

# 21st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

August 27, 2023

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## WHO IS JESUS?

Jesus poses the question “But who do you say I am?” in today’s Gospel passage. It is a question posed to Peter and the disciples, to Matthew’s first readers, and to the Church today. Peter’s confession of faith in Jesus as Christ and Son of God was a culmination of what the disciples had experienced in their life with Jesus thus far. Jesus affirms Peter’s declaration as a gift from God. But it was only the beginning of Peter’s understanding of what these words actually meant, and how the disciples saw themselves in light of this truth. As Jesus and the disciples turned toward Jerusalem and to the cross, the disciples perhaps pondered their own identity, together with their dawning understanding of Jesus’ identity. For us, the journey of faith, initiated and sustained by the Holy Spirit, means an ongoing reflection upon who Jesus is and who we are. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

## TODAY’S READINGS

**First Reading** — Eliakim is destined by God to be a father to those who live in Jerusalem (Isaiah 22:19-23).

**Psalms** — Your kindness, O Lord, lasts forever; remember those you have created (Psalm 138).

**Second Reading** — How deep are the riches and the wisdom and the knowledge of God! (Romans 11:33-36).

**Gospel** — Jesus asked the disciples, “Who do you say that I am?” (Matthew 16:13-20).

## ¿QUIÉN ES JESÚS?

En el pasaje del Evangelio de hoy, Jesús plantea la pregunta “Pero ¿quién dicen que soy yo?” Es una pregunta planteada a Pedro y a los discípulos, a los primeros lectores de Mateo y a la Iglesia de hoy. La confesión de fe de Pedro en Jesús como Cristo e Hijo de Dios era la culminación de lo que los discípulos habían experimentado en su vida con Jesús hasta entonces. Jesús afirma la declaración de Pedro como un don de Dios. Pero era sólo el comienzo de la comprensión de Pedro de lo que estas palabras significaban realmente, y de cómo los discípulos se veían a sí mismos a la luz de esta verdad. Mientras Jesús y los discípulos se dirigían a Jerusalén y a la cruz, los discípulos tal vez reflexionaron sobre su propia identidad, junto con su incipiente comprensión de la identidad de Jesús. Para nosotros, el camino de la fe, iniciado y sostenido por el Espíritu Santo, significa una reflexión continua sobre quién es Jesús y quiénes somos nosotros. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

## LECTURAS DE HOY

**Primera lectura** — Pondré en sus manos la llave de la Casa de David (Isaías 22:19-23).

**Salmo** — Tu bondad, oh Señor, dura para siempre; recuerda los que has creado (Salmo 138 [137]).

**Segunda lectura** — Los designios de Dios son impenetrables, no se pueden comprender sus caminos (Romanos 11:33-36).

**Evangelio** — Tú eres el Cristo, el Hijo de Dios vivo (Mateo 16:13-20).



## Please Pray for the Sick

### Prayer List Updates



Sarah Contreras  
Marty Carrera Tobias  
Frances Lozano  
Irma Urias  
Mary S. Martinez  
Galilea Romero  
Flora Torres  
Iris Luna Sullivan  
Sandy Guerra  
Abraham Guerra  
Emma O. Velasquez  
Leticia Martinez  
Kenny De La Rosa  
Raymond Sarabia  
Frank Rodriguez  
Julissa Rodriguez  
Miliana Bullock  
Lydia Soriano  
Albert Casillas

Robert Sanchez  
Vanessa Quintero  
Joe Cevallos  
Juanita Martinez  
Maria Rios  
Virginia R. Lucio  
Guadalupe Rodriguez  
Lori Bañuelos  
Joe Villanueva  
Edith Flores  
Isaiah Vasquez  
Esther Nicholson  
Valerie Vigil  
Marty Wind  
Maldonado Family  
Margarie Zuniga  
Ann Marie Eickenroht  
Rosemary Flores  
Anthony Ramirez

Carmen Garza  
Gloria Rubio  
Duncan Paul Brown  
Lisa Brown  
Mary Herrera  
Rebecca Zuniga  
Rosa Elva Villaseñor  
Irene Lloyd  
Fred Guerra  
Lupe Gomez  
Mary Cano  
Angie Canales  
Joseph Kavanaugh  
Rosie Gallegos  
Isidoro Munoz

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.



