

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

February 5, 2023

www.stjohnberchmans.com

LEARNING HOW TO BE CHURCH

Following last week's passage from Matthew with the Beatitudes, today we continue Jesus' Sermon on the Mount with his images of salt, light, and a city. Jesus moves from describing the core identity of the community he has gathered to considering its impact on the world. He wanted his community not just to claim its identity, but to live it out. He wanted his community to journey with him, to fully learn what this might mean.

For us, being salt for others may mean engaging and enriching the lives of our neighbors. Being light may mean illuminating and addressing the world's systems that sustain social sins of violence, racism, and vast inequalities of wealth and opportunity. Being a city set high may mean holding to high standards of transparency, respect, and care for each other. Like Jesus' first followers, we are invited to travel the difficult and joy-filled road of learning and re-learning how to be the Church.

CROSS-SHAPED MINISTRY

Saint Paul, in today's passage from First Corinthians, admits he is not a salesman. He did not come to Corinth with a sales pitch, with skilled rhetoric and worldly wisdom. Paul says that he simply came to speak of Christ crucified. For Paul, the cross is God's primary self-revelation, and the whole life of following Christ is marked by it. Paul describes this cross-shaped ministry by how he first preached it: with humility and fear. He was a messenger who looked weak by the standards of society, in order that the Spirit might break through to his listeners.

We may know or have read of those who spoke or lived with a cross-shaped presence. Perhaps a missionary who humbly served a community while preaching Christ. Or a group of protesters against injustice, who faced violent resistance with dignity and persistence. They open a space for the Spirit to transform hearts. Paul suggests that making ourselves vulnerable makes love possible.

TODAY'S READINGS: Is 58:7-10; Ps 112:4-5, 6-7, 8-9; 1 Cor 2:1-5; Mt 5:13-16

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APRENDER A SER IGLESIA

Tras el pasaje de Mateo de la semana pasada con las Bienaventuranzas, hoy continuamos el Sermón de la Montaña de Jesús con sus imágenes de la sal, la luz y una ciudad. Jesús pasa de describir la identidad básica de la comunidad que ha reunido a considerar su impacto en el mundo. Quería que su comunidad no sólo reivindicara su identidad, sino que la viviera. Quería que su comunidad caminara con él, que aprendiera plenamente lo que esto podía significar.

Para nosotros, ser sal para los demás puede significar comprometernos y enriquecer la vida de nuestros vecinos. Ser luz puede significar iluminar y abordar los sistemas del mundo que sostienen los pecados sociales de la violencia, el racismo y las grandes desigualdades de riqueza y oportunidades. Ser una ciudad elevada puede significar mantener un alto nivel de transparencia, respeto y cuidado mutuo. Como los primeros seguidores de Jesús, se nos invita a recorrer el difícil y gozoso camino de aprender y reaprender a ser Iglesia.

MINISTERIO EN FORMA DE CRUZ

San Pablo, en el pasaje de hoy de la primera epístola a los Corintios, admite que no es un vendedor. No vino a Corinto con un discurso de venta, con una retórica hábil y una sabiduría mundana. Pablo dice que simplemente vino a hablar de Cristo crucificado. Para Pablo, la cruz es la principal revelación de Dios, y toda la vida de seguimiento de Cristo está marcada por ella. Pablo describe este ministerio en forma de cruz por cómo lo predicó al principio: con humildad y temor. Era un mensajero que parecía débil según las normas de la sociedad, para que el Espíritu pudiera llegar a sus oyentes.

Puede que conozcamos o hayamos leído sobre quienes hablaron o vivieron con una presencia en forma de cruz. Tal vez un misionero que sirvió humildemente a una comunidad mientras predicaba a Cristo. O un grupo de manifestantes contra la injusticia, que se enfrentaron a la resistencia violenta con dignidad y persistencia. Abren un espacio para que el Espíritu transforme los corazones. Pablo sugiere que hacernos vulnerables hace posible el amor.

