gente a confiar en que volverán a ver la presencia de Dios en medio de ellos, así que tengan paciencia. Es más fácil decirlo que hacerlo, ¿verdad? San Francisco de Sales dice que hay que tener paciencia con todos, y sobre todo con nosotros mismos. La paciencia significa aceptar el sufrimiento y la demora sin enfadarse o molestarse. Es más fácil decirlo que hacerlo. Rezar por esta virtud cada día, a veces con frecuencia a lo largo de la jornada, sí ayuda. Inspira el Espíritu de Dios y di: "Dame paciencia, Señor". Luego exhala la ira, el malestar y la impaciencia. Mirar fijamente un jardín no hará que un retoño brote más rápido; sin embargo, dar gracias por la semilla, el agua, la tierra y el Dador de toda vida puede profundizar nuestra confianza en que el jardín crecerá. Así que ten paciencia. Alégrate siempre. Vean y sean los signos de la belleza y la generosidad de Dios en nuestro mundo actual.

LECTURAS DE HOY: Is 35:1-6a, 10; Sal 146:6-7, 8-10; Sant 5:7-10; Mt 11:2-11

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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	Vanessa Quintero
Galilea Romero	Celia Garcia	Mary Alice Vasquez
Flora Torres	Isidoro & Angie Muñoz	Heath Herring
Iris Luna Sullivan	Deacon J. Rodriguez	Joe Cevallos
Sandy Guerra	Antonia Degollado	Jennifer Olivarez
Abraham Guerra	Baby Zaylee Gaitan	Juanita Martinez
Emma O. Velasquez	Bobby Rollins	Maria Rios
Leticia Lopez Barrera	Darlene Lopez	Virginia R. Lucio
Leticia Martinez	George Garnica	Teresa Moreno
Kenny De La Rosa	Adam Alonzo, Jr.	Guadalupe Rodriguez
Virginia Moralez	Raymond Serna	Gayle Beaver
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 THE WEEK

ENDING DECEMBER 4, 2022

5 PM Mass	-\$ 575.00	
9 AM Mass	-\$ 770.00	
11AM Mass	-\$ 2,154.00	
Capital improvements	-\$ 659.00	2nd Collection
Mail In	-\$ 945.00	
On Line	-\$ 75.03	
Gift of Giving	-\$ 180.55	
TOTAL	\$ 5,358.58	

SECOND COLLECTION

December 11, 2022

Retirement Fund for Religious

2022 GIFT OF GIVING

Contributions ending Dec. 4, 2022	\$ 180.55
TOTAL	\$ 12,156.28

Announcements

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Saturday, December 10

5:00 p.m. † Henry Vidal - Castorena Family
† Tomas Diaz - John & Angie Diaz
† Joe Ybañez, Jr. - Daughter Sylvia Lore
All Guadalupana Families - Irma Sweet

For Health Boone, Engler & Eyster Families -
Mark Boone

In Thanksgiving Rosemary & Gilbert Jimenez -
Sweet Family

In Thanksgiving Suzi & Rachel Hernandez -
Sweet Family

Sunday, December 11

9:00 a.m. † Peter A. Cruz - Angela Talamantes
† Merced Cruz, Jr.- Angela Talamantes
† Mr. Guadalupe Treviño - Nora Treviño
† Daniel C. & Maria Arzola - Familia
† Catarina C. Talamantes - Angela Talamantes
† Adolfo M. Talamantes - Angela Talamantes
† Minnie A. Talamantes - Angela Talamantes
† Bernie Alvarez - Angela Talamantes

Gift of Life Leticia Martinez - Family

11:00 a.m. † Paul Salinas - Wife
† Clarissa Zerda - Joanne Zerda
† Vincent Zerda - Joanne Zerda
† Charles Zerda - Joanne Zerda
† Ileen Berenger - Joanne Zerda
† Adela Solis - Family

For Health Adan Alonzo, Jr. - Family

Gift of Life Joshua Garza - Grandma

Monday, December 12 - OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

Tuesday, December 13 - ST. LUCY

12:00 p.m. † Warren & Colleen Boone - Mark Boone
For Health Baby Boone & Mom Andrea -
Mark Boone

