

17th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

July 24, 2022

www.stjohnberchmans.com

SNAKES AND SCORPIONS AND PRAYERS? OH, MY!

How often do we hear about snakes and scorpions at Mass? Well, today we do! Jesus uses these frightful (to most of us!) images for their shock value in order to emphasize how graciously and unfailingly our Father in heaven cares for us. The first reading sets the stage for our reflection. Who can hear the story of Abraham negotiating with God in the first reading and not smile at his audacity? The middle Eastern custom of bartering likely honed Abraham's skills in that arena. He even appeals to God's sense of honor, saying, "Far be it from you to do such a thing" [as to wipe out the innocent with the guilty]. Have we not all bargained with God at one time or another when we were desperately in need?

YOU HAVE HEARD THE WORDS OF MY MOUTH

Notice that the very first words of today's Gospel are "Jesus was praying." Of course, the disciples would be curious about a practice that was so central to Jesus' daily life. He was obviously good at it. Perhaps they wanted to know how they could more easily "influence" God themselves! They wanted to know what would work. Luke's version of the beloved Lord's Prayer (one of two found in the Gospels) is highlighted today in response to the disciples' request.

The two parables following the Lord's Prayer teach us about prayer both from the point of view of the one who prays and from God's point of view. The parable of the friend who knocks on the door at midnight illustrates prayer from the point of view someone who urgently needs something. Persistence is the key. The last section of the Gospel offers us a glimpse of prayer from God's point of view. If you seek, you will find; if you knock, the door will be opened. With Jesus as our mediator, we are assured of a hearing before our Father in heaven who is waiting to give good gifts to his children.

TODAY'S READINGS: Gn 18:20-32; Ps 138:1-8; Col 2:12-14; Lk 11:1-13

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¿SERPIENTES Y ESCORPIONES Y ORACIONES? ¡OH, DIOS!

¿Con qué frecuencia oímos hablar de serpientes y escorpiones en la misa? Pues hoy sí. Jesús utiliza estas imágenes espantosas (para la mayoría de nosotros) por su valor de choque para subrayar la bondad y la infalibilidad con que nuestro Padre del cielo nos cuida. La primera lectura prepara el terreno para nuestra reflexión. ¿Quién puede escuchar la historia de la negociación de Abraham con Dios en la primera lectura y no sonreír ante su audacia? La costumbre del trueque en Oriente Medio probablemente perfeccionó las habilidades de Abraham en ese terreno. Incluso apela al sentido del honor de Dios, diciendo: "Lejos de ti hacer tal cosa" (como eliminar al inocente con el culpable). ¿Acaso no hemos negociado todos con Dios en un momento u otro cuando estábamos desesperadamente necesitados?

HAN ESCUCHADO LAS PALABRAS DE MI BOCA

Fijate en que las primeras palabras del Evangelio de hoy son "Jesús estaba orando". Por supuesto, los discípulos sentirían curiosidad por una práctica que era tan central en la vida diaria de Jesús. Es evidente que se le daba bien. Tal vez querían saber cómo podían "influir" más fácilmente en Dios. Querían saber qué podía funcionar. La versión de Lucas del querido Padre Nuestro (una de las dos que se encuentran en los Evangelios) se destaca hoy en respuesta a la petición de los discípulos.

Las dos parábolas que siguen al Padre Nuestro nos enseñan sobre la oración tanto desde el punto de vista del que reza como desde el punto de vista de Dios. La parábola del amigo que llama a la puerta a medianoche ilustra la oración desde el punto de vista de alguien que necesita algo con urgencia. La persistencia es la clave. La última parte del Evangelio nos ofrece una visión de la oración desde el punto de vista de Dios. Si buscas, encuentras; si llamas, se te abre la puerta. Con Jesús como mediador, tenemos la seguridad de ser escuchados por nuestro Padre del cielo, que espera dar buenos regalos a sus hijos.

