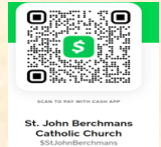


St. John Berchmans Catholic Church

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 15, 2024 - THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - GAUDETE SUNDAY

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - GAUDETE SUNDAY

DECEMBER 15, 2024 www.stjohnberchmans.com

JOY AND EXULTATION

Joy and exultation ring through the first reading, as Zephaniah's ancient messianic prophecy pictures God "rejoicing over (us) with gladness, renewing (us) in his love, singing joyfully because of (us) as one sings at festivals." This joyful God is not distant: the prophet declares twice that God "is in your midst." Zephaniah so trusts this joyful God's love for us that he declares our deliverance "a done deal": both from inward fear and guilt—"the Lord has removed the judgment against you"—and from external threats: "he has turned away your enemies." The Responsorial Psalm, from Advent's principal prophet, Isaiah, echoes an exultant joy that should prompt us to be "confident and unafraid," "for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel." Paul likewise exhorts the Philippians—and us—to joy, to a kindness that should be evident to all, to prayer free from anxiety, serene and thankful.

WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

But then John the Baptist cries out on Jordan's bank: Repent! Prepare for a Messiah whose baptism "with the Holy Spirit and fire," unlike John's water baptism, will utterly transform its recipients. His winnowing fan will clear away the dead wood, bundling wheat and burning chaff in unquenchable fire. If this is going to be "good news" for us, then well might we, like the crowds, tax collectors, and soldiers who first heard John, ask "What should we do?" When John responds to the people then, and to us today, the answer, while supremely challenging, is almost surprisingly simple. Nobody is ordered to abandon the place in which their personal life's journey or the realities of a history beyond their control have put them. God saves us not despite or apart from our real-life circumstances but in them and through them. Our call now is to practical, generous charity: we are to share clothing and food; practice justice and professional and personal integrity; and be honest toward others and with ourselves. Such is the teaching of the Messiah that John heralded.

TODAY'S READINGS: Zep 3:14-18a; Isa 12:2-3, 4, 5-6; Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18

ALEGRÍA Y JÚBILO

La alegría y el júbilo resuenan en la primera lectura, ya que la antigua profecía mesiánica de Sofonías presenta a Dios "alegrándose por nosotros, renovándonos en su amor, cantando con alegría por nosotros como se canta en las fiestas". Este Dios alegre no está distante: el profeta declara dos veces que Dios "está en medio de ustedes". Sofonías confía tanto en el amor de este Dios alegre por nosotros que declara que nuestra liberación es "un hecho": tanto del miedo y la culpa internos, "el Señor ha quitado el juicio contra ustedes", como de las amenazas externas: "ha alejado a tus enemigos". El Salmo Responsorial, del profeta principal del Adviento, Isaías, se hace eco de una alegría jubilosa que debería impulsarnos a estar "confiados y sin miedo", "porque entre ustedes está el grande y Santo de Israel". Pablo también exhorta a los filipenses, y a nosotros, a la alegría, a una bondad que debe ser evidente para todos, a una oración libre de ansiedad, serena y agradecida.

¿QUÉ DEBEMOS HACER?

Pero entonces Juan el Bautista grita en la orilla del Jordán: ¡Arrepiéntanse! Prepárense para un Mesías que bautizará "con el Espíritu Santo y fuego"; a diferencia del bautismo de Juan con agua, transformará por completo a sus destinatarios. Su horquilla limpiará la madera muerta, agrupando el trigo y quemando la paja en un fuego que no se extingue. Si esto va a ser una "Buena Nueva" para nosotros, entonces bien podríamos, como las multitudes, los recaudadores de impuestos y los soldados que escucharon por primera vez a Juan preguntar "¿Qué debemos hacer?" Cuando Juan responde a la gente de entonces, y a nosotros hoy, la respuesta, aunque supremamente desafiante, es casi sorprendentemente sencilla. A nadie se le ordena que abandone el lugar en el que el camino personal de su vida o las realidades de una historia más allá de su control le han puesto. Dios nos salva, no a pesar de las circunstancias de nuestra vida real ni al margen de ellas, sino en ellas y a través de ellas. Nuestra llamada ahora es a la caridad práctica y generosa: debemos compartir ropa y comida; practicar la justicia y la integridad profesional y personal; y ser honestos con los demás y con nosotros mismos. Tal es la enseñanza del Mesías que Juan anunció.

LECTURAS DE HOY:

Sof 3:14-18a; Isa 12:2-3, 4, 5-6; Filp 4:4-7; Lc 3:10-18



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 8, 2024

5 PM Mass	-\$	614.00
9 AM Mass	-\$	1,193.00
11 AM Mass	-\$	1,468.00
Immaculate Conception 8AM	-\$	82.00
Immaculate Conception 6PM	-\$	310.00
Good Samaritans	-\$	580.00 2nd Coll
Retired Men & Women Religious	-\$	336.00 2nd Coll.
Drop In/Mail In	-\$	1,956.00
On Line	-\$	200.00
Gift of Giving	-\$	180.52
TOTAL	\$	6,919.52

SECOND COLLECTION

ALTAR FLOWERS

2024 GIFT OF GIVING

Contributions ending Dec. 8, 2024	\$	180.52
NEW BALANCE	\$	1,890.55

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 14 - ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS

5:00 p.m. † Yvette Patrice Gonzales -
 Mother Ruby Rios
 † Maria Teresa Arriaga - John Campa
 † Fr. Mike Horan - John Campa
 † Fr. Jim Galvin - John Campa
Gift of Life Manny Gutierrez - Socorro & Raquel
Gift of Life Yolanda Castillo - Family

Sunday, December 15

9:00 a.m. † Daniel C. & Maria Arzola - Family
 † Frank Rodriguez - Wife
 11:00 a.m. † Arturo Parra - Wife
 † George Beltran - Chris Beltran
 † Daniel Lizalde - Patty Lizalde

Monday, December 16

Tuesday, December 17

12:00 p.m. † Mariano P. Arredondo - SJB Family
For Health Galilea Romero - SJB Family

Wednesday, December 18

8:15 a.m. † Luis Duran, Sr. - Wife & Family
Gift of Life Rosalba Darcy - Socorro & Raquel

Thursday, December 19

12:00 p.m. † Juana Castillo - Family
For Health Socorro Castillo - SJB Family

Friday, December 20

12:00 p.m. † Trinidad Torres - SJB Family
For Health Jerry Salazar - Family



THE SANCTUARY CANDLE LIT BY THE TABERNACLE BURNS FOR:

† Daniel Lizalde
 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.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a; Ps 25:4-9; Mt 21:23-27
 Tue: Gen 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72:77; Mt 1:1-17
 Wed: Jer 23:5-8, Psalms 72:7; Mt 1:18-25
 Thu: Jud 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps, 71:8; Lk 1:5-25
 Fri: Isa 7:10-14; Ps 24:7c, 10b; Luke 1:26-28
 Sat: Zep 3:14-181; Ps 33:1a;3a; Lk 1:39-45



Dear Parishioners and Friends:

It is my pleasure and honor to introduce to our community Deacon Dogo Anaguedeu. Deacon Dogo is an oblate transitional Deacon and is scheduled to be ordained priest in the fall of 2025. We welcome Deacon Dogo and wish him a wonderful and enlightening time among us.

I thank each one of you who participated in different celebrations this past week such as Immaculate Conception, Our Lady of Guadalupe, Christmas concert and pilgrimage to the missions. Let us continue being joyful on this third week of Advent as we prepare for the coming of our Savior. Please make time to participate in our Reconciliation service to be held on Thursday, December 19th at 6pm in the Church. Several priests will be available to assist you in your reconciliation.

I am very proud to announce that our annual Christmas Gift of Giving has successfully assisted more than 30 families. Thanks to my generous parishioners, \$12,000 was collected throughout the year and were distributed amongst more than 30 families. Once again, I thank my parishioners for another successful year in helping families celebrate Christmas.

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

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.fidèle@stjohnberchmans.com



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT is also called Gaudete Sunday. *Gaudete* is Latin for “rejoice.” We will light the rose-colored candle on the Advent wreath and the priest wears rose vestments. The change in color provides worshippers with encouragement to continue their spiritual preparation—especially prayer and fasting.

The whole Church invites us to celebrate. Of course, we should celebrate; we’re more than halfway to Christmas! And in today’s first reading, the prophet Zephaniah tells us that God is rejoicing as well. This is personal—He exults to be near you today, to be part of your life. And you can rejoice because He rejoices.



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.



Sunday, December 15

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

Monday, December 16

Tuesday, December 17

12:00 p.m. MASS - Chapel

Wednesday, December 18

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

Thursday, December 19

12:00 p.m. MASS - Chapel
6:00 p.m. RECONCILIATION SERVICE/
CONFESSIONS - Church

Friday, December 20

12:00 p.m. MASS - Chapel

Saturday, December 21

8:00 a.m. Church Cleaning
5:00 p.m. MASS - Church
6:30 p.m. POSADAS CEREMONY - Church



**RECONCILIATION SERVICE/
CONFESSIONS**

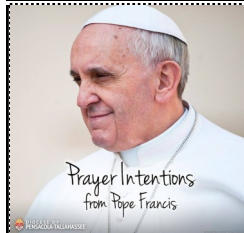
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19 - 6:00 PM

During Advent, we are preparing for the coming of the Messiah, and part of that preparation also involves repentance. Like the people coming to the Jordan River, we know we have sinned and need forgiveness. And just as it did for them, repentance—even for minor sins—softens our hearts and opens us to Jesus and his Grace.

How does this happen? Repentance requires us to take a spiritual inventory of what needs to change in our lives, of where we have fallen short of God’s commands. When we experience God cleansing us of our sins, we can’t help but be filled with thanksgiving for his abundant love and for his unfailing, never-ending mercy. God will use it not only to cleanse you but to soften your heart and draw you closer to himself.

**PRAYER OF THE WEEK
Third Sunday of Advent**

O God, who see how your people faithfully await the feast of the Lord’s Nativity, enable us, we pray, to attain the joys of so great a Salvation and to celebrate them always with solemn worship and glad rejoicing. 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.



**PRAYER INTENTION FOR
DECEMBER 2024**

**FOR CHRISTIANS IN AREAS OF
CONFLICT**

Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation, and hope.



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

**MINISTRY SCHEDULED
DECEMBER 21, 2024
CCD**



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.