LECTURAS DE HOY: Is 58:7-10; Sal 112:4-5, 6-7, 8-9; 1 Cor 2:1-5; Mt 5:13-16

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Please Pray for the Sick

Prayer List Updates



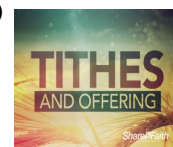
Syl Vasquez, Jr.	Hope Esquivel	Heath Herring
Sarah Contreras	Lydia Soriano	Joe Cevallos
Marty Carrera Tobias	Celia Garcia	Oscar Arcos
Frances Lozano	Bobby Rollins	Jennifer Olivarez
Irma Urias	Darlene Lopez	Juanita Martinez
Mary S. Martinez	George Garnica	Maria Rios
Galilea Romero	Adam Alonzo, Jr.	Virginia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

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 29, 2023

5 PM Mass	-\$ 1,377.00
9 AM Mass	-\$ 447.00
11 AM Mass	-\$ 1,811.00
IGBO Mass	-\$ 156.00
Raffle Expenses	-\$ 640.00 2nd Collection
Mail In	-\$ 155.00
Gift of Giving	-\$ 213.50
TOTAL	\$ 4,799.50



SECOND COLLECTION

February 5, 2023 - Capital Expenditures

2023 GIFT OF GIVING

Contributions ending Jan. 29, 2023	\$ 213.50
TOTAL	\$ 5,805.40

Announcements

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Saturday, February 4

5:00 p.m. † Alamar Jaramillo - Socorro & Raquel
† Roger G. Garcia - Robert T. Buchanan

Sunday, February 5

9:00 a.m. † Gilberto Terrazas - Angelita Canales
† Lionel Medina - Family
† Daniel C. & Maria Arzola - Family
† Rafaela De La Rosa - Family

Gift of Life Joe Villanueva - Family

Gift of Life Venee Santoyo - Family

In Thanksgiving Jesus & Mary Leonor Rodriguez-
Rodriguez Family

11:00 a.m. † Robert Gallegos, Sr. - Wife & Family
† Paul Salinas - Family

**Gift of Life/
Health** Joe Villanueva - Family

Monday, February 6

Tuesday, February 7

12:00 p.m. † Andrew Herrera - Family
Gift of Life Leonor Rodriguez - Bibi Perez

Wednesday, February 8

8:15 a.m. † Nicanor Garcia III
For Health Suzanne Gutierrez - Family

Thursday, February 9

12:00 p.m. † Marie Weaver - JFK Friends
† Wanda Dorn - JFK Friends

Friday, February 10 - St. Scholastica

12:00 p.m. † Arturo Parra - Neighbors
† Ray Salcido - ACTS Family

CATHOLIC PRAYER CORNER

Prayer in Time of Illness

Lord Jesus,

I believe that having passed through
the gate of life in baptism,
I will always have your protection and comfort.

Yet today the pains of my illness
threaten to overcome me
and cause me to forget all the good things
you have given me in this life.

I pray in confidence that you would
send forth your Spirit
to refresh and revive me as you have
always done in the past.

May I continue to witness to your
goodness in this life
so that I may be with you at the heavenly
banquet table in eternity.

Amen. Alleluia. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

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 \$20. 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, February 5

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

Monday, February 6

Tuesday, February 7

12:00 p.m. Mass - Chapel

Wednesday, February 8

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 9

12:00 p.m. Mass - Chapel

Friday, February 10

12:00 p.m. Mass - Chapel

Saturday, February 11

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: Gn 1:1-19; Ps 104:1-2a, 5-6, 10, 12, 24, 35c; Mk 6:53-56
Tue: Gn 1:20 - 2:4a; Ps 8:4-9; Mk 7:1-13
Wed: Gn 2:4b-9, 15-17; Ps 104:1-2a, 27-28, 29bc-30; Mk 7:14-23
Thu: Gn 2:18-25; Ps 128:1-5; Mk 7:24-30
Fri: Gn 3:1-8; Ps 32:1-2, 5-7; Mk 7:31-37
Sat: Gn 3:9-24; Ps 90:2-6, 12-13; Mk 8:1-10
Sun: Sir 15:15-20; Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34; 1 Cor 2:6-10; Mt 5:17-37



POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION FOR FEBRUARY 2023

FOR PARISHES

We pray that parishes, placing communion at the center, may increasingly become communities of faith, fraternity and welcome towards those most in need.

THE SANCTUARY CANDLE BURNS FOR:

Hope Esquivel

It is to remind the faithful of the presence of Christ, and is a profession of their love and affection.



Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time February 5, 2023

*Light shines through the darkness
for the upright. — Psalm 112:4*

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

Saturday morning at 8:00 a.m.

