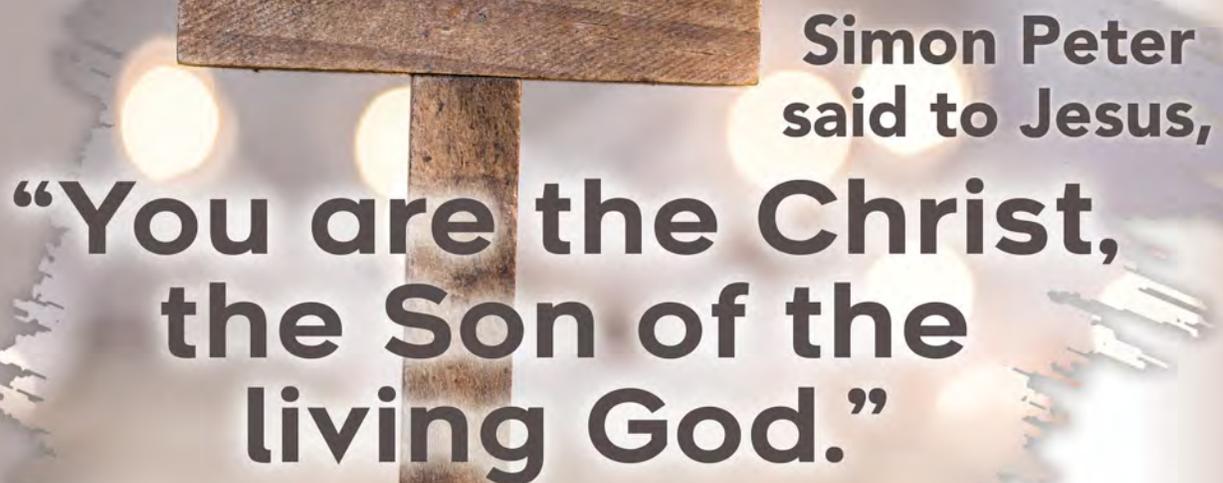


This week at St. James the Apostle

Open Mind • Open Heart • Open Door
August 23, 2020

AUGUST
23
2020

Twenty-First Sunday
in Ordinary Time



Simon Peter
said to Jesus,
**“You are the Christ,
the Son of the
living God.”**

Matthew 16:16

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WHO DO PEOPLE SAY THAT I AM?

Jesus spent three years with the apostles,
He shared with them His many proposals.
In grasping Him they were not very sharp,
Their ambition kept them in the dark.

For years they waited for liberation,
Long the Jews had suffered persecution,
Under the Romans they had no freedom,
They desperately longed for a new kingdom.

They thought Jesus was their liberator,
Against Rome, they saw Him as protector.
Jesus told them about His Father's plan,
They did not understand the Son of Man.

Jesus came across to people differently,
Children thought He was very warm and friendly.
Many took Him to be an outstanding teacher,
Many yet claimed Him as a powerful preacher.

Nobody saw Him more than a prophet,
They missed the Messiah the Father sent.
He tested His apostles whether they knew.
Except Peter, the rock, others had no clue.

"You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."
This is Peter's profession of faith in the Lord.
Who is Jesus to you in your personal life?"
Your answer will determine joy or strife.

Questions:

1. Which stanza of this poem reminds you of Jesus' teaching about the Kingdom of God?
2. Why did Jesus advise us to be like children?
3. Is it simplicity or complexity that interferes with our understanding?

Reflections:

If you have been a teacher, you have undoubtedly experienced the entire class shouting out their answers to an open question. The noise and confusion would have made it difficult to hear them clearly, and those who did not know the correct answers would remain in the dark. If, however, you ask a pointed question to a particular student, you would notice everyone suddenly becoming very quiet. Some may pay close attention to that conversation, and others would simply try to avoid being called upon.

When Jesus asked the apostles what the people thought about Him, everyone began shouting their answers simultaneously. However, the atmosphere suddenly changed and they became very quiet when He directed the question as to what they thought about Him. Busy as they had been in their ministry with Jesus, they were caught unprepared for this question. The idea of Jesus establishing a divine kingdom was still beyond their grasp. Their slow comprehension and resistance to expand their understanding of God's Kingdom was revealed when one day Jesus told them that He was going to Jerusalem and would meet His death there at the hands of enemies. Instead of contemplating and accepting their Savior's divine words, they reverted to their humanistic limitations, saying it was a foolish thing to do. Even Peter protested against His plan.



