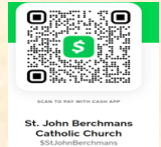


St. John Berchmans Catholic Church

1147 Cupples Road, San Antonio, TX 78226 210-434-3247 FAX 210-432-0431

www.stjohnberchmans.com



Venmo

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 •

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

Connie Peché & Nancy Ramirez, Family Records
 Joan Orosco, Sacristan/Bereavement
 Jessica Ramos, 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:

Laura Castañeda missc2060@yahoo.com

ALTAR SERVERS:

Eddie Campa ecampa@swiri.org

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:

Michael S. Rodriguez stjbcyo@gmail.com

CAFETERIA RENTAL:

Cecilia Sandoval cecilсанд@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 cecilсанд@yahoo.com

HOSPITALITY:

Kathy Flores kflores0411@att.net

JOY MINISTRY:

Jessica Ramos jessicamosfischer@gmail.com

Chayo Gomez 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 ventimochaftrap@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 1, 2024 - FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 1, 2024 www.stjohnberchmans.com

IMAGES OF THE END-TIMES

How forcefully today's scriptures challenge us to attend to the ominous nature of the Kingdom's definitive in-breaking! The call echoes through Jeremiah's prophecy: "In those days, in that time" and in Paul's letter: "at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his holy ones. Amen." The theme intensifies toward a crescendo in Luke: "there will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on earth . . . dismay and perplexity." People will be scared to death—literally—"in anticipation of what is coming upon the world," as "seas and waves roar" and "the powers of heaven will be shaken." And all of this will be just a prelude to "the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory." In the face of this "awful" (that is, filled-with-awe) ending, Jesus warns his disciples to guard against two equally debilitating extremes, both of which seem to be trademarks of our contemporary culture: deadening diversion on one hand, and frantic anxiety on the other.

PREPARATION FOR THE END-TIMES

In light of these predictions of frightening end-times, Jesus advises us to embrace his three-fold "Preparation for the End Program": (1) "Beware!" that is, be aware of what really matters, life's true priorities. (2) "Be vigilant at all times," that is, watchful for Christ's coming not only at the end but in the meantime, in family and neighbor, friend and stranger. (3) Above all, "pray." Prayer, communion with God, will help us to remember that for faithful disciples, The End of this world—or our own lives, whichever comes first—will be The Beginning of a joy no one can take from us, fullness of life that will never end. How lovely if this Advent's renewal prepared us to look forward to the moment of Jesus' coming—in his glory or our death—not as a cataclysmic disaster, but as a reason for which to "stand erect and raise (our) heads (in joyful expectation) because (our) redemption is at hand."

TODAY'S READINGS: Jer 33:14-16; Ps 25:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14; 1 Thes 3:12 - 4:2; Lk 21:25-28, 34-36

IMÁGENES DEL FIN DE LOS TIEMPOS

Con qué fuerza las Escrituras de hoy nos desafían a prestar atención a la naturaleza inquietante de la irrupción definitiva del Reino. La llamada resuena en la profecía de Jeremías: "En aquellos días, en aquel tiempo" y en la carta de Pablo: "en la venida de nuestro Señor Jesús con todos sus santos. Amén". El tema se intensifica con aumento en Lucas: "habrá señales en el sol, la luna y las estrellas, y en la tierra . . . consternación y perplejidad". La gente estará muerta de miedo – literalmente– "en previsión de lo que vendrá sobre el mundo", ya que "rugirán los mares y las olas" y "las potencias del reino serán sacudidas". Y todo esto será el preludio de que "el Hijo del hombre vendrá en una nube con poder y gran gloria". Ante este final "asombroso" (es decir, lleno de estupefacción), Jesús advierte a sus discípulos que se cuiden de dos extremos igualmente debilitantes, que parecen ser marcas registradas de nuestra cultura contemporánea: la diversión mortífera, por un lado, y la ansiedad frenética, por otro.

PREPARACIÓN PARA EL FIN DE LOS TIEMPOS

A la luz de estas predicciones del aterrador final de los tiempos, Jesús nos aconseja adoptar su triple "Programa de preparación para el final": (1) "¡Cuidado!", es decir, ser conscientes de lo que realmente importa, las verdaderas prioridades de la vida. (2) "Velen en todo momento", es decir, estén atentos a la venida de Cristo no sólo al final, sino mientras tanto, en la familia y en el prójimo, en el amigo y en el extranjero. (3) Sobre todo, "reza". La oración, la comunión con Dios, nos ayudará a recordar que, para los discípulos fieles, el Fin de este mundo –o de nuestras propias vidas, lo que ocurra primero– será El Inicio de una alegría que nadie podrá quitarnos, la plenitud de la vida que nunca terminará. Qué bonito sería que la renovación de este Adviento nos preparara para esperar el momento de la venida de Jesús – en su gloria o en nuestra muerte– no como un desastre cataclismo, sino como un motivo por el que "estar erguidos y levantando (nuestras) cabezas (en alegre expectativa) porque (nuestra) redención está cerca".