**CHURCH
CLEANING
DAY**

**Ministry Scheduled for
February 11, 2023
CCD/Youth Ministry/Faith Formation**




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.



*You are the salt
of the earth...
You are the light
of the world...
let your light shine before others...*

Matthew 5: 13-16

Jesus uses two different examples of a good disciple—salt of the earth and light of the world. While these images seem to have little in common, there are similarities, the most obvious being that a little of either goes a long way. So also, a little faith can make a big difference. The faith of little children can bring his parents back to the Church. The way we live our faith can speak even louder. Isaiah gives us some hints in the first reading when he writes about feeding the hungry and giving shelter to the homeless and clothes to the poor. But we sometimes get things backwards. If we do the things Isaiah tells the people to do, we might think that the deeds will give us faith. If we truly believe that God lives in the people around us, especially the poor, then we will want to show our love by caring for each other.

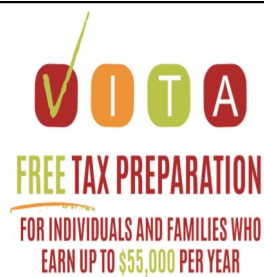
But if we don't have faith, then we are like the salt that has lost its flavor. A low-salt diet may be good for us; but a low-salt faith, instead of making things better, would make them worse. Without faith in God's love for us, we would not respond with love of our own. We could still be a good person, but we would not be a very good disciple. Tom Schmidt, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

MESSAGE FROM THE PARISH OFFICE

For those individuals requiring a Tax letter for their 2022 parish contributions, you are asked to please contact the Parish office during the work week, to set up a date and time for pickup. Office number (210) 434-3247.



We thank you for your continued support of our Parish!

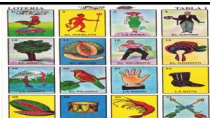


Individuals, families, and seniors are challenged by the rising cost of living. **WE NEED TO HELP** make a financial difference in their lives as a volunteer! The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program provides free tax preparation for anyone who earns up to \$55,000 a year, saving our neighbors up to \$700 annually in tax preparation fees while also returning their hard-earned money to their household.

BE A VOLUNTEER to assist with providing financial security for our neighbors. Volunteers are provided a virtual IRS-certified training for free basic tax preparation. Volunteer training is provided for **FREE** by the IRS. For more information, contact Angie Ferdin-Treviño at (210) 222-2975.

ST. JOHN BERCHMANS CYO SPORTS

Our organization is currently registering for the 2023 Baseball/Softball season. Registration Period runs through Sunday, February 26, 2023. Registration Fee \$75.00-First child/\$50 each additional child within family. We highly encourage online registration to be completed at: Family Registration Link: reg.sportspilot.com/106373 Or contact: Rosario Estrada (210) 722.1007 Email: restradajr1@att.net OR Andrew Dominguez (210) 725-6137 Email: ardmed05@gmail.com



LOTERIA BINGO FUNDRAISER FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Sunday, February 19, 2023 12:30 - 4:00 PM, St. John Berchmans Cafeteria. Food and drinks will be sold. Please come and support this important ministry!!

LA LUZ DEL SERVICIO

El profeta Isaías nos inspira estas palabras: “En las tinieblas nacerá la luz para ustedes, y la oscuridad será para ustedes como el mediodía”. Todos los que celebramos hoy la liturgia alabamos a Dios por estas palabras de aliento. Seguramente cada uno de nosotros conoce el lado sombrío de la vida, pero las lecturas de hoy proponen un brillante antídoto contra la miseria: la luz del servicio. Isaías se centra en el sufrimiento físico, diciéndonos que proporcionemos comida, ropa, vivienda e igualdad de oportunidades a los que tienen recursos limitados. Más allá de las necesidades materiales, san Pablo nos muestra cómo proceder con humildad al atender las necesidades espirituales de las personas. El Evangelio de san Mateo nos impulsa a actuar con valentía: sean cuales sean nuestros dones, debemos ponerlos al servicio de nuestras comunidades. Como cristianos, debemos comprometernos con los demás sin reprimirnos, dejando que nuestra luz brille ante todos. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

PREGUNTA DE LA SEMANA

¿Qué acción específica puedo hacer esta semana para reflejar la luz de Cristo ante el mundo?