LECTURAS DE HOY: Gn 18:20-32; Sal 138:1-8; Col 2:12-14; Lc 11:1-13

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Please Pray for the Sick

Prayer List Updates



Maria Langley	Virginia Moralez	Roland Lozano
Suzanne Gutierrez	Raymond Sarabia	Estefana Reyes
Syl Vasquez, Jr.	Frank Rodriguez	Deacon J. Rodriguez
Sarah Contreras	Pat Flores	Joanne Almaguer
Marty Carrera Tobias	Julissa Rodriguez	Antonia Degollado
Frances Lozano	Kay Towers	Baby Zaylee Gaitan
Irma Urias	Oscar Arcos	Jeanette Ortiz
Mary S. Martinez	Miliana Bullock	Bobby Rollins
Gina Gonzales	Hope Esquivel	Darlene Lopez
Mike Mandujano	Mary Collazo	George Garnica
Galilea Romero	Terri Moreno	Adam Alonzo, Jr.
Flora Torres	Lydia Soriano	Raymond Serna
Iris Luna Sullivan	AB Cruz	Mary Martinez
Sandy Guerra	Robert Cruz	Mark Martinez
Abraham Guerra	Rita Prado	Cecilia Rodriguez
Emma O. Velasquez	Josie Rodriguez	Albert Rodriguez
Leticia Lopez Barrera	Sandra Carreon	Albert Casillas
Leticia Martinez	Isidoro & Angie Muñoz	Vanessa G. Quintero
Kenny De La Rosa	Eva Flores	

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 WEEK ENDING JULY 17, 2022

5 PM Mass	-\$ 717.00	
9 AM Mass	-\$ 624.00	
11 AM Mass	-\$1,383.00	
Altar Flowers	-\$ 55.00	2nd Collection
Ranchi Region Appeal	-\$ 412.00	2nd Collection
Mail In	-\$ 318.00	
Gift of Giving	-\$ 155.20	
TOTAL	\$ 3,664.20	



SECOND COLLECTION

July 31, 2022 - Raffle Expenses

2022 GIFT OF GIVING

Contributions ending July 17, 2022	\$ 155.20
TOTAL	\$ 8,369.25

Announcements



Saturday, July 23

5:00 p.m. † George Hernandez - Wife & Family
For Health Ricardo Campa - Friends
For Health Jaime Gomez - Socorro & Raquel

Sunday, July 24

9:00 a.m. † Frankie Weddel - Aunt
 † Ana B. Canales - Angelita Canales
 † Mr. Guadalupe Treviño - Nora Treviño
 † Margarita Ventura - Family
 † Daniel C. & Maria Arzola - Familia
For Health Adan Alonzo, Jr.

11:00 a.m. † Paul Salinas - Wife
 † Deacon Thomas Torres, Jr. - Family
 † Conrad Soriano - Family
 † Isidro Mata - Kimberly & Khloe
 † Ryan Sanchez - Sanchez Family
For Health Colleen Sebold - Parish Family

Monday, July 25 - ST. JAMES

Tuesday, July 26 - STS. JOACHIM AND ANNE

12:00 p.m. **Gift of Life** John R. Escobedo - Mom

Wednesday, July 27

12:00 p.m. † Jack Weddel - Dad

Thursday, July 28

12:00 p.m. † Zulema Orosco - Family
For Health Colleen Sebold - Friends

Friday, July 29 - STS. MARY, MARTHA AND LAZARUS

12:00 p.m. For Our Parish Community

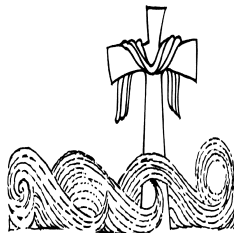
PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

O God, protector of those who hope in you,
 without whom nothing has firm foundation,
 nothing is holy,
 bestow in abundance your mercy upon us
 and grant that, with you as our ruler and guide,
 we may use the good things that pass
 in such a way as to hold fast even now
 to those that ever endure.
 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.

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time July 24, 2022

You were buried with him in baptism,
 in which you were also raised with him
 through faith in the power of God,
 who raised him from the dead.
 — Colossians 2:12



Dear Parishioners and Friends:

I returned home from Kananga to spend one more week with my family before departing to Europe. While in Kananga I met with students, teachers and parents of the elementary school Mumiaminyi, Disangayi and Muoyo Mupeluke. They all expressed their gratitude to all of you who have been very supportive of the Dikete Education Opportunity Foundation. Dikete Foundation has served more than 2,000 students for the past 10 years by providing them with tuition, uniforms and maintenance for the facilities. However, students are faced with four major challenges such as desks, restrooms, school supplies and maintenance of the facilities. I understand times are very difficult for us now, but I appeal to you to assist me in addressing these challenges.

A desk may be purchased at \$60 each. Our goal is to purchase 300 desks. Your support is critical and highly appreciated. The Catholic church named St. Martin de Porres where I was baptized and became a Christian, is in need of a generator and piano to be able to celebrate Mass, and to improve the sound system and enhance the liturgy. The cost for both is \$1,000.

Please note that each generous donation is tax deductible. Thank you for always caring for the poor and those in need. God bless you.

We do not take a vacation from God so I cordially invite you to continue attending Mass during the summer season. Please remember He cares and provides for us daily. If you happen to travel, please make sure you look for the nearest church to attend and receive the Holy Eucharist. We also suggest that you access the website www.masstimes.org (enter zip code) and churches in the area will be displayed. We need God in our lives and I urge you also to dress appropriately and accordingly. Have a wonderful and fun summer time with your family and friends.

