

23rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

September 10, 2023

www.stjohnberchmans.com

GOD'S WATCHERS

If you ever thought that living as a Christian was always going to be easy, today's readings will convince you that this is not so. In the first reading from Ezekiel, the prophet was sent to convince the people in Jerusalem to return to God and God's ways; he bore rejection as a result of fulfilling his mission. In today's Gospel, Jesus instructs his followers to work toward reconciliation when we have been wronged, rather than remaining caught in anger or disappointment. Saint Paul captures what lies behind these instructions—love. "Love does no evil to the neighbor; hence, love is the fulfillment of the law." When we are tempted to walk away from a friend or co-worker with whom we disagree, or even more so when we worry that the person has turned away from the Lord, we are instead called to reach out in love.

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TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — Warn the wicked, trying to turn them from their ways (Ezekiel 33:7-9).

Psalm — Listen to God's voice today; be not hardhearted (Psalm 95).

Second Reading — Owe nothing to anyone, except mutual love (Romans 13:8-10).

Gospel — If two agree about anything for which they pray, it shall be granted to them (Matthew 18:15-20).

LOS VIGILANTES DE DIOS

Si alguna vez pensaste que vivir como cristiano siempre iba a ser fácil, las lecturas de hoy te convencerán de que esto no es así. En la primera lectura de Ezequiel, el profeta fue enviado para convencer a la gente en Jerusalén de que volviera a Dios y a los caminos de Dios; sufrió rechazo como resultado del cumplimiento de su misión. En el Evangelio de hoy, Jesús instruye a sus seguidores a trabajar hacia la reconciliación cuando hemos sido agraviados, en lugar de permanecer atrapados en la ira o la decepción. San Pablo capta lo que hay detrás de estas instrucciones: el amor. "El amor no hace mal al prójimo; por lo tanto, el amor es el cumplimiento de la ley". Cuando nos sentimos tentados a alejarnos de un amigo o compañero de trabajo con quien no estamos de acuerdo, o aún más cuando nos preocupa que la persona se haya alejado del Señor, en su lugar estamos llamados a tender la mano en amor.

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LECTURAS DE HOY

Primera lectura — Somos responsables unos de otros y debemos guiarnos mutuamente (Ezequiel 33:7-9).

Salmo - Escucha la voz de Dios hoy; no seas duro de corazón (Salmo 95).

Segunda lectura - La ley del amor nos obliga (Romanos 13:8-10).

Evangelio - Jesús está presente siempre que haya dos o tres reunidos en su nombre (Mateo 18:15-20).



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
Margie Zuniga
Ann Marie Eickenroht
Rosemary Flores
Anthony Ramirez

Carmen Garza
Gloria Rubio
Duncan Paul Brown
Lisa Brown
Mary Herrera
Rebecca Zuniga
Rosa Elva Villaseñor
Fred Guerra
Lupe Gomez
Mary Cano
Angie Canales
Joseph Kavanaugh
Rosie Gallegos
Isidoro Muñoz
Maritza Garcia
Saucedo Family
Sandy Flores
Liam Adrian Martinez

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 SEPTEMBER 3, 2023

5 PM Mass -\$ 812.00
9 AM Mass -\$ 852.00
11 AM Mass -\$1,214.00
Capital Expenditures -\$ 779.00 2nd Collection
Drop Off -\$ 1,146.00
Gift of Giving -\$ 133.45
TOTAL \$4,836.45

SECOND COLLECTION September 9-10, 2023 Good Samaritans of SJB

2023 GIFT OF GIVING

Contributions ending Sept. 3, 2023 \$ 163.00
TOTAL \$ 11,386.27



MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, September 9

5:00 p.m. † Roger G. Garcia - Robert Buchanan
 † Roland Rendon - Socorro & Raquel
 † Ramon C. Campa - Family

Sunday, September 10 - GRANDPARENT'S DAY

9:00 a.m. † Mr. Rosario Juarez - Angelita Canales
 † Juan C. Velasquez - Daughter
 † Jacinta Weddel - Daughter
 † Hope Esquivel - Guadalupanas
 † Daniel C. & Maria Arzola - Family
 † Paul & Juan Salinas - Salinas Family
 † Suzanne Gutierrez - Salinas Family
 † Daniel "Danny Romero" - Josie Toste

11:00 a.m. † Conchita Villarreal - Family
 † Frances Ramirez - SJB Family

Monday, September 11

Tuesday, September 12

12:00 p.m. † Deacon Librado Cena - SJB Family
 Gift of Life Socorro Castillo - Family

Wednesday, September 13

8:15 a.m. † Johnny Thienpont - SJB Family

Thursday, September 14

12:00 p.m. † Maria Polanco - SJB Family
 Gift of Life Sandra D. Martinez - Family

Friday, September 15

12:00 p.m. † Robert & Yvonne Persyn - SJB Family

ONLINE DONATIONS:

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

5 GIFTS for VIRGIN MARY

1 A CLEAN HEART

Make a good **confession** around the time of the Birthday of Mary. Offer the "Immaculate one" a **clean heart**.

