

# St. John Berchmans Catholic Church

1147 Cupples Road, San Antonio, TX 78226 210-434-3247 FAX 210-432-0431  
www.stjohnberchmans.com



Welcoming and liturgical community celebrating the spiritual needs of God's people in the spirit of St. John Berchmans.  
*"My penance is to live the common life. I will pay greatest attention to the least inspiration of God."* - St. John Berchmans

## Parish Office Staff:

Fr. Fidèle O. Dikete, Pastor • Deacon Jesus Rodriguez

Stella Rico, Secretary  
Olivia Lopez, Bookkeeper/Office Manager  
Andrew Solis, Bus Maintenance  
Christine McWilliams, WebMaster/ FB

Connie Peché, Family Records  
Joan Orosco, Sacristan/Bereavement  
Kathy Flores, Sacramental Records  
Cynthia Sandoval, Director of Religious Education

Raquel Castillo, Office Volunteer  
Olivia Santoyo, Bulletin Editor  
Grace Salinas, Office Volunteer

### Parish Office Hours:

Monday-Friday 9am-5pm  
Saturday 10am-2pm

### Mass Times:

Saturday Vigil 5pm-English  
Sunday 9am-Bilingual  
Sunday 11am-English

### Weekday Services:

Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday 12 Noon

### School Mass:

Wednesdays 8:15am (School Calendar)

### Holy Days of Obligation:

Bilingual Mass at 7pm

### Reconciliation:

Saturday 4:00pm or by appointment

### Adoration:

Every Thursday 9am-5pm

### Baptisms/Quinceñeras/Sweet 16:

Please contact office for more information

### Baptism Classes:

Please contact office for more information

### Weddings:

Father Fidèle Dikete, Pastor  
Please make an appointment  
six months in advance.

### CCD:

Sunday 9:30am – 12 Noon

### Good Samaritans of SJB:

Monday and Friday; 3pm - 5pm

**SJB School:** Nora Garcia, Principal - 210-433-0411

## Parish Ministries

### ACTS CORE FACILITATOR:

Emilio Semersky

esemersky@gmail.com

### ALTAR SERVERS:

Eddie Campa

ecampa@swri.org

### BOY & GIRL SCOUTS:

Aussie Mata

rotorwing2@gmail.com

### CHOIRS:

#### Saturday 5pm Choir

John A. Campa

jhowardcampa@aol.com

#### Sunday 9am Choir

Roy Sanchez

rsanchez34@satx.rr.com

#### Sunday 11am Choir

Javier Saucedo

javierrufus@gmail.com

### CYO:

Esmeralda "Ezmi" Tamez

ezmiet09@gmail.com

### CAFETERIA RENTAL:

Cecilia Sandoval

cecilsand@yahoo.com

### EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Linda Campbell

linda40849@satx.rr.com

### FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Elida Gonzales

redg90@sbcglobal.net

### GOOD SAMARITANS OF SJB:

John Diaz

Angie Diaz

johndiaz7538@sbcglobal.net

### GUADALUPANAS:

Sylvia Quintana

squintana7678@gmail.com

### FORMATION HOUSE RENTAL :

Cecilia Sandoval

cecilsand@yahoo.com

### HOSPITALITY:

Kathy Flores

kflores0411@att.net

### JOY MINISTRY:

Jessica Ramos

Chayo Gomez

jessicamosfischer@gmail.com

tootsweez@hotmail.com

### LECTORS:

Stella Rico

stellav28@att.net

### LITURGY COMMITTEE:

Joan Orosco

dorosco08@yahoo.com

### PASTORAL COUNCIL:

Kimberly Mata

mata\_kimberly@yahoo.com

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

Cyndi Sandoval

ventimochafrap@yahoo.com

### ROSARY MAKERS:

Victoria Sanchez

### SHARE THE WORD:

Rosalinda Garza

Garza\_rosalinda@att.net

### VIGIL TEAM:

Oralia Cantu

Dora Duran

dduran57@outlook.com

**DECEMBER 3, 2023 - FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

# FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 3, 2023

www.stjohnberchmans.com

## ADVENT - DECEMBER 3 - 24, 2023

More of us have had the experience of beginning a new stage in life, with the excitement and occasional stomach-churning newness of a moment that can put us a bit on edge. Advent—its first couple of Sundays in particular—has a similar role in the passage of time that we call the liturgical year. It's unlikely that the First Sunday of Advent makes many stomachs churn, but perhaps more would if we truly took it seriously that we are to make ourselves ready for the coming of the reign of God at any moment.

