

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

February 26, 2023

www.stjohnberchmans.com

TURN AWAY FROM SIN

Lent is a season in which we resolve to turn away from sin and turn toward Jesus. Turning away from sin requires us to admit that we miss the mark and fail to live as God desires. The first Sunday of Lent always includes a gospel account of Jesus facing temptation in the desert. Notice that it is not generic temptation Jesus meets, nor do we. Our temptations are personal, areas of particular weakness, situations in which, like Eve and Adam, we may rationalize and give in to sin rather than holding firm to what we know is right and just. Jesus gives us a model for meeting temptation: draw on the wisdom and truth found in sacred scripture and the teaching tradition of the Church to know what we must do or not do. Be strong and know that the Lord is with you as you resolve to be faithful.

TRUST IN GOD'S MERCY

"Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned." The refrain of today's Responsorial Psalm gives voice to our conviction that God is good and reminds us that we can trust in God's mercy as we face our sin, seek forgiveness, and resolve to avoid sin in the future. The more deeply we grow in relationship with Christ, the more sure of God's love we become. Rooted in this love, we can admit our failings and trust that God always desires to be close to us, drawing us into abundant life. Lent is a good time to seek God's mercy and forgiveness in the sacrament of reconciliation. We can take heart in the assurance that forgiveness awaits our repentant heart.

TODAY'S READINGS: Gn 2:7-9, 3:1-7; Ps 51:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 17; Rom 5:12-19; Mt 4:1-11

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ALEJARSE DEL PECADO

La Cuaresma es un tiempo en el que nos proponemos alejarnos del pecado y acercarnos a Jesús. Alejarnos del pecado nos obliga a admitir que no damos en el blanco y que no vivimos como Dios quiere. El primer domingo de Cuaresma siempre incluye un relato evangélico de Jesús enfrentándose a la tentación en el desierto. Nótese que no es una tentación genérica la que Jesús encuentra, ni tampoco nosotros. Nuestras tentaciones son personales, áreas de especial debilidad, situaciones en las que, como Eva y Adán, podemos racionalizar y ceder al pecado en lugar de mantenernos firmes en lo que sabemos que es correcto y justo. Jesús nos da un modelo para hacer frente a la tentación: apoyarnos en la sabiduría y la verdad que se encuentran en la Sagrada Escritura y en la tradición docente de la Iglesia para saber lo que debemos hacer o no hacer. Sé fuerte y sabe que el Señor está contigo cuando te propongas ser fiel.

CONFÍA EN LA MISERICORDIA DE DIOS

"Ten piedad, Señor, porque hemos pecado". El estribillo del Salmo responsorial de hoy da voz a nuestra convicción de que Dios es bueno y nos recuerda que podemos confiar en la misericordia de Dios mientras afrontamos nuestro pecado, buscamos el perdón y nos proponemos evitar pecar en el futuro. Cuanto más profundamente crecemos en nuestra relación con Cristo, más seguros estamos del amor de Dios. Arraigados en este amor, podemos admitir nuestros fallos y confiar en que Dios siempre desea estar cerca de nosotros, atrayéndonos hacia la vida abundante. La Cuaresma es un buen momento para buscar la misericordia y el perdón de Dios en el sacramento de la reconciliación. Podemos animarnos con la seguridad de que el perdón espera a nuestro corazón arrepentido.

LECTURAS DE HOY: Gen 2:7-9, 3:1-7; Sal 51:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 17; Rom 5:12-19; Mt 4:1-11

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Please Pray for the Sick

Prayer List Updates



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

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 FEBRUARY 19, 2023

5 PM Mass	-\$1,242.00
9 AM Mass	-\$1,258.00
11 AM Mass	-\$1,536.00
Altar Flowers	-\$ 370.00 2nd Collection
Mail In	-\$ 497.00
On Line	-\$ 30.00
Gift of Giving	-\$ 229.85
TOTAL	\$ 5,162.85



SECOND COLLECTION February 26, 2023 - Religious Education

2023 GIFT OF GIVING

Contributions ending Feb. 19, 2023	\$ <u>229.85</u>
TOTAL	\$ 6,487.70

Announcements

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Saturday, February 25

5:00 p.m. † Thomas Diaz - Olga Diaz
† Pedro E. Martinez - Family
Gift of Life Lionel E. Medina - Sister

Sunday, February 26

9:00 a.m. † Margarita Ventura - Family
† Daniel C. & Maria Arzola - Family
Gift of Life Debbie Barbosa - Sister
For Health Michael Cuellar - Mom & Dad
11:00 a.m. † Thomas Diaz - Family
† Felipe & Guadalupe Saldaña - Family
† Cora Castillo - Linda/Family
† Paul & Juan Salinas - Grace Salinas
For Health Joe Villanueva - Family

Monday, February 27

12:00 p.m. For our Parish community

Tuesday, February 28

12:00 p.m. † Johnny Arocha - Wife & Family
Gift of Life Sandra C. Lockwood - Socorro & Raquel

