

# 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 •

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:

Cecilia Sandoval

cecilsand@yahoo.com

### FORMATION HOUSE RENTAL :

Cecilia Sandoval

cecilsand@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

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

**MARCH 17, 2024 - FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT**

# FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

March 17, 2024

www.stjohnberchmans.com

## JEREMIAH: LOOKING BEYOND EXILE AND SUFFERING

The readings today remind us how close we are to Easter—only two weeks from now. They also remind us that the path to resurrection and Easter always includes suffering and death. The prophet Jeremiah spent his whole life proclaiming the word of God to kings who would not listen. As an old man, he saw Jerusalem defeated and the inhabitants taken into exile. Jeremiah himself suffered in being left behind, but in today's reading, he is looking beyond those sufferings to a time when the previously disobedient people would be transformed and live in harmony with God's law.

### LOOKING FOR JESUS, FINDING THE CROSS

In the Gospel reading, friends of Philip come to him and ask about meeting Jesus. When Philip and Andrew take the request to Jesus, he begins a cryptic discourse on discipleship, transformation, and divine judgment. We never hear whether Philip's friends got to personally meet Jesus. Perhaps they simply blended in with the crowd.

Jesus says, "When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself." The narrator says that Jesus' words indicate how he will die; the readers already know Jesus will be crucified. Jesus also speaks of divine judgment driving out the world's rulers and of the need to be transformed, like a seed growing into a productive plant. He warns about loving our life and losing it. Unlike Jeremiah's detailed vision, Jesus only hints at what kind of transformed life his death will bring.

What if we, like Philip's friends, want to get close to Jesus? Does that mean that the discourse on death and judgment is addressed to us? If Jesus will draw everyone to himself as he is "lifted up," does being closer to him mean joining him on his cross? (Do we want to be *that* close to Jesus?) Do we want to be transformed? If we say "yes," the liturgy these next two weeks can show us the only way the Church knows to get closer to Jesus: to be willing to be "lifted up" with him in his suffering—and in our own.

**TODAY'S READINGS:** Jer 31:31-34; Ps 51:3-15; Heb 5:7-9; Jn 12:20-33

## JEREMÍAS: MIRANDO MÁS ALLÁ DEL ÉXILIO Y SUFRIMIENTO

Las lecturas de hoy nos recuerdan lo cerca que estamos de la Pascua, ya dentro de dos semanas. También nos recuerdan que el camino hacia la resurrección y la Pascua siempre incluye el sufrimiento y la muerte. El profeta Jeremías pasó toda su vida proclamando la palabra de Dios a reyes que no lo escuchaban. Siendo ya un anciano, él vio a la ciudad de Jerusalén derrotada y a sus habitantes llevados al exilio. El propio Jeremías sufrió al ser dejado atrás, pero en la lectura de hoy, está mirando más allá de esos sufrimientos en un tiempo en el que el pueblo anteriormente desobediente se transformaría y viviría en armonía con la ley de Dios.

### BUSCANDO A JESÚS, ENCONTRANDO LA CRUZ

En la lectura del Evangelio, amigos de Felipe se acercaron a él para pedirle una cita con Jesús. Cuando Felipe y Andrés le presentan a Jesús esta petición, Jesús empieza un discurso enigmático acerca del discipulado, la transformación y el juicio divino. Nunca escuchamos si los amigos de Felipe llegaron a conocer personalmente a Jesús. Quizá simplemente se mezclaron con la multitud.

Jesús dice: "Cuando sea levantado de la tierra, atraeré a todos hacia mí". El narrador dice que las palabras de Jesús indican cómo él iba a morir; los lectores ya saben que Jesús será crucificado. Jesús también habla del juicio divino que expulsa a los gobernantes del mundo y la necesidad de ser transformado, como una semilla fructífera. Él advierte sobre el amor a nuestra vida y la pérdida de esta. A diferencia de la visión detallada de Jeremías, Jesús solo insinúa qué tipo de vida transformada traerá su muerte.

¿Y si nosotros, como los amigos de Felipe, quisiéramos acercarnos a Jesús? ¿Significa eso que el discurso sobre la muerte y el juicio está dirigido a nosotros? Si Jesús atrae a todos hacia sí mismo cuando es "levantado", ¿significa que estar más cerca de él significa unirse a él en su cruz? ¿Queremos estar muy cerca de Jesús? ¿Queremos ser transformados? Si decimos "sí", la liturgia de estas dos semanas puede mostrarnos la única manera que la Iglesia conoce para acercarse a Jesús: estar dispuestos a ser "levantados" con él en su sufrimiento y en el nuestro.

