

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

January 15, 2023

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LAMB OF GOD

In today's Gospel, John the Baptist names Jesus as the "Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world." This name "Lamb of God" is rich in meaning, and can be interpreted in various ways. From the Old Testament, it evokes the lamb of Passover, linked to God's rescue of the Hebrew people from Egypt. It is also an image of God's faithful servant, as in Isaiah 53 as a "lamb led to slaughter".

We can notice that here Jesus is the Lamb "of God." He is God's own Lamb, belonging to God. Jesus is not a cultic sacrifice to God, or a demand from God. John is presenting a traditional image in a new way. The Lamb "takes away" our sin, both exposing the reality of our sin to us (which we often hide from ourselves), and also forgiving us our sin. This same Lamb is filled with the Holy Spirit, and shares this Spirit to heal our troubled hearts.

LIGHT TO THE NATIONS

Today's first reading is taken from the second of four "Servant Songs" in Isaiah. This Song was written around the time that the people of Israel were near release from their exile in Babylon. Israel, and also the author, had been traumatized by their separation from Jerusalem and their seeming abandonment to God.

At this time of great vulnerability and despair, God gives them consolation and affirmation. God gives the exiles a vote of confidence and an expansion of vision. God will heal their hearts, and give them new energy to be "a light to the nations." Their purpose is not just survival, but to be the means by which God will bring the whole world into communion and harmony with God. For us today, when sometimes our parishes and communities face challenges of shrinkage and survival, perhaps God may similarly energize us, and remind us of the dignity and breadth of our mission.

TODAY'S READINGS: Is 49:3, 5-6; Ps 40:2, 4, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10; 1 Cor 1:1-3; Jn 1:29-34

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EL CORDERO DE DIOS

En el Evangelio de hoy, Juan el Bautista nombra a Jesús como el "Cordero de Dios, que quita el pecado del mundo". Este nombre "Cordero de Dios" es rico en significado, y puede interpretarse de varias maneras. Desde el Antiguo Testamento, evoca el cordero de la Pascua, vinculado al rescate de Dios del pueblo hebreo de Egipto. También es una imagen del siervo fiel de Dios, como en Isaías 53 como "cordero llevado al matadero".

Podemos notar que aquí Jesús es el Cordero "de Dios". Es el propio Cordero de Dios, que pertenece a Dios. Jesús no es un sacrificio de culto a Dios, o una demanda de Dios. Juan está presentando una imagen tradicional de una manera nueva. El Cordero "quita" nuestro pecado, tanto exponiendo la realidad de nuestro pecado (que a menudo ocultamos de nosotros mismos), como perdonando nuestro pecado. Este mismo Cordero está lleno del Espíritu Santo, y comparte este Espíritu para sanar nuestros corazones atribulados.

LUZ PARA LAS NACIONES

La primera lectura de hoy está tomada del segundo de los cuatro "Cantos del Siervo" de Isaías. Este Canto fue escrito en la época en que el pueblo de Israel estaba a punto de salir de su exilio en Babilonia. Israel, y también el autor, habían quedado traumatizados por su separación de Jerusalén y su aparente abandono por parte de Dios.

En este momento de gran vulnerabilidad y desesperación, Dios les da consuelo y afirmación. Dios da a los exiliados un voto de confianza y una ampliación de su visión. Dios sanará sus corazones y les dará nuevas energías para ser "una luz para las naciones". Su propósito no es sólo sobrevivir, sino ser el medio por el que Dios llevará al mundo entero a la comunión y la armonía con Dios. Para nosotros hoy, cuando a veces nuestras parroquias y comunidades se enfrentan a desafíos de contracción y supervivencia, tal vez Dios pueda energizarnos de manera similar, y recordarnos la dignidad y la amplitud de nuestra misión.