The use of masks in our church is optional. I invite you to be sensitive and considerate of each other. We are our brother's and sister's keepers. The Hospitality Ministry will continue taking your temperature and sanitizing your hands before you enter the house of the Lord. The use of masks is still required for parish office visits.

We pray that God will continue to protect us all.

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

Announcements

www.stjohnberchmans.com



SJB Guadalupana Organization is thankful for everyone's support of our fundraiser this past weekend. It was a success and we heard many comments that the plate was delicious! As always, grateful to our hardworking Guadalupanas for their time and effort. God bless you all!

WORSHIP

Our Parish community is blessed with the talent of our Choir ministers at our weekend Masses.

- Our community's song and spoken responses are a key part of our communal prayer.
- Songs are displayed on our screens to invite full participation.
- Out of solemn respect for the Mass, we follow the custom of remaining at our places within the church until the conclusion of the recessional hymn.
- Please silence/turn off your cell phone. As an overt act of courtesy (and respect for the prayer of all), please remember to silence/turn off your cell phone when you arrive in the church.



We welcome anyone to help us clean our beautiful church. We meet every **Saturday morning at 8:00 a.m.**
Ministry Scheduled - July 30, 2022
Knights/Ultreya

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon: 2 Cor 4:7-15; Ps 126:1bc-6; Mt 20:20-28
Tue: Jer 14:17-22; Ps 79:8, 9, 11, 13; Mt 13:36-43
Wed: Jer 15:10, 16-21; Ps 59:2-18; Mt 13:44-46
Thu: Jer 18:1-6; Ps 146:1-6; Mt 13:47-53
Fri: Jer 26:1-9; Ps 69:5, 8-10, 14; Jn 11:19-27
Sat: Jer 26:11-16,24; Ps 69:15-16,30-34; Mt 14:1-12
Sun: Eccl 1:2; 2:21-23; Ps 90:3-17; Col 3:1-5, 9-11; Lk 12:13-21

CYO REGISTRATION UNDERWAY

ONLINE REGISTRATION FOR SOCCER, VOLLEYBALL AND FLAG FOOTBALL WILL BEGIN LIVE THIS SUNDAY, JULY 24TH.
REGISTER ONLINE: ret.sportspilot.com/106373
Additional information forthcoming. Questions? Please contact Natica Rivera (210) 550-1236.



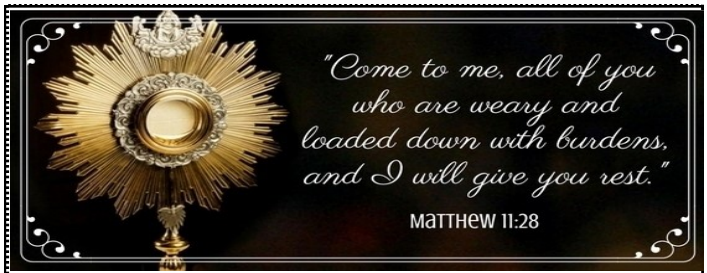
BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

All requests must be sent by email to osantoyo1104@gmail.com and will be finalized for approval by Father Fidèle. We ask that you submit your requests at least two (2) weeks in advance for placement in the bulletin.



NEW TO OUR PARISH AND WANT TO REGISTER AS A NEW PARISHIONER?

If you are interested in registering as a new parishioner at St. John Berchmans Church, please contact our Parish Office at 210-434-3247 to fill out a registration form.



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION
MONDAY - FRIDAY
9:00 AM - 12 Noon & 2:00 - 5:00 P.M.



Sunday, July 24

9:00 a.m. Bilingual Mass - Church
11:00 a.m. Mass - Church

Monday, July 25

Tuesday, July 26

9:00 am - 5:00 pm Adoration - Chapel
12:00 p.m. Communion Service - Chapel

Wednesday, July 27

9:00am - 5:00 pm Adoration - Chapel
12:00 p.m. Communion Service - Chapel
2:00 p.m. Coffee with Fr. Fidèle

Thursday, July 28

9:00am- 5:00 pm Adoration - Chapel
12:00 p.m. Communion Service - Chapel

Friday, July 29

9:00am- 5:00 pm Adoration - Chapel
12:00 p.m. Communion Service - Chapel

Saturday, July 30

5:00 p.m. Mass - Church

THE SANCTUARY CANDLE IN MEMORY OF

Community of Uvalde
53 Fellow Christians
7 Souls in Highland Park



IN MEMORIAM

We offer condolences and sympathy to our parishioners who have experienced a death in their family.

