

ST. JAMES THE APOSTLE CHURCH



FAITH FORMATION

"CREATING GREAT MINDS

AND BIG HEARTS TO SERVE AND LEAD"



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The St. James the Apostle CCD Program kicked off the school year with a virtual Open House on September 26th and an in-person Orientation on October 3rd. Both sessions were well attended by the parents and students. The teachers did a meet and greet with their students at the St. James lawn area and distributed their textbooks and materials. All classes will be virtual until the Alameda County guidelines for school reopening confirm when it is safe to go back in the classrooms. The parish extends its sincere thanks to all the teachers and volunteers who continue to dedicate their time to support the children's faith journey. Our gratitude to the parents as well for supporting their children's continuing faith formation and all of our parish events and initiatives. We look forward to an exciting and meaningful school year and continue to pray for better times ahead.

God bless us all!

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WHICH IS THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT?

Which is the greatest commandment in the law?
A scholar asked Jesus this only to show,
His superior knowledge on the vast subject,
And to trap Jesus with a well thought out test.

Pharisees had tried hard to prove Jesus wrong,
They would not trap Him even if they tried lifelong.
He beat them with answers they would never grasp
For them this was a humiliating slap.

Sadducees and Pharisees were full of conceit,
With arguments Jesus they could not defeat.
They were not really looking for right answers,
In trapping Jesus they could not be losers.

As scholar he knew the greatest commandment,
But wanted to find fault with what Jesus said.
They were looking for reasons for His arrest,
Until they had Jesus they would never rest.

"To love one God with all your heart, soul and mind,"
Jesus answered the young man reading his mind.
To love your neighbor as yourself comes second,
On these two, He said, all other laws depend.

If you truly make God your first choice in life,
And love all your neighbors as you love yourself,
You will be living by the first commandment,
And you'll experience a sense of fulfillment.

Questions

1. Are you happy?
2. How much do you pray?
3. How great is your love for God?
4. How perfectly do you love your neighbor?

Reflections

The Pharisees and the Sadducees grew restless day by day as Jesus continued to grow in honor and popularity. He was a threat to their unchallenged position in the society. No one dared to contradict them nor did anyone challenge them. They wanted to stop Him at any cost, but were not sure how. They tried to trick and trap Him by asking Him questions, hoping to find fault with what He said. They were trying to get controversial answers from Him so they could accuse Him and justify a possible arrest.

One day they asked Him whether they should pay tax to Caesar. This seemed like the perfect trap. If he said they should pay tax, He would go against the religious sentiments of the people. If, instead, He told them not to pay He would go against Rome. Jesus brilliantly handled the situation by asking them to show Him a denarius. Taking it in His hand He asked them whose image and inscription the coin had. They answered Him saying that it was of Caesar. He then told them to give to Caesar what belonged to him, and to God what belonged to God (Mathew 22:17). Jesus silenced them with his smart answer.

The Sadducees also posed a question to Jesus. They wanted to know whose wife a woman would be if she had married seven brothers. He answered them, "You err because you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God. For at the resurrection they will neither marry nor be given in marriage, but will be as angels of God in heaven." The Pharisees did not give up. This time they brought a lawyer who asked Jesus which was the greatest commandment. If asked with good intentions the question would have been justifiable. Because there were six hundred and thirteen different commandments. Jesus answered the question by quoting the Old Testament: "Therefore, you shall love the



MESSAGE FROM FR. ANTONY

Lord, your God, with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength" (Deuteronomy, 6:5). Jesus said to him, "This is the greatest and the first commandment." The second, He said, was "You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Leviticus 19:18). Probably His detractors realized by then that they would not be able to trap Jesus with questions. They were no match for Him. Therefore, they would accuse Him of treason in order to have Him arrested, tried and crucified.

If men and women, God's masterpieces of creation, had lived by this greatest commandment, the world would have been totally different. There would be peace and harmony everywhere. Justice and equality would have been the order of the day. There would be no poverty in the world and all would be living in love and friendship. A sense of universal brotherhood would prevail and there would be no differences of caste or color.

Unfortunately, we can only dream of these situations. We are living in a world of division and wars, where the gap between the rich and poor is ever on the increase. Man, who subjugated the universe and brought about tremendous developments in the world, is living in fear today. The only reason for this pathetic situation is that man refuses to give God His due. From the moment God created man, he has rebelled against his Creator in order to equal himself with God. This rebellion continues even today. Every effort is made to silence God and remove Him from the lives of people. Today people are singing, "glory to man in the world," rather than "glory to God in the highest." Greed came into the world with man's fall. A greedy man is angry because he is never satisfied with what he has. This is a disorder because of the unrecognized need for God translating into desire for created things. As a result, 80% of the world's wealth is in the hands of less than 20% of the world's population. This explains why poverty is rampant in the world. Money has become a god for many and there is no limit to their craving for more; the more they get, the more they must have.

