

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/Quinceañeras/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

johndiaz7538@sbcglobal.net

Angie Diaz

GUADALUPANAS:

Sylvia Quintana

squintana7678@gmail.com

FORMATION HOUSE RENTAL :

Cecilia Sandoval

cecilsand@yahoo.com

HOSPITALITY:

Kathy Flores

kflores0411@att.net

JOY MINISTRY:

Jessica Ramos

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Chayo Gomez

tootsweez@hotmail.com

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

dduran57@outlook.com

Dora Duran

DECEMBER 31, 2023 - THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

December 31, 2023 www.stjohnberchmans.com

GOD'S WORD HAS BEEN FULFILLED

In this joyous Christmas time, it is fitting that we turn our attention from all the angels and shepherds and kings to take a look at the more intimate picture of the Holy Family in their ordinary life. They come with Jesus to consecrate him to the Lord, as is written in the law, and they come upon Simeon and Anna, prophets of the Lord, who have amazing things to say about this child and Mary, his mother. One can wonder what Mary must have thought when Simeon told her that "you yourself a sword will pierce." We interpret that in hindsight she would suffer greatly at the crucifixion of her beloved son. But what must she have thought at the possible literal interpretation of this prophecy? And yet she was, as always, obedient to God and accepting of God's word for her.

TWO PROPHETS

Simeon and Anna recognized in this infant the Messiah of God. Both were "righteous and devout" and prayed in the temple constantly. Simeon spoke at length to Mary and Joseph about this child, and Anna proclaimed to all the salvation of Israel in Jesus. Throughout the centuries, God had made use of many prophets to proclaim the coming of Jesus, as Jesus explained to the two disciples on the road to Emmaus after his death and resurrection. But people, being hard-hearted and somewhat clueless, did not recognize these prophecies as referring to the Messiah and later, to Jesus. Many in his time heeded the words of the prophets and believed, but many walked away. To those who believed, he gave the words of eternal life. They believed that "the one who had made the promise was trustworthy." These loving parents would protect and raise this miraculous child, and he "grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him."

LA PALABRA DE DIOS SE HA CUMPLIDO

En este jubiloso Tiempo de Navidad, es apropiado que cambiemos nuestra atención hacia todos los ángeles, pastores y reyes a observar más íntimamente la imagen de la Sagrada Familia en su vida ordinaria. Ellos vienen con Jesús para consagrarlo al Señor, así como está escrito en la Ley, y se encuentran con Simeón y Ana, profetas del Señor, ellos tienen palabras maravillosas que decir acerca del niño y María, su madre. Uno podría preguntarse lo que María debió de haber pensado cuando Simeón le dijo "y a ti, una espada te atravesará el alma". Podemos interpretar en retrospectiva que ella sufriría extremadamente al pie de la cruz, mientras su amado hijo agonizaba clavado en la cruz. Pero, ¿qué es lo que ella debió de haber pensado en una interpretación literal de esta profecía? Y todavía, ella estaba, como siempre, obediente a Dios y aceptando la palabra de Dios dirigida hacia ella.

DOS PROFETAS

Simeón y Ana reconocieron en este bebé al Mesías de Dios. Ambos eran justos y devotos y en el templo oraban frecuentemente. Simeón habló a María y a José extensamente acerca de este niño, y Ana proclamó a todas las personas la salvación de Israel por medio de Jesús. A través de los siglos, Dios se ha servido de muchos profetas para proclamar la venida de Jesús, así como Jesús explicó a los dos discípulos en el camino de Emaús después de su muerte y resurrección. Pero las personas, siendo de corazón duro y algo despistadas, no reconocieron esas profecías que se referían al Mesías y posteriormente a Jesús. Muchos en su tiempo pusieron atención a los profetas y creyeron, pero muchos se alejaron. Para aquellos que creyeron, él dio las palabras de vida eterna. Ellos creyeron "que Dios habría de ser fiel a la promesa". Estos padres cariñosos protegerían y criarían a este niño milagroso, y él "iba creciendo y fortaleciéndose, se llenaba de sabiduría y la gracia de Dios estaba con él".



