

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

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HOSPITALITY:

Kathy Flores

kflores0411@att.net

JOY MINISTRY:

Jessica Ramos

Chayo Gomez

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LECTORS:

Stella Rico

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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 10, 2023 - SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 10, 2023

www.stjohnberchmans.com

NAME CALLING

We often change our tone of voice and vocabulary when we really want to get somebody's attention. Parents will add a middle name to indicate a child is in trouble (a middle *and* last name when the child is *really* in trouble). Change of tone and words invites attention, demanding a response. Today John the Baptist does a bit of name-calling: "You brood of vipers!" Even for someone like John, who regularly used potent vocabulary, this way of addressing the holy men—the Pharisees and Saducees—this level of name-calling stands out. Snakes were commonly understood as a representation of evil, and a poisonous snake in the ancient world held the power of life and death, as the holy men thought they did. Instead of thinking about their own power, John tells them to produce good fruit. We still get ourselves in trouble today when we think that we truly hold any type of power over others, when it's a power that belongs only to God.

EMBRACING CHANGE

Words like John's might cause fear in us, or may hold us back, hesitant. Words like these can also invite us to change our lives. When we do so, we open ourselves to a core virtue of the Advent season: hope. Changing our lives can also open us up to a more vigorous presence of the gifts of the Holy Spirit—wisdom, understanding, counsel, strength, knowledge, and fear of the Lord—named in Isaiah today. Recall that it was in that very Spirit we were named for Christ at Baptism. Open your ears and heart to the voice of God, who knows the name given to you on that day. Respond not out of fear, but in love, to the ways that God is calling to you today; calling you to change what needs to be changed, and to welcome Christ today, as you will once again on Christmas day.

LLAMAR POR EL NOMBRE

A menudo cambiamos el tono de voz y el vocabulario cuando queremos llamar la atención de alguien. Los padres añaden un segundo nombre para indicar que el niño está en problemas (un segundo nombre y un apellido cuando el niño está realmente en problemas). El cambio de tono y de palabras invita a la atención, exigiendo una respuesta. Hoy en día, Juan el Bautista hace un poco de nombre: "¡Cría de víboras!" Incluso para alguien como Juan, que utilizaba habitualmente un vocabulario potente, esta forma de dirigirse a los hombres santos -los fariseos y los saduceos- destaca este nivel de insultos. Las serpientes se entendían comúnmente como una representación del mal, y una serpiente venenosa en el mundo antiguo tenía el poder de la vida y la muerte, como pensaban los hombres santos. En lugar de pensar en su propio poder, Juan les dice que produzcan buenos frutos. Todavía hoy nos metemos en problemas cuando pensamos que realmente tenemos algún tipo de poder sobre los demás, cuando es un poder que sólo pertenece a Dios.

ABRAZAR EL CAMBIO

Palabras como las de Juan pueden causar miedo en nosotros, o pueden retenernos, dudar. Palabras como éstas también pueden invitarnos a cambiar nuestras vidas. Cuando lo hacemos, nos abrimos a una virtud fundamental del tiempo de Adviento: la esperanza. Cambiar nuestras vidas también puede abrirnos a una presencia más vigorosa de los dones del Espíritu Santo -sabiduría, entendimiento, consejo, fuerza, conocimiento y temor del Señor- que se nombran hoy en Isaías. Recordemos que en ese mismo Espíritu fuimos nombrados por Cristo en el Bautismo. Abre tus oídos y tu corazón a la voz de Dios, que conoce el nombre que se te dio en aquel día. No respondas con miedo, sino con amor, a las formas en que Dios te llama hoy; te llama a cambiar lo que necesita ser cambiado, y a acoger a Cristo hoy, como lo harás de nuevo el día de Navidad.



Please Pray for the Sick

Prayer List Updates



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

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 DECEMBER 3, 2023

5 PM Mass	-\$ 735.00
9 AM Mass	-\$ 1,407.00
11 AM Mass	-\$ 1,786.00
Capital Improvements	-\$ 803.00 2nd Collection
Drop Off	-\$ 460.00
Gift of Giving	-\$ 197.95
TOTAL	\$ 5,388.95

SECOND COLLECTION

December 9-10, 2023

ST. JOHN BERCHMANS GOOD SAMARITANS

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

2023 GIFT OF GIVING

Contributions ending Dec. 3, 2023	\$ <u>195.60</u>
TOTAL	\$ 13,818.46

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 9

5:00 p.m. † Elida C. Garcia - John & Angie Diaz
† Joe G. Ybañez - Daughter Sylvia Lore
Gift of Life Ralph Rodriguez - Mom, Bros. & Sisters
For Health Jaime & Jesus Gomez - Parish Family

Sunday, December 10

9:00 a.m. † Sulema & P.E. Perez - Family
† Joseph Perez - Family
† Maria J. Terrazas - Angelita Canales
† Hope Esquivel - Guadalupanas
† Paul & Juan Salinas - Salinas Family
† Suzanne Gutierrez - Salinas Family
† Daniel C. & Maria Arzola - Family
Gift of Life Lupe Rodriguez /90th Birthday - Family
In Thanksgiving Elida Cardenas - Sister & Family
11:00 a.m. † F.J. Rodriguez & Marcelina Rodriguez-
Dolores Guardiola
† Guadalupe T. Gonzalez- Araguz Family
† Adela Solis - Children
† Adam Solis - Family
Gift of Life Olivia Guardiola - Mom
Gift of Life Veronica Castro - Family
In Thanksgiving Joshua Perez - Olivia Marin