Wednesday, December 14 - ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS

8:15 a.m. † Helen Lopez
For Health Terry & Mo Boone - Mark Boone
For Health Clara Perez - Hermanas en Cristo

Thursday, December 15

12:00 p.m. † Priscilla Guerrero
For Health Janek & Maczej - Mark Boone
For Health Gino Gonzales - Mom

Friday, December 16

12:00 p.m. † Inez De Los Santos - Mom Mary De Los Santos
Gift of Life Yolanda Castillo - Family



Dear Parishioners and Friends:

I would like to thank all the volunteers who participated in the cleaning and decoration of our beautiful church for Advent season and in anticipation of the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ. The leadership team deserves a special recognition: Angie and John Diaz, Kimberly and Khloe Mata, Dolores Guardiola, Sylvia Gomez, Jaime and Rosario Gomez, Isidoro and Jessica Ramos, Laura and Gilbert Castañeda, Janie Jimenez and Margaret Moreno.

All parishioners are invited to celebrate the Christmas season by attending the Christmas concert on Friday, December 16th at 7:00 p.m. We are blessed with so many talented musicians to perform on this special evening: Javier Saucedo, Itza and Binisa Zentella, Jonathan and the Rodriguez: Naomi, Albert, Jasmine, Miguel, Noah and Secilia. Immediately after the concert, Father Santa will share presents and gifts with all the children in attendance. Make a special effort to attend.

The sacrament of reconciliation is being offered on Thursday, December 15th at 7:00 p.m. in the church. Several priests will facilitate and assist you in receiving the sacrament. Please make a special effort to come and prepare for the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

On 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 love for all. Please make a special effort to participate in the celebrations from your updated Advent schedule.

Thanks to you, my parishioners, we have collected over \$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.

As of December 7th, 2022, 320 desks have been sponsored for the children at Mumiaminyi, Disangayi and

PASTOR MESSAGE CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Announcements

PASTOR MESSAGE CONTINUED

Muoyo Mupeluke elementary schools situated in the city of Kananga, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Our goal is still maintained at 400 desks. My gratitude goes to all of you who have been supportive of the Dikete Education Opportunity Foundation. I thank in particular the 6th and 7th religion class who raised up to 3 desks to sponsor the children in Kananga, Democratic Republic of the Congo. Thank you for your generosity and may God bless you always.



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

What's Happening This Week

Sunday, December 11

8:00 a.m. Mañanitas a la Virgen - Church
9:00 a.m. **Guadalupe Mass** - Church
11:00 a.m. **Mass** - Church

Monday, December 12

Tuesday, December 13

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

Wednesday, December 14

8:15 a.m. **School Mass** - Church
2:00 p.m. Coffee with Fr. Fidele

Thursday, December 15

12:00 p.m. **Mass** - Church
7:00 p.m. Reconciliation/Confessions - Church

Friday, December 16

12:00 p.m. **Mass** - Church
7:00 p.m. Christmas Concert - Church
Santa Visit and Toy Giveaway

Saturday, December 17

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

We welcome anyone to help us clean our beautiful church every **Saturday at 8:00 a.m.f**

Ministry Scheduled
December 17, 2022
LECTOR'S



10 ATTITUDES FOR ADVENT

- ◆ **TRUST** - God is always listening
- ◆ **SEARCH** - For God in others and in your day to day life
- ◆ **BE GENEROUS** - Share you time and your joy
- ◆ **RECONCILE** - With God and others
- ◆ **BE COHERENT** - March your actions to your beliefs
- ◆ **LOVE** - Others through simple and kind gestures
- ◆ **BE GRATEFUL** - With God for all your blessings
- ◆ **SPEAK** - About God. Do not be ashamed of Him
- ◆ **ILLUMINATE** - Others with joy. Be a light in the world
- ◆ **PRAY** - Dedicate some special time to be with God

RAFFLE TICKETS

We are now in December and the time for our raffle drawing is a **few weeks away!** We thank all of you who have assisted with selling tickets, and ask that you please submit any monies to the office during normal work hours.



We need everyone's participation to ensure that this is a successful raffle. Thank you as always for your support!