Wednesday, March 1

8:15 a.m. † Dolores Crittall - SJB Family
For Health Edith Flores - Family

Thursday, March 2

12:00 p.m. † Leroy & Yolanda Johnson - Friends
For Health Deena Contreras - Friends

Friday, March 3

12:00 p.m. † Ramona Hinojosa - Elsa Dranowsky
† Baltazar Vasquez - Mary De Los Santos
† Inez De Los Santos - Mom-Mary De Los Santos
For Health Jesus Lopez - Friends

CATHOLIC PRAYER CORNER

Prayer during Lent

Holy God,
now is the acceptable time to return to you.
As we walk the path of these forty days,
may we turn away from sin
and embrace a life of goodness and truth.
Strengthen us on our Lenten journey
and keep us focused on the cross
and resurrection of your Son,
our Savior and Redeemer.
He is Lord forever and ever. Amen.

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First Sunday of Lent February 26, 2023

*“The Lord, your God, shall you worship and him alone
shall you serve.” — Matthew 4:10*

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Parishioners and Friends:

Last Wednesday, February 22, 2023 was Ash Wednesday. The Lenten Season officially commenced on Ash Wednesday. I encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity to cultivate and improve your relationship with our Savior Jesus Christ by praying, fasting and almsgiving. We need your full participation in all spiritual activities organized by the community. Have a prayerful Lenten Season.

I invite you to join me Sunday through Friday at 6pm and on Saturday at 4pm, in the church, as we pray the rosary until the end of the Lenten season. You are also encouraged to participate in daily adoration Monday thru Friday from 9am to 5pm with a lunch break from 12:30pm thru 2pm.

Our daily Mass is at 12 noon Monday through Friday except on Wednesday at 8:15am (School Mass). We encourage you to boost your spiritual life during this Lenten season.

We mourn alongside our brother and sisters in Turkey and Syria, victims of a massive earthquake of 7.8 magnitude with a toll of over 45,000 declared dead. The aftermath and those who are still trapped, may end up increasing the death toll. There are more than 6 million homeless.

We pray for the victims and their families and we keep the countries of Turkey and Syria in our prayers as they navigate through this very difficult time.

May all the deceased rest in peace and we hope that those still trapped will be rescued.

We also continue praying for the end of war in Ukraine.

May God bless and protect our planet.

God Bless you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fidèle Okitembo Dikete'.

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

Announcements

www.stjohnberchmans.com

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — The man and the woman ate the fruit of the one tree that God had told them to avoid, and their shame overtook them (Gen 2:7-9;

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon: Lv 19:1-2, 11-18; Ps 19:8-10, 15; Mt 25:31-46
 Tue: Is 55:10-11; Ps 34:4-7, 16-19; Mt 6:7-15
 Wed: Jon 3:1-10; Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19;
 Lk 11:29-32
 Thu: Est C:12, 14-25; Ps 138:1-3, 7c-8; Mt 7:7-12
 Fri: Ez 18:21-28; Ps 130:1-8; Mt 5:20-26
 Sat: Dt 26:16-19; Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8; Mt 5:43-48
 Sun: Gn 12:1-4a; Ps 33:4-5, 18-20, 22; 2 Tm 1:8-10; Mt 17:1-9

THIS WEEK!
 Here's What's On The Calendar!

Sunday, February 26

9:00 a.m. **Bilingual Mass** - Church
 11:00 a.m. **Mass** - Church
 6:00 p.m. **Rosary** - Church

Monday, February 27

9am-12 Noon & 2-5pm **Adoration** - Chapel
 12 p.m. **Mass** - Chapel
 6:00 p.m. **Rosary** - Church

Tuesday, February 28

9am-12 Noon & 2-5pm **Adoration** - Chapel
 12:00 p.m. **Mass** - Chapel
 6:00 p.m. **Rosary** - Church

Wednesday, March 1

8:15 a.m. **School Mass** - Church
 9am-12 Noon & 2-5pm **Adoration** - Chapel
 2:00 p.m. **Coffee with Fr. Fidèle**
 6:00 p.m. **Rosary** - Church

Thursday, March 2

9am-12 Noon & 2-5pm **Adoration** - Chapel
 12:00 p.m. **Mass** - Chapel
 6:00 p.m. **Rosary** - church

Friday, March 3

9am-12 Noon & 2-5pm **Adoration** - Chapel
 12:00 p.m. **Mass** - Chapel
 6:00 p.m. **Rosary** - Church
 7:00 p.m. **Stations of the Cross** - Church

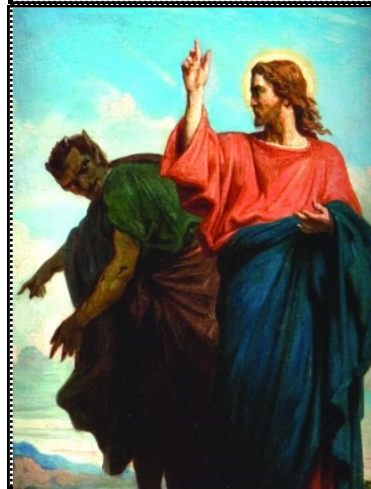
Saturday, March 4

4:00 p.m. **Rosary** - Church
 5:00 p.m. **Mass** - Church



*Holy
 Eucharistic
 Adoration*

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION
 MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY
 (IN THE CHAPEL)
 9:00 AM -12 Noon &
 2:00 - 5:00 P.M.**