**LECTURAS DE HOY:** Jer 31:31-34; Sal 51:3-15; Heb 5:7-9; Jn 12:20-33



### Please Pray for the Sick

#### Prayer List Updates



Sarah Contreras	Isaiah Vasquez	Lucy Treviño & Family
Marty Carrera Tobias	Esther Nicholson	Mickey S. Carrasco
Frances Lozano	Valerie Vigil	Robert Prieto
Irma Urias	Rosemary Flores	Elizabeth Rose Valdez
Mary S. Martinez	Anthony Ramirez	Muñoz Family
Galilea Romero	Carmen Garza	Mary Rose Cerda
Iris Luna Sullivan	Gloria Rubio	Zander from WA.
Emma O. Velasquez	Lisa Brown	Pete Muñoz
Kenny De La Rosa	Rebecca Zuniga	Mary Alice Vasquez
Raymond Sarabia	Rosa Elva Villaseñor	Terry Herrera
Julissa Rodriguez	Lupe Gomez	Rosa Castoreno
Miliana Bullock	Angie Canales	Henrietta Ramos
Lydia Soriano	Joseph Kavanaugh	Cecilia Muñoz
Robert Sanchez	Rosie Gallegos	Maria Dorado
Vanessa Quintero	Maritza Garcia	Jose Calderon
Virginia R. Lucio	Liam Adrian Martinez	Carmen Perez
Guadalupe Rodriguez	Michael P. Ramirez	
Lori Bañuelos	Alfred Marin	
Edith Flores	Maria Martinez	

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 MARCH 10, 2024

5 PM Mass	-\$ 1,027.00	
9 AM Mass	-\$ 886.00	
11 AM Mass	-\$ 1,291.00	
Good Samaritans of SJB	-\$ 235.00	2nd Collection
Catholic Relief Services	-\$ 331.00	2nd Collection
Mail In	-\$ 520.00	
On Line	-\$ 241.00	
Gift of Giving	-\$ 212.00	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4,743.00</b>	



#### SECOND COLLECTION

**MARCH 9 - 10, 2024**

#### **ALTAR FLOWERS**

#### 2024 GIFT OF GIVING

Contributions ending March 10, 2024	\$ 212.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 6,180.06</b>

# MASS INTENTIONS

## Saturday, March 16

5:00 p.m. † Ann Cadena - SJB Family  
 † Yvette Patrice Gonzales - Ruby Rios  
 Gift of Life Ricky Cruz Sweet - Sweet Family  
 Gift of Life Edward Diaz - John & Angie Diaz

## Sunday, March 17

9:00 a.m. † Elisa & Jose Amador - Virginia Velez  
 † Angie Ramirez - Rosalinda Garza  
 † Daniel C. & Maria Arzola - Family  
 Gift of Life Ray Garza - Garza Family  
 Gift of Life Ruben Martinez - Family  
 Health Emma O. Velasquez - Daughters

11:00 a.m. † Arthur Sanchez - Cindi Sanchez  
 † Luis Duran, Sr. - Wife & Family  
 † Angelena Ramirez - Daughter & Family  
 Health Andrea Araguz - Victor Araguz  
 Health Paul Muñoz, Jr. - Rosemary Ramirez

## Monday, March 18

## Tuesday, March 19 - ST. JOSEPH

12:00 p.m. † John Ruiz - SJB Family  
 Health Elizabeth Gallegos - SJB Family

## Wednesday, March 20

8:15 a.m. † Margaret Ochoa Cruz - Ochoa Family  
 † Beatrice Villarreal - Caroline Glass

## Thursday, March 21

12:00 p.m. † Velia Cano - Family  
 Gift of Life Joe Merkley - Daughters

## Friday, March 22

12:00 p.m. † Jesus Castillo - Family

## FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

*"I consider everything as a loss because of the supreme good of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord."*  
 Philippians 3:8

## THE SANCTUARY CANDLE LIT BY THE TABERNACLE BURNS FOR:

Socorro Castillo  
 Joe Villanueva  
 Emma Velasquez  
 Mary Martinez



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 loss of their loved ones:

† Yolanda Garcia  
 † Ruth P. Uriegas  
 † Velia G. Cano  
 † Gilbert J. Espinosa



Dear Parishioners and Friends:

I invite you to join me for a unique pilgrimage to Italy! We will visit historical sites in the beautiful city of Rome with its amazing Basilicas, an audience with Pope Francis followed by a visit to the Vatican Museum with the beautiful art of Michelangelo. The visit will continue to include many other sites. We will celebrate mass at the tomb of Padre Pio and also include a visit to Assisi, the city of St. Francis and many other sites. The trip includes daily mass, round trip airfare from San Antonio to Rome, private bus, English speaking professional tour escorts, American breakfasts, dinner, water, wine, local guides, etc. with the cost being \$3,300 per person. We will be departing San Antonio on Monday, October 14th and returning on Wednesday, October 23rd, 2024. I intend to take 25 pilgrims. Please call the office if you wish to join us for this unique life experience and obtain a brochure for a complete detailed itinerary. My parishioners, this is a unique opportunity to visit and see first hand what we read in the Bible in the company of friends creating memories for a lifetime.

Lenten Season is an opportunity to reconcile with the Lord and heal. We are offering a bilingual reconciliation service on Wednesday, March 20th at 7:00 in the evening. Five priests, including myself, will be available to facilitate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Please make time to come and reconcile with the Lord.