### WALK IN THE LIGHT

When we encounter the daily news, it can seem as though Isaiah's prophecy of swords turned into plowshares is running in reverse, making despair seem wiser than hopefulness. This is where Advent as the brink of God's reign comes into play. Advent can be a time for each of us to de-weaponize, even in the smallest of ways, the world around us. Advent's days offer a chance to look for opportunities to make the world a bit more hopeful for others. As we head through Advent, the elevated focus we have when we are standing at those new moments, those new stages of life, can help us tune out the despair, so we might open our ears and hearts to Jesus. This way, we can turn our backs on gloom, and accept Isaiah's invitation to walk in the light of the Lord: Jesus Christ, the Word-made-Flesh!



**TODAY'S READINGS:** Is 2:1-5; Ps 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9; Rom 13:11-14; Mt 24:37-44

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## ADVIENTO - DICIEMBRE 3 - 24, 2023

Somos más los que hemos tenido la experiencia de comenzar una nueva etapa en la vida, con la emoción y la ocasional novedad estomacal de un momento que puede ponernos un poco al límite. El Adviento -sus dos primeros domingos en particular- tiene un papel similar en el paso del tiempo que llamamos año litúrgico. Es poco probable que el primer domingo de Adviento haga que se revuelvan muchos estómagos, pero quizá lo harían más si nos tomáramos realmente en serio que debemos prepararnos para la llegada del reino de Dios en cualquier momento.

### CAMINAR EN LA LUZ



Cuando nos encontramos con las noticias cotidianas, puede parecer que la profecía de Isaías de las espadas convertidas en rejas de arado va al revés, haciendo que la desesperación parezca más sabia que la esperanza. Aquí es donde entra en juego el Adviento como el umbral del reino de Dios. El Adviento puede ser un tiempo para que cada uno de nosotros desarme, incluso en lo más mínimo, el mundo que nos rodea. Los días de Adviento ofrecen la oportunidad de buscar oportunidades para hacer que el mundo sea un poco más esperanzador para los demás. A medida que avanzamos en el Adviento, el enfoque elevado que tenemos cuando estamos en esos nuevos momentos, en esas nuevas etapas de la vida, puede ayudarnos a sintonizar con la desesperación, para poder abrir nuestros oídos y nuestros corazones a Jesús. De este modo, podemos dar la espalda a la tristeza y aceptar la invitación de Isaías a caminar en la luz del Señor: Jesucristo, la Palabra hecha carne.

**LECTURAS DE HOY:** Is 2:1-5; Sal 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9; Rom 13:11-14; Mt 24:37-44

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## Please Pray for the Sick

### Prayer List Updates

		
Sarah Contreras	Guadalupe Rodriguez	Mary Cano
Marty Carrera Tobias	Lori Bañuelos	Angie Canales
Frances Lozano	Joe Villanueva	Joseph Kavanaugh
Irma Urias	Edith Flores	Rosie Gallegos
Mary S. Martinez	Isaiah Vasquez	Isidoro Muñoz
Galilea Romero	Esther Nicholson	Maritza Garcia
Iris Luna Sullivan	Valerie Vigil	Saucedo Family
Emma O. Velasquez	Maldonado Family	Sandy Flores
Leticia Martinez	Margie Zuniga	Liam Adrian Martinez
Kenny De La Rosa	Ann Marie Eickenroht	Antonia Degollado
Raymond Sarabia	Rosemary Flores	Michael P. Ramirez
Frank Rodriguez	Anthony Ramirez	Alfred Marin
Julissa Rodriguez	Carmen Garza	Maria Martinez
Miliana Bullock	Gloria Rubio	Lucy Treviño & Family
Lydia Soriano	Lisa Brown	Angie Ramirez
Albert Casillas	Mary Herrera	Mickey S. Carrasco
Robert Sanchez	Rebecca Zuniga	Robert Prieto
Vanessa Quintero	Rosa Elva Villaseñor	Elizabeth Rose Valdez
Virginia R. Lucio	Lupe Gomez	

