

# 25th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

September 24, 2023

www.stjohnberchmans.com

## UNFAIR!

Children are usually still quite young the first time they have occasion to shout, "That's not fair!" At some point in our lives, we've probably all felt the bitterness of unfairness. Today's readings agree that life isn't always fair—yet, unexpectedly, invite us to rejoice! We rejoice because God's mercy is totally unfair: God lavishes us with forgiveness and love even when we deserve less. Both the reading from Isaiah and the psalm praise the great mercy of God, mercy that forgives our sins over and over. In the Gospel parable, Jesus demonstrates that God longs to give good things to all of us, even to those who seem less worthy. When Saint Paul reflects on God's goodness, embodied in Jesus Christ, he can hardly wait to enter his heavenly reward. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

## TODAY'S READINGS

**First Reading** — Turn to the LORD, who is generous in forgiving (Isaiah 55:6-9).

**Psalm** — Our holy Lord is good to all who call upon his name (Psalm 145).

**Second Reading** — Live your lives in a way worthy of the gospel of Christ (Philippians 1:20c-24, 27a).

**Gospel** — The last will be first, and the first will be last (Matthew 20:1-16a).

## ¡INJUSTO!

Los niños suelen ser todavía muy pequeños la primera vez que tienen ocasión de gritar: "¡No es justo!" En algún momento de nuestras vidas, probablemente todos hemos sentido la amargura de la injusticia. Las lecturas de hoy coinciden en que la vida no siempre es justa y, sin embargo, nos invitan a alegrarnos. Nos alegramos porque la misericordia de Dios es totalmente injusta: Dios nos colma de perdón y amor incluso cuando merecemos menos. Tanto la lectura de Isaías como el salmo alaban la gran misericordia de Dios, misericordia que perdona nuestros pecados una y otra vez. En la parábola del Evangelio, Jesús demuestra que Dios anhela darnos cosas buenas a todos, incluso a los que parecen menos dignos. Cuando san Pablo reflexiona sobre la bondad de Dios, encarnada en Jesucristo, apenas puede esperar a entrar en su recompensa celestial. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

## LECTURAS DE HOY

**Primera lectura** — Vuélvete al Señor, que es generoso en perdonar (Isaías 55:6-9).

**Salmo** — Nuestro santo Señor es bueno para todos los que invocan su nombre (Salmo 145).

**Segunda lectura** — Cristo se magnificará a través de mí, sea que yo viva o que muera (Filipenses 1:20c-24, 27a).

**Evangelio** — Los últimos serán los primeros y los primeros serán los últimos (Mateo 20:1-16a).



## 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  
Antonia Degollado  
Miguel Tellez  
Michael P. Ramirez  
Alfred Marin

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 17, 2023

5 PM Mass - \$ 690.00  
9 AM Mass - \$ 558.00  
11 AM Mass - \$1,607.00  
Altar Flowers - \$ 298.00 2nd Collection  
Mail In - \$ 305.00  
Gift of Giving - \$ 220.15  
**TOTAL \$3,878.15**

## SECOND COLLECTION September 23-24, 2023 **Religious Education**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!**

## 2023 GIFT OF GIVING

Contributions ending Sept. 17, 2023 \$ 220.15  
**TOTAL \$ 11,802.62**

# MASS INTENTIONS

## Saturday, September 23

5:00 p.m. † Ramona C. Campa - Family  
 † Henry Z. Vidal - Janie Vidal  
 † Cameron Carrillo - Angelita Borrego  
**Gift of Life** Clay Castillo - Tias  
**For Health** Joann Hopkins - SJB Family

## Sunday, September 24

9:00 a.m. † Ramon C. Campa - Family  
 † Daniel C. & Maria Arzola - Family  
 † Carlos Chavez - M/M Rey Garza  
**For Health** Ronnie Ruiz - Cuellar Family  
 11:00 a.m. † Paul & Juan Salinas - Salinas Family  
 † Suzanne Gutierrez - Salinas Family  
 † Alicia & Ricardo Esparza - Children  
**For Health** Joann Hopkins - SJB Family

## Monday, September 25

## Tuesday, September 26

12:00 p.m. For All The Holy Souls in Purgatory  
 † Esperanza Hernandez - SJB Family