Our Pastoral Council encourages each one of you to support Father Fidèle Dikete's efforts to raise money for the school. **My plan to register 50 new students is to launch a scholarship initiative to offer \$1,000 to each new registered student attending St. John Berchmans Catholic School. I will be sponsoring a 10k (6.2 miles) run on Mother's Day weekend, Saturday, May 11th, 2024 at 8:00 in the morning at Woodlawn Lake Park for the purpose of raising money for our beloved school and also to celebrate all our beloved mothers. Schedule of events for the day:**

- **8:00 a.m.:** 10k run (6.2 miles) by Fr. Fidèle Dikete and anyone who wishes also to run
- **9:30 am:** 1.3 mile run by students
- **10:00 am:** 1.3 mile walk by all the mothers
- **10:30 am thru 11:00 am:** Mariachi

I am asking for a donation of \$20 to support the effort. Generous donations are also welcomed to raise \$50,000 to assist the school. Please support our school and me, your Pastor, in this endeavor.

God bless you always,

*(Signature)*

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





**RECONCILIATION/CONFESSIONS**  
**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20TH AT**  
**7:00 P.M.**

Lent is a time when we try to come closer to our Heavenly Father. Lent can also be an opportunity to reconsider the **Sacrament of Reconciliation**. Please come and reconcile with the Lord. We will have 5 priests available to hear your confessions. Remember it is your responsibility to confess your sins at least once a year and we can encounter the love and mercy of the risen Lord Jesus. Fr. Fidele is extending the invitation to each one of you to attend this special and unique service, and is looking forward to seeing each one of you.

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

Mon: Dan 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62; Ps 23:1-6; Jn 8:12-20  
Tue: Num 21:4-9; Ps 102:2-3, 16-21; Jn 8:21-30  
Wed: Dan 3:14-20, 91-92, 95; Dn 3:52-56; Jn 8:31-42  
Thu: Gen 17:3-9; Ps 105:4-9; Jn 8:51-59  
Fri: Jer 20:10-13; Ps 18:2-7; Jn 10:31-42  
Sat: Ez 37:21-28; Jer 31:10, 11-13; Jn 11:45-56  
Sun: Lk 19:28-40; Is 50:4-7; Ps 22:8-9, 17-20, 23-24; Phil 2:6-11; Lk 22:14 -23:56

**WEEKLY EVENTS**

**Sunday, March 17**

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

**Monday, March 18**

**Tuesday, March 19**

12:00 p.m. MASS - Chapel

**Wednesday, March 20**

8:15 a.m. SCHOOL MASS - Church  
10:00 a.m. Adult Faith Enrichment Sessions - Formation House

2:00 p.m. 15 Minute Coffee with Fr. Fidèle  
7:00 p.m. Reconciliation/Confessions - Church

**Thursday, March 21**

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

**Friday, March 22**

12:00 p.m. MASS - Chapel  
6:00 p.m. STATIONS OF THE CROSS- Church

**Saturday, March 23**

5:00 p.m. MASS - Church

**ST. JOHN BERCHMANS SCHOOL NEWS**

- ⇒ Students, faculty and staff will return on Monday, March 18, 2024. School office will resume regular office hours.
- ⇒ **SCHOOL REGISTRATION/ENROLLEMENT**  
Enrollment for the 2024-25 school year is open. Registration is \$260 per student until April 19th. Beginning April 20th registration fee will increase to \$300 per child. For more information about tuition and to schedule your school tour contact Mrs. Hopcus (Secretary) at (210) 433-0411. We are excited to meet you!
- ⇒ **HOPE FOR THE FUTURE**  
Scholarship applications are currently being accepted. Visit FACTS Application for 2024-25 Archdiocese of San Antonio (archsa.org) for more information.
- ⇒ **FIESTA T-SHIRTS:**  
Our school will be selling Fiesta T-shirts. A flyer was provided last weekend for anyone interested in ordering a T-shirt. Deadline Monday, March 25th.
- ⇒ **MINI FESTIVAL**  
Will be held on Thursday, April 25th from 3pm-5pm to support PTC. More information will be sent out at a later date.

**FOR YOUR INFORMATION:**

- Taking orders for **Holy Thursday Candles**. Cost: \$5.00 each or \$60 for the case. Contact Parish office and orders taken until March 27.
- **Easter Lilies orders are now being taken**  
Cost \$10.00 each
- Bus tour for the **Tour of Seven Churches** on Holy Thursday, March 28, 2024. Cost: \$10.00

**ACTS ANNUAL FISH FRY**

The ACTS Community will be hosting their annual **Fish Fry Plate Sale on Friday, March 29th** in the School Cafeteria. Cost \$15.00 per plate.

Please contact Dolores Guardiola or any ACTS core member for tickets/information. We thank you for your continued support of our ministry.

Welcome to anyone interested in assisting us to clean our beautiful church.  
**EVERY SATURDAY @ 8AM!!!**

**MINISTRY SCHEDULED**  
**MARCH 23 - LECTORS**



**BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS**

All requests must be sent by email to [osantoyo1104@gmail.com](mailto: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.