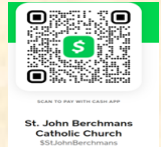


St. John Berchmans Catholic Church

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@swri.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 8, 2024 - SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 8, 2024

www.stjohnberchmans.com

HEIGHTS AND DEPTHS

John the Baptist preached from the desert. The desert not far from Jerusalem is extremely rugged, where steep hills and deep valleys are common across a barren landscape. When John quoted Isaiah in today's Gospel, this rough terrain stirred the imagination of John's listeners. John proclaimed that these hills and valleys are to be made level, to provide a smooth path for God to enter.

John's listeners recognized that the height of hills and the depth of valleys are similar to human attitudes and relationships: heights of personal pride and depths of discouragement and fear. Hills and valleys evoked how people treat each other, with some people raised high and others brought low. They suggested how social structures embody and harden these tendencies with large-scale systems of military, political, or economic oppression. John proclaimed that God was about to alter this social landscape through the work of Jesus.

EARTH-MOVING

Transforming the human landscape, like the task of smoothing the desert hills and valleys, is an enormous undertaking, truly the work of God. Yet God looks for partners in this transformation. John the Baptist, and Jesus afterward, called followers to participate in God's work, and to begin with repentance. We the Church respond to this call today, and acknowledge our ongoing need for God's mercy and forgiveness. Our Advent preparation for Christmas includes opening our hearts to God's forgiveness, so that Jesus might come to take residence there.

We join in God's earth-moving project by repenting of how we block God's path with resentments and fears. When we are brought low in our lives, we seek God's help, and God will enlist the help of others. When we realize that we reside on mountains of advantage or privilege that place others in valleys, we are to repent and to change how we live. When we bring healing and justice to others, we are sharing in God's earth-shaking work, and preparing a straight pathway for our God.

TODAYS READINGS: Bar 5:1-9; Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6; Phil 1:4-6, 8-11; Lk 3:1-6

ALTURAS Y PROFUNDIDADES

Juan el Bautista predicó desde el desierto. Aquel desierto que no está lejos de Jerusalén es extremadamente escabroso, donde colinas empinadas y valles profundos son comunes en todo ese paisaje desértico. Cuando en el Evangelio de hoy, Juan cita a Isaías, este terreno escabroso estimula la imaginación de quienes lo escuchan. Juan proclamó que estas colinas y valles se aplanarían, para proporcionar un camino parejo para que Dios entre.

Quienes escucharon a Juan reconocieron que la altura de las colinas y las profundidades de los valles eran similares a las relaciones y actitudes de las personas: alturas del orgullo personal y profundidades del miedo y desaliento. Colinas y valles evocan cómo las personas tratan unas a otras, con algunas personas altamente elevadas y otras menospreciadas. Ellas sugieren cómo las estructuras sociales representan y endurecen estas tendencias con una larga escala de sistemas opresores militares, políticos o económicos. Juan proclamó que Dios estaba a punto de transformar este paisaje social por medio de las obras de Jesús.

MOVIMIENTO DE LA TIERRA

Transformar el paisaje humano, como la tarea de aplanar las colinas y valles desérticos, es una tarea inmensa, verdaderamente el trabajo de Dios. Sin embargo, Dios busca compañeros en esta transformación. Juan el Bautista, y después Jesús, ambos invitaron a personas a seguirlos para colaborar en el trabajo de Dios, empezaron con el arrepentimiento. Nosotros, la Iglesia, respondemos hoy a esta invitación y reconocemos nuestra necesidad constante del perdón y de la misericordia de Dios. Nuestra preparación de Adviento para la Navidad incluye apertura de nuestro corazón para el perdón de Dios, para que Jesús pueda venir y habitar en él.

Nos unimos al proyecto de Dios para mover la Tierra arrepintiéndonos de cómo obstruimos el camino de Dios con resentimientos y miedos. Cuando somos menospreciados en nuestras vidas, buscamos la ayuda de Dios y Dios consigue la ayuda de otras personas. Cuando nos damos cuenta que vivimos en montañas de ventajas o privilegios que pone a otras personas en los valles, debemos arrepentirnos y cambiar cómo vivimos. Cuando llevamos alivio y justicia a otras personas, estamos compartiendo el trabajo de Dios para sacudir la Tierra y preparar un camino recto para nuestro Dios.

LECTURAS DE HOY: Bar 5:1-9; Sal 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6; Filp 1:4-6, 8-11; Lc 3:1-6



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 DECEMBER 1, 2024

5 PM Mass	-\$	950.00
9 AM Mass	-\$	1,494.00
11 AM Mass	-\$	1,239.00
Thanksgiving Day Mass	-\$	440.00
Capital Improvements	-\$	815.00 2nd Coll.
Drop In/Mail In	-\$	455.00
Gift of Giving	-\$	201.45
TOTAL	\$	5,594.00

SECOND COLLECTION

RETIRED MEN AND WOMEN RELIGIOUS

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF OUR CHURCH!