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon: Rv 11:19; 12:1-6, 10; Jdt 13:18, 19; Lk 1:26-38
Tue: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-19, 23; Mt 21:28-32
Wed: Is 45: 6b-8, 18, 21b-25; Ps 85:9ab, 10-14; Lk 7:18b-23
Thu: Is 54:1-10; Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-13; Lk 7:24-30
Fri: Is 56:1-3a, 6-8; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 7-8; Jn 5:33-36
Sat: Gn 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72:1-4, 7-8, 17; Mt 1:1-17
Sun: Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-6; Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24



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

† **Mr. Guadalupe Muñoz**




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.


	<p>GAUDETE SUNDAY</p> <p>The Third Sunday of Advent is Gaudete Sunday, the day when we light the pink candle on the Advent wreath and rose vestments are worn. The change in color provides worshippers with encouragement to continue their spiritual preparation—especially prayer and fasting—for Christmas.</p> <p>Gaudete Sunday is a joyous celebration. It takes place during the penitential period of Advent, but serves as a mid-point to rejoice when we recall the hope we have because of the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.</p>
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RECONCILIATION/CONFESSIONS - THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15 AT 7:00 PM


During Advent we are preparing for the coming of the Messiah, and part of that preparation also involves repentance. We know that we have sinned and need forgiveness.

Repentance, even for minor sins, softens our hearts and opens us to Jesus and his Grace. How does this happen? Repentance requires us to make a spiritual inventory of what needs to change in our lives and where we have fallen short of God's commands.

When we experience God's cleansing of our sins, we can't help but be filled with thanksgiving for his abundant love and for his unfailing, never-ending mercy. God will use it not only to clean you but to soften your heart and draw you closer to himself.

	<p><u>TIME IS APPROACHING FOR OUR CONCERT AND TOY GIVEAWAY</u></p> <p>Join us on Friday, December 16th, for our Christmas concert, and afterwards Father Santa will be handing out gifts to all children in attendance.</p> <p>However, in order for this event to be successful, we need your help with toy donations for children ranging from 18 months to teenagers. We ask that you kindly wrap your toy and specify gender and age. We will also accept gift cards in increments of \$10 each which will make great gifts as well. Thank you as always for your support of our efforts.</p>
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<p><u>SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND FOR RETIRED RELIGIOUS</u></p> <p>The annual appeal for the Retirement Fund for Religious is taken up each December in U.S. Catholic parishes and helps hundreds of religious communities provide for the current and future needs of our senior members. The National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO) coordinates the nationwide collection and distributes the proceeds to eligible religious communities. Tens of thousands of elderly Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests benefit. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!</p>	 <p>Please give to those who have given a lifetime. Retirement Fund for Religious</p>
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	<p><u>CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS</u></p> <p>It's that time of year again! If you would like to order your Christmas poinsettia in memory of a loved one, 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 \$10 each and we will sell only 60 poinsettias. Thank you!</p>
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AQUEL QUE NUESTRO CORAZÓN ANHELA

Ponte en la escena del pasaje del Evangelio de hoy. Juan el Bautista está en la cárcel. Ha oído hablar de lo que hace Jesús y quiere asegurarse de que Jesús es el Mesías tan esperado. Los discípulos de Juan y los que rodeaban a Jesús eran judíos fieles que conocían de memoria las profecías de Isaías. Dios enviaría a uno que daría la vista a los ciegos, la curación a los enfermos y la salvación a todos los que anhelaban conocer la misericordia y la paz de Dios. La respuesta de Jesús a la pregunta de los discípulos resuena hoy tan poderosamente en nuestros oídos como seguramente lo hizo para la gente que estaba con él aquel día. Sus acciones son precisamente las que la gente esperaba. Jesús es Aquel a quien la gente ha estado esperando pacientemente y con ansiedad, como el agricultor que espera los frutos de su trabajo. Jesús es aquel a quien nuestros corazones anhelan. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

PREGUNTA DE LA SEMANA

¿ Han reconocido otras personas la presencia de Cristo en mí? ¿Qué puedo hacer durante el Adviento y la Navidad para dar testimonio de la presencia de Cristo en el mundo?