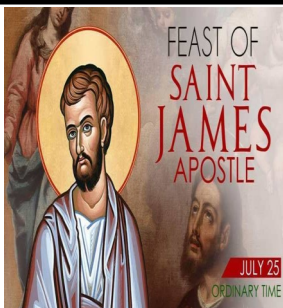
† Rosa Maria San Miguel
† Inez V. De Los Santos
† Raul Leos Perez

OPEN MY HEART

“If you then, who are wicked, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the Father in heaven give the Holy spirit to those who ask him?” (Luke 11:13) On this 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time, we are reminded of God’s overflowing mercy, tenderness, and generosity. Jesus compares the limited gifts we can give to one another and how God seeks to provide the ultimate gift in our life, which is the Holy Spirit. The gift of the Holy Spirit has the effect of helping us to grow in ways that allow us to be serenely present to our true needs and the needs of our neighbors. What events have I experienced this week that has allowed me to stop and appreciate an area of my life I had taken for granted?

Pope Francis states, “To be serenely present to each reality, however small it may be, opens us to greater horizons of understanding and personal fulfilment. Christian spirituality proposes a growth marked by moderation and the capacity to be happy with little. To appreciate the small things, and to be grateful for the opportunities which life affords us. This implies avoiding the dynamic of dominion and the mere accumulation of pleasure.”

May we be attentive to the stirrings of the Holy Spirit and find creative ways to respond with gratitude to God’s provincial care. Let us pray for a renewed invitation of God’s love and mercy in our lives as we seek to become authentic disciples of peace.



SAINT OF THE WEEK - JULY 25TH

Saint James the Apostle is also called, James of Zebedee, or James the Greater to distinguish him from the other James in Jesus’ group of twelve. Most of what we know about Saint James is recorded in the New Testament. He and his brother John were collected by Jesus along the Sea of Galilee.

Saint James was part of Jesus’ intimate circle, a witness to the Transfiguration, the resurrection of Jarius’ daughter, and the agony in the garden of Gethesemane.

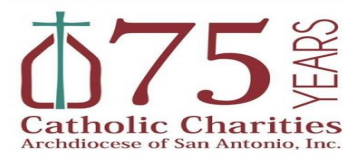
In A.D. 44 Herod Agrippa had James killed by the sword.” (Acts 12:2). He is the only apostle whose martyrdom is written of in the New Testament.

PREGNANT OR PARENTING AND NEED HELP?

Contact Catholic Charities for support: (210) 222-1294

Providing:

- | | | |
|-----------------|------------------|----------------|
| *Child care | *Finding Housing | *Baby Supplies |
| *Food | *Clothing | *Mentoring |
| *Maternity Care | *Blankets | And more... |



LECTURAS DE LA SEMANA

- Lunes: 2 Cor 4:7-15; Sal 126:1bc-6; Mt 20:20-28
 Martes: Jer 14:17-22; Sal 79:8, 9, 11, 13; Mt 13:36-43
 Miércoles: Jer 15:10, 16-21; Sal 59:2-18; Mt 13:44-46
 Jueves: Jer 18:1-6; Sal 146:1 - 6; Mt 13:47-53
 Viernes: Jer 26:1-9; Sal 69:5, 8-10, 14; Jn 11:19-27
 Sábado: Jer 26:11-16, 24; Sal 69:15-16, 30-34; Mt 14:1-12
 Domingo: Ecl 1:2; 2:21-23; Sal 90:3-17; Col 3:1-5, 9-11; Lc 12:13-21

UNA CONVERSACIÓN CON DIOS

Este fin de semana ponemos nuestra atención en la oración. En el Evangelio, Jesús da a sus discípulos, y a nosotros, la oración del Padre Nuestro, que durante siglos hemos apreciado. Las dos primeras palabras abarcan mucho de nuestra fe: la unidad entre todos los cristianos (Nuestro), y un sentido de que estamos en una relación profundamente vinculada con Dios (Padre).

En el libro de Génesis, vemos a Abraham en una oración de conversación, en su humildad de creatura ante su Creador, buscando misericordia y compasión por un inocente. El salmo es una oración poética de agradecimiento y alabanza al Dios que respondió a las oraciones sinceras de un pueblo que había pedido ayuda, mostrando su misericordia. En el Evangelio de Lucas, los discípulos quieren orar como Jesús, con la misma intimidad, para experimentar a Dios como Abba en lo más profundo de su ser.

¿Intentamos nosotros de hablar con Dios? ¿Escuchamos las respuestas? Esta relación siempre es un trabajo en progreso.

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PREGUNTA DE LA SEMANA Soy hospitalario para con los demás, con los que necesitan alimento y descanso a tal vez solo necesiten compañía?