**MESSAGE FROM
FATHER ANTONY**

The apostles were very slow to understand that Jesus had not visited mankind to establish an earthly kingdom. The public was not ready to accept Him as the Son of God who became man in order to save them. He knew this and at least wanted to make sure the apostles did. This is why Jesus focused the apostles' attention onto the question of His identity. Though Peter gave the correct answer, it was only because he was momentarily under the influence of the Holy Spirit and not because he grasped the ultimate plan of Jesus. The series of two questions also gave the apostles a chance to understand their

mission, as they were given the opportunity to compare their own understanding of Jesus with that of the people. Unfortunately they were slow to understand their calling and great blessing. Soon after Jesus asked this question, the apostles fought among themselves to ascertain who was the greatest among them. Are we not very different from the apostles? Do we readily grasp God's great blessings and opportunities in our lives, or do we squander those opportunities and descend into the misery of our world view as the apostles did in their petty quarreling?

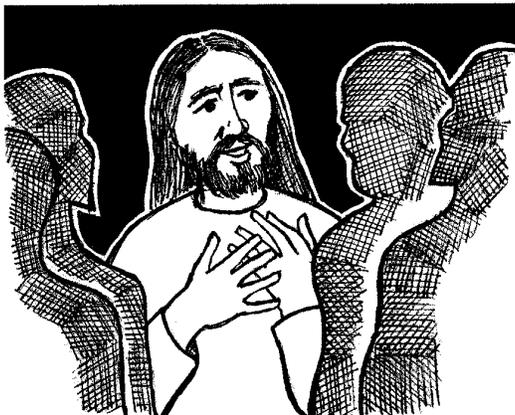
It might have been very frustrating for Jesus to lead a group of very slow, worldly, and ambitious apostles. Time was running out and He had to accomplish His Father's mission before (Continued on page 2) works in the world and establish the Church. They were His only hope and He had no backup plan. And so, it was very important that they knew who He was and what His plans were. Like us, the apostles were happy to accept Him as a prophet, teacher, or even a world leader. These answers showed they were not ready to walk the narrow path, which would eventually challenge them to fully commit their lives to Him.

We can attribute to Jesus the appellations of teacher or preacher, and we can remain the same as we are without changing our lives. However, Peter's answer, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God," is all embracing, and an invitation for you to actively accept Jesus as your Savior. This is a great challenge! This answer can come only from life experience and will not allow you to be the same person you once were. Instead, it immediately calls you to conversion and a complete life change. If Jesus is our Messiah, then He is our only way to heaven. We must be molded and formed in His name. We are then expected to make an unlimited commitment to Him -- no matter what the consequences may be.

There are two ways we can know a person. We can know about a person from a distance, or we can know a person through direct experiential contact. If you want to know about Jesus, there are countless available means including books, CDs, and DVDs. The New Testament will, of course, provide you with a wealth of information about Him. However, truly

knowing Him is something different. We can only really know a person by direct, personal experience. The deeper your experience is, the better you know Him. Mary Magdalene had a very personal and deep experience of Jesus when He forgave her, saving her from imminent death at the hands of her captors who would have stoned her. St. Paul had a very personal and tangible experience with Jesus when He appeared to him on his way to Damascus. Even though the apostles were very close to Him for three years, they did not really have a life changing experience of Him until Pentecost, which altered their lives totally and forever.

WHO DO YOU SAY



THAT I AM?

(Continued on page 3)

PARISH CALENDAR

Aug 25	Pastoral Council 7:00pm
Aug 27	Bishop Begin Assembly 3546 Bus. Mtg 7:30pm
Sept 4	First Friday
Sept 7	KofC Officer's Meeting 7:30pm
Sept 12	Finance Council Meeting 11:30am
Sept 13	KofC Novena Prayer for the Unborn after 10am Mass Fatima Celebration 7:30pm
Sept 14	St. Vincent de Paul Meeting 7:00pm
Sept 21	KofC Business Meeting 7:30pm
Sept 24	Bishop Begin Assembly 3546 Bus. Mtg 7:30pm
Sept 29	Pastoral Council 7:00pm
Oct 2	First Friday
Oct 5	KofC Officer's Meeting 7:30pm
Oct 11	KofC Novena Prayer for the Unborn after 10am Mass St. Vincent de Paul Meeting 7:00pm
Oct 12	St. Vincent de Paul Meeting 7:00pm
Oct 19	KofC Business Meeting 7:30pm
Oct 22	Bishop Begin Assembly 3546 Bus. Mtg 7:30pm
Oct 27	Pastoral Council 7:00pm
Oct 16	International Rosary 7:00pm (TBD)
Oct 17	Dinner Dance - Mother Teresa Center (TBD)

If you or someone you know is in need, please consider calling
St. Vincent de Paul
510-796-5494.



Please remember those in the Armed Services:

Evelyn Surla (Air Force) Spec. Tara Mueller, Sgt. Kristan Jofel T. Carado, Major Jenny Ryan, Captain David Evans

And Parishioners and friends who need our prayers or who are ill.

