

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

Angie Diaz

johndiaz7538@sbcglobal.net

GUADALUPANAS:

Sylvia Quintana

squintana7678@gmail.com

FORMATION HOUSE RENTAL :

Cecilia Sandoval

cecilsand@yahoo.com

HOSPITALITY:

Kathy Flores

kflores0411@att.net

JOY MINISTRY:

Jessica Ramos

Chayo Gomez

jessicamosfischer@gmail.com

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

ventimochafrap@yahoo.com

ROSARY MAKERS:

Victoria Sanchez

SHARE THE WORD:

Rosalinda Garza

Garza_rosalinda@att.net

VIGIL TEAM:

Oralia Cantu

Dora Duran

dduran57@outlook.com

DECEMBER 24, 2023 - FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 24, 2023

www.stjohnberchmans.com

THE SEASON OF LIGHT

It is customary to celebrate Christmas with lights of all sorts. This even happens in the southern hemisphere, where people aren't experiencing the shorter, darker days of northern climates. From little twinkles on Christmas trees to the glow of candles in church, Christmas is a celebration of the light born today in God's Word-made-flesh. As with other types of lights, the Christ-light takes on different forms. Sometimes its light is direct, while at other times it is a reflection. The lights of Christmas, like Jesus the Light of the world, offer comfort, ease fears, show us the way, and help us to see that God is present here. While we believe that Jesus is the light that no darkness can overcome, it can seem at times it seems as though the gloom around us is overcoming the light. We all are familiar with darkness's different forms that seem to bombard us daily, hourly—minute by minute, if we allow them to. And yet . . .

THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE

The relentless daily reports of darkness can easily lead us not to see the many glimmers of light around us. We who follow the Christ-light must always be on alert for signs of that light around us. Likewise, we who have that Christ-light in us must let it shine forth. No matter how little we think our light may be, we must recall that it is the light of Christ we bear within us. Like John the Baptist in today's Gospel passage, we are meant to testify to the power of light, to help others see glimpses of God-with-us. Our actions must bear good news, they must announce glad tidings. Even small deeds of light can shine brightly, giving birth to Jesus once again each day. On Christmas day and every day we are called to be people of hope, messengers of peace who offer comfort and make God's glory known. Let the light of Christ in your life be one of the season's brightest!

EL TIEMPO DE LA LUZ

Es costumbre celebrar la Navidad con luces de todo tipo. Esto ocurre incluso en el hemisferio sur, donde la gente no experimenta los días más cortos y oscuros de los climas del norte. Desde los pequeños destellos en los árboles de Navidad hasta el brillo de las velas en la iglesia, la Navidad es una celebración de la luz que nace hoy en la Palabra de Dios hecha carne. Al igual que otros tipos de luz, la luz de Cristo adopta diferentes formas. A veces su luz es directa, aunque otras veces es un reflejo. Las luces de la Navidad, como Jesús, la Luz del mundo, ofrecen consuelo, alivian los temores, nos muestran el camino y nos ayudan a ver que Dios está presente. Aunque creemos que Jesús es la luz que ninguna oscuridad puede vencer, a veces puede parecer que la penumbra que nos rodea vence a la luz. Todos estamos familiarizados con las diferentes formas de oscuridad que parecen bombardearnos diariamente, minuto a minuto, si se lo permitimos. Y sin embargo . . .

ESTA PEQUEÑA LUZ MÍA

Los implacables informes diarios de la oscuridad pueden fácilmente llevarnos a no ver los muchos destellos de luz que nos rodean. Los que seguimos la luz de Cristo debemos estar siempre atentos a los signos de esa luz a nuestro alrededor. Asimismo, los que tenemos esa luz de Cristo en nosotros debemos dejarla brillar. No importa lo pequeña que creamos que es nuestra luz, debemos recordar que es la luz de Cristo la que llevamos dentro. Como Juan el Bautista en el pasaje del Evangelio de hoy, estamos destinados a dar testimonio del poder de la luz, a ayudar a otros a ver destellos de Dios-con-nosotros. Nuestras acciones deben ser portadoras de buenas noticias, deben anunciar la buena nueva. Incluso las pequeñas obras de luz pueden brillar con fuerza, dando a luz a Jesús una vez más cada día. El día de Navidad y todos los días estamos llamados a ser personas de esperanza, mensajeros de paz que ofrecen consuelo y dan a conocer la gloria de Dios. Deja que la luz de Cristo en tu vida sea una de las más brillantes de este tiempo.



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 17, 2023

5 PM Mass	-\$ 870.00
9 AM Mass	-\$ 628.00
11 AM Mass	-\$ 1,509.00
Our Lady of Guadalupe	-\$ 340.00
Altar Flowers	-\$ 350.00 2nd Collection
Mail In	-\$ 1,690.00
On Line	-\$ 200.00
Gift of Giving	-\$ 237.35
TOTAL	\$ 5,824.35

SECOND COLLECTION December 23-24, 2023 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

2023 GIFT OF GIVING

Contributions ending Dec. 17 2023	\$ <u>237.35</u>
TOTAL	\$ 14,312.91

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 23

5:00 p.m. † Roger G. Garcia - Robert Buchanan
† Elida C. Garcia - Socorro & Raquel
Gift of Life Carolina Rose Santoyo - Family

Sunday, December 24

10:00 a.m. † Juan C. Velasquez - Daughter
† Jack Weddel - Daughter
† Henry Z. Vidal - Janie Vidal
† Daniel C. & Maria Arzola - Family
† Pauline Vidal - Family
† Jerry Sanchez - Family
† Genny Cruz - Cruz Family