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	Maritza Garcia
Irma Urias	Edith Flores	Saucedo Family
Mary S. Martinez	Isaiah Vasquez	Sandy Flores
Galilea Romero	Esther Nicholson	Liam Adrian Martinez
Iris Luna Sullivan	Valerie Vigil	Antonia Degollado
Emma O. Velasquez	Maldonado Family	Michael P. Ramirez
Leticia Martinez	Margie Zuniga	Alfred Marin
Kenny De La Rosa	Rosemary Flores	Maria Martinez
Raymond Sarabia	Anthony Ramirez	Lucy Treviño & Family
Frank Rodriguez	Carmen Garza	Angie Ramirez
Julissa Rodriguez	Gloria Rubio	Mickey S. Carrasco
Miliana Bullock	Lisa Brown	Robert Prieto
Lydia Soriano	Mary Herrera	Elizabeth Rose Valdez
Albert Casillas	Rebecca Zuniga	Blanca V. Herrera
Robert Sanchez	Rosa Elva Villaseñor	Muñoz Family
Vanessa Quintero	Lupe Gomez	Adela Moreno
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 24, 2023

5 PM Mass	-\$1,605.00
10 AM Mass	-\$1,569.00
Christmas Eve Mass	-\$1,560.00
Midnight Mass	-\$ 515.00
Christmas Day Mass	-\$ 546.00
Religious Education	-\$ 555.55 2nd Collection
Archdiocese Spec. Collection:	
Assumption Seminary	-\$ 306.00
Drop Off	-\$ 592.00
TOTAL	\$ 7,248.55

SECOND COLLECTION December 30-31, 2023 Altar Linens

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 30

5:00 p.m. † Maria De Jesus Cantu - Daughter

Sunday, December 31

9:00 a.m. † Santos Canales - Angelita Canales
† Daniel C. & Maria Arzola - Family
† Joe Ventura - Family

11:00 a.m. † Robert Gallegos, Sr. - Wife & Family
† Paul & Juan Salinas - Salinas Family
† Suzanne Gutierrez - Salinas Family
† Celestino Mendez - Mendez Family
† Emma H. Mendez - Mendez Family
† Jesse Mendez, Sr. - Mendez Family
All Souls in Purgatory - Araguz Family

Monday, January 1

10:00 a.m. † Jimmy Cruz - Family
For Health Linda Campbell - Cruz Family

Tuesday, January 2

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

Wednesday, January 3

12:00 p.m. † Tony Gonzales - SJB Family

Thursday, January 4

12:00 p.m. † Trini Torres - SJB Family
For Health Mickey S. Carrasco - SJB Family

Friday, January 5

12:00 p.m. † Stella De La Vega - SJB Family

MASS INTENTIONS

Whenever a priest celebrates Mass, he has at least two intentions.

The first intention is to celebrate Mass according to what the Church does. The second is to apply the grace of that Mass towards a specific need, or whether it be a person(s) living or deceased, baptized or not, or a special need or occasion.

If you wish to request a mass for the 2024 year contact our parish office at 210.434.3247. There is a \$5.00 donation for each mass intention.



THE SANCTUARY CANDLE LIT BY THE TABERNACLE BURNS FOR:

**Edith Flores
Maldonado Family**

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.



Dear Parishioners and Friends:

Happy New Year 2024 to each and everyone of you!

I invite you to join me in thanking God for the completion of year 2023 and for the New Year 2024 that we are about to embark on.

I am pledging two goals:

- Run 10K (6.2 miles) on Mother's Day weekend, Saturday, May 11th, 2024 at 8:00 in the morning at Woodlawn Lake Park to raise money for our beloved school.
- Run half a marathon (13.1 miles) at the Rock'n'Roll marathon on Sunday, December 8th, 2024.