Joe Parrish, Priscilla Verdeflor, Bob Nehls, Ron Lord, Monica Horton, Arabella Horton, Danny Powell, Cody Maisono, John DiPaola, Evelyn Reyes, Frank Smith, Concha Garcia, Deacon Ernie Dandan, Joel Rivera, Melanie O'Connor, Katherine Gomes, Lydia DeGraf, Laura Skaff, Alice Ferreira, Agnes Harris, Ray Ballin, Martha Torres



To add or update this list, send an email to bulletin@sjapostle.net or phone the parish office at 510-792-1962 and leave a message.

KNIGHT'S CORNER

Would you like to join the "Men in Blue Blazers?" The Knights of Columbus of St. James the Apostle Council No. 14541 is accepting applicants. A prospective candidate must be a practicing Catholic and at least 18 years of age. This is a great opportunity for single and married men to serve God and the parish's community activities, set an example for its youth and make families closer to God.

If you are interested and would like more information, please contact Sydney Jacques sydjacques@gmail.com 209-445-8630. Or ask a Knight! Thank you.

We are men of faith & men of action.



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Monday-Saturday Mass:	8:30am
Saturday Mass:	5:00pm
Sunday Masses:	8:30am, 10:00am, 12:00noon
Rosary before Mass:	Monday - Saturday 8:05am Saturday 4:30pm Wednesday 7:10pm Sunday 8:00am and 11:40am
Respect for Life Rosary	2nd Sunday 9:30am
Holy Days of Obligation:	Masses 8:30am & 7:30pm
Confessions:	Saturday 4:00pm or by appt.
Every Friday Adoration:	9:00 - 10:00am
First Fridays:	Adoration 9:00 am-6:30pm
Sacred Heart Novena	6:30pm
Benediction	7:15pm
Healing Mass	7:30pm
Our Mother of Perpetual Help:	Mass & Novena, Wednesdays, 7:30pm

DEVOTIONS

Weekly:	
Bible Study	Wed. 9:30 am (Kitchen)
Divine Mercy Chaplet:	Thurs, after morning Mass
In the Small Chapel:	
Legion of Mary	Tues 9:30am
Bible Study with a Difference	Thurs. 7:00pm
Charismatic Prayer Meeting	2nd & 3rd Fridays 7:00pm

Monthly:

Divine Mercy Cenacle	7:00pm, 2nd and 4th
Prayer Meeting	Mondays (Small Chapel)
Our Lady of Vailankanni	First Saturday 7:00pm
Sacred Heart	6:30pm 1st Friday
Enthronement (formal ceremony to make the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus as the King of the house), please contact: Cora Surla (510)676-2757; or Tessie Ricafort (510)825-5645	

(Continued from page 2) Message from Father Antony

All of us should have our own personal answers to His question, "Who do you say that I am?" We cannot simply mimic the words of Peter at an intellectual level. The answer must come sincerely from our hearts and be inspired by the Holy Spirit. What is our personal answer to this question today?

WHY PRAY?

The "foreigners" as Isaiah calls them, the "Gentiles" as Paul calls them, or the "Canaanites" as Matthew calls them are called to worship the one true God in prayer. As we listen to today's readings, perhaps we are tempted to ask: Why pray? The question is rhetorical; it is tantamount to asking why should friends talk to one another or people in love kiss one another. Prayer is a way of relating to God, a way of talking to God. The apostles had the opportunity to talk to Jesus in the flesh. We have the opportunity to talk to Jesus Christ in prayer. Our relationship with him must be enthusiastic; it cannot be faint-hearted. John Donne, a fifteenth-century poet, knew what the qualities of good prayer were. Donne asks God to treat him differently from most Christians. The poet does not want God to merely "knock, breathe, shine, and seek to mend," but also to "break, blow, burn, and make me new" (Holy Sonnets, XIV).

It takes a dynamic faith on our part to come to God in prayer. As Jesus once said, "Knock and the door will be opened to you" (Matthew 7:7). It may take pounding the door down, but if we are as persistent as the woman in today's Gospel, the results will follow.

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ST. JAMES THE APOSTLE PARISH OFFICE HOURS

M-F 9:00AM TO NOON, SUNDAY 9:30AM - 11:30AM

REGISTRATION IN THE PARISH

Warmest welcome to all who worship in our Community. If you are not registered in the Parish, please complete a registration form available at church entrance or at the Parish Office or drop the form below in the collection basket.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Please call the Parish Office when a parishioner is home-bound or hospitalized to arrange for Holy Communion and Anointing of the Sick.

MARRIAGES AND BAPTISMS

Please contact the Parish Office at least 6 months in advance for weddings and 3 months in advance for Baptisms.

