

# FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

January 29, 2023

www.stjohnberchmans.com

## THE BLESSED COMMUNITY

We turn to the first action of Jesus' public ministry described by Matthew—Jesus preaching to the crowds in what we call the Sermon on the Mount. The Sermon begins with today's Gospel passage, the Beatitudes. Having just called his first disciples to form a community, Jesus begins to spell out what this community is all about. The Beatitudes lay the foundation, describing the primary values and practices, and the core identity of this community.

Jesus tells his followers, first and foremost, that they are blessed by God. The community will reveal its blessed character through its humility, meekness, and hunger for justice. Knowing they are loved as God's children, they will have open and pure hearts, free to be merciful, and they will be able to endure suffering gracefully. Listening anew to the Beatitudes, we remember how far we fall short of Jesus' vision. But we know God has gathered us, and continues to transform us, to receive the fullness of blessing.

## WHOM GOD HONORS

In Jesus' time, honor and shame were key markers for who is up and who is down in their society. Typically, those with wealth and power over others were to be honored. And in our own time, often we find ourselves drawn strongly toward having more abundance, control, and options to choose from. We avoid vulnerability and limitations. But Jesus says in the Beatitudes that the poor and meek are truly blessed, that is, honorable and privileged by God. How can this be?

Perhaps Jesus is first exposing the opposites to the poor and meek, the "rich in spirit." These develop such confidence in themselves, based on achievement or inherited privilege, that they isolate themselves from God, and either ignore or exploit others. Jesus also knew that the humble in heart realize that they cannot build an illusory self-affirmation, so they can be most open to God's affirmation of them. They can then become more deeply empowered to participate in God's work. God blesses and honors the open-hearted.

**TODAY'S READINGS:** Zep 2:3; 3:12-13; Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10; 1 Cor 1:26-31; Mt 5:1-12a

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## LA COMUNIDAD BENDECIDA

Pasamos a la primera acción del ministerio público de Jesús descrita por Mateo: Jesús predicando a las multitudes en lo que llamamos el Sermón de la Montaña. El Sermón comienza con el pasaje del Evangelio de hoy, las Bienaventuranzas. Tras haber llamado a sus primeros discípulos a formar una comunidad, Jesús empieza a explicar en qué consiste esta comunidad. Las Bienaventuranzas sientan las bases, describiendo los principales valores y prácticas, y la identidad central de esta comunidad.

Jesús dice a sus seguidores, ante todo, que son bendecidos por Dios. La comunidad revelará su carácter bendecido a través de su humildad, mansedumbre y hambre de justicia. Sabiendo que son amados como hijos de Dios, tendrán corazones abiertos y puros, libres para ser misericordiosos, y serán capaces de soportar el sufrimiento con gracia. Al escuchar de nuevo las Bienaventuranzas, recordamos lo lejos que estamos de la visión de Jesús. Pero sabemos que Dios nos ha reunido, y sigue transformándonos, para recibir la plenitud de la bendición.

## A QUIÉN HONRA DIOS

En la época de Jesús, el honor y la vergüenza eran indicadores clave de quién estaba arriba y quién abajo en su sociedad. Normalmente, se honraba a los que tenían riqueza y poder sobre los demás. Y en nuestra época, a menudo nos sentimos fuertemente atraídos por tener más abundancia, control y opciones para elegir. Evitamos la vulnerabilidad y las limitaciones. Pero Jesús dice en las Bienaventuranzas que los pobres y los mansos son verdaderamente bendecidos, es decir, honrados y privilegiados por Dios. ¿Cómo puede ser esto?

Tal vez Jesús está exponiendo primero los opuestos a los pobres y mansos, los "ricos de espíritu". Éstos desarrollan tal confianza en sí mismos, basada en los logros o en los privilegios heredados, que se aíslan de Dios, e ignoran o explotan a los demás. Jesús también sabía que los humildes de corazón se dan cuenta de que no pueden construir una autoafirmación ilusoria, por lo que pueden estar más abiertos a la afirmación de Dios sobre ellos. Así pueden estar más profundamente capacitados para participar en la obra de Dios. Dios bendice y honra a los de corazón abierto.