LECTURAS DE HOY: Is 49:3, 5-6; Sal 40:2, 4, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10; 1 Cor 1:1-3; Jn 1:29-34

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Please Pray for the Sick

Prayer List Updates



Suzanne Gutierrez	Frank Rodriguez	Vanessa Quintero
Syl Vasquez, Jr.	Julissa Rodriguez	Mary Alice Vasquez
Sarah Contreras	Miliana Bullock	Heath Herring
Marty Carrera Tobias	Hope Esquivel	Joe Cevallos
Frances Lozano	Lydia Soriano	Jennifer Olivarez
Irma Urias	Celia Garcia	Juanita Martinez
Mary S. Martinez	Bobby Rollins	Maria Rios
Gina Gonzales	Darlene Lopez	Virginia R. Lucio
Galilea Romero	George Garnica	Teresa Moreno
Flora Torres	Adam Alonzo, Jr.	Guadalupe Rodriguez
Iris Luna Sullivan	Raymond Serna	Gayle Beaver
Sandy Guerra	Mary Martinez	Lori Bañuelos
Abraham Guerra	Mark Martinez	Jesus Lopez
Emma O. Velasquez	Cecilia Rodriguez	Joe Villanueva
Leticia Lopez Barrera	Albert Rodriguez	
Leticia Martinez	Albert Casillas	
Kenny De La Rosa	Robert Sanchez	
Virginia Moralez	Santos Tello	
Raymond Sarabia	Fred Guerra	

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 JANUARY 8, 2023

5 PM Mass - \$	768.00
9 AM Mass - \$	883.00
11 AM Mass - \$	1,504.00
Good Samaritans of SJB - \$	875.00 2nd Collection
Mail In - \$	1,505.00
On Line - \$	120.00
Gift of Giving - \$	222.50
TOTAL	\$ 5,877.50



SECOND COLLECTION

January 15, 2023 - Altar Flowers

2023 GIFT OF GIVING

Contributions ending Jan. 8, 2023	\$	222.50
TOTAL	\$	5,102.25

Announcements



Saturday, January 14

5:00 p.m. † Maria Elena Martinez - Family
† Roger Garcia, Sr. - Socorro & Raquel
For Health Richard E. Castillo - Socorro & Raquel
For Health Mary Martinez - Family

Sunday, January 15

9:00 a.m. † Aurora Terrazas - Angelita Canales
† Daniel C. & Maria Arzola - Family
For Health Michael Cuellar - Family
For Health Joe Villanueva - Family

11:00 a.m. † Paul Salinas - Family
† Isidro Mata - Kim & Khloe Mata
† William George Wohlfarth -Family
† Antonia & Telesforo Salazar - Norma De Leon

Monday, January 16 - PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

Tuesday, January 17 - ST. ANTHONY

12:00 p.m. † Daniel C. Arzola - Family
For Health Hope Esquivel

Wednesday, January 18

8:15 a.m. † Luis Duran, Sr. - Wife & Family
For Health Deacon Jesus & Rosalinda Rodriguez

Thursday, January 19

12:00 p.m. † Katherine C. Vidal - Family
For Health Jesus Lopez - Friends

Friday, January 20 ST. FABIAN; ST. SEBASTIAN

12:00 p.m. † Mr. & Mrs. Martin Burrell
Gift of Life Simona Piña - Family

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading-The glory of the Lord shows through Israel, a light to all nations, that salvation may reach to the ends of the earth (Isaiah 49:3, 5-6).

Psalm-I am here to do as you ask, O Lord (Psalm 40).

Second Reading — All those who call upon the name of the Lord are called to be holy (1 Cor. 1:1-3).

Gospel - John the Baptist testifies: The one who comes after me, on whom the Spirit comes down and remains, is the Son of God (John 1:29-34).

CATHOLIC PRAYER CORNER

Prayer to Begin the Day

Lord God, may everything we do
begin with your inspiration
and continue with your help,
so that all of our work today will bring us
closer to you.

Guide us in our work today,
that we may do it not for ourselves alone,
but for the common good of all.

We ask this in your name. Amen.

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Dear Parishioners and Friends:

Resolutions for 2023!

We will focus in caring for our body as the temple of Christ in 2023.

I am suggesting five resolutions for you:

- All parishioners are called to participate in a weight loss contest for the entire year of 2023.

There are three categories:

- A. Participants that lose 10 pounds will be awarded a \$50 VISA gift card.
- B. Participants that lose 20 pounds will be awarded a \$100 VISA gift card.
- C. Participants that lose 30 pounds will be awarded a \$150 VISA gift card.

Please make sure you register at the front office for the purpose of weighing in with our Secretary, Stella Rico. All information is strictly confidential and names of the winners will be displayed on our marquee for the entire month of January, 2024.

