

24th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

September 17, 2023

www.stjohnberchmans.com

MISSING THE POINT

“You missed the point,” we might be tempted to shout at the servant in today’s Gospel. His master had just forgiven a huge debt when he cried for mercy, and yet, when given the opportunity to show mercy himself, he instead acted violently and with retribution toward a fellow servant. Certainly, he had missed the point of his master’s merciful actions toward him, and suffered the consequences as a result. He missed the point. He is not alone, however. We all “miss the point” sometimes—we miss the point of God’s enduring covenant of love, and miss the mark in our call to live as though we are the Lord’s, for this is who we are. God’s love is always about what is just and right. As God’s people, we are to live and die for the Lord, forgive even when it doesn’t make sense to do so, and leave the rest in God’s hands.

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TODAY’S READINGS

First Reading - Remember the commandments and hate not your neighbor (Sirach 27:30 — 28:7).

Psalms — The Lord is of surpassing kindness to those who fear him (Psalm 103).

Second Reading — Whether we live, or whether we die, we do so for the Lord (Romans 14:7-9).

Gospel — Forgive one another from your heart (Matthew 18:21-35).

NO SE ENTIENDE LO QUE SE DICE

“No has entendido nada”, podríamos estar tentados de gritar al siervo del Evangelio de hoy. Su amo acababa de perdonar una enorme deuda cuando él clamó por misericordia, y sin embargo, cuando tuvo la oportunidad de mostrar misericordia él mismo, en lugar de eso actuó violentamente y con retribución hacia un compañero. Ciertamente, no entendió el sentido de las acciones misericordiosas de su amo hacia él, y sufrió las consecuencias como resultado. No entendió nada. Sin embargo, no es el único. Todos “perdemos el rumbo” a veces: perdemos el rumbo de la alianza de amor duradera de Dios, y perdemos el rumbo en nuestra llamada a vivir como si fuéramos del Señor, porque esto es lo que somos. El amor de Dios siempre tiene que ver con lo que es justo y correcto. Como pueblo de Dios, debemos vivir y morir por el Señor, perdonar incluso cuando no tiene sentido hacerlo, y dejar el resto en manos de Dios.

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LECTURAS DE HOY

Primera lectura — No podemos fomentar el rencor y esperar que se nos perdonen nuestros pecados (Siracide 27:30 — 28:7).

Salmo — El Señor es de gran bondad para con aquellos que le temen (Salmo 103).

Segunda lectura — Ya sea que vivamos o muramos, lo hacemos en Cristo (Romanos 14:7-9).

Evangelio — Jesús dice que debemos perdonar no sólo siete veces sino setenta veces siete veces (Mateo 18:21-35).



Please Pray for the Sick

Prayer List Updates



Sarah Contreras
Marty Carrera Tobias
Frances Lozano
Irma Urias
Mary S. Martinez
Galilea Romero
Iris Luna Sullivan
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
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 10, 2023

5 PM Mass - \$ 570.00
9 AM Mass - \$ 931.00
11 AM Mass - \$1,580.00
Good Samaritans - \$ 480.00 2nd Collection
Drop Off - \$ 345.00
Gift of Giving - \$ 196.20
TOTAL \$4,102.20

SECOND COLLECTION September 16 - 17, 2023 Altar Flowers

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

2023 GIFT OF GIVING

Contributions ending Sept. 10, 2023 \$ 196.20
TOTAL \$ 11,582.47



Saturday, September 16

5:00 p.m. † Brandon Peña - Lore Family
† William Valdez - M/M Rey Garza

Sunday, September 17

9:00 a.m. † Gilberto Terrazas - Angelita Canales
† Daniel C. & Maria Arzola - Family
† Flores Torres - Sisters in Christ
† Francisco Ibarra - Leonor Rodriguez
Gift of Life Emma O. Velasquez - Daughter

11:00 a.m. † Ramona Ybarra - Ybarra Family
† Luis Duran - Wife & Family
† Paul & Juan Salinas - Salinas Family
† Suzanne Gutierrez - Salinas Family
† JoAnne Almaguer - Judy Ortiz & Family

Monday, September 18

Gift of Life Fr. Fidele Dikete - SJB Family

Tuesday, September 19

12:00 p.m. † Sandra Guerra & Rene Lozano - SJB Family

For Health Frances Lozano - SJB Family

Wednesday, September 20

8:15 a.m. † Trinidad Torres - Neighbors

Thursday, September 21

12:00 p.m. † Hilda Valdez - SJB Family

For Health Kenny De La Rosa - Family

Friday, September 22

12:00 p.m. † Pedro, Lillie & John Ruiz - SJB Family

ONLINE DONATIONS:

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

CATHOLIC PRAYER CORNER

Prayer after the Rosary

O God, whose only-begotten Son, by his life, death, and resurrection, has purchased for us the rewards of eternal life; grant, we beseech you, that, meditating upon these mysteries of the Most Holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we may imitate what they contain and obtain what they promise, through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

FORGIVE OTHERS

There are many kinds of alms the giving of which helps us to obtain pardon for our sins; but none is greater than that by which we forgive from our heart a sin that someone has committed against us.
—St. Augustine



Dear Parishioners and Friends:

How exciting to welcome you to 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 responsibility to take care of our pews, kneelers, floors, 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 identity 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 two weeks away, on **Saturday, September 30th from 2pm until midnight**. I invite you to support our efforts and make this Fall festival a huge success. 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.

