

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

January 1, 2023

www.stjohnberchmans.com

MARY THE CAREGIVER

At some point in time, most people will find themselves needing to watch over another person. This is true for parents and children of course; for others, perhaps an aging parent or spouse; a friend or neighbor living alone after surgery. At these times, along with the caregiving of the moment, there is often a focus on the future, a wondering about what will come. Quite naturally for the new mother Mary there is this future focus, with many possibilities for her to hold in her heart. She reflects quietly in the midst of the very hectic series of events that follow the birth of her child: hurrying shepherds who go and tell the wondrous news to others, then those others sharing their amazement. Luke tells us that Mary keeps all of this, and reflects on it in her heart. Mary is watching over Jesus as mothers do, watching over each and every moment.

GOD THE CAREGIVER

As Mary watches over her child, so did Israel pray for God to watch over them and one another, to bless and keep them, as Mary kept and reflected on things in her heart. Mary's face surely shone upon the infant Jesus, as Israel prayed for God's face to shine upon them with that graciousness we also know in her whom we call "full of grace." At the conclusion of the blessing in today's first reading is a prayer for God to look on us in kindness and, even more, to grant us peace. It may be in this final line of the blessing that we see God most at work in the face and the care of Mary, gazing gently on her child, wishing the fullness of God's *shalom* for Jesus and his future. Our mission as disciples is to show the divine care we hear in the blessing prayer, and to live out the care-giving we see today in Mary.

TODAY'S READINGS: Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21

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MARÍA LA CUIDADORA

En algún momento, la mayoría de la gente se encontrará con la necesidad de cuidar a otra persona. Esto es cierto para los padres y los hijos, por supuesto; para otros, quizás un padre o un cónyuge que envejece; un amigo o un vecino que vive solo después de una operación. En estos momentos, junto con el cuidado del momento, a menudo hay un enfoque en el futuro, una pregunta sobre lo que vendrá. Como es natural, la nueva madre María se centra en el futuro, con muchas posibilidades que alberga en su corazón. Reflexiona en silencio en medio de la agitada serie de acontecimientos que siguen al nacimiento de su hijo: pastores apresurados que van a contar la maravillosa noticia a otros, y luego esos otros comparten su asombro. Lucas nos dice que María guarda todo esto y reflexiona en su corazón. María vela por Jesús como lo hacen las madres, vigilando cada momento.

DIOS EL CUIDADOR

Así como María vela por su hijo, así Israel oraba para que Dios velara por ellos y por los demás, para que los bendijera y los guardara, como María guardaba y reflexionaba en su corazón. El rostro de María seguramente resplandecía sobre el niño Jesús, así como Israel rezaba para que el rostro de Dios resplandeciera sobre ellos con esa gracia que también conocemos en ella a la que llamamos "llena de gracia". Al final de la bendición de la primera lectura de hoy hay una oración para que Dios nos mire con bondad y, aún más, nos conceda la paz. Puede que sea en esta última línea de la bendición donde veamos a Dios más activo en el rostro y los cuidados de María, que mira con dulzura a su hijo, deseando la plenitud del *shalom* de Dios para Jesús y su futuro. Nuestra misión como discípulos es mostrar el cuidado divino que escuchamos en la oración de bendición, y vivir el cuidado que vemos hoy en María.

LECTURAS DE HOY: Nm 6:22-27; Sal 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Gal 4:4-7; Lc 2:16-21

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Please Pray for the Sick

Prayer List Updates

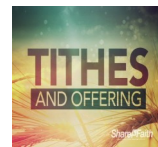


Suzanne Gutierrez	Frank Rodriguez	Mark Martinez
Syl Vasquez, Jr.	Julissa Rodriguez	Cecilia Rodriguez
Sarah Contreras	Kay Towers	Albert Rodriguez
Marty Carrera Tobias	Miliana Bullock	Albert Casillas
Frances Lozano	Hope Esquivel	Robert Sanchez
Irma Urias	Lydia Soriano	Santos Tello
Mary S. Martinez	AB Cruz	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 25, 2022

6 PM Mass	-\$ 1,860.00
Midnight Mass	-\$ 669.00
Christmas Day Mass	-\$ 1,737.00
Assumption Seminary	-\$ 366.00 2nd Collection
Religious Education	-\$ 295.00 2nd Collection
Good Samaritans of SJB	-\$ 50.00 2nd Collection
Mail In	-\$ 475.00
On Line	-\$ 20.00
Gift of Giving	-\$ 174.75
TOTAL	\$ 5,646.75



SECOND COLLECTION

January 1, 2023 - Capital Improvements

2022 GIFT OF GIVING

Contributions ending Dec. 25, 2022	\$ 174.75
TOTAL	\$ 12,879.78

Announcements

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Saturday, December 31

5:00 p.m. † Arturo Ibarra - Leonor I. Rodriguez
† Ginny Cruz - Cruz Family
† Raymundo Cruz - Cruz Family
† Arturo Ibarra - Sister Leonor Rodriguez
† Gino Gonzales - Mom
For Health Mary Martinez - Family

