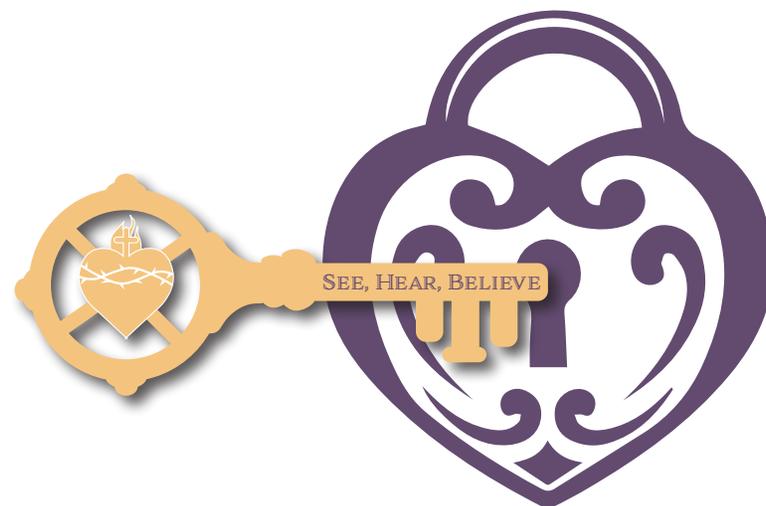


## ABOUT FR. BRITTO M. BERCHMANS

Born in India, Fr. Britto Berchmans has since served the Church in various capacities in India, Italy, and the US, and is now a Chicago diocesan priest. He speaks extensively to groups on spirituality, relationships, and personal growth, and conducts parish missions. He holds multiple Master's degrees in physics, journalism, and theology, and a Doctorate in mass communications. He has produced a six-part set of CDs entitled, Enrich your Marriage. He is currently the pastor of St Paul of the Cross Parish in Park Ridge, a parish that ministers to over 4,900 registered families. Fr Britto laces humor into all his presentations, and recently he has been doing a comedy routine known as "Holy Smokes!" for audiences around Chicago. A year ago Fr Britto started to host on Catholic Radio a monthly talk show entitled "Built on the Rock" which focuses on Christ-centered marriages and relationships.



## 2018 PARISH MISSION



# OPEN YOUR HEART TO THE LORD

FR. BRITTO M. BERCHMANS

# OPEN YOUR HEART TO THE LORD



Lent is a time for repentance, for a change of heart. For conversion to happen, we need to open our hearts to God's grace. The Lenten mission this year issues that challenge – "Open your hearts to the Lord!" The mission talks attempt to help us draw closer to God.

Our God is a God of love Who wants to love Him, not fear Him. He loved us even before we existed. His love has been active in our lives even though often we have not taken notice. Hopefully this mission will enable us to recognize His love, reach out in a personal relationship to Him, respond in prayer, and return home with a song in our hearts.



## **SESSION I: ST. MARIA GORETTI CHURCH SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18**

### **LOVE SCRIPTS: HOW TO READ GOD'S HANDWRITING**

We begin our spiritual journey when we recognize that God not only loves us, but is in love with us. We need to develop the capacity to recognize God's handwriting as He sends us His love-notes every day.

## **SESSION II: DIVINE SAVIOR CHURCH MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19**

### **DISCIPLESHIP: PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP TO JESUS CHRIST**

Our discipleship does not consist in following a set of rules and believing in a system of truths. It is all about creating a personal relationship with a living person, Jesus Christ, who died, rose and is with us. In order to form this intimate relationship with Him, we need to know Him, love Him and follow Him.

## **SESSION III: OUR LADY, MOTHER OF THE CHURCH TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20**

### **PRAYER: GETTING IN TOUCH WITH THE GOD WITHIN**

Heeding the command of the Lord to pray always, we seek to give expression to the groans and longings of our hearts. Prayer is basically our response to the God who has taken the initiative to love us unconditionally.

## **SESSION IV: ST. BEATRICE CHURCH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21**

### **REJOICING: HAPPINESS AND FULFILLMENT IN LIFE**

No matter what we do, we are all seeking happiness. And yet, happiness seems to be so elusive. In this talk, Fr Britto outlines a simple approach to living our lives to the fullest. Drawing insights from positive psychology, spiritual life and common wisdom, he attempts to provide concrete steps to live more fully our everyday lives.