

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 18, 2022

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WHOSE HOUSE?

Interest in genealogy is much, much older than current fascination with using DNA analysis to trace our heritage. Matthew's Gospel opens with the genealogy of Jesus, going all the way back to Abraham, Israel's father in faith. This is what immediately precedes today's Gospel reading, and is crucial to how we hear the opening sentence: "Now this is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about." It's not so much as a starting point, but a pivot point that places Jesus firmly in the "house of David" through Joseph (in first-century Judaism, lineage and heritage was traced solely through males). An essential understanding of the Messiah was that he would come from the house and lineage of King David. For those of us who follow Jesus in faith, it's important to recall that it was through Joseph that Jesus both came from the house of David and was made a son of the covenant of Moses.

WHOSE HOME?

Matthew's Gospel also contains an angelic annunciation scene; we hear from it today. Another pivot point is presented, when the angel says "Do not be afraid to take Mary into your home." As with most angelic appearances in scripture, the angel provides an instruction not to fear. More importantly, Joseph is instructed by God's messenger to take Mary into his home. When Joseph and Mary were betrothed, they were officially constituted as husband and wife; the next step—approved by an angel—would have been for Joseph to take Mary into his home. So he provided a safe place for a young woman in a troubled pregnancy, and offered her child a home, a heritage, and a lineage. This rather difficult and risky move on Joseph's part might inspire us in this season to seek out and help out in those places where people are longing to have a house and—more importantly—a home.

TODAY'S READINGS: Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-6; Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24

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¿QUÉ CASA?

El interés por la genealogía es mucho, mucho más antiguo que la fascinación actual por utilizar el análisis de ADN para rastrear nuestra herencia. El Evangelio de Mateo inicia con la genealogía de Jesús, que se remonta hasta Abraham, el padre de la fe de Israel. Esto es lo que precede inmediatamente a la lectura del Evangelio de hoy, y es crucial para que escuchemos la frase inicial: "Así se produjo el nacimiento de Jesucristo". No es tanto un punto de partida, sino un punto de giro que sitúa a Jesús firmemente en la "casa de David" a través de José (en el judaísmo del siglo I, el linaje y la herencia se trazaban únicamente a través de los varones). Una interpretación esencial del Mesías era que vendría de la casa y el linaje del rey David. Para los que seguimos a Jesús en la fe, es importante recordar que fue a través de José que Jesús vino de la casa de David y fue hecho hijo de la alianza de Moisés.

¿QUÉ HOGAR?

El Evangelio de Mateo contiene también una escena de anunciación angélica; la escuchamos hoy. Se presenta otro punto de inflexión, cuando el ángel dice "No tengas miedo de recibir a María en tu casa". Como en la mayoría de las apariciones angélicas en las Escrituras, el ángel da una instrucción de no temer. Lo más importante es que el mensajero de Dios instruye a José para que acoga a María en su casa. Cuando José y María se desposaron, se constituyeron oficialmente en marido y mujer; el siguiente paso -aprobado por un ángel- habría sido que José acogiera a María en su casa. Así, proporcionó un lugar seguro a una joven en un embarazo problemático, y ofreció a su hijo un hogar, una herencia y un linaje. Este movimiento bastante difícil y arriesgado de José podría inspirarnos en esta época para buscar y ayudar en aquellos lugares donde la gente anhela tener una casa y, sobre todo, un hogar.

LECTURAS DE HOY: Is 7:10-14; Sal 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24

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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 Morales	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 11, 2022

5 PM Mass	-\$ 675.00	
9 AM Mass	-\$ 1,329.00	
11AM Mass	-\$ 1,316.00	
Immaculate Conception Mass	-\$ 434.00	
Retirement Fund/Religious	-\$ 546.00	2nd Collection
Good Samaritans	-\$ 160.00	
Mail In	-\$ 945.00	
On Line	-\$ 80.00	
Gift of Giving	-\$ 228.00	
TOTAL	\$ 5,658.58	



SECOND COLLECTION December 18, 2022 - Altar Flowers

2022 GIFT OF GIVING

Contributions ending Dec. 11, 2022	\$ 228.00
TOTAL	\$ 12,384.28

Announcements

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Saturday, December 17

5:00 p.m. † Beatrice & Santos Sanchez -
John & Angie Diaz
† Tomas Diaz - Mary Jane Gomez
In Thanksgiving Boone, Engler & Eyster Families -
Mark Boone
Gift of Life Noah Idroge - John & Angie Diaz

Sunday, December 18

9:00 a.m. † Mr. Guadalupe Treviño - Nora Treviño
† Francisco & Tomasa Ibarra -
Leonor Rodriguez
† Jimmie Rodriguez - Leonor Rodriguez
† Gilbert Prieto - Robert Prieto Family
For Health Adan Alonzo, Jr. - Family
For Health Adam Solis - Family
11:00 a.m. † Luis Duran, Sr. - Wife & Family
† Gloria Lloyd - Children
† Paul Salinas - Wife
† JoAnn Almaguer - Family
† Moises L. Reyes - John Reyes
† Angelina Reyes - John Reyes
† Conrad Soriano - Family

Monday, December 19

Tuesday, December 20

12:00 p.m. † Julia Villarreal - Sweet Family
† Juana E. Castillo - Family

Wednesday, December 21

8:15 a.m. † Vicky Valdez
For Health Baby Boone, Mom Andrea - Mark Boone

Thursday, December 22

12:00 p.m. † Warren W. Boone & Colleen S. Boone
- Mark Boone

For Health Gino Gonzales
Gift of Life Aria Reese Flores - Family
Gift of Life Carolina Rose Santoyo - Family

Friday, December 23

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

CATHOLIC PRAYER CORNER Prayer for Generosity

Lord, teach me to be generous.
Teach me to serve you as you deserve;
to give and not to count the cost,
to fight and not to heed the wounds,
to toil and not to seek for rest,
to labor and not to ask for reward,
save that of knowing that I do your will.

— Saint Ignatius of Loyola

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Parishioners and Friends:

Our annual Christmas concert was a huge success due to our very talented musicians who so diligently prepared for this special occasion. Thank you to all our parishioners who came to enjoy Christmas songs. A special recognition is given to Javier Saucedo who spearheaded this event.

Also special thanks to all who donated gifts for the children. Father Santa is grateful to our parish community.

Thank you to all who participated in the sacrament of reconciliation.

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 as noted in your 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 deadline to submit application is on Thursday, December 22, 2022 at 5pm in the evening.**

I invite you to support our Raffle Ticket project scheduled for Christmas Day after the 11:00 morning mass. This will be the only fundraiser this year and our goal has been set at \$35,000. Please make sure to sell as many tickets as possible and submit monies to our parish office.

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

Announcements

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TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — You will be given this sign: the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel (Isaiah 7:10-14).

Psalms - The king of glory shall come in (Psalm 24).

Second Reading — God has called us to belong to Jesus Christ (Romans 1:1-7).

Gospel — The son born of Mary shall be called Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins. He shall be Emmanuel, "God is with us" (Matt. 1:18-24).

What's Happening This Week

Sunday, December 18

9:00 a.m. Mass - Church

11:00 a.m. Mass - Church

Monday, December 19

Tuesday, December 20

12:00 p.m. Mass - Church

Wednesday, December 21

8:15 a.m. School Mass - Church

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

Thursday, December 22

12:00 p.m. Mass - Church

Friday, December 23 - PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

Saturday, December 24 ***

6:00 p.m. Children's Christmas Mass - Church

11:30 p.m. Christmas Carols - Church

12 Midnight English Christmas Mass - Church

A Beautiful Prayer By St. Thomas Aquinas

*Grant me, O Lord my God,
A mind to know you,
A heart to seek you,
Wisdom to find you,
Conduct pleasing to you, faithful perseverance
in waiting for you,
And a hope of finally embracing you. Amen*

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

Ministry Scheduled
December 22, 2022
Scouts



The Parish office will be **CLOSED** Friday, December 23rd, and Monday, December 26, 2022, in celebration of Christmas and the Solemnity of the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ. Regular business hours will resume on Tuesday, December 27, 2022.

*****OUR PARISH OFFICE WILL BE OPEN ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24th, FROM 10AM-2PM TO ACCEPT MONIES FOR RAFFLE TICKETS.**

RAFFLE TICKETS

We are one week away from our **Christmas raffle!** We thank all of you who have assisted with selling tickets, and ask that you please make a supreme effort to sell as many tickets as possible before next Sunday.



Thank you as always for your support!

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25

Tue: Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-4ab, 5-6; Lk 1:26-38

Wed: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45

Thu: 1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd; Lk 1:46-56

Fri: Mal 3:1-4, 23-34; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-10, 14; Lk 1:57-66

Sat: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Lk 1:67-79

Sun: Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27 29; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 [18-25]

Night: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-3, 11-13; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14

Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20

Day: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]



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.