Sunday, January 1

9:00 a.m. † Frances Vasaldua - Family
† Juan C. Velasquez - Family
† Frances Ramirez - Mary Martinez
For Health St. John Berchmans Community

11:00 a.m. † Luis Duran, Sr. - Wife & Family
† Paul Salinas - Wife
† Robert Gallegos, Sr. - Wife & Family
† Clarissa Zerda - Joanne Zerda
† Vincent Zerda - Joanne Zerda
† Charles Zerda - Joanne Zerda
† Ilene Berenger - Joanne Zerda

Monday, January 2 **PARISH OFFICE CLOSED**

Tuesday, January 3

12:00 p.m. † Father Eddie Bernal
For Health Hope Esquivel

Wednesday, January 4 - ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON

8:15 a.m. † Pedro, †Lillie & †John Ruiz - Friends
† Raul, †Gloria & †David Solis - Friends
For Health Mary Herrera

Thursday, January 5 - ST. JOHN NEUMANN

12:00 p.m. † Lucy Sandoval
† Pedro & †Otilia Satarain
For Health Deacon Jose Diaz

Friday, January 6

12:00 p.m. † Joseph & Frances Soikowski - Family
† Maria Arocha - Family
For Health Roger & Elida Garcia - Friends

CATHOLIC PRAYER CORNER

Prayer at the Manger: With Mary and Joseph

May we follow the faithful, loving witness
of Mary and Joseph
as we seek to bring Jesus, your Word,
into the world.

May we always follow his Gospel,
now and forever. Amen.

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From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Parishioners and Friends:

Happy New Year 2023!

As we say goodbye to year 2022, I invite you to be thankful for everything and to offer 2023 to our Creator. May we always be grateful for the gift of life and for all the blessings we have received. Please tune in to a special edition of "15 Minute Coffee with Fr. Fidèle Dikete" on Monday, January 2nd, 2023 at 11:00 in the morning. At this time, I will announce four major points that will prepare us for the year 2023.

I thank everyone of you who remembered me during Christmas with either a card, a Christmas gift, a meal or a prayer. May God continue to bless you with a wonderful life.

I appreciate and salute your efforts and participation in selling and buying tickets to support our raffle. It was a very successful raffle and fundraiser. **Our net profit was \$31,000!** Please see the insert in the bulletin for a complete financial report and list of the winners. I thank everyone who participated by selling, buying raffle tickets and making our project a huge success.

Thanks to you, my parishioners, for your efforts to raise money through our weekly collections to assist families during Christmas. We were able to assist more than 25 families. Thank you very much for your generosity. God bless you always.

I thank all of you who assisted Santa in delivering toys and gifts to children. Father Santa was able to hand out gifts to the children in attendance during the Christmas concert on December 16th, and also delivering more than 40 gifts at the downtown Santa Rosa Hospital and also at Travis Vista Medical Center (formerly Southwest General Hospital on Barlite). Thanks to Elida Gonzalez for making all the contacts and Joan Orosco for assisting. Thank you for your generosity in supplying us with toys and gifts for the children.

As of December 29th, 2022, 330 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 funds for 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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**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION
THURSDAY'S ONLY (CHAPEL)
9:00 AM -12 Noon & 2:00 - 5:00 P.M.**



We extend **SPECIAL THANKS** to all who contributed to our 2022 Christmas Raffle.

The following are winners of the raffle:

1st	\$2,000	Edith Flores
2nd	\$ 500	Edward Hernandez
3rd	\$ 500	Terry Boone
4th	\$ 500	Anna Treviño
5th	\$ 500	Terry Boone
6th	\$ 500	Deborah Soikowski
7th	\$ 500	Brenda Jaramillo
8th	\$ 500	Deborah Soikowski
9th	\$ 500	Jeff Schumacher
10th	\$ 100	Monica Escobar

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — The LORD bless you and keep you! The LORD look upon you kindly and give you peace! (Numbers 6:22-27).

Psalm -May God be merciful and bless us (Psa 67).

Second Reading — God sent the Spirit of the Son into our hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" So you are no longer a slave but an heir, through God (Gal 4:4-7).

Gospel — The shepherds glorified and praised God for all they had heard and seen (Luke 2:16-21).

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon: 1 Jn 2:22-28; Ps 98:1-4; Jn 1:19-28
Tue: 1 Jn 2:29 - 3:6; Ps 98:1, 3cd-6; Jn 1:29-34
Wed: 1 Jn 3:7-10; Ps 98:1, 7-9; Jn 1:35-42
Thu: 1 Jn 3:11-21; Ps 100:1b-5; Lk 4:14-22a
Fri: 1 Jn 5:5-13; Ps 147:12-15, 19-20; Mk 1:7-11
Sat: 1 Jn 5:14-21; Sal 149:1-6a, 9b; Jn 2:1-11
Sun: Is 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12



Sunday, January 1

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

Monday, January 2

11:00 a.m. Coffee with Fr. Fidèle

Tuesday, January 3

12:00 p.m. Mass - Church

Wednesday, January 4

8:15 a.m. School Mass - Church
10:00 a.m. Faith Enrichment Session - Formation
2:00 p.m. Coffee with Fr. Fidèle
7:00 p.m. Faith Enrichment Session - Formation

Thursday, January 5

12:00 p.m. Mass - Church

Friday, January 6

12:00 p.m. Mass - Church

Saturday, January 7

5:00 p.m. Mass - Church



Every year on January 1, the Holy Father marks the World Day of Peace with a special message inviting all people to reflect on the important work of building peace. To keep alive within us the flame of hope, so that with patience and perseverance we may opt for dialogue and reconciliation. In this way peace may triumph and the words, "division, "hatred", and "war" be banished from the heart of every man and woman. Renew our hearts and minds, so that our way of life will always be that of Shalom, Peace, Salaam!