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 NOVEMBER 26, 2023



Tithes

5 PM Mass	-\$ 990.00
9 AM Mass	-\$ 754.00
11 AM Mass	-\$ 1,308.00
IGBO Mass	-\$ 155.00
Thanksgiving Day Mass	-\$ 435.00
Religious Education	-\$ 380.00 2nd Collection
Religious Education (IGBO)	-\$ 60.00 2nd Collection
Drop Off	-\$ 325.00
On Line	-\$ 61.00
Gift of Giving	-\$ 195.60
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 4,663.60</b>

## SECOND COLLECTION

December 2-3, 2023  
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

### 2023 GIFT OF GIVING

Contributions ending Nov. 26, 2023	\$ 195.60
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 13,818.46</b>

# MASS INTENTIONS

## Saturday, December 2

5:00 p.m. † Tomas Diaz - Olga Diaz  
Gift of Life Nancy Ramirez - Socorro & Raquel  
For Health Jaime & Jesus Gomez - Parish Family

## Sunday, December 3 - FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

9:00 a.m. † Daniel (Danny) Romero - Family  
† Adan Alonzo - Family  
† Daniel C. & Maria Arzola - Family  
† Petra Chavez - Sisters  
Gift of Life Destini Santos - Mom  
Gift of Life Xanthia Hernandez - Parents  
For Health Kenny De La Rosa - Family

11:00 a.m. † Robert Gallegos, Sr. - Wife & Family  
† F.J. Rodriguez - Dolores G  
† Paul & Juan Salinas - Salinas Family  
† Suzanne Gutierrez - Salinas Family  
† Cayetano Aragus - Aragus Family  
† Greg Peña - Aragus Family

## Monday, December 4

### Tuesday, December 5

12:00 p.m. † Pete Saucedo - Family  
† Maria Cura - Olivia Lopez

### Wednesday, December 6

8:15 a.m. † Adan Alonzo - Family  
† Fred Estrello - Cindi Sanchez

### Thursday, December 7 - ST. AMBROSE

12:00 p.m. † Gloria Martinez - Family  
† Graciela Treviño - Parish Family

### Friday, December 8 - THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

7:00 p.m. † Justin Rey Martinez - Family  
† Raul, Gloria & David Solis - Parish Family  
Gift of Life Olivia Guardiola - Mom

### THE SANCTUARY CANDLE LIT BY THE TABERNACLE BURNS FOR:



#### Linda Campbell

Let us remember the lamp is a mark of honor. 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:

† Gloria Martinez



Dear Parishioners and Friends:

You are invited to attend our Christmas Advent Talk this Thursday, December 7 at 7:00 p.m. in the Church. Fr. Michael DeGerolami will be the presenter. Please make a special effort to attend.

**Friday, December 8, 2023 is the day of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and a Holy Day of Obligation. All parishioners are required to attend the 7pm Bilingual Mass.**

In commemoration of Our Lady of Guadalupe which falls on Tuesday, December 12, 2023, **we will be celebrating Our Lady of Guadalupe on Sunday, December 10th at the 11a.m. Mass. However, Auxiliary Bishop Gary Janak will be celebrating Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass for our students, faculty and parents on Tuesday, December 12 at 8:15 a.m.** All are invited to attend.

The applications for *Christmas Gift of Giving* are available in the office or in the foyer of the Church. Parishioners in need of assistance during Christmas, please pick up the application, fill it out and return it to the office as soon as possible. I will be calling each applicant to come and receive their Christmas assistance.

I am launching a scholarship initiative to offer \$1,000 to each new registered student attending St. John Berchmans Catholic School for the academic year 2024-2025. The goal is to register 50 new students. I will be sponsoring a 5K on Mother's day weekend, Saturday, May 11, 2024 at Woodlawn Lake Park. Please spread the news and recruit as many new students as you can for our school. Together we can make a difference! It takes a village to raise a child!