2024 GIFT OF GIVING

Contributions ending Dec. 1, 2024	\$	201.45
TOTAL	\$	13,710.03

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 7

5:00 p.m. † Yvette Patrice Gonzales -
Mother Ruby Rios

Sunday, December 8

9:00 a.m. † Maria J. Terrazas - Angelita Canales
† Hope & Juan Esquivel - Guadalupanas
† Mavis Montemayor - Rosalinda Garza
† Daniel C. & Maria Arzola - Family
† Frank Rodriguez - Wife

Gift of Life Xanthia Hernandez - Family

11:00 a.m. † Robert Gallegos, Sr. - Wife & Family
† Gregorio & Angie Ramirez - Family
† Ramiro Olivarez - Family
† Daniel Lizalde - Patty Lizalde
† Adela Solis - Solis Family

Monday, December 9 - THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

8:15 a.m. † Mariano P. Arredondo - SJB Family

6:00 p.m. † Jacinto Morales - SJB Family

Tuesday, December 10

12:00 p.m. † Frank & Mary Barrera - SJB Family

Wednesday, December 11

NO MASS

Thursday, December 12 -

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

8:15 a.m. † Irene Lloyd - Liz Herrera
† Guadalupe Eduardo Botello - Mom

Gift of Life Leticia Martinez - Family

Gift of Life Alicia Cortinas - Socorro & Raquel

Friday, December 13

12:00 p.m. † Arturo & Estela De La Vega - Family



THE SANCTUARY CANDLE LIT BY THE TABERNACLE BURNS FOR:

† Daniel Lizalde

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.

We offer condolences to our parishioners and their families who have experienced loss of their loved ones:

† Mariano P. Arredondo

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon: Gn 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98:1-4; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12;
Lk 1:26-38

Tue: Is 40:1-11; Ps 96:1-3, 10ac, 11-13; Mt 18:12-14

Wed: Is 40:25-31; Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10; Mt 11:28-30

Thu: Zec 2:14-17; Jdt 13:18-19; Lk 1:26-38

Fri: Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Mt 11:16-19

Sat: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80:2-3, 15-19; Mt 17:9a, 10-13

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Parishioners and Friends:

I thank all of you who attended an outstanding Advent presentation by Sally Gomez Young, professor Emeritus from the Oblate School of Theology. I encourage you to continue reflecting on the advent theme of the preparation of the coming of our Savior.

I invite each one of you to participate actively for the next three 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 for advent and Christmas events and celebrations.

I invite you to join your fellow parishioners on the celebration of the feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary on Monday, December 9th at 6:00 in the evening for a bilingual mass. Remember the Immaculate Conception of Mary is a holy day of obligation. You are also invited to actively participate in the celebration of Our Lady of Guadalupe on Thursday, December 12th at 8:15 in the morning.

I will be leading a pilgrimage to the missions in San Antonio this coming Saturday, December 14th for about 6 hours starting around 8:00 in the morning. The pilgrimage includes transportation, tour guide and lunch, and costs \$30 per person.

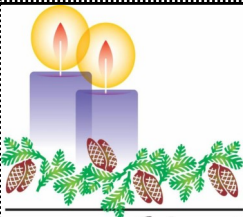
I extend my gratitude to all those who participated in decorating our beautiful sanctuary: Joan Orosco, Carol Brun, Ken Lore, Izzy Ramos, Genevieve Robledo, Perla Robledo and Sylvia Gomez.

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. Deadline to apply is December 12, 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



**SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT:
HOPE**

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

SECOND SUNDAY OF *Advent*

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.

God's plan for humanity unfolded in the town of Bethlehem, the birthplace of the Messiah, joyously fulfilling a long-awaited promise. Today we confidently wait for the Messiah's triumphant return.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, December 9th, 2024 at 6 PM

BILINGUAL MASS

Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12TH, 2024 at 8:15 AM

MASS - OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13TH AT 7 PM

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

**WEEKLY
EVENTS**

Sunday, December 8

9:00 a.m. MASS - Church

11:00 a.m. MASS - Church

Monday, December 9 - PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

8:15 a.m. SCHOOL MASS - Church

6:00 p.m. BILINGUAL MASS - Church

Tuesday, December 10

12:00 p.m. MASS - Chapel

Wednesday, December 11 - NO MASS

2:00 p.m. 15 Minutes with Fr. Fidèle

Thursday, December 12 - OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

8:15 a.m. MASS - Church

Friday, December 13

12:00 p.m. MASS - Chapel

7:00 p.m. CHRISTMAS CONCERT - Church

Saturday, December 14

8:00 a.m. Church Cleaning

5:00 p.m. MASS - Church



Announcements!

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.

OFFICE CLOSURE

The Parish office will be closed on **Monday, December 9, 2024** in observance of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Please be reminded that we will celebrate a Bilingual Mass at 6:00 p.m. and is also a Holy Day of Obligation.

We will open for business on Tuesday, December 10, 2024 at 9am.

**10 ATTITUDES FOR ADVENT
PICK ONE AND PUT IT INTO PRACTICE**

- **TRUST** - God is always listening.
- **SEARCH** - God in others and in your day to day life.
- **BE GENEROUS** - Share you time and your joy.
- **RECONCILE** - With God and others.
- **BE COHERENT** - Match your actions to your beliefs
- **LOVE** - Others through simple and kind gestures.
- **BE GRATEFUL** - With God for all your blessings.
- **SPEAK** - About God. Don't be ashamed of Him
- **ILLUMINATE** - Others with joy. Be a light in the world.
- **PRAY** - Dedicate some special time to God.



Christmas Raffle

**REMINDER TO SELL YOUR
RAFFLE TICKETS**

Drawing date is set for **Wednesday, December 25, 2024, after the 10am Mass.** Please sell your raffle tickets. Thank you for your continued support and generosity.



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

It's that time of year again! If you would like to order a Christmas poinsettia in memory of a loved one, please contact the Parish Office. **Cost \$10 each.**

The altar will be beautifully decorated with the poinsettias and they may be picked up in the office after Christmas. Thank you.



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

**MINISTRY SCHEDULED
DECEMBER 14, 2024**

ST. JOHN BERCHMANS SCHOOL