We welcome anyone to assist us with cleaning our beautiful church every Saturday morning at 8:00 a.m.

**Ministry Scheduled
January 7, 2023**



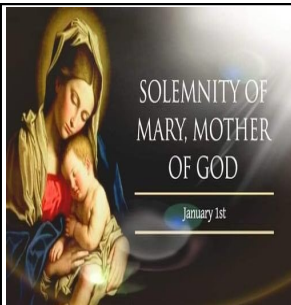
BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.



Jesus, born of God and Mary, makes it possible for us to be adopted by God and Mary through our baptism. The Holy Spirit given to us in baptism, moves us to turn to God deep in our souls and call Him “Father”. Jesus came not only as a revelation of God but also to make us His adopted sons and daughters. Jesus, from the Cross, gave Mary, Mother of God, to John, His disciple. The Church sees in this gift of Mary’s motherhood to all those reborn in baptism as God’s adopted children. So Mary, Mother of God is our Mother too. What a difference this can make in our lives when we open our hearts to her. She is a Mother who witnessed, firsthand, how God blesses the meek and the lowly. She is a Mother who knows that even when things don’t turnout as we had hoped, they can still be filled with God’s goodness. She is a Mother who casts on us that same gaze of love that first fell on Jesus. She is a Mother who ponders the events of life and, through God’s mercy, finds herself at the center of the explosion of His blessings.

Mary, Mother of God, pray for us!

FAITH ENRICHMENT SESSIONS

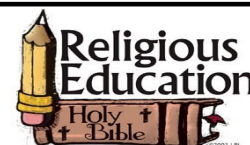
Looking for ideas for your New Year’s Resolution?

Pope St. Gregory the Great has a suggestion: Learn the heart of God from the Word of God. We invite you to join us on Wednesdays, in the Formation House, for the Adult Faith Enrichment Sessions that will start up again on **Wednesday, January 4, 2023.**

You have a choice to attend the **Day session from 10am to 11:30 am OR the Evening session from 7pm to 8:30 pm.** Bring a friend!

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

Classes will resume on Sunday, January 8, 2023. Stay Safe and see you next weekend!



CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Serves all people, regardless of race, religion, or national origin, from birth to natural death, through a network of comprehensive programs that include basic needs, family and children services, legal services, refugee resettlement, counseling, pregnant and parenting education, senior services, and safe shelter with the goal of providing basic needs, strengthening the vulnerable, nurturing families, and promoting self-sufficiency.

For more information about programs, volunteering, or donating, visit us **online** www.ccaosa.org or call (210) 222.1294.

LECTURAS DE LA SEMANA

- Lunes: 1 Jn 2:22-28; Sal 98:1-4; Jn 1:19-28
- Martes: 1 Jn 2:29 - 3:6; Sal 98:1, 3cd-6; Jn 1:29-34
- Miércoles: 1 Jn 3:7-10; Sal 98:1, 7-9; Jn 1:35-42
- Jueves: 1 Jn 3:11-21; Sal 100:1b-5; Lc 4:14-22a
- Viernes: 1 Jn 5:5-13; Sal 147:12-15, 19-20; Mc 1:7-11
- Sábado: 1 Jn 5:14-21; Sal 149:1-6a, 9b; Jn 2:1-11
- Domingo: Is 60:1-6; Sal 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13; Ef 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

BENDICIONES

Las lecturas de hoy incluyen otro relato de la historia del nacimiento de Jesús. La lectura del libro de los Números nos recuerda que somos bendecidos. Se nos mira con bondad y gracia. El Salmo y Gálatas nos recuerdan las bendiciones concedidas a través del Hijo de Dios. Lucas nos habla de nuestra última bendición, que María, un ser humano como nosotros, dio a luz a un niño que es el Hijo de Dios. María, una joven madre, observa todo lo que ocurre en torno al nacimiento de su hijo. Escucha cómo los pastores traen mensajes de los ángeles, un mensaje que ella también recibió de un ángel, sobre su hijo. Sin embargo, María permanece en silencio. Guarda para sí todas estas noticias sobre su hijo. Reflexiona sobre todas estas experiencias. Lo único que comparte es el nombre de su hijo, Jesús, un nombre que se le dio antes de que fuera concebido. Su silencio nos hace preguntarnos si es así como se responde a una bendición tan grande.

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PREGUNTA DE LA SEMANA

- ¿Cómo pueden germinar las semillas de divinidad que han sido sembradas en mí y que sea visible as los demás?
- ¿Reconozco las semillas de divinidad en mí? ¿En los demás?