- You are invited to join me on at Woodlawn Lake Park to commemorate all mothers on Mother's Day weekend and to raise money for our school.

The event will be scheduled as follows:

- A. 8:00 am: All 5K runners will start running approximately 35 minutes.
- B. 9:00 am: Students from our SJB school will run one lap, 1.3 miles
- C. 9:30 am: All mothers will walk for one lap, 1.3 miles
- D. 10:00 am: We will end with Mariachi music

Each participant is requested to sponsor my 5K run by donating \$50. All donations and proceeds will help pay for school utilities, property insurance and grant scholarships to each student participating in the run.

- I will be leading a pilgrimage to the Holy Land from June 12th thru 22nd, 2023. Included in the total cost of \$3,199 per person (double occupancy) are: all airfare, hotels (double occupancy), food, tour guides, private bus. Please call the office (210.434-3247) for more information or request a brochure or application.
- Our Annual Fall Festival will resume and take place on Saturday, September 30th, 2023 from 12:00 noon until midnight in the church parking lot. We will have bands, music, food, children's games, rides, etc. More information forthcoming.
- Children and adult contests:
 - A. An adult who attends daily mass for the entire year 2023 will receive a \$100 VISA gift card.
 - B. A child able to recite all the mysteries of the rosary: Joyful, Luminous, Glorious and Sorrowful will receive a \$50 VISA gift card.

(PASTOR MESSAGE CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

Announcements

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PASTOR MESSAGE CONTINUED...

C. A child who will be able to correctly memorize the 10 Commandments and recite them at the Christmas concert will receive a \$50 VISA gift card.

D. Any adult parishioner participating in the cleaning of the church every Saturday in 2023 will receive a \$150 VISA gift card.

I challenge you to take on these resolutions and put them into practice. Invite family and friends to participate and join you.

Let us make New Year 2023 the best ever!

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

THIS WEEK!

Here's What's On The Calendar!

ShareAFaith

Sunday, January 15

9:00 a.m. Mass - Church

11:00 a.m. Mass - Church

Monday, January 16 - PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

Tuesday, January 17

12:00 p.m. Mass - Chapel

Wednesday, January 18

8:15 a.m. 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 19

12:00 p.m. Mass - Chapel

Friday, January 20

12:00 p.m. Mass - Chapel

Saturday, January 21

5:00 p.m. Mass - Church

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon: Heb 5:1-10; Ps 110:1-4; Mk 2:18-22

Tue: Heb 6:10-20; Ps 111:1-2, 4-5, 9, 10c;
Mk 2:23-28

Wed: Heb 7:1-3, 15-17; Ps 110:1-4; Mk 3:1-6

Thu: Heb 7:25 - 8:6; Ps 40:7-10, 17; Mk 3:7-12

Fri: Heb 8:6-13; Ps 85:8, 10-14; Mk 3:13-19

Sat: Heb 9:2-3, 11-14; Ps 47:2-3, 6-9; Mk 3:20-21

Sun: Is 8:23 - 9:3; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; 1 Cor 1:10-13, 17; Mt 4:12-23



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



POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION FOR JANUARY 2023

FOR EDUCATORS

We pray that educators may be credible witnesses, teaching fraternity rather than competition and helping the youngest and most vulnerable above all.

Parish Office will be closed on MONDAY, JANUARY 16, 2023, in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday.

Regular office hours will resume on Tuesday, January 17th. Thank you!

The Sanctuary Candle burns for:

† Merced Cruz
Clara Perez



IN MEMORIAM

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

† Roger Garcia
† Isabel Torres
† Francisca E. Reynero

May they rest in God's eternal peace.

We welcome anyone to assist us with cleaning our beautiful church every

Saturday morning at 8:00 a.m.

Ministry Scheduled - Jan 21, 2023
Eucharistic Ministers/
Good Samaritans



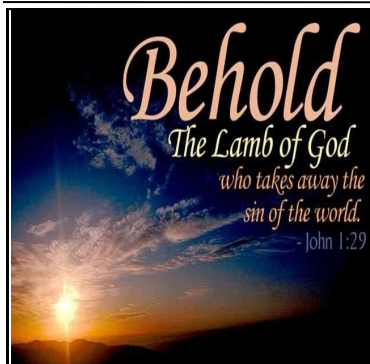
BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.