BAPTISMS

To have your child baptized, please **make an appointment** with Father Antony. Come to the St. James Parish office or call the Parish Office at 510-792-1962. For more details, please go to the Church website (Parish Info) or contact Marcial Vasco 650-303-7106.

Baptism Preparation/Training class: First Saturday of the month from 11:00 am - 12:30 pm in the Small Chapel.

Baptism Celebration: Last Saturday of the month 11:30am-12:30pm in the church

FUNERALS

We recommend using Catholic Funeral and Cemetery Services / Holy Sepulchre Cemetery and Holy Angels Funeral and Cremation Services. You may contact Shirley Aldana @ 510-537-6600 X 133.

MOTHER TERESA CENTER RESERVATIONS.

Call 510-999-5940, email MTC@sjapostle.net, or leave a message at the Parish Office at 510-792-1962. (No prices or quotes are given over the phone or in an e-mail.)



Fr. Antony Vazhappilly, Pastor
Ernie Dandan, Deacon

Welcome, New Members!

We encourage you to register in the parish so that you can receive communication via email or regular mail.

Registration information is essential for the office to respond to requests, send important parish and diocesan information and verify donations for tax purposes. If you need a letter of good standing to be a sponsor or Godparent for a baptism or marriage, registration is very important.

Please fill out this form and place it in the collection basket and we will mail you a Parish Registration form. You can also find a registration form on the website (sjapostle.net) - Parish Info - Parish Membership.

Name

Address

Phone

Email

ST. JAMES RCIA

Are you or someone you know an adult interested in receiving the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist or in learning more about the Catholic faith?

We are now identifying people interested in 2020/2021 RCIA Program (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults). Meetings will be held weekly starting at the end of August 2020. During the Covid-19 pandemic, we meet via Zoom. If you do not have a computer, you can join us by telephone.



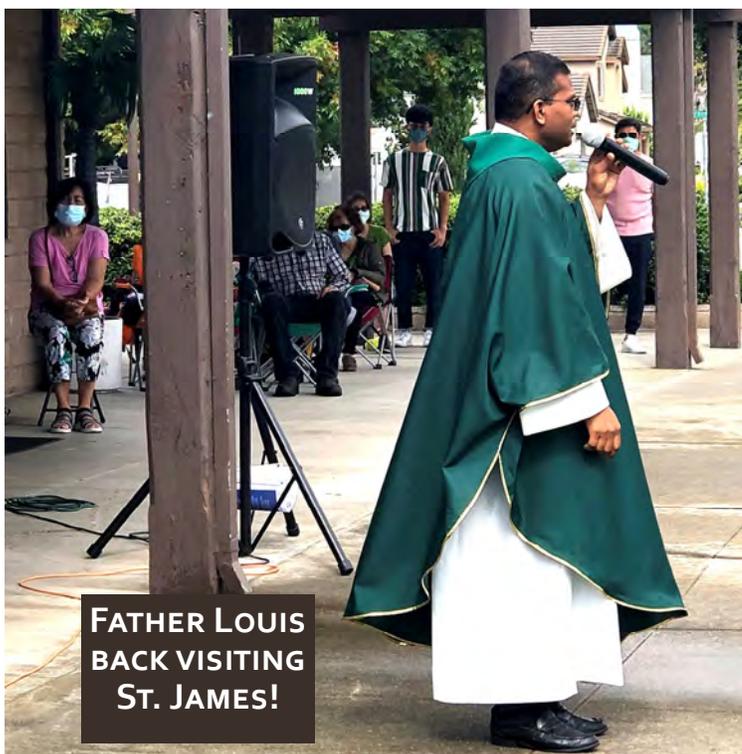
Everyone is Welcome, especially:

- Baptized Catholics who have not yet received all the Sacraments of Initiation;
- Baptized Christians of any faith who would like to explore Catholic teachings;
- People who have never been baptized but who want to know more about the Catholic faith;
- Practicing Catholics who want to learn more about the Catholic Church.

We also welcome Confirmed Catholics who would like to participate in RCIA to share their faith and be prayer partners for those seeking to grow in faith.

If you would like to know more, please contact:

FrancesAnn McKenney at fammck@aol.com or call/text 510-648-4876.



**FATHER LOUIS
BACK VISITING
ST. JAMES!**

**Missed a bulletin? Go to Parish Info on the
St. James Website sjapostle.net.
Get the weekly bulletin delivered to your email.**

**Sign up at [https://www.jspaluch.com/
BulletinSubscribe.aspx](https://www.jspaluch.com/BulletinSubscribe.aspx) - (Bulletin #000268)**

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Send information for the webpage to: webmaster@sjapostle.net.

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