## Wednesday, September 27 - ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

8:15 a.m. † Elenita Garcia - SJB Family  
 † Raul & Carmen Iruegas - SJB Family

## Thursday, September 28 - ST. WENCESLAUS

12:00 p.m. † Vicky Valdez - SJB Family  
**For Health** Antonia Degollado - SJB Family

## Friday, September 29 -

### ST. MICHAEL, GABRIEL AND RAPHAEL

12:00 p.m. † Roger G. Garcia - Family  
 † Rafaela De La Rosa - Sandra D. Martinez  
**Gift of Life** Richard Santoyo - Family



## CATHOLIC PRAYER CORNER

### Prayer to Saint Michael



Holy Michael the archangel,  
 defend us in battle.  
 Be our protection against the  
 wickedness and snares of the devil.  
 May God rebuke him,  
 we humbly pray; and do you,  
 O Prince of the heavenly host,  
 by the divine power thrust into hell  
 Satan and all the other evil spirits  
 who wander through the world  
 seeking the ruin of souls.

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Parishioners and Friends:

Our Fall Festival 2023 is a week away, on **Saturday, September 30th from 2 in the afternoon until midnight**. I invite each one of you to support our efforts and make this Fall Festival a huge success. The festival committee has been working diligently to organize and plan this yearly celebration. We have several bands in place, DJ, music, food booths, children rides, raffle, drinks, silent auction, etc.

Please remember our Fall festival is our only yearly fundraiser for the parish. Please be as generous as you can by either selling raffle tickets, donating towards special collection or volunteering in different capacities. Sell your raffle tickets as soon as you can and bring in the money. Let us come together to celebrate all the blessings and raise the money for our church community. We are also in need of sodas and water. Remember 80% of the benefit of the festival will be used to pay for the upgrade of our air conditioning units.

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

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 to our Religious Education and RCIA program. Classes for CCD are now underway and RCIA begins October 2nd. We are excited to teach our youth and adults about our faith. Our Catechists under the leadership of Cyndi Sandoval, DRE, and Victor Araguz, RCIA Director are ready to begin their commitment to serve our St. John Berchmans community.

**May God bless you!**

**Fr. Fidèle Okitembo Dikete, Pastor**  
[fr.fidele@stjohnberchmans.com](mailto:fr.fidele@stjohnberchmans.com)

# Announcements

www.stjohnberchmans.com



## REMINDER:

We will CELEBRATE MASS AT 10AM on Saturday, September 30th. Fr. Fidèle invites everyone to celebrate the Eucharist as one body on the day of the Festival.

Festival begins at 2PM. We ask that everyone Please make an effort to come out and support our parish festival. Remember this is our only financial fundraiser which supports our parish. Also please sell your Raffle Tickets!!!!

Tell your friends and neighbors and let's make this Festival one for the books! Thank you for always rising to the occasion.

ALSO PARISH OFFICE CLOSED SATURDAY (9/30)

## THIS WEEK!

Here's What's On The Calendar!

ShareAFaith

### Sunday, September 24

9:00 a.m. Bilingual Mass - CHURCH  
11:00 a.m. MASS - CHURCH

### Monday, September 25

### Tuesday, September 26

12:00 p.m. MASS - CHAPEL

### Wednesday, September 27

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 28

12:00 p.m. MASS - CHAPEL

### Friday, September 29

12:00 p.m. MASS - CHAPEL

### Saturday, September 30 - PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

10:00 a.m. MASS - CHURCH  
2:00 p.m. PARISH FESTIVAL

## THE SANCTUARY CANDLE BURNS FOR:



ANGIE RAMIREZ  
FRANCES LOZANO

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

## ONLINE DONATIONS:

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

## CHURCH CLEAN UP DAY

SATURDAY 8:00AM

Parish Community it is that time again!! We find ourselves week after week with only a handful of individuals showing up to help us clean our church.

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. 30TH  
HOSPITALITY



## FESTIVAL BINGO

START TIME: 2:30 p.m.

COST: \$10.00 a card for 15 games.

Single games \$1.00 each any time before the Bingo begins.

We still need volunteers to work the floor. Also in need of Prizes:

\$10.00 or more.