6:00 p.m. & † Robert Gallegos, Sr. - Wife & Family
Midnite † Paul & Juan Salinas - Salinas Family
† Suzanne Gutierrez - Salinas Family
† Luis Duran, Sr. - Wife & Family
† Guadalupe & Anita Gonzalez - Araguz Family
† Isidro Mata - Kim & Koko
† Candelario & Mercedes Lopez - Olivia Lopez

Gift of Life Natividad Cruz - Family

Monday, December 25

11:00 a.m. † Justin Rey Martinez - Family
† Joe Ventura - Family

For Health Linda Campbell

Tuesday, Dec. 26 - ST. STEPHEN

NO MASS - PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

Wednesday, December 27 - ST. JOHN

12:00 p.m. † Benito P. Castro - Family
† Frank Benavides - Family

Thursday, December 28 - THE HOLY INNOCENTS

12:00 p.m. † David Santoyo - Family
Gift of Life Nikki Martinez - Family

Friday, December 29

12:00 p.m. † Salvador Torres, Sr. - Family

REST IN PEACE

We offer condolences and sympathy to our parishioners and their families who have experienced the loss of their loved ones:
† Carmen B. Silva



THE SANCTUARY CANDLE LIT BY THE TABERNACLE BURNS FOR:

Marty Carrera Tobias
Mickey Saucedo Carrasco

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:

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2024!

Thank you for keeping hope alive in the midst of uncertainty, pain, doubt, hatred, wars and indifference.

May the year 2024 bring you more faith, joy, happiness, love and health and may all your dreams become a reality.

Please see the insert for my Christmas evaluation message for this year 2023 and my new goals for the year 2024.

Advent Season for this year 2023 ends today, Sunday, December 24th after the 10:00 morning mass. Since Christmas falls on Monday, December 25th, 2023, the vigil Mass for Christmas will take place today Sunday, December 24th at 6:00 in the evening for the CCD children, all our children, parents, families and parishioners. Christmas Carols will be sung the same day from 11:30 at night until 12:00 midnight followed by midnight Mass on December 25th.

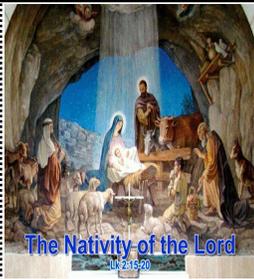
We will have one more Christmas bilingual Mass on December 25th at 11:00 in the morning. Make a special effort to participate and join our fellow parishioners in celebration of the birth of our Savior and God, Jesus Christ.

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!

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 directory a success. A parishioner who signs up will receive a directory and an 8X10 free portrait.

May God bless you!

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



MERRY CHRISTMAS!

We wish you God's abundant blessings as you celebrate the birth of our Savior, the Word of God, who became flesh and dwelt among us.

On this Christmas Day, St. John tells us of one Word that matters more than any other word we'll ever hear. It's **Jesus**, who gives life to everything in the universe.

Although today will be a busy and noisy day remember the center of it all is Jesus, the Word of God who came to speak life, healing, joy, and peace into our world.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

◆ Parish Office will be closed on the following dates for Christmas:

Monday, December 25, 2023

Tuesday, December 26, 2023

On behalf of Fr. Fidèle and the entire office staff we wish you a Merry Christmas and a joyful holiday season!

◆ **Donation envelopes** are ready for distribution. Please stop by our table located in the foyer and pick them up.

◆ **Calendars** are available for all parishioners.

CATHOLIC PRAYER CORNER

Prayer at the Manger: With the Shepherds

Your Good News was sung by angels to these lowly ones in the night.

Look on us in our lowliness.

Let us rejoice in the glad tidings of Christ, now and forever. Amen.

CHURCH CLEANING DAY

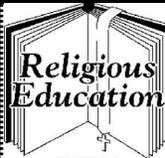
We welcome anyone to help us clean our beautiful church every **Saturday at 8:00 a.m.** Ministry Scheduled for: **December 30th - LECTORS**

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. Questions? Contact the Parish office. **Dates to schedule your appointment:** Dec 27 (Wed), 28 (Thu), 29 (Fri) & 30 (Sat).

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- Mon: Isa 52:7-10; Psalm 98:1-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18
- Tue: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3-4, 6, 8ab, 16bc, 17; Mt 10:17-22
- Wed: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Acts 6:8-10; 7: Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1a, 2-8
- Thu: 1 Jn 1:5 - 2:2; Ps 124:2-5, 7b-8; Mt 2:13-18
- Fri: 1 Jn 2:3-11; Ps 96:1-3, 5b-6; Lk 2:22-35
- Sat: 1 Jn 2:12-17; Ps 96:1-2, 11-13; Lk 2:36-40
- Sun: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14; Ps 128; Col 3:12-21; Lk 2:22-40



REMINDER:

Due to our Christmas break we will not conduct Religious Education classes on **Sunday, December 24th** and on **Sunday, December 31st.**

Classes will resume on **Sunday, January 7, 2024.** On behalf of the entire staff we wish you a joyous and holiday season!



Sunday, December 24

- 10:00 a.m. MASS - Church
- 6:00 p.m. CHRISTMAS VIGIL MASS - Church
- 11:30 p.m. CHRISTMAS CAROLS - Church

Monday, December 25 - PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

- 12 a.m. MIDNITE MASS - Church
- 11:00 a.m. BILINGUAL MASS - Church

Tuesday, Dec. 26 - PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

Wednesday, December 27

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

Thursday, December 28

- 9:00a.m. - 5:00p.m Eucharistic Adoration - Chapel
- 12:00 p.m. MASS - Chapel
- 6:00 p.m. HOLY HOUR - Church

Friday, December 29

- 12:00 p.m. MASS - Church

Saturday, December 30

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