2 TO INVOKE HER

Have her **in your heart** constantly, as a little child does with his mother.

3 IMITATE HER VIRTUES

Mary has many virtues, but the most important one we should imitate is **charity**.

4 READ SOME MARIAN BOOKS

Great Marian books can help you **grow in love** for Virgin Mary.

5 PRAY THE ROSARY

Ask Mary to intercede for **the world** and for **your own intentions**.



From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Parishioners and Friends:

I arrived safely in San Antonio, Texas! The time spent with my family and friends was wonderful! Angelique, my daughter, is expecting to give birth soon. He may be a boy! I just need to start picturing my new title, Father Fidèle Dikete, Grandpa! Thanks to all of you who remembered my daughter Angelique with prayers or tokens of support and appreciation.

How exciting to receive you in our newly renovated church! The church looks beautiful and all the upgrades are amazing! Thank you, my parishioners, for your patience and generosity. I encourage you to continue cleaning the house of the Lord every Saturday as we have done for the past 10 years. We are blessed to be able to clean, mop and maintain the house of the Lord in such wonderful shape. Please invite your fellow parishioners and friends to help beautify the house of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Thank you for your hard work, dedication, patience and generosity. Let us remember to maintain our church in wonderful condition by everyone taking care of pews, seats, etc.

We welcome all our Religious Education program children and their parents to a new year! I am very excited for the opportunity to teach them about our faith and learn from each other. Our Catechists under the leadership of Cyndi Sandoval, Director of Religious Education Program are ready to guide and exemplify our Christian identify and values with our children. I thank all the Catechists, parents, parishioners and volunteers for your commitment to serve St. John Berchmans and our precious children. It takes a village to raise a child.

Our Fall Festival 2023 is three weeks away, on 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 raise the money needed for our church community. Please pick up 100 raffle tickets and sell as many as you can. Thank you.

May God bless you!



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

Announcements

www.stjohnberchmans.com

 **FOOD HANDLING TRAINING**
MANDATORY Training for all individuals who will be assisting in Food booths for the parish festival. In the event you are unable to attend, please send someone in your place.
DATE: WEDNESDAY
SEPTEMBER 13, 2023 AT 7PM
IN THE SCHOOL CAFETERIA.



Sunday, September 10 - CCD CLASSES BEGIN
9:00 a.m. Bilingual Mass - Cafeteria
11:00 a.m. Mass - Cafeteria

Monday, September 11

Tuesday, September 12
12:00 p.m. Mass - Chapel

Wednesday, September 13
8:15 a.m. School Mass - Cafeteria
10:00 a.m. Adult Faith Enrichment-Formation House
2:00 p.m. 15 Minute Coffee with Fr. Fidèle
7:00 p.m. Food Handling Meeting - Cafeteria


Thursday, September 14
12:00 p.m. Mass - Chapel

Friday, September 15
12:00 p.m. Mass - Chapel

Saturday, September 16
5:00 p.m. Mass - Church

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES
Sunday: Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time; Grandparents' Day
Monday: Patriot Day
Tuesday: The Most Holy Name of Mary
Wednesday: St. John Chrysostom
Thursday: The Exaltation of the Holy Cross
Friday: Our Lady of Sorrows; Rosh Hashanah (Jewish New Year 5784) begins at sundown
Saturday: Ss. Cornelius and Cyprian

HAPPY GRANDPARENTS DAY
SUNDAY,
SEPTEMBER 10, 2023
Don't forget to acknowledge all the awesome Grandparents in your family and those within our St. John Berchmans community.
You're an integral part of the family and we pray for God's blessings of good health, peace and love, and **THANKS FOR FILLING THE WORLD WITH LOVE!**



THOMPSON NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
Will hold its next meeting **Tuesday, September 12, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.** and is held at the Brentwood Middle School Cafeteria, 1626 W. Thompson Place. All residents are encouraged to attend. This organization acts as a forum for neighbors to discuss community needs, concerns and recommendations to improve the image and livability of our neighborhood.




CHURCH CLEAN UP DAY
SATURDAY 8:00AM
IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN!!! COME ONE, COME ALL!!!
REMEMBER "A SHORT TIME DEVOTED TO TAKING CARE OF THE LORD'S HOUSE IS A SMALL PRICE TO PAY FOR ALL THAT HE DOES FOR US EACH AND EVERY DAY." **MINISTRY SCHEDULE WILL BE FORTHCOMING. THANK YOU AS ALWAYS!!!**



FESTIVAL BINGO
We need your help for our Festival Bingo. At this time, we desperately need Prizes of \$10.00 or more.
Also need volunteers to help out on the floor (Check bingo winners and sell Specials). For more information, please contact Marie Sanchez or Dora Duran. As always, we thank you for your support.