BEHOLD THE LAMB OF GOD

I wonder if anyone understood John the Baptist when he called Jesus the Lamb of God. After Jesus' death and resurrection, the apostles began to understand that Jesus' blood, shed on the cross, freed us all from sin and death. Yet here is the Baptizer already acting like a disciple before Jesus has gathered any disciples or even begun to preach. In today's Gospel, John the Baptist gives us some hints about discipleship.

First, John trusts God with things he does not understand. He says twice that he did not know Jesus. We too may not always understand where God is leading us. If you have lost a loved one, are looking for work when no one is hiring, or are dealing with serious illness, this is the time to trust that God still loves and cares for you.

John also knew that doing God's work meant that God was working through him. Originally, John baptized others as sign of repentance, but he soon came to see that his real work was to make Jesus "known to Israel" (John 1:31). When we try to do what God wants, it is good to remember that God is the one in control and who decides what the result will be.

John's third hint teaches us that a disciple shares his or her faith in God. So John testifies that Jesus is the Son of God. Even today, when Jesus is known throughout the world, we still need to share our faith experiences so those without faith may be attracted to it, and even those with faith can be encouraged by our sharing. You may be surprised to find that your own faith deepens the more you share it with others.



Every year, on the third Monday of January, Americans are given a chance to reflect and observe the tremendous impact that Martin Luther King, Jr. has on the world. This day unites not only our country, but the world we live in. In all 50 states, citizens engage in service activities in order to strengthen communities. Martin Luther King, Jr., served his life giving back to others, and on this day everyone should mirror his humility and aim to give back.

LECTURAS DE HOY

Primera lectura — Tú eres mi servidor, Israel. Te voy a poner como una luz para el mundo (Isaías 49:3, 5-6).

Salmo — Estoy aquí para hacer lo que me pidas, oh Señor (Salmo 40).

Segunda lectura — A los que Dios santificó en Cristo Jesús . . . tengan bendición y paz, de parte de Dios Padre y de Cristo Jesús, el Señor (1 Corintios 1:1-3).

Evangelio — Ahí viene el Cordero de Dios, el que quita el pecado del mundo. Él es el Hijo de Dios (Juan 1:29-34).

LECTURAS DE LA SEMANA

Lunes: Heb 5:1-10; Sal 110:1-4; Mc 2:18-22

Martes: Heb 6:10-20; Sal 111:1-2, 4-5, 9, 10c; Mc 2:23-28

Miércoles: Heb 7:1-3, 15-17; Sal 110:1-4; Mc 3:1-6

Jueves: Heb 7:25 - 8:6; Sal 40:7-10, 17; Mc 3:7-12

Viernes: Heb 8:6-13; Sal 85:8, 10-14; Mc 3:13-19

Sábado: Heb 9:2-3, 11-14; Sal 47:2-3, 6-9; Mc 3:20-21

Domingo: Is 8:23 - 9:3; Sal 27:1, 4, 13-14; 1 Cor 1:10-13, 17; Mt 4:12-23

NUESTRO OBJETIVO ESTRATÉGICO

Como Iglesia, ahora entramos en el Tiempo Ordinario. "Ordinario" viene de la raíz latina de "orden", por eso alineamos los domingos en el calendario y los contamos -con números "ordinales"- uno a uno. La forma ordenada de proceder a lo largo del año litúrgico nos recuerda que nuestra fe ofrece un objetivo estratégico para nuestras vidas: la felicidad eterna con Dios, que es amor. Las lecturas de hoy comparten historias de creyentes que ordenan sus actividades diarias hacia el objetivo de compartir el amor de Dios. Isaías asume su papel de siervo de Dios y trabaja para dar gloria no sólo a Israel, sino al mundo entero. De forma similar, san Pablo se identifica como testigo de Cristo en el mundo y recuerda a los corintios el objetivo de su vida: "ser santos". El Evangelio nos muestra a Juan el Bautista, siervo y testigo, atento a las órdenes amorosas de Dios, al plan divino de salvación. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

PREGUNTA DE LA SEMANA

¿Cómo puedo ser un mejor testigo de la verdad, de lo que veo con los ojos de la fe?