Love of God and love of neighbor go hand in hand. You cannot have one without the other. The way you love your God is the way you love your neighbor. In other words, if you do not love God you cannot love others. Only love of God can inspire and motivate you to love your neighbors. The closer you get to God, recognizing Him as Giver of all you have, the easier it becomes for you to see others as God's children, and as such, your brothers and sisters. Our life is only a pilgrimage and is temporary. Life here on earth is not eternal. Intellectually, people have no problem admitting this, but in reality man chooses to live as if he is permanent and that nothing will ever stop him.

Self-love is not selfishness. We are called to love ourselves in as much as we are to accept ourselves as we are. Our ability to accept ourselves is the precondition for us to accept others. Most of our problems are because we have not accepted ourselves completely. There is a portion in each one of us that we have difficulty to accept. Herein lies most of our problems. We can accept others only to the same extent that we accept ourselves. It may be a very useful exercise for each one of us to examine those areas of life in which we have difficulty with acceptance. I remember a girl who was excellent in many things, but was totally unable to accept the fact that she was very short in height. This is just an example. You may find many such things in your life. An examination of your life is the key to discovering yourself. There are people who are afraid of self-discovery because they will not be happy with what they discover. The more you accept yourself, the more you love yourself. And the more you love yourself, the more and positive will be your self-image.

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

All Souls Day



All Souls' Day Mass and Offering

There will be a Mass in honor of our dearly departed on

Monday, November 2nd, at 7:00pm, on the lawn area at St. James the Apostle Parish. A Rosary will be said at 6:30pm. It will also be live streamed via the St. James Facebook page. If you would like to offer this mass in memory of a loved one, please complete the online form found on the St. James website under Parish News. Envelopes for the All Souls' Day offering are also available at the parish office.

Thank you for your prayer and remembrance of all the Faithful Departed. God bless you!

OCTOBER IS THE MONTH OF THE HOLY ROSARY.

The daily virtual Rosary via Zoom at 7:00pm Pacific time continues.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3834698894>

Meeting ID: 383 469 8894

On Saturdays and Sundays, there will also be an in-person Rosary in the Grotto at St. James the Apostle at 7:00pm in addition to Zoom.



PARISH CALENDAR

Oct 27	Pastoral Council 7:00pm
Nov 2	All Souls Rosary 6:30pm, Mass 7:00pm
Nov 2	KofC Officer's Meeting 7:30pm
Nov 6	First Friday
Nov 9	St. Vincent de Paul Meeting 7:00pm
Nov 16	KofC Business Meeting 7:30pm
Nov 24	Pastoral Council 7:00pm
Nov 26	Thanksgiving Day Bishop Begin Assembly 3546 Bus. Mtg 7:30pm

GRIEF MINISTRY IN PLEASANTON will celebrate a Mass of Remembrance on Thursday, Nov. 5th at 7 p.m. This is a special liturgy to celebrate the lives of our loved ones who have gone before us to live in the light of the Lord. You will be able to view this celebration by logging onto our website catholicsofpleasanton.org, YouTube or Facebook. On the website you will find the worship aid and the readings. If you have any questions please call Mary at 925-699-0199.

DOMINICAN SISTERS OF MISSION SAN JOSE CENTER FOR EDUCATION & SPIRITUALITY PRESENT:

Virtual 4-Part Book Series
Spiritual Guides for Today—Winter Grace: Spirituality and Aging By Kathleen Fischer
November 12, 19, December 3, 10, 2020, 1-2:30pm \$25. The book is available online or wherever books are sold. Please read chapters 1 & 2 for the November 12 session.
Register by 11/10/20 at http://bit.ly/2020_WinterGrace
Call us for more information at (510) 933-6360

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 2nd Sunday 9:30am
Respect for Life Rosary	Masses 8:30am & 7:30pm
Holy Days of Obligation:	Saturday 4:00pm or by appt.
Confessions:	9:00 - 10:00am
Every Friday Adoration:	9:00 am-6:30pm
First Fridays: Adoration	6:30pm
Sacred Heart Novena	7:15pm
Benediction	7:30pm
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	

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.



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.

Deacon Ernie Dandan, Bingbing Kielian, Erminda Perea, Joe Parrish, Priscilla Verdeflor, Bob Nehls, Ron Lord, Monica Horton, Arabella Horton, Danny Powell, Cody Maisono, John DiPaola, Evelyn Reyes, Frank Smith, Concha Garcia, Joel Rivera, Melanie O'Connor, Katherine Gomes, 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.

ST. JAMES THE APOSTLE PARISH OFFICE HOURS

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

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Novena for the Unborn
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