Announcements! **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. Bulletins are printed on Thursdays.



WELCOME TO OUR CHURCH FAMILY **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.



“Whatever you bind on earth, shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. (Matthew 18:18)

Jesus gave Peter a specific ministry that came with authority and grace: the power to bind and loose. In today's Gospel, Jesus wants us to understand that both our forgiveness and our failure to forgive have an effect on people. By our words and thoughts in our hearts, we can keep someone bound in condemnation or judgement. Forgiveness always releases people from the chains of guilt or shame. Today we hear Jesus assure his disciples that wherever two or three are gathered in his name, he is there with them. Our confidence in his promise assures us that Jesus is here with us now as we celebrate Eucharist together.

5 REASONS TO STAY UNTIL THE END OF MASS

Most of us have probably done it at least once or twice? We make a beeline for the door with our heads down after receiving communion or even before the Pastor leaves the church. We hope our Pastor and friends won't notice but **SOMEONE DOES!**

- 1) **Communion is about Communing:** When we receive communion, we receive Jesus himself. In order to commune, we have to actually savor this special time with Him and take a few moments to be with our Lord.
- 2) **It's Not Nice to Be Rude:** Many times we think, I have to run because I have so much to do, or so-and-so is waiting for me. But why is it easy for us to leave early and come late when it is the Creator of the Universe who is hoping to see us?
- 3) **Mass is Not An Activity on a To-Do List:** The Christian life is not a to-do list. It is an invitation to be in relationship with God. We are called to relationship, to holiness, and to transformation.
- 4) **The Final Blessing is Important:** Blessings are precious. When a priest, gives his final blessing, we are being blessed by God himself.
- 5) **You Get MORE Grace:** According to Catechism, “the fruit of the sacraments...depend on the disposition of the one who receives them.” It deserves a disposition of great respect, if only because we need all the grace we can get.

SILENT AUCTION DONATION REQUESTS

As our Fall Festival is approaching we are still in need of donations for our **Silent Auction table**. Any and all donations are appreciated i.e. Wine bottles, cash or gift cards. This year St. John Berchmans School will be in charge and our parents will be putting all the items together for the silent auction.

For more information, please contact Alec Suarez (210) 428-3500 **OR** email: alecsuarez1206@gmail.com.

As always, we thank you for your continued support!!

LA ESQUINA DE ORACIÓN CATÓLICA

Para Rezar el Rosario

1. Comenzar en el crucifijo y decir el Credo de los Apóstoles.
2. En la primera cuenta, reza un Padre Nuestro.
3. En cada una de las tres cuentas siguientes, reza el Ave María.
4. En la siguiente cuenta, reza un Gloria.
5. Piensa en el primer misterio del grupo de misterios seleccionado para la meditación del día y reza un Padre Nuestro en la misma cuenta.
6. En cada una de las diez cuentas siguientes, reza un Ave María. Sigue con un Gloria.
7. Repite los pasos 5 y 6 para cada uno de los cinco misterios.

LECTURAS DE LA SEMANA

Lunes: Col 1:24 - 2:3; Sal 62:6-7, 9; Lc 6:6-11

Martes: Col 2:6-15; Sal 145:1b-2, 8-11; Lc 6:12-19

Miércoles: Col 3:1-11; Sal 145:2-3, 10-13ab; Lc 6:20-26

Jueves: Nm 21:4b-9; Sal 78:1bc-2, 34-38; Fil 2:6-11; Jn 3:13-17

Viernes: 1 Tim 1:1-2, 12-14; Sal 16:1b-2a, 5, 7-8, 11; Jn 19:25-27 o Lc 2:33-35

Sábado: 1 Tim 1:15-17; Sal 113:1b-7; Lc 6:43-49

Domingo: Ecl 27:30 - 28:9; Sal 103:1-4, 9-12; Rom 14:7-9; Mt 18:21-35

LITURGIA DEL DIA

Hoy oímos a Jesús asegurarles a sus discípulos que donde dos o tres se reúnen en su nombre, ahí estará en medio de ellos. Nuestra confianza en la promesa de Jesús nos asegura que él está aquí junto a nosotros ahora que estamos reunidos para celebrar la Eucaristía. Conscientes de que Dios está en medio de nosotros unamos nuestras voces y levantemos nuestro corazón hacia el Señor.

PREGUNTA DE LA SEMANA

¿Con quienes necesito reconciliarme? ¿De que manera fructifera puedo hacerlo?