LECTURAS DE HOY: Jer 33:14-16; Sal 25:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14; 1 Tes 3:12 - 4:2; Lc 21:25-28, 34-36



Please Pray for the Sick

Prayer List Updates



Sarah Contreras	Gloria Rubio	Robert Treviño
Marty Carrera Tobias	Rebecca Zuniga	Sulema Hernandez
Frances Lozano	Rosa Elva Villaseñor	Lucio Vasquez
Irma Urias	Lupe Gomez	Buddy Ochoa
Mary S. Martinez	Angie Canales	Cristina Santoyo
Galilea Romero	Rosie Gallegos	Rosa Moreno
Iris Luna Sullivan	Richard Santoyo	Roger Arizpe
Emma O. Velasquez	Lucy Treviño & Family	Daniel Rodriguez
Raymond Sarabia	Mickey S. Carrasco	Marisol Longoria-Parker
Julissa Rodriguez	Robert Prieto	Jerry Salazar
Miliana Bullock	Elizabeth Rose Valdez	Baby Ezra Rios
Lydia Soriano	Mary Rose Cerda	Henry Castro
Robert Sanchez	Zander from WA.	Socorro Castillo
Vanessa Quintero	Henrietta Ramos	Alexis Ramos
Virginia R. Lucio	Cecilia Muñoz	Clarissa Ramos
Guadalupe Rodriguez	Zachary Lopez	Nicole Guerra
Lori Bañuelos	Joseph Vasquez	Michelle Tijerina
Edith Flores	Vanessa Gomez	Bryan Ramos
Isaiah Vasquez	Ybarra Family	

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 24, 2024

5 PM Mass	-\$ 1,435.00
9 AM Mass	-\$ 798.00
11 AM Mass	-\$ 934.00
Religious Education	-\$ 324.00 2nd Coll.
Drop In/Mail In	-\$ 590.00
Gift of Giving	-\$ 226.47
TOTAL	\$ 4,307.47

SECOND COLLECTION CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF OUR CHURCH!

2024 GIFT OF GIVING

Contributions ending Nov. 24, 2024	\$ <u>226.47</u>
TOTAL	\$ 13,518.58

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, November 30

5:00 p.m. † Linda Juarez - SJB Family
Gift of Life Nancy Ramirez - Socorro & Raquel
Gift of Life Jessica Ramos - Socorro & Raquel

Sunday, December 1

9:00 a.m. † Daniel "Danny" Romero - Family
 † Daniel C. & Maria Arzola - Family
 † Petra Chavez - Family
 † Frank Rodriguez - Wife
 † Rita Peña - Peña Family
 † Maria de Jesus P. Cantu - Daughter

11:00 a.m. † Natividad Esquivel - M/M Lee
 † Virginia Wear - Family
 † Daniel Lizalde - Patty Lizalde

Health Anita C. Muñoz - Gabriel Muñoz

Monday, December 2

Tuesday, December 3 - ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

12:00 p.m. † Frances Ramirez - SJB Family

Wednesday, December 4

8:15 a.m. † Lucy Villarreal - SJB Family
Health John Martinez - Family

Thursday, December 5

12:00 p.m. † Helen Lloyd - SJB Family

Friday, December 6

12:00 p.m. † Cecilia Espinoza - SJB Family



THE SANCTUARY CANDLE LIT BY THE TABERNACLE BURNS FOR:

Daniel Lizalde
Monica Rodriguez

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.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon: Is 2:1-5; Ps 122:1-9; Mt 8:5-11
 Tue: Rom 10:9-18; Ps 19:8-11; Mt 4:18-22
 Wed: Is 25:6-10a; Ps 23:1-6; Mt 15:29-37
 Thu: Is 26:1-6; Ps 118:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a;
 Mt 7:21, 24-27
 Fri: Is 29:17-24; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Mt 9:27-31
 Sat: Is 30:19-26; Ps 147:1-6; Mt 9:35 - 10:1,5-8

REMINDER FOR OUR PILGRIMAGE TO EL CAMINO DE SAN ANTONIO MISSIONS

Are you interested in art, architecture and the Catholic history of San Antonio?
 Join Fr. Fidèle on **Saturday, December 14th** on a pilgrimage to El Camino de San Antonio Missions. Cost is \$30 per person and includes your pilgrim passport, special token and lunch.
 Contact Parish Office for additional information.