Tithes

## STEWARDSHIP FOR THE WEEK ENDING AUGUST 20, 2023

5 PM Mass -\$1,280.00

9 AM Mass -\$ 714.00

11 AM Mass -\$1,078.00

Mission Cooperatives -\$1,230.00 2nd Collection

Drop Off -\$ 745.00

On Line -\$ 50.00

Gift of Giving -\$ 156.60

**TOTAL \$5,253.60**

## SECOND COLLECTION

August 26-27, 2023

Purchase 3 new compressors for Church  
(Due to complete breakdown)

## 2023 GIFT OF GIVING

Contributions ending August 20, 2023 \$ 156.60

**TOTAL \$ 11,117.57**



**Saturday, August 26**

5:00 p.m. † Maria Elena Martinez - Family  
 † Ginny Cruz - Family

**Sunday, August 27**

9:00 a.m. † Daniel C. & Maria Arzola - Family  
 † Domingo M. Cantu - Oralia Cantu  
 † Lisa Marie Vozzella - Eva Rodriguez

**Gift of Life For Health** Daniel Rodriguez - Eva Rodriguez  
 Joe Villanueva - Family

11:00 a.m. † Paul & Juan Salinas - Salinas Family  
 † Suzanne Gutierrez - Salinas Family

**Health** Rosie Gallegos - SJB Family

**Monday, August 28 - ST. AUGUSTINE**

**Tuesday, August 29**

12:00 p.m. † Dolores Graham - SJB Family  
**For Health** Marty Carrera Tobias - SJB Family  
**For Health** Irene Lloyd - SJB Family

**Wednesday, August 30**

8:15 a.m. † Aurora Moreno - SJB Family

**Thursday, August 31**

12:00 p.m. † Ramona C. Campa - Family  
 † Jesus Lopez - SJB Family

**Friday, September 1**

12:00 p.m. † Trinidad Torres - SJB Family

**ONLINE DONATIONS:**

- Cash App: \$StJohnBerchmans
- Pay-Pal: administrator@stjohnberchmans.com
- Venmo: administrator@stjohnberchmans.com

**CATHOLIC PRAYER CORNER  
 Prayer of Saint Francis**

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.  
 Where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
 where there is injury, pardon;  
 where there is doubt, faith;  
 where there is despair, hope;  
 where there is darkness, light;  
 and where there is sadness, joy.

Divine Master, grant that I may not so much  
 seek to be consoled as to console;  
 to be understood as to understand;  
 to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive;  
 it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;  
 and it is in dying that we  
 are born to eternal life.



Dear Parishioners and Friends:

This is to inform you that effective July 16, 2023, Deacon Jose Ocampo has been reassigned from our parish to St. Gerard Parish to assist Father Donald Willard, C. So. R. Deacon Jose's short time with us has been impactful and we wish him a successful ministry at St. Gerard. You will be missed.

I congratulate all the who participated in the ACTS Retreat over this past weekend. May you continue to deepen your relationship with the Lord and follow in the footsteps of our Savior, Jesus Christ. A sincere gratitude goes to the ACTS team that spent countless hours preparing for this spiritual experience. My gratitude also goes out to John Diaz, the spiritual leader of the retreat. Our community is very proud of all of you for allowing yourselves to be immersed in this spiritual experience.

I will take the remaining 10 days of my annual vacation from Tuesday, August 29 thru Thursday, September 7, 2023, to visit with my daughter Angelique Dikete, who is expecting her baby in September of this year. I will also visit with my Sister Angelique Dikete, (Sisters of Charity of Jesus and Mary), who has been elected First General Councillor (Vicar General) by her peers (I have not seen my Sister Angelique since the pandemic). Please keep me in your prayers as I travel to the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

I thank all the St. John Berchmans missionaries who accompanied me in our neighborhood to recruit CCD and CYO children over the past two weekends, Saturday August 19th and 26th, 2023. They are: Cindy Sandoval, Cecilia Sandoval, Janie Jimenez, Mary Ann Arocha, Rosalinda Gomez, Stephanie Laque, Sylvia Serna, Sandra Torres, Alice Esparza, Elizabeth Mainez, Teresa Arzola, Esmeralda Tamez and Amber Elizondo. The CCD registration remains open. "It takes a village to raise a child".

I thank all the volunteers, under the leadership of Angie and John Diaz, who worked tirelessly to make our BBQ chicken plate fundraiser a success. **Our net profit was \$7,153.23.** Volunteers who assisted: Jaime and Chayo Gomez, John & Xanthia Hernandez, Emilio Semersky Jr. & Emilio Semersky III, Victor & Sylvia Gomez, Sylvia & Ken Lore, Roy Sanchez, Jose, Jessica & Isidoro Ramos, Kim & Khloe Mata, David & Sylvia Quintana, Alice Esparza, Dolores Guardiola, Ramon Amaro, Esmeralda Tamez, Adam Rodriguez & Roberto Tamez, Sandra Torres, Sylvia Serna, Jacob & Samantha Rocha and daughters Jayden, Sofia, Jocelyn and Renesmee, Mary Ann Arocha, Monica Rodriguez,

**PASTOR MESSAGE CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE...**

# Announcements

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## PASTOR MESSAGE CONTINUED...

Volunteers (continued): Imelda Esparza, Janie Jimenez, Minnie Sandoval, and Elva Salazar.

Our Eucharistic celebrations will continue taking place in the school cafeteria. We implore your patience and attendance in our daily masses and on weekends. We are excited and blessed with the opportunity of a new floor in our sanctuary!

Our Fall Festival 2023 is scheduled Saturday, September 30th from 2pm until midnight. I invite each one of you to support our efforts to make this Fall festival a huge success. We have several bands, DJ, food booths, children's rides, raffle, drinks, silent auction...

Please remember our Fall festival is our only yearly fundraiser for the parish. Please be as generous as you can by selling raffle tickets, or volunteering in different capacities. Let us come together to celebrate all our blessings and also raise the money needed for our church community. Please pick up 100 raffle tickets and sell as many as you can.

May God bless you!

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



### Sunday, August 27

9:00 a.m. Bilingual Mass - Cafeteria  
11:00 a.m. Mass - Cafeteria

### Monday, August 28

Tuesday, August 29  
12:00 p.m. Communion Service - Formation House

### Wednesday, August 30

8:15 a.m. School Mass - Cafeteria  
10:00 a.m. Adult Faith Enrichment-Formation House  
7:00 p.m. Adult Faith Enrichment-Formation House

### Thursday, August 31

12:00 p.m. Communion Service - Formation House

### Friday, September 1

12:00 p.m. Communion Service - Formation House

### Saturday, September 2

5:00 p.m. Mass - Cafeteria

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon: 1 Thes 1:1-5, 8-10; Ps 149:1-6,9; Mt 23:13-22  
Tue: 1 Thes 2:1-8; Ps 139:1-6; Mk 6:17-29  
Wed: 1 Thes 2:9-13; Ps 139:7-12; Mt 23:27-32  
Thu: 1 Thes 3:7-13; Ps 90:3-5a, 12-14, 17;  
Mt 24:42-51  
Fri: 1 Thes 4:1-8; Ps 97:1,2, 5-6, 10-12; Mt 25:1-13  
Sat: 1 Thes 4:9-11; Ps 98:1, 7-9; Mt 25:14-30  
Sun: Jer 20:7-9; Ps 63:2-6,8-9; Rom 12:1-2;  
Mt 16:21-27



## FESTIVAL BINGO

We need your help for our Festival Bingo. At this time, we need Prizes of \$10.00 or more. Also asking for volunteers to help out on the floor (To check bingo winners and sell Specials).

For more information, please contact Marie Sanchez or Dora Duran. Thank you for your support!

## FESTIVAL NEWS

Festival T-Shirt orders "Bringing Joy through God", will be taken through Sunday, Sept. 3.

COST: \$10.00 per shirt for children and adults  
\$12.00 for 2XL - 4XL

This year's colors will be heather gray, hunter green and pink. All T-Shirt orders will be pre-paid.

## SYMBOLS of the HEART of MARY



### HER HEART

Symbol of her maternal love



### THE FIRE

Her heart burns with love for Jesus and us



### THE SWORD

It symbolizes Mary's sorrows



### THE ROSES

They represent her purity



FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY



## 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. Bulletins are printed on Thursdays.



## NEW TO OUR PARISH AND WANT TO REGISTER AS A NEW PARISHIONER?

We encourage all newcomers to register and get to know your parish community. Please contact our Parish Office at 210-434-3247 to fill out a registration form.

