

# THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

December 25, 2022

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## THE SEASON OF LIGHT

It is customary to celebrate Christmas with lights of all sorts. This even happens in the southern hemisphere, where people aren't experiencing the shorter, darker days of northern climates. From little twinkles on Christmas trees to the glow of candles in church, Christmas is a celebration of the light born today in God's Word-made-flesh. As with other types of lights, the Christ-light takes on different forms. Sometimes its light is direct, while at other times it is a reflection. The lights of Christmas, like Jesus the Light of the world, offer comfort, ease fears, show us the way, and help us to see that God is present here. While we believe that Jesus is the light that no darkness can overcome, it can seem at times it seems as though the gloom around us is overcoming the light. We all are familiar with darkness's different forms that seem to bombard us daily, hourly—minute by minute, if we allow them to. And yet . . .

## THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE

The relentless daily reports of darkness can easily lead us not to see the many glimmers of light around us. We who follow the Christ-light must always be on alert for signs of that light around us. Likewise, we who have that Christ-light in us must let it shine forth. No matter how little we think our light may be, we must recall that it is the light of Christ we bear within us. Like John the Baptist in today's Gospel passage, we are meant to testify to the power of light, to help others see glimpses of God-with-us. Our actions must bear good news, they must announce glad tidings. Even small deeds of light can shine brightly, giving birth to Jesus once again each day. On Christmas day and every day we are called to be people of hope, messengers of peace who offer comfort and make God's glory known. Let the light of Christ in your life be one of the season's brightest!

**TODAY'S READINGS:** Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18

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## EL TIEMPO DE LA LUZ

Es costumbre celebrar la Navidad con luces de todo tipo. Esto ocurre incluso en el hemisferio sur, donde la gente no experimenta los días más cortos y oscuros de los climas del norte. Desde los pequeños destellos en los árboles de Navidad hasta el brillo de las velas en la iglesia, la Navidad es una celebración de la luz que nace hoy en la Palabra de Dios hecha carne. Al igual que otros tipos de luz, la luz de Cristo adopta diferentes formas. A veces su luz es directa, aunque otras veces es un reflejo. Las luces de la Navidad, como Jesús, la Luz del mundo, ofrecen consuelo, alivian los temores, nos muestran el camino y nos ayudan a ver que Dios está presente. Aunque creemos que Jesús es la luz que ninguna oscuridad puede vencer, a veces puede parecer que la penumbra que nos rodea vence a la luz. Todos estamos familiarizados con las diferentes formas de oscuridad que parecen bombardearnos diariamente, minuto a minuto, si se lo permitimos. Y sin embargo . . .

## ESTA PEQUEÑA LUZ MÍA

Los implacables informes diarios de la oscuridad pueden fácilmente llevarnos a no ver los muchos destellos de luz que nos rodean. Los que seguimos la luz de Cristo debemos estar siempre atentos a los signos de esa luz a nuestro alrededor. Asimismo, los que tenemos esa luz de Cristo en nosotros debemos dejarla brillar. No importa lo pequeña que creamos que es nuestra luz, debemos recordar que es la luz de Cristo la que llevamos dentro. Como Juan el Bautista en el pasaje del Evangelio de hoy, estamos destinados a dar testimonio del poder de la luz, a ayudar a otros a ver destellos de Dios-con-nosotros. Nuestras acciones deben ser portadoras de buenas noticias, deben anunciar la buena nueva. Incluso las pequeñas obras de luz pueden brillar con fuerza, dando a luz a Jesús una vez más cada día. El día de Navidad y todos los días estamos llamados a ser personas de esperanza, mensajeros de paz que ofrecen consuelo y dan a conocer la gloria de Dios. Deja que la luz de Cristo en tu vida sea una de las más brillantes de este tiempo.

**LECTURAS DE HOY:** Is 52:7-10; Sal 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18

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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 18, 2022

5 PM Mass	-\$	507.00
9 AM Mass	-\$	665.00
11AM Mass	-\$	1,071.00
Altar Flowers	-\$	286.00
Mail In	-\$	385.00
On Line	-\$	100.00
Gift of Giving	-\$	320.75
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>3,334.75</b>



## SECOND COLLECTION December 25, 2022 - Assumption Seminary

<b>2022 GIFT OF GIVING</b>	
Contributions ending Dec. 18, 2022	\$ 320.75
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 12,705.03</b>

# Announcements

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## Saturday, December 24

**6:00 p.m.** † Candelaria & Mercedes Lopez -  
Olivia Lopez  
† Jack Weddel - Dad  
† Margarita Ventura - Family  
† George Hernandez - Wife & Family  
† Juan C. Velasquez - Wife & Family  
† Maria de Jesus Rodriguez -  
Hija Fernanda Ruiz  
† Henry Z. Vidal - Family  
† Ernesto Espinosa Campos - Ma. Carsadillas  
† Jose Oscar Carsadillas - Ma. Carsadillas

**12 Midnite** † Isidro Mata - Kim & Khloe  
† Ginny Cruz - Cruz Family  
† Raymundo Cruz, Sr.- Cruz Family  
† Frank Cosme - Daughter Sandra  
**Gift of Life** Sandra V. Dominick - Sweet Family

## Sunday, December 25

**11:00 a.m.** † Santos Canales - Angelita Canales  
† Juan C. Velasquez - Family  
† Mr. Guadalupe Treviño - Nora Treviño  
† Aurelia Garai - Garai Family  
† Jesus Amado Garai - Garai Family  
† Luis Duran, Sr. - Wife & Family  
† Officer Jay Peña - Family  
† Paul Salinas - Wife