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

## ABIDE IN ME

"Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him." John 6:56

Led by Fr. George Antony O.P

## FREE EVENT

- HOLY MASS
- PRAISE & WORSHIP
- EUCHARISTIC ADORATION
- EUCHARISTIC PROCESSION

ST. JOHN BERCHMANS CATHOLIC CHURCH  
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2023

6:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Sponsored by Shalom Media, Inc.  
SHALOMMEDIA.ORG



## Announcements!

## 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.



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.

**THE LORD IS NEAR TO ALL WHO CALL UPON HIM**

*“Are you envious because I am generous? Thus, the last will be first, and the first will be last”.*

**Matthew 20:15-16**

This weekend's Gospel talks to us about the boundless generosity of our Heavenly Father. The landowner who represents God, hires laborers throughout the day, showing no partiality in offering employment. At the end of the day, he pays each worker the same wage, regardless of the hours they worked. This reminds us that God's grace knows no limits.

This parable calls us to look beyond our human understanding of fairness and celebrating the success of others. We can care more about bringing Jesus to others than we do about our own comfort. We can do this because we know the Lord's ways are not fair—they are more generous than we can imagine.



**RCIA (RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS) CLASSES**

Adults wanting to become full, participating members of the Catholic Church are encouraged to attend these classes. Mr. Victor Araguz, RCIA Director, will begin on **Monday, October 2, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the Formation House.**

If you have any questions, regarding our program, please contact Mr. Victor Araguz at (210) 622-5359 or via email: [blessedcre007@gmail.com](mailto:blessedcre007@gmail.com)

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION INFORMATION**

- Confirmation Parent Meeting on Wednesday, September 27th at 6:30 pm in the School Cafeteria.
- **CCD Classes on Sunday, October 1st are cancelled.** Classes will resume on Sunday, October 8th.
- Our turn to clean the Church in November will be announced at a later date.



Join Fr. Fidèle for our Annual Blessing of the Animals on **Wednesday, October 4, 2023 at 6 p.m., and will take place by the Bell Tower.**

We celebrate the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi on this day who is recognized as the Catholic Church's patron saint of animals. However, he is also remembered for his love of nature, generosity to the poor and his willingness to minister to the lepers.

**OUR FASCINATING FAITH**

**Archangels Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael (September 29)**

According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, angels exist to glorify and serve God and to help with God's plan for salvation by cooperating with our good deeds. They can help us if we collaborate with them for the glory of God. In this hierarchy of closeness to God, the archangels are next to last in power, although they are the most sought after because of their responsibility to care for the four cardinal points of creation. According to Hebraic tradition, there are seven archangels (Tobias 12:15) of which holy scripture mentions only three by name: Michael ("Who is like God?"), Gabriel ("strong one of God"), and Rafael ("God heals").



—Friar Gilberto Cavazos-González, OFM, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

**LECTURAS DE LA SEMANA**

- Lunes: Esd 1:1-6; Sal 126:1b-6; Lc 8:16-18
- Martes: Esd 6:7-8, 12b, 14-20; Sal 122:1-5; Lc 8:19-21
- Miércoles: Esd 9:5-9; Tob:13:2, 3-4, 7-8; Lc 9:1-6
- Jueves: Ag 1:1-8; Sal 149:1b-6a, 9b; Lc 9:7-9
- Viernes: Dn 7:9-10, 13-14 o Apo 12:7-12a; Sal 138:1-5; Jn 1:47-51
- Sábado: Zac 2:5-9, 14-15a; Jer 31:10-12ab, 13; Lc 9:43b-45
- Domingo: Ez 18:25-28; Sal 25:4-9; Fil 2:1-11; Mt 21:28-32

**LITURGIA DEL DIA**

Después de que algo terrible sucede en nuestra vida, puede que lleguemos a la conclusión de que no le importamos a Dios, que Dios nos ha abandonado o que Dios no existe. Isaías trata de recalcarles a sus oyentes que nunca vamos a entender las obras y los pensamientos de Dios. Tenemos la confianza de que pase lo que pase Dios está con nosotros. Que tengamos presente esta verdad al reunirnos aquí en el nombre de Dios.

**PREGUNTA DE LA SEMANA**

¿Cómo puedo priorizar la generosidad sobre la justicia en la manera en que trato a los demás?