I encourage you to sign up for our parish directory professional photograph. You may also consider volunteering in any capacity you can to make this parish directory a success. A parishioner who signs up will receive a directory and an 8 X 10 free portrait.

We are excited to share with you the anticipation of Christmas season! It is our intention to collect Christmas gifts for the children in our parish and neighborhoods. Gifts will be delivered to all the apartments complexes within our parish boundaries and will also be given to our CCD children. Please be generous by buying as many gifts as you can and drop them off in the parish office or after each mass in the church foyer. Please be kind and wrap your gift, indicate the gender and age of the child to be receiving the gift. Thank you for your understanding and willingness to share the magic of Christmas. God bless you always.

May God bless you!

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



**OUR FASCINATING FAITH - THE SEASON OF ADVENT... WHAT IS ADVENT?**

It is a period of four Sundays and weeks before Christmas. The word Advent means 'coming' in Latin, and refers to the coming of Jesus Christ into the world. We need to prepare our souls to receive Christ worthily. Advent should be marked by increased prayers, fasting and good works. We use this time of Advent to prepare and remember the real meaning of Christmas.

**THANK YOU!!!**

For your generosity of turkeys and food donations for this year's Annual Feast of Sharing. Through your efforts, we were able to provide food to 25 families within our parish community.

**Special Thanks to all the volunteers who helped deliver food.**

*"I have shown you that...you must help others and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, who said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." ACTS 20:35*

**UPCOMING IMPORTANT LITURGICAL EVENTS**

- ◆ **ADVENT TALK - FR. MIKE DEGEROLAMI**  
Thursday, December 7, 2023 at 7 p.m.
- ◆ **IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION)**  
**Bilingual Mass**— Friday, Dec. 8, 2023 at 7 p.m.  
**PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON FRIDAY, 12/8.**



**IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR!!**

If you would like to order a Christmas Poinsettia in memory of a loved one, please contact the Parish Office. The cost of poinsettia is \$10.

**SJB CHURCH DIRECTORY**

Reminder to schedule your Photo appointments. Everyone photographed will receive a complimentary 8X10 portrait and directory. A variety of poses, backgrounds, portrait sizes, finish and framing options are available. Portrait studio will be in the Formation House. Questions? Contact the Parish Office. **Dates to schedule your appointment: Dec 27 (Wed), 28 (Thu), 29 (Fri) & 30 (Sat).** Questions? Contact the Parish office.



**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

- Mon: Is 2:1-5; Ps 122:1-9; Mt 8:5-11
- Tue: Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Lk 10:21-24
- Wed: Rom 10:9-18; Ps 19:8-11; Mt 4:18-22
- Thu: Is 26:1-6; Ps 118:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27; Mt 7:21, 24-27
- Fri: Is 29:17-24; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Mt 9:27-31
- Sat: Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Ps 147:1-6; Mt 9:35 - 10:1, 5a, 6-8
- Sun: Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Rom 15:4-9; Mt 3:1-12



Regular Monthly meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 5, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

Location: Brentwood Middle School Cafeteria  
1626 W. Thompson Place

**Important community topics to be discussed!!**



**Sunday, December 3**

- 9:00 a.m. MASS - Church
- 11:00 a.m. MASS - Church

**Monday, December 4**

- 7:00 p.m. RCIA Classes - Formation House

**Tuesday, December 5**

- 12:00 p.m. MASS - Chapel

**Wednesday, December 6**

- 8:15 a.m. SCHOOL MASS - Church
- 2:00 p.m. 15 Minute Coffee with Fr. Fidèle

**Thursday, December 7**

- 9:00a.m. - 5:00p.m Eucharistic Adoration - Chapel
- 12:00 p.m. MASS - Chapel
- 7:00 p.m. Advent Talk - Church

**Friday, December 8 - PARISH OFFICE CLOSED**

- 7:00 p.m. BILINGUAL MASS - Church

**Saturday, December 9**

- 8:00 a.m. Church Cleaning - SCOUTS
- 5:00 p.m. MASS - Church



**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. **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.