Monday, December 11

Tuesday, Dec. 12 - OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

8:15 a.m. † Melecio & Dolores Reyes - Familia
Gift of Life Alicia Cortinas - Socorro & Raquel
Gift of Life Leticia Martinez - Family
In Thanksgiving Rodriguez Grandchildren -
Grandma Rodriguez

Wednesday, December 13

12:00 p.m. † Valentin Campos - Parish Family

Thursday, December 14

12:00 p.m. † Vicky Valdez - Parish Family
† Joseph & Dolores Crittall - Parish Family

Friday, December 15 -

12:00 p.m. † Martin Rivera - Parish Family
† Aurora Perez - Parish Family



Dear Parishioners and Friends:

Jessica and Isidoro Ramos have been nominated to receive the Lumen Gentium Award 2024. This award is bestowed to a catholic individual, or catholic couple, of their parish who has demonstrated by life, service, and ministry participation in the mission of Christ Jesus. Jessica and Isidoro are lectors, extraordinary ministers, and co-chairs for the Fall Festival. Jessica is a cofounder of Joy Ministry, youth coordinator, marriage, quinceñeras and funeral assistant for preparations and rehearsals. Isidoro is always very supportive of his wife's endeavors. I am very pleased to nominate Jessica and Isidoro Ramos for the Lumen Gentium award.

We are excited to share with you the anticipation of the 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 on Saturday, December 16th from 8:00 in the morning thru 3:00 in the afternoon, and also giving to our CCD children on Sunday, December 17th at 9:00 in the morning in the cafeteria. We also intend to share Christmas gifts with children on December 15th after the 7:00 evening Christmas concert. 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.

The applications for *Christmas Gift of Giving* are available in the office or in the foyer of the Church. For 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.

We are also offering a reconciliation service on Thursday, December 15th at 7:00 in the evening. Please make a special effort to attend and reconcile with the Lord before Christmas.

Bishop Gary will be celebrating Mass on Tuesday, December 12th at the 8:15 morning mass to commemorate Our Lady of Guadalupe. Please join our school children, faculty, teachers, parents and parishioners to celebrate our Mother, Our Lady of Guadalupe.

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!

May God bless you!

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

THE SANCTUARY CANDLE LIT BY THE TABERNACLE BURNS FOR:

Blanca Vargas

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.



SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT- PREPARING FOR JESUS

We light a second purple candle on this second Sunday of Advent to represent the hope of Christ coming to the world.

This week, we ask him to move us to action, so that we can prepare ourselves for both His coming at Christmas, and His second coming. He offers himself freely, but we must freely accept His offer in order to attain salvation.

Gods plan for humanity unfolded in the town of Bethlehem, the birthplace of the Messiah. Today, we confidently wait for the Messiah's triumphant return.

UPCOMING LITURGICAL EVENTS

- ◆ **OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE - SCHOOL MASS** will be celebrated on Tuesday, December 12, 2023 at 8:15 a.m. Bishop Gary Janak will be celebrant.
- ◆ **RECONCILIATION SERVICE/CONFESSIONS** Thursday, December 14 at 7pm in the Church.
- ◆ **CHRISTMAS CONCERT** Friday, December 15 at 7 pm in the Church
- ◆ **POSADA CEREMONY** Saturday, December 16 at 6:30pm in the Church



SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION/ CONFESSIONS - DEC. 14TH

During Advent we are preparing for the coming of the Messiah, and part of that preparation also involves repentance. Sacrament of Reconciliation is one of the 7 Sacraments of the Church.

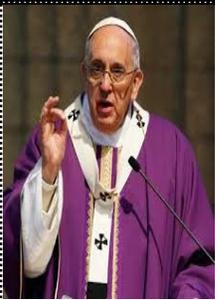
Repentance, even for minor sins, softens our hearts and opens us to Jesus and his Grace. During reconciliation sins must be confessed and it fortifies us against a relapse in sins. It is a spiritual medicine which strengthens us as well as heals us. We give God a chance to share with us the infinite merits of his Son.

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. Questions? Contact the Parish office. **Dates to schedule your appointment:** Dec 27 (Wed), 28 (Thu), 29 (Fri) & 30 (Sat).

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- Mon: Is 35:1-10; Ps 85:9ab, 10-14; Lk 5:17-26
- Tue: Zec 2:14-17; Judith 13:18 bcde, 19; Luke 1:26-38
- Wed: Is 40:25-31; Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10; Mt 11:28-30
- Thu: Is 41:13-20; Ps 145:1, 10-13; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Mt 11:11-15
- Fri: Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Mt 11:16-19
- Sat: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80:2ac, 3b, 15-16, 18-19; Mt 17:9a, 10-13
- Sun: Is 35:1-6a, 10-11; Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54; 1Thes 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28



THE SPECIAL INTENTION OF POPE FRANCIS

This Advent we pray for all people with disabilities. May every person living with a disability be at the center of attention in society. May more institutions offer inclusive programs which value their active participation in society.



Sunday, December 10

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

Monday, December 11

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

Tuesday, Dec. 12 - OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

- 8:15 a.m. SCHOOL MASS - Church

Wednesday, December 13

- 12:00 p.m. MASS - Chapel
- 2:00 p.m. 15 Minute Coffee with Fr. Fidèle

Thursday, December 14

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

Friday, December 15

- 12:00 p.m. MASS - Church
- 7:00 p.m. Christmas Concert - Church

Saturday, December 16

- 8:00 a.m. Church Cleaning - ACTS/JOY
- 5:00 p.m. MASS - Church
- 6:30 p.m. Posada Ceremony - Church



BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

All requests must be sent by email to 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.