**ROCKY**

Jesus gave Simon a name based on the word for “rock.” Peter had just acknowledged Jesus to be the Son of God and the Messiah (Christ). Jesus used that as an opportunity to teach us about the importance of faith as the foundation of the church.

There were many variations on what people thought the messiah would be. Some expected a political leader who would unite the Jews and maybe even overthrow their Roman masters. Others thought he would be a wonder-worker, a super-hero, who would use his power to make Israel a great and free nation. Some thought the messiah would provide food and riches in abundance. Jesus has fulfilled all messianic hopes and unites all people who believe in him. He sets us free from sin and death. He feeds our spiritual hunger with his own Body and Blood in the Eucharist.

By commending Peter’s faith, he shows us that faith is the foundation (rock) of the church. For the church is a family of people who believe all that Jesus taught because we believe in the person of Jesus. We affirm that he is alive and important to our lives. We have experienced him in his words, in the sacraments, and in each other. May our faith always be solid as a rock. Tom Schmidt, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

**WORLD YOUTH DAY A WHIRLWIND**

Pope makes urgent call to recover Eucharistic Adoration in the Church. Addressed the youth by saying, “Do not be afraid, have courage, go forward knowing that we are loved...” And that Jesus knows our hearts.

He stated to never grow tired of coming to God with questions. He also invited young men and women to reflect on how “beautiful” it is that God loves us. And that he loves us as we are, not as we would like to be or as society would like us to be. Instead, we are called and loved as we are with our defects and limitations, but also “with our desire to move forward in life.”

**WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE RESPECTFUL?**

The significance of Mass is endless, so your intentional dress at Mass is a statement to you and to others that this is not just any other activity...rather it is important.

- Mass is to be treated honorably, it is holy, it’s the sacrifice of our Savior for us.
- From the moment you start to get dressed, you are preparing your hearts for communion with your Savior, which calls for your utmost reverence.
- We must promote respect and modesty since it is a reflection of our faith and our respect for God.
- Let our dress be humbling and aim for what is most fitting in the house of God.

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION - CCD & RCIA**

**REGISTRATION underway for Catechism K - 10th grade, and RCIA through Sunday, September 3rd.**

Our Director for Religious Education, Cynthia Sandoval, will be in the SJB school office, Room 22, on Saturdays: 4-5 pm and 6-7 pm, and on Sundays 10am-2pm. For an appointment during the week, leave a message at the rectory, or email Cynthia Sandoval, at [ventimochafrap@yahoo.com](mailto:ventimochafrap@yahoo.com).

**CCD classes begin at 9am, Sunday, Sept. 10th. Breakfast will be provided.**

**LECTURAS DE LA SEMANA**

Lunes: 1 Tes 1:1-5, 8-10; Sal 149:1-6, 9; Mt 23:13-22  
 Martes: 1 Tes 2:1-8; Sal 139:1-6; Mc 6:17-29  
 Miércoles: 1 Tes 2:9-13; Sal 139:7-12; Mt 23:27-32  
 Jueves: 1 Tes 3:7-13; Sal 90:3-5, 12-14, 17; Mt 24:42-51  
 Viernes: 1 Tes 4:1-8; Sal 97:1, 2, 5-6, 10-12; Mt 25:1-13  
 Sábado: 1 Tes 4:9-11; Sal 98:1, 7-9; Mt 25:14-30  
 Domingo: Jer 20:7-9; Sal 63:2-6, 8-9; Rom 12:1-2; Mt 16:21-27

**LITURGIA DEL DIA**

“Y ustedes, ¿quién dicen que soy yo?” Ésta es la pregunta que oímos a Jesús hacerles hoy a sus discípulos. También nosotros somos sus discípulos, por tanto sería bueno imaginarnos que el nos hace a nosotros la misma pregunta. No estaría mal hacernos eco de la respuesta de Pedro: “Tú eres el Mesías, el Hijo de Dios vivo”.

**PREGUNTA DE LA SEMANA**

¿Qué he aprendido acerca de Dios y de la voluntad de Dios mediante la oración?