**LECTURAS DE HOY:** Sof 2:3; 3:12-13; Sal 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10; 1 Cor 1:26-31; Mt 5:1-12a

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## Please Pray for the Sick

### Prayer List Updates



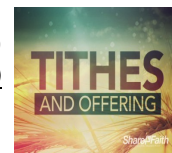
Suzanne Gutierrez	Miliana Bullock	Heath Herring
Syl Vasquez, Jr.	Hope Esquivel	Joe Cevallos
Sarah Contreras	Lydia Soriano	Oscar Arcos
Marty Carrera Tobias	Celia Garcia	Jennifer Olivarez
Frances Lozano	Bobby Rollins	Juanita Martinez
Irma Urias	Darlene Lopez	Maria Rios
Mary S. Martinez	George Garnica	Virginia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

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 22, 2023

5 PM Mass	-\$ 2,015.00	
9 AM Mass	-\$ 703.00	
11 AM Mass	-\$ 1,564.00	
Religious Education	-\$ 315.00	2nd Collection
Churches in Latin America	-\$ 323.00	Special Coll.
Mail In	-\$ 607.00	
Online	-\$ 10.00	
Gift of Giving	-\$ 204.60	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 5,741.60</b>	



## SECOND COLLECTION

January 29, 2023 - Festival Expenses

## 2023 GIFT OF GIVING

Contributions ending Jan. 22, 2023	\$ 204.60
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 5,591.90</b>

# Announcements



## Saturday, January 28

5:00 p.m. † Francisca R. Arzola - Mary Jane Gomez  
† Amy J. Weddell - Sister  
† Roland Solis - Cousins  
† Roger G. Garcia - Maria Gonzales

**Gift of Life** Leslie Villarreal - Sweet Family  
**In Thanksgiving** Dora Duran - Family

## Sunday, January 29

9:00 a.m. † Jose Oscar Carsadillas - Maria Carsadillas  
† Ernesto Espinoza Campos - Maria Carsadillas  
† Margarita Ventura - Family  
† Eddie Botello - Mom  
† John Murray - Victoria Sanchez  
† Daniel C. & Maria Arzola - Family

**For Health** Joe Villanueva - Family  
**For Health** Michael Cuellar - Mom & Dad

11:00 a.m. † Paul Salinas - Family

## Monday, January 30

## Tuesday, January 31 - ST. JOHN BOSCO

12:00 p.m. † Guadalupe Cepeda - Mary Martinez  
† Mary Orosco - Friends

## Wednesday, February 1

8:15 a.m. † Jesus Castillo - Family  
**For Health** Esther Nicholson - Sisters in Christ

## Thursday, February 2

12:00 p.m. † Dolores Graham - JFK Friends

## Friday, February 3 - ST. BLASÉ; ST. ANSGAR

12:00 p.m. † David Hinojosa - Elsa Dranowski  
† Raul & Carmen Iruegas - Friends

### THE EIGHT BEATITUDES OF JESUS

"Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they who mourn,  
for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek,  
for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for  
righteousness,  
for they shall be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful,  
for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the pure of heart,  
for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers,  
for they shall be called children of God.

Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of  
righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

Matthew 5:3-10

Lord Jesus Saves

## From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Parishioners and Friends:

We would like to invite all married couples to a special Valentine's ceremony to take place on Saturday, February 11, 2023. During the Mass we will have a special blessing for all married couples and also renew their vows. After Mass we will host a small reception in the school cafeteria.

We ask that you kindly sign up with one of our parish volunteers after Mass (in the church lobby) or in the parish office to let us know of your attendance. This will be a special celebration!

### 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 Saturday, May 13th at Woodlawn Lake Park to commemorate all mothers on Mother's Day 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.

**(PASTOR MESSAGE CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)**

# Announcements

www.stjohnberchmans.com

## PASTOR MESSAGE CONTINUED...

- 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.
  - C. A child who will be able to correctly recite the 10 Commandments and 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!

### Sunday, January 29

9:00 a.m. Mass - Church  
11:00 a.m. School Mass - Church  
11:00 a.m. - SJB BBQ Plate Fundraiser - Cafeteria  
3:00 p.m.

### Monday, January 30 - CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

### Tuesday, January 31

12:00 p.m. Mass - Chapel

### Wednesday, February 1

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, February 2

12:00 p.m. Mass - Chapel

### Friday, February 3

12:00 p.m. Mass - Chapel

### Saturday, February 4

5:00 p.m. Mass - Church



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

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon: Heb 11:32-40; Ps 31:20-24; Mk 5:1-20  
Tue: Heb 12:1-4; Ps 22:26-28, 30-32; Mk 5:21-43  
Wed: Heb 12:4-7, 11-15; Ps 103:1-2, 13-14, 17-18a; Mk 6:1-6  
Thu: Mal 3:1-4; Ps 24:7-10; Heb 2:14-18; Lk 2:22-40  
Fri: Heb 13:1-8; Ps 27:1, 3, 5, 8b-9; Mk 6:14-29  
Sat: Heb 13:15-17, 20-21; Ps 23:1-6; Mk 6:30-34  
Sun: Is 58:7-10; Ps 112:4-9; 1 Cor 2:1-5; Mt 5:13-16



## ST. JOHN BERCHMANS SCHOOL TEACHER NAMED 2023 TCCB ELEMENTARY TEACHER OF THE YEAR

**JULIE ORTIZ**, teacher at St. John Berchmans Catholic School, has been named the 2023 Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops' Elementary Teacher of the year.