THE FOURTH AND LAST SUNDAY OF THE ADVENT SEASON is this weekend and the fourth candle is lit. It is the angel's candle reminding us of the heavenly hosts that proclaimed Christ's arrival with, "Behold, I bring unto you the tiding of great joy!"

The culmination of the Advent season reminds us of the announcement of Christ's coming and that God is with us. Mary's proclamation calls us to be reminded that our joy does not solely rest in our material comfort or discomfort but in a divine promise that has been fulfilled in the eternal Word becoming flesh and God becoming like us in the deepest sense of the word.

The advent celebration of love is to recall and celebrate how God has filled and is filling every gap of our broken lives and in our broken world.

IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS - PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

⇒ **Saturday, December 24, 2022 (NO 5 PM Mass)**

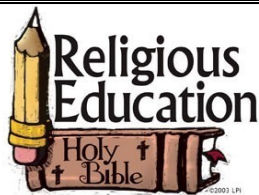
6:00 p.m. - Children's English Christmas Mass

11:30 p.m. - Christmas Carols

12 Midnite - Christmas English Midnite Mass

⇒ **Sunday, December 25, 2022 (ONLY 1 Mass)**

11:00 a.m. - Christmas Bilingual Mass - Nativity of the Lord



St. John Berchmans Religious Education program will **NOT** conduct classes on **Sunday, December 25 and Sunday, January 1, 2023.**

Classes will resume on Sunday, January 8, 2023.

On behalf of our Religious education staff may you and your families enjoy a peaceful and joyous holiday season.

LECTURAS DE LA SEMANA

Lunes: Jue 13:2-7, 24-25a; Sal 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Lc 1:5-25

Martes: Is 7:10-14; Sal 24:1-4ab, 5-6; Lc 1:26-38

Miércoles: Cant 2:8-14 o Sof 3:14-18a; Sal 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lc 1:39-45

Jueves: 1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd; Lc 1:46-56

Viernes: Mal 3:1-4, 23-34; Sal 25:4-5ab, 8-10, 14; Lc 1:57-66

Sábado: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Sal 89:2-5, 27, 29; Lc 1:67-79

Domingo: **Vigilia:** Is 62:1-5; Sal 89:4-5, 16-17, 27 29; Hch 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25

Noche: Is 9:1-6; Sal 96:1-3, 11-13; Tit 2:11-14; Lc 2:1-14

Aurora: Is 62:11-12; Sal 97:1, 6, 11-12; Tit 3:4-7; Lc 2:15-20 **Día:** Is 52:7-10; Sal 98:1-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18

LECTURAS DE HOY

Primera lectura — La señal del Señor es que la virgen estará embarazada y dará a luz un hijo varón (Isa 7:10-14).

Salmo — El rey de gloria vendrá (Salmo 24).

Segunda lectura — Jesús, descendiente de David biológicamente, fue establecido el Hijo de Dios en poder. (Rom 1:1-7).

Evangelio — María, la comprometida de José, quedó embarazada por obra del Espíritu Santo (Mateo 1:18-24)

DIOS QUIERE SER UNO CON NOSOTROS

Hasta dónde llega Dios para amarnos y salvarnos. Piensa en la circunstancia más descabellada que puedas concebir. Eso parece ser lo que el Señor le dice a Ajaz en la primera lectura de hoy. "Una virgen concebirá y dará a luz un hijo, y le pondrá el nombre de Emmanuel". No sólo la idea de que una virgen conciba es incomprensible en la época de Ajaz, sino que también lo sería el concepto de que Dios quiera estar con nosotros, como indica el nombre Emmanuel. Y, sin embargo, esto es lo que celebramos en la Encarnación: Dios quiere ser uno con nosotros hasta tal punto que vino a estar con nosotros en un hijo nacido de una virgen, la Santísima Virgen María. Sin embargo, hay más en esta historia que estos sucesos sorprendentes y extravagantes. Dios quiere ser uno con nosotros tan profundamente que se asocia con nosotros para dar a conocer su presencia. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

PREGUNTA DE LA SEMANA

Con toda la agitación y estrés de esta próxima semana, ¿puedo estar atento a Jesús, que siempre está conmigo, y a la vez discernir el llamado de Dios para mí?