Hope you join me in making this journey a huge success for the benefit of our community and in supporting me.

January 1st, 2024 falls on Monday and therefore does not make this day, a day of holy obligation even though we celebrate the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God. I invite you to attend a 10:00 a.m. bilingual mass to continue asking for the intercession of Mary, Holy Mother of God, and ask God for a better new year 2024.

I congratulate those of you who participated on our friendly yearly losing weight competition. Twenty parishioners participated and only two achieved their goals. Bobby Gallegos, Jr. lost 61 pounds and Janie Jimenez lost 34 pounds.

As promised, your names will be displayed on our marquee for the entire month of January and they will also be awarded with a \$150 Visa gift card.

Another friendly competition of weight loss is open as of January 1st, 2024 until December 25th. Please stop by the office to register.

I would like to take this opportunity and express my sincere gratitude to each and everyone of you who took time, energy and resources to offer me a token of Christmas appreciation, a gift, a card, a phone call, and prayer during this holiday.

Thank you and may God bless you always!

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



THE FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

God has given us the holy family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph as a model to imitate for our families. Every family encounters difficult situation. It was no different for the Holy Family. Right from the beginning there were many difficult situations they had to overcome: the virginal conception of Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit in Mary, Joseph having to accept his reality and take in the child and the mother to guard and protect them, the journey into Bethlehem, and the birth of Jesus in a dark, cold stable. Think about how difficult it must have been for Mary and Joseph to bring their Son into the world in such conditions.

So today, as we approach the altar to receive the body and blood, soul and divinity of Jesus, let us invite Jesus to become flesh in our hearts especially in the places where we carry the wounds of our life, and the wounds that come from our families and allow God to heal us and bring us into the family that we are called to be in, the most Holy Family of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

WORLD DAY OF PEACE CELEBRATED ON JANUARY 1, 2024

The Pope's message examines the question of the progress of science and technology as a path to peace in the world rather than a threat. And reflects on the future of artificial intelligence. The Pope also encourages that the ethical dimensions of AI including issues of privacy, prejudice, and impact on human dignity, be addressed in the sphere of education and in the development of international law.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- ◆ Parish Office will be closed on the following date: Monday, January 1, 2024 in observance of The Solemnity of Mary. We will re-open on Tuesday, January 2 at 9 a.m.
- ◆ **Donation envelopes** are ready for distribution. Please stop by our table located in the foyer and pick them up.
- ◆ **Calendars** are also available for all parishioners.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- Mon: Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67:2-3, 5-8; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21
- Tue: 1 Jn 2:22-28; Ps 98:1-4; Jn 1:19-28
- Wed: 1 Jn 2:29 - 3:6; Ps 98:1, 3cd-6; Jn 1:29-34
- Thu: 1 Jn 3:7-10; Ps 98:1, 7-9; Jn 1:35-42
- Fri: 1 Jn 3:11-21; Ps 100:1b-5; Jn 1:43-51
- Sat: 1 Jn 5:5-13; Ps 147:12-15, 19-20; Mk 1:7-11
- Sun: Is 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-2, 7-13; Eph 3:2-6; Mt 2:1-12



REMINDER: Due to our Christmas Break there will be no Religious Education classes on **Sunday, December 31st.**

Classes will resume on **Sunday, January 7, 2024.**



Sunday, December 31 - NO CCD CLASSES

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

Monday, January 1 - PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

- 10:00 a.m. BILINGUAL MASS - Church

Tuesday, January 2

- 12:00 p.m. MASS - Chapel

Wednesday, January 3

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

Thursday, January 4

- 9:00a.m. - 5:00p.m Eucharistic Adoration - Chapel
- 12:00 p.m. MASS - Chapel

Friday, January 5

- 12:00 p.m. MASS - Church

Saturday, January 6

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