

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

johndiaz7538@sbcglobal.net

Angie Diaz

GUADALUPANAS:

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FORMATION HOUSE RENTAL :

Cecilia Sandoval

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JOY MINISTRY:

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Chayo Gomez

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LECTORS:

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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 3, 2023 - FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 3, 2023

www.stjohnberchmans.com

ADVENT - DECEMBER 3 - 24, 2023

More of us have had the experience of beginning a new stage in life, with the excitement and occasional stomach-churning newness of a moment that can put us a bit on edge. Advent—its first couple of Sundays in particular—has a similar role in the passage of time that we call the liturgical year. It's unlikely that the First Sunday of Advent makes many stomachs churn, but perhaps more would if we truly took it seriously that we are to make ourselves ready for the coming of the reign of God at any moment.

WALK IN THE LIGHT

When we encounter the daily news, it can seem as though Isaiah's prophecy of swords turned into plowshares is running in reverse, making despair seem wiser than hopefulness. This is where Advent as the brink of God's reign comes into play. Advent can be a time for each of us to de-weaponize, even in the smallest of ways, the world around us. Advent's days offer a chance to look for opportunities to make the world a bit more hopeful for others. As we head through Advent, the elevated focus we have when we are standing at those new moments, those new stages of life, can help us tune out the despair, so we might open our ears and hearts to Jesus. This way, we can turn our backs on gloom, and accept Isaiah's invitation to walk in the light of the Lord: Jesus Christ, the Word-made-Flesh!



TODAY'S READINGS: Is 2:1-5; Ps 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9; Rom 13:11-14; Mt 24:37-44

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Please Pray for the Sick

Prayer List Updates

Sarah Contreras
Marty Carrera Tobias
Frances Lozano
Irma Urias
Mary S. Martinez
Galilea Romero
Iris Luna Sullivan
Emma O. Velasquez
Leticia Martinez
Kenny De La Rosa
Raymond Sarabia
Frank Rodriguez
Julissa Rodriguez
Miliana Bullock
Lydia Soriano
Albert Casillas
Robert Sanchez
Vanessa Quintero
Virginia R. Lucio

Guadalupe Rodriguez
Lori Bañuelos
Joe Villanueva
Edith Flores
Isaiah Vasquez
Esther Nicholson
Valerie Vigil
Maldonado Family
Margie Zuniga
Ann Marie Eickenroht
Rosemary Flores
Anthony Ramirez
Carmen Garza
Gloria Rubio
Lisa Brown
Mary Herrera
Rebecca Zuniga
Rosa Elva Villaseñor
Lupe Gomez

Mary Cano
Angie Canales
Joseph Kavanaugh
Rosie Gallegos
Isidoro Muñoz
Maritza Garcia
Saucedo Family
Sandy Flores
Liam Adrian Martinez
Antonia Degollado
Michael P. Ramirez
Alfred Marin
Maria Martinez
Lucy Treviño & Family
Angie Ramirez
Mickey S. Carrasco
Robert Prieto
Elizabeth Rose Valdez

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.

ADVIENTO - DICIEMBRE 3 - 24, 2023

Somos más los que hemos tenido la experiencia de comenzar una nueva etapa en la vida, con la emoción y la ocasional novedad estomacal de un momento que puede ponernos un poco al límite. El Adviento -sus dos primeros domingos en particular- tiene un papel similar en el paso del tiempo que llamamos año litúrgico. Es poco probable que el primer domingo de Adviento haga que se revuelvan muchos estómagos, pero quizá lo harían más si nos tomáramos realmente en serio que debemos prepararnos para la llegada del reino de Dios en cualquier momento.

CAMINAR EN LA LUZ

Cuando nos encontramos con las noticias cotidianas, puede parecer que la profecía de Isaías de las espadas convertidas en rejas de arado va al revés, haciendo que la desesperación parezca más sabia que la esperanza. Aquí es donde entra en juego el Adviento como el umbral del reino de Dios. El Adviento puede ser un tiempo para que cada uno de nosotros desarme, incluso en lo más mínimo, el mundo que nos rodea. Los días de Adviento ofrecen la oportunidad de buscar oportunidades para hacer que el mundo sea un poco más esperanzador para los demás. A medida que avanzamos en el Adviento, el enfoque elevado que tenemos cuando estamos en esos nuevos momentos, en esas nuevas etapas de la vida, puede ayudarnos a sintonizar con la desesperación, para poder abrir nuestros oídos y nuestros corazones a Jesús. De este modo, podemos dar la espalda a la tristeza y aceptar la invitación de Isaías a caminar en la luz del Señor: Jesucristo, la Palabra hecha carne.