**For Health** Jose & Jesus Castillo Families  
**For Health** Natividad Cruz - Edna Mosely

## Monday, December 26

**PARISH OFFICE CLOSED**

## Tuesday, December 27

**12:00 p.m.** † Benito P. Castro - Family  
**For Health** Cyndi & Rick Boone - Mark Boone

## Wednesday, December 28

**12:00 p.m.** † David Santoyo  
**For Health** Terry & Mo Boone - Mark Boone  
**In Thanksgiving** Boone, Engler & Eyster Families -  
Mark Boone

## Thursday, December 29

**12:00 p.m.** † Warren W. Boone & Colleen S. Boone  
**For Health** Sister Margo's Father, Brother Janek  
and friend Maciej - Mark Boone  
**For Health** Gino Gonzales - Mom

## Friday, December 30

**12:00 p.m.** † Eloy T. Ortega - Family  
† Maria de Jesus Cantu - Oralia Cantu  
† Inez De Los Santos -  
Mom Mary De Los Santos  
† John Soikowski - Family

## 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** — All the ends of the earth will behold the salvation of our God (Isaiah 52:7-10).

**Psalms** — The whole world has seen God's salvation (Psalm 98).

**Second Reading** — God has spoken to us through the Son, the very imprint of God's being (Hebrews 1:1-6).

**Gospel** — The Word became flesh; from his fullness we have all received grace (John 1:1-18).

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 8ab, 16bc, 17; Mt 10:17-22

Tue: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Wed: 1 Jn 1:5 - 2:2; Ps 124:2-5, 7b-8; Mt 2:13-18

Thu: 1 Jn 2:3-11; Ps 96:1-3, 5b-6; Lk 2:36-40

Fri: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Col 3:12-21; Ps 128:1-5; Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

Sat: 1 Jn 2:18-21; Ps 96:1-2, 11-13; Jn 1:1-18

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



### Sunday, December 25

11:00 a.m. Bilingual Mass - Church

### Monday, December 26

**PARISH OFFICE CLOSED**

### Tuesday, December 27

12:00 p.m. Mass - Church

### Wednesday, December 28

12:00 p.m. Mass - Church

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

### Thursday, December 29

12:00 p.m. Mass - Church

### Friday, December 30

12:00 p.m. Mass - Church

### Saturday, December 31

5:00 p.m. Mass - Church



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



The Parish office will be **CLOSED 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.

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

**Ministry Scheduled**  
**December 31, 2022**



## LEARNED AT HOME

The mind of Christ is to be learned in the family. Strength of character may be acquired at work, but beauty of character is learned at home.

—Henry Drummond

## CATHOLIC PRAYER CORNER

**Prayer at the Manger: With the Shepherds**

Your Good News was sung by angels to these lowly ones in the night.

Look on us in our lowliness.

Let us rejoice in the glad tidings of Christ, now and forever. Amen.

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## 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.



**Merry Christmas!**

We wish you God's abundant blessings as you celebrate the birth of our Savior, the Word of God, who became flesh and dwelt among us. On this Christmas Day, St. John tells us of one Word that matters more than any other word we'll ever hear. It's **Jesus**, who gives life to everything in the universe.

Although today will be a busy and noisy day remember the center of it all is Jesus, the Word of God who came to speak life, healing, joy, and peace into our world.

As noisy as today may be, make sure you set aside time to sit quietly and listen for Jesus's voice and welcome him into your heart!

**FAITH ENRICHMENT SESSIONS**

Looking for ideas for your New Year's Resolution?

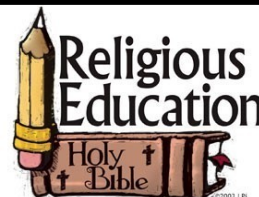
Pope St. Gregory the Great has a suggestion: Learn the heart of God from the Word of God. We invite you to join us on Wednesdays, in the Formation House, for the Adult Faith Enrichment Sessions that will start up again on **Wednesday, January 4, 2023.**

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, 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.



**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](http://www.ccaosa.org) or call (210) 222.1294.

**LECTURAS DE LA SEMANA**

- Lunes: Hch 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Sal 31:3cd-4, 6, 8ab, 16bc, 17; Mt 10:17-22
- Martes: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Sal 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1a, 2-8
- Miércoles: 1 Jn 1:5 - 2:2; Sal 124:2-5, 7b-8; Mt 2:13-18
- Jueves: 1 Jn 2:3-11; Sal 96:1-3, 5b-6; Lc 2:36-40
- Viernes: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 o Col 3:12-21; Sal 128:1-5; Mt 2:13-15, 19-23
- Sábado: 1 Jn 2:18-21; Sal 96:1-2, 11-13; Jn 1:1-18
- Domingo: Nm 6:22-27; Sal 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Gál 4:4-7; Lc 2:16-21

**PARA QUÉ HA SERVIDO TODA LA ESPERA**

Las lecturas de hoy son tan familiares para la mayoría de nosotros como los villancicos que cantamos y los anuncios publicitarios que abruma estas fiestas. A menudo la Navidad nos encuentra cansados, luchando con los preparativos y las expectativas. Lo que realmente queremos sentir es alegría y paz. El estrés de la preparación, de la espera, se refleja tanto en Isaías como en la carta de Pablo a Tito. Lucas nos habla del agotamiento que sintieron María y José: una joven esposa embarazada y su marido, obligados a viajar justo cuando ella está a punto de dar a luz, incapaces incluso de encontrar una habitación donde alojarse. Debió de ser miserable. Deben haber tenido miedo. En medio de este agotamiento, miseria y miedo, nace un niño, se da un Hijo. El mundo se llena entonces de luz y esperanza, de alegría y de paz. En ese momento ellos, y nosotros, sabemos para qué ha servido toda la espera. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

**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?