I invite you to continue praying for my daughter, Angelique Dikete, to deliver a healthy baby and to be a great Mother. Thank you!

May God bless you!

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

Announcements

www.stjohnberchmans.com



REMINDER OUR FALL FESTIVAL IS QUICKLY APPROACHING AND WE NEED YOUR HELP!!
We ask that you please submit all monies for raffle tickets to our Parish office. Ticket sales are slow and we are encouraging everyone to make a STRONG effort and help us make this RAFFLE a success. Thanks!



READINGS FOR THE WEEK
 Mon: 1 Tm 2:1-8; Ps 28:2, 7-9; Lk 7:1-10
 Tue: 1 Tm 3:1-13; Ps 101:1b-3ab, 5-6; Lk 7:11-17
 Wed: 1 Tm 3:14-16; Ps 111:1-6; Lk 7:31-35
 Thu: Eph 4:1-7, 11-13; Ps 19:2-5; Mt 9:9-13
 Fri: 1 Tm 6:2c-12; Ps 49:6-10, 17-20; Lk 8:1-3
 Sat: 1 Tm 6:13-16; Ps 100:1b-5; Lk 8:4-15
 Sun: Is 55:6-9; Ps 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18; Phil 1:20c-24, 27a; Mt 20:1-16a



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 SCHEDULED - SATURDAY, SEPT. 23RD
ACTS/JOY


- Sunday, September 17**
 9:00 a.m. Bilingual Mass - CHURCH
 11:00 a.m. Mass - CHURCH
- Monday, September 18 - FR. FIDELÈ'S BIRTHDAY**
- Tuesday, September 19**
 12:00 p.m. Communion Service - CHAPEL
- Wednesday, September 20**
 8:15 a.m. School Mass - CHURCH
 10:00 a.m. Adult Faith Enrichment-Formation House
 2:00 p.m. 15 Minute Coffee with Fr. Fidèle
- Thursday, September 21**
 12:00 p.m. Mass - CHAPEL
- Friday, September 22**
 12:00 p.m. Mass - CHAPEL
- Saturday, September 23**
 5:00 p.m. Mass - CHURCH



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.


THE SANCTUARY CANDLE BURNS FOR:

JUAN C. VELASQUEZ
EMMA O. VELASQUEZ



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

REST IN PEACE
 We offer condolences and sympathy to our parishioners and their families who have experienced the loss of their loved ones:
† RODOLFO NICOLAS GUERRERO




HOLY SPIRIT PRAYER
 By St. Augustine

1 Breathe in me, O Holy Spirit, That my thoughts may all be holy.

2 Act in me, O Holy Spirit, That my work, too, may be holy.

3 Draw my heart, O Holy Spirit, That I love but what is holy.

4 Strengthen me, O Holy Spirit, To defend all that is holy.

5 Guard me, then, O Holy Spirit, That I always may be holy.

CatholicLink

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.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY FATHER FIDÈLE!!!

As our Pastor you are our mentor and spiritual leader. We appreciate your faithfulness and wish you the very best birthday. You have sown the right seeds of God's word into our hearts and you continue to inspire countless lives through your sermons and acts of kindness.

We wish you good health, happiness and everlasting joy as you continue to serve the Lord in the Ministry he has given you. **Blessings always!**

THE CROSS FOR FORGIVENESS

Why should we forgive those who hurt us? The gospel this Sunday gives three reasons: 1) Because Jesus commands it. 2) because forgiveness is part of loving one another and 3) because we want to be forgiven for our sins.

Here Jesus commands us to forgive unceasingly, without limit and that could be a challenge for most of us. Does that mean we have to let someone hurt us over and over? Forgiveness is part of love, it is also part of tough love.

Remember, Jesus has already died for our sins. If we truly believe that Jesus is risen and that we will rise to eternal life with him in spite of our sins, how can we refuse to forgive someone who hurts us?



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 moment 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!!

LECTURAS DE LA SEMANA

Lunes: 1 Tim 2:1-8; Sal 28:2, 7-9; Lc 7:1-10

Martes: 1 Tim 3:1-13; Sal 101:1b-3ab, 5-6; Lc 7:11-17

Miércoles: 1 Tim 3:14-16; Sal 111:1-6; Lc 7:31-35

Jueves: Ef 4:1-7, 11-13; Sal 19:2-5; Mt 9:9-13

Viernes: 1 Tim 6:2c-12; Sal 49:6-10, 17-20; Lc 8:1-3

Sábado: 1 Tim 6:13-16; Sal 100:1b-5; Lc 8:4-15

Domingo: Is 55:6-9; Sal 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18; Fil 1:20c-24, 27a; Mt 20:1-16a

LITURGIA DEL DIA

Las lecturas de hoy nos recuerdan cuan importante es perdonar. Aun mas, nos enseñan a ser personal que saben perdonar y demostrar misericordia hacia los que nos han hecho mal, ya sea en cosas grandes o pequeñas. Estemos resueltos a personal a nuestro projimo, a remediar nuestras relaciones, y a mostrar bondad y misericordia en nuestra vida.

PREGUNTA DE LA SEMANA

¿Como permit que el resentimiento se desarolle en mi corazon? ¿A quienes necesito acercarme y perdonar?