**1ST SUNDAY
 OF LENT**

Then the devil took Jesus up to a very high mountain, and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in their magnificence, and he said to him, "All these I shall give to you, if you will prostrate yourself and worship me."
 - Mt 4:8-9

REST IN PEACE

We offer condolences and sympathy to our parishioners who have experienced a death in their family:

† DOLORES CRITTELL

THE SANCTUARY CANDLE BURNS FOR:

**JESUS LOPEZ
 HOPE ESQUIVEL**



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

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

Saturday morning at 8:00 a.m.

**Ministry Scheduled for
 March 4, 2023
 MARTINEZ/SANTOYO FAMILIES**



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.



POPE FRANCIS' MESSAGE FOR 2023

"During this liturgical season, the Lord takes us with him to a place apart. While our ordinary commitments compel us to remain in our usual places and our often repetitive and sometimes boring routines, during Lent we are invited to ascend 'a high mountain' in the company of Jesus and to live a particular experience of spiritual disciplines—*ascesis*—as God's holy people."

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

When was the last time you prayed the Stations of the Cross in Church?
This is a powerful way to contemplate, and enter into, the mystery of Jesus' gift of himself to us.
When you pray the Stations of the Cross you are tracing the footsteps of Christ, in his journey from being condemned to death to his resurrection. In knowing that our Lord and Savior died such a violent death for love of us, meditating on the Stations of the Cross becomes an experience where one can unite with Christ. This meditation allows you to contemplate Christ's suffering and His victory of sin and Satan.

MINISTRY SCHEDULED FOR FRIDAY, MARCH 3, 2023 AT 7pm - RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



ST. JOHN BERCHMANS GUADALUPANA MEAT BINGO

DATE: Sunday, March 5, 2023

TIME: 1 - 4 p.m.

LOCATION: St. John Berchmans Cafeteria

COST: \$10 per card - Good for 15 regular games

Delicious food and Drinks are available for purchase.

Please join us for a fun afternoon and also support this important ministry!

Orders are now being taken for Holy Thursday Candles. The cost is \$5 each or \$60 for a case.

You may also place your order for Easter Lilies for \$10 each.

Please contact the Parish office for orders.



SPECIAL SHOUT OUT

Our Religious Education program is thankful to our ministries who provide breakfast every weekend for our students. This weekend we give a special **SHOUT OUT TO OUR JOY MINISTRY** for providing breakfast!

LOS SANTOS Y OTRAS CELEBRACIONES

Domingo: Primer Domingo de Cuaresma
Lunes: San Gregorio de Narek;
Inicio de la Cuaresma en el calendario juliano
Viernes: Santa Katharine Drexel; Abstinencia;
Primer viernes; Jornada Mundial de Oración
Sábado: San Casimiro; Primer sábado

LECTURAS DE LA SEMANA

Lunes: Lv 19:1-2, 11-18; Sal 19:8-10, 15; Mt 25:31-46
Martes: Is 55:10-11; Sal 34:4-7, 16-19; Mt 6:7-15
Miércoles: Jon 3:1-10; Sal 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19; Lc 11:29-32
Jueves: Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Sal 138:1-3, 7c-8; Mt 7:7-12
Viernes: Ez 18:21-28; Sal 130:1-8; Mt 5:20-26
Sábado: Dt 26:16-19; Sal 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8; Mt 5:43-48
Domingo: Gn 12:1-4a; Sal 33:4-5, 18-20, 22; 2 Tim 1:8b-10; Mt 17:1-9

QUIÉNES SOMOS Y DE QUIÉNES SOMOS

El tiempo de Cuaresma es una nueva invitación a explorar de nuevo quién es Dios, quiénes somos nosotros y qué significa ser humano. Comenzamos escuchando la trágica historia de los primeros seres humanos en el libro del Génesis. Como describe Pablo en Romanos, nuestras luchas comenzaron cuando nuestros antepasados rompieron el vínculo de unidad con Dios, buscaron la autosuficiencia y se apartaron de su verdadero propósito e identidad. En el Evangelio de Mateo, vemos cómo Jesús se resiste a la tentación de vivir fuera de la unidad con Dios. Jesús rechaza las falsas promesas de posesiones, poder y estatus. En cambio, pone su vida en manos de su Padre. Como modelo para vivir como una persona plenamente humana, Jesús demuestra que hemos sido creados para vivir en relación con Dios y confiar en él, y en armonía con y para toda la creación. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

PREGUNTA DE LA SEMANA

¿De qué maneras concretas voy a ayunar, a orar y a dar limosnas en esta Cuaresma? Puedo abrir mi corazón a las necesidades de los demás?