LECTURAS DE HOY: Is 2:1-5; Sal 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9; Rom 13:11-14; Mt 24:37-44

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STEWARDSHIP FOR THE WEEK

ENDING NOVEMBER 26, 2023



Tithes

5 PM Mass	-\$ 990.00
9 AM Mass	-\$ 754.00
11 AM Mass	-\$ 1,308.00
IGBO Mass	-\$ 155.00
Thanksgiving Day Mass	-\$ 435.00
Religious Education	-\$ 380.00 2nd Collection
Religious Education (IGBO)	-\$ 60.00 2nd Collection
Drop Off	-\$ 325.00
On Line	-\$ 61.00
Gift of Giving	-\$ 195.60
TOTAL	\$ 4,663.60

SECOND COLLECTION

December 2-3, 2023
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

2023 GIFT OF GIVING

Contributions ending Nov. 26, 2023 \$ 195.60
TOTAL \$ 13,818.46

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 2

5:00 p.m. † Tomas Diaz - Olga Diaz
 Gift of Life Nancy Ramirez - Socorro & Raquel
 For Health Jaime & Jesus Gomez - Parish Family

Sunday, December 3 - FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

9:00 a.m. † Daniel (Danny) Romero - Family
 † Adan Alonzo - Family
 † Daniel C. & Maria Arzola - Family
 † Petra Chavez - Sisters
 Gift of Life Destini Santos - Mom
 Gift of Life Xanthia Hernandez - Parents
 For Health Kenny De La Rosa - Family
 11:00 a.m. † Robert Gallegos, Sr. - Wife & Family
 † F.J. Rodriguez - Dolores G
 † Paul & Juan Salinas - Salinas Family
 † Suzanne Gutierrez - Salinas Family
 † Cayetano Araguz - Araguz Family
 † Greg Peña - Araguz Family

Monday, December 4

Tuesday, December 5

12:00 p.m. † Pete Saucedo - Family
 † Maria Cura - Olivia Lopez

Wednesday, December 6

8:15 a.m. † Adan Alonzo - Family
 † Fred Estrello - Cindi Sanchez

Thursday, December 7 - ST. AMBROSE

12:00 p.m. † Gloria Martinez - Family
 † Graciela Treviño - Parish Family

Friday, December 8 - THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

7:00 p.m. † Justin Rey Martinez - Family
 † Raul, Gloria & David Solis - Parish Family
 Gift of Life Olivia Guardiola - Mom

THE SANCTUARY CANDLE LIT BY THE TABERNACLE BURNS FOR:

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.

REST IN PEACE

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

† Gloria Martinez



Dear Parishioners and Friends:

You are invited to attend our Christmas Advent Talk this Thursday, December 7 at 7:00 p.m. in the Church. Fr. Michael DeGerolami will be the presenter. Please make a special effort to attend.

Friday, December 8, 2023 is the day of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and a Holy Day of Obligation. All parishioners are required to attend the 7pm Bilingual Mass.

In commemoration of Our Lady of Guadalupe which falls on Tuesday, December 12, 2023, we will be celebrating Our Lady of Guadalupe on Sunday, December 10th at the 11a.m. Mass. However, Auxiliary Bishop Gary Janak will be celebrating Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass for our students, faculty and parents on Tuesday, December 12 at 8:15 a.m. All are invited to attend.

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

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! It takes a village to raise a child!

I encourage you to sign up for our parish directory professional photograph. You may also consider volunteering in any capacity you can to make this parish directory a success. A parishioner who signs up will receive a directory and an 8 X 10 free portrait.

We are excited to share with you the anticipation of 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 and will also be given to our CCD children. 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.

May God bless you!

Opialee

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



OUR FASCINATING FAITH - THE SEASON OF ADVENT... 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 our souls to receive Christ worthily. Advent should be marked by increased prayers, fasting and good works. We use this time of Advent to prepare and remember the real meaning of Christmas.

THANK YOU!!!

For your generosity of turkeys and food donations for this year's Annual Feast of Sharing. Through your efforts, we were able to provide food to 25 families within our parish community.

Special Thanks to all the volunteers who helped deliver food.

"I have shown you that...you must help others and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, who said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" ACTS 20:35

UPCOMING IMPORTANT LITURGICAL EVENTS

- ♦ **ADVENT TALK - FR. MIKE DEGEROLAMI**
Thursday, December 7, 2023 at 7 p.m.
- ♦ **IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION)**
Bilingual Mass— Friday, Dec. 8, 2023 at 7 p.m.
PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON FRIDAY, 12/8.



IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR!!

If you would like to order a Christmas Poinsettia in memory of a loved one, please contact the Parish Office. The cost of poinsettia is \$10.

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. Portrait studio will be in the Formation House. Questions? Contact the Parish Office. **Dates to schedule your appointment: Dec 27 (Wed), 28 (Thu), 29 (Fri) & 30 (Sat).** Questions? Contact the Parish office.



READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon: Is 2:1-5; Ps 122:1-9; Mt 8:5-11
Tue: Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Lk 10:21-24
Wed: Rom 10:9-18; Ps 19:8-11; Mt 4:18-22
Thu: Is 26:1-6; Ps 118:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27; Mt 7:21, 24-27
Fri: Is 29:17-24; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Mt 9:27-31
Sat: Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Ps 147:1-6; Mt 9:35 - 10:1, 5a, 6-8
Sun: Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Rom 15:4-9; Mt 3:1-12



Regular Monthly meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 5, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

**Location: Brentwood Middle School Cafeteria
1626 W. Thompson Place**

Important community topics to be discussed!!



Sunday, December 3

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

Monday, December 4

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

Tuesday, December 5

12:00 p.m. MASS - Chapel

Wednesday, December 6

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

Thursday, December 7

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

Friday, December 8 - PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

7:00 p.m. BILINGUAL MASS - Church

Saturday, December 9

8:00 a.m. Church Cleaning - SCOUTS
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.