Mrs. Ortiz is in her 11th year of teaching at St. John Berchmans School and currently teaches fifth grade, and Religion to third and eighth graders. On behalf of our parish community we congratulate Mrs. Ortiz on this awesome and well deserved honor.

## IN MEMORIAM

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

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

Saturday morning at 8:00 a.m.

**Ministry Scheduled for**  
**February 4, 2023**  
**St. John Berchmans School**



## 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.

**THE PEOPLE OF GOD'S KINGDOM**

In our Gospel reading from Matthew, we hear the Beatitudes, the stirring opening to the Sermon on the Mount. Jesus is proclaiming the coming of the kingdom of God, and begins by considering what kind of people will enter and participate in this kingdom. They are the poor in spirit, the meek, the clean of heart, the peacemakers. We hear both Zephaniah and Paul echo this, as God specifically chooses the weak and the lowly to be God's agents in ushering in the reign of God. By living with humility and integrity, their hearts are open to being transformed by the grace of God. We too are called to live in this way. Jesus invites us to be people with open hearts, to receive God's blessing. And working through us, God may bless all of creation.

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<p>this <b>SUNDAY</b></p>	<p><b><u>SJB SCHOOL HOSTING A BAR-B-QUE PLATE SCHOOL FUNDRAISER</u></b>  <b>Date: Sunday, January 29, 2023</b>  <b>Time: 11 am - 3 pm Location: SJB School Cafeteria</b>  <b>Cost: \$10.00 per plate</b>  <b>Plate: Chicken, Sausage, Rice, Beans</b>  <b>Drink and Sweets will be available for purchase</b>  <b>Location: SJB School Cafeteria</b>  <b>Thank you!</b></p>	<p><b>WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT</b></p>
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**WHO IS THE MAN OF THE SHROUD?**

Hosted by Pilgrim Center of Hope at Cana Ballroom at St. Peter the Apostle Church, 202 W. Kronkosky St., Boerne, TX 78006.

Explore an unsolved mystery—the most studied relic in the world; an ancient, linen cloth bearing the image of a tortured and crucified man's body

**EXHIBITION** - Get up close with artifact of re-creations, and see a full-size replica of the Shroud. Walk through the shroud's history. Self-guided exhibition hours for those unable to attend scheduled presentation.

**Monday, February 6, Tuesday, Feb. 7, and Wed., Feb. 8, 2023 -**

9:30 am Exhibition opens - 10am to Noon Presentation open to the public. Closes for lunch reopens @1:30; 3pm-5pm presentation open to the public. Venue closes at 8:30 pm on each day noted above. Two hours includes time to walk the exhibition and view episodes.

On Monday, February 6, 6:30pm-8pm (**one night only**) meet the host, narrator, and creators of this streaming series. First interactive panel discussion with Q & A.



**LECTURAS DE LA SEMANA**

- Lunes: Heb 11:32-40; Sal 3:20-24; Mc 5:1-20
- Martes: Heb 12:1-4; Sal 22:26b-28, 30-32; Mc 5:21-43
- Miércoles: Heb 12:4-7, 11-15; Sal 103:1-2, 13-14, 17-18a; Mc 6:1-6
- Jueves: Mal 3:1-4; Sal 24:7-10; Heb 2:14-18; Lc 2:22-40
- Viernes: Heb 13:1-8; Sal 27:1, 3, 5, 8b-9; Mc 6:14-29
- Sábado: Heb 13:15-17, 20-21; Sal 23:1-6; Mc 6:30-34
- Domingo: Is 58:7-10; Sal 112:4-9; 1 Cor 2:1-5; Mt 5:13-16

**EL PUEBLO DEL REINO DE DIOS**

En nuestra lectura del Evangelio de Mateo, escuchamos las Bienaventuranzas, la conmovedora apertura del Sermón de la Montaña. Jesús proclama la llegada del reino de Dios, y comienza considerando qué tipo de personas entrarán y participarán en este reino. Son los pobres de espíritu, los mansos, los limpios de corazón, los pacificadores. Tanto Sofonías como Pablo se hacen eco de esto, ya que Dios elige específicamente a los débiles y a los humildes para que sean los agentes de Dios en la instauración del reino de Dios. Al vivir con humildad e integridad, sus corazones están abiertos a ser transformados por la gracia de Dios. También nosotros estamos llamados a vivir así. Jesús nos invita a ser personas con el corazón abierto, para recibir la bendición de Dios. Y trabajando a través de nosotros, Dios puede bendecir a toda la creación. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

**PREGUNTA DE LA SEMANA**

¿A quiénes encuentro difícil demostrar compasión? ¿Cómo puedo fortalecer mi compasión hacia aquellas personas que no son como yo?