Dear Parishioners and Friends:

Today, December 1st, marks the first Sunday of the official commencement of liturgical year C and also the first Sunday of Advent. I invite each one of you to participate actively for the next four weeks in this Advent Season in preparation for the second coming of the Lord and also for the birthday of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Please consult your liturgical calendar inserted in the bulletin for advent and Christ events and celebrations.

I am very excited to introduce to you our Advent presenter Sally Gomez Young, professor Emeritus of the Oblate School of Theology. The presentation will take place this coming Thursday, December 5th at 7:00 in the evening. Please make a special effort to attend.

I thank all of you who attended Thanksgiving Mass this past Thursday, November 28th, 2024 and those who welcomed me into your homes on Thanksgiving Day.

A special thanks to all the volunteers who worked in packing or fixing baskets and delivering turkeys to families in need: Dolores Guardiola, Ezmie Rodriguez, Genevieve Robles, Andy, Rebecca & Elizabeth Dominguez, Cecilia Sandoval & Arlene Garcia, Irma & Carl Brunn, Laura Castañeda & Gilbert Mendiola, Emilio Semersky, Chayo & Jaime Gomez, Sandra Torres, Teresa Arzola and Chris Beltran. May God bless you always for your generosity and care for the needy.

The applications for Christmas gift of giving are available in the Parish Office and in the foyer of the church. Please fill out the application and return it to me as soon as possible. We have up to \$10,000 to be given out to our parishioners in need. Thank you to my parishioners for their year round generosity and assistance in achieving this remarkable amount of \$10,000. The deadline for applying for the gift of giving is on Friday, December 6th, 2024.

I am asking for your generosity to provide us with children's presents for Christmas. The Evangelization team will be walking in the neighborhoods and sharing Christmas presents with children. Please consider buying children gifts ranging from toddler through the age of 11 years. If you would be kind enough to wrap the gifts and specify the gender and age of the child on the top. I will be playing Santa and we hope to distribute 600 gifts. You may also buy gift cards in increments of \$10 from either Chick-Fil-A, McDonald's, Whataburger, Subway, Pizza Hut, etc. for teenagers ranging from 12 years through 17 years.

Thank you for your generosity and God Bless you,

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



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 ourselves for Christmas.

WHAT IS THE ADVENT WREATH?

Perhaps the best known of all the Advent symbols is the Advent wreath. It consists of four candles (3 purple and 1 pink) arranged in a circle with evergreen foliage (and often a fifth white candle). The purple candles represent the penitential nature of the season, while the pink candle calls to mind the respite of Gaudete Sunday.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, December 5, 2024 at 7 PM

Advent Talk - Sally Gomez Young

Saturday, December 7, 2024 at 7:15 PM

Rosary for Virgen de Guadalupe. Performance by Matachines Danza Guadalupeana from Seguin, TX and dinner to follow in Cafeteria

Monday, December 9th, 2024 at 6 PM

BILINGUAL MASS

Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary



Sunday, December 1 - NO CCD CLASSES

9:00 a.m. MASS - Church

11:00 a.m. MASS - Church

Monday, December 2

Tuesday, December 3

12:00 p.m. MASS - Chapel

Wednesday, December 4

8:15 a.m. SCHOOL MASS - Church

2:00 p.m. 15 Minutes with Fr. Fidèle

Thursday, December 5

12:00 p.m. MASS - Chapel

7:00 p.m. ADVENT TALK - Church

Friday, December 6

12:00 p.m. MASS - Chapel

Saturday, December 7

8:00 a.m. Church cleaning

5:00 p.m. MASS - Church

7:30 p.m. ROSARY - 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.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK

First Sunday of Advent

Grant your faithful, we pray, almighty God, the resolve to run forth to meet your Christ with righteous deeds at his coming, so that, gathered at his right hand, they may be worthy to possess the heavenly Kingdom.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

Reflection question:

What righteous deeds would I be able to bring with me if Christ returned this week?

Thank you for your generosity in donating turkeys and food for this year's **Annual Feast of Sharing**. Through our combined efforts, we provided food to 32 families within our church community.



Grateful to all the volunteers who showed up on Friday to prep and organize food and on then to those who delivered hope on Saturday. God is good all the Time...All the Time God is Good!

Fr Fidèle also extends Thanks to all who attended and helped for the Turkey Bingo, especially the Guadalupanas. As always, it was a success and everyone enjoyed good food and a time of fellowship. We have included a financial report insert for your information.

Christmas Raffle Drawing date is set for **Wednesday, December 25, 2024**, please help us by doing your part to sell your raffle tickets. Thank you for your continued support and generosity.



IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR!

If you would like to order a Christmas poinsettia please contact the Parish Office. Cost \$10 each.



Our Church Cleaning Ministry meets **EVERY SATURDAY @ 8AM** to clean our beautiful place of worship.

MINISTRY SCHEDULED

DECEMBER 7, 2024

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS