



This Week at
St. James the Apostle Catholic Church
 34700 Fremont Blvd •
 Fremont, CA 94555 •
 510-792-1962 •
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 office@sjapostle.net
 Open Mind
 Open Heart
 Open Door



FR. ANTHONY AND DISTRICT DEPUTY IAN YTEM, PRESENTED TO PAST GRAND KNIGHT MARCIAL VASCO FOUR AWARDS FOR DOING A GREAT JOB LAST YEAR.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS SUPPORTS SEMINARIANS ALL OVER THE WORLD.

For the year 2020-2021, St. James the Apostle Catholic Church Council #14541 supports Deacon William Mamangun. Deacon William is in his last year of studies and he is currently serving the Archdiocese of Guam.

Please pray for Deacon William and all the future priests at Menlo Park Seminary for guidance and strength to serve more people of God with the pastoral charity of Christ.



ADVENT: A TIME FOR CONVERSION

All need examination of conscience,
To be done with diligence and patience.
It helps to see life in right perspective,
Making lives spiritually productive.

An unexamined life can only drift,
Without direction our values will shift.
Without God's grace or loving protection,
We may be walking in the wrong direction.

Advent is a time for our conversion,
It's a time for self-examination.
For our sins we have to daily atone,
But, we are often tempted to postpone.

For conversion there is no tomorrow,
God's mercy we can never borrow.
The present is the best time to begin,
Time lost we will never get back again.

This is a time to awake from our sleep,
And to see if Jesus' teachings we keep!
We should find more time for daily prayer,
And come closer to Jesus our Master.

Let us then throw off the works of darkness,
And put on God's love and His forgiveness.
Make Advent a time for preparation,
As we draw closer, to our salvation.

Questions:

1. Do you really know your faith?
2. Do you go to confession regularly?
3. Are you obedient to the teachings of the church?
4. Do you understand the definition of a faithful Catholic?
5. Do you substitute your own definition of what it means to be a Catholic, or do you fully accept the Catechism in its entirety?
6. When did you last prayerfully read the Catechism, and to what extent did you commit yourself to living by its teachings?
7. Do you pay attention to the guidance of the bishops?

Reflections:

I remember an alcoholic telling me, "Father, I quit drinking a thousand times a day." In the same way we can say that we have been converted a thousand times. No alcoholic with mere desire is able to quit drinking. Likewise, no smoker is able to quit smoking simply with mere desire. It takes more than wishful thinking. One needs discipline, determination, and dedication to truly overcome the habit of drinking. This is true also of conversion. Look at the number of resolutions that we have made to bring about our own conversion in the Catholic faith over the years. Did these countless resolutions bring about any change in our lives? Did they make us better persons? Nearly all of them were broken as soon as they were made. Our resolutions lack commitment and discipline. As a result, they cannot produce good results.

The most important thing to know about conversion is that we are sinners who need conversion. Only when we know we are sick are we willing to take medicine. It is easier to detect physical sickness than spiritual disease. As busy as we are, we seldom find time to make a rigorous spiritual evaluation to determine our spiritual condition. This is made more difficult because we are living in a time when physical attractiveness is given much more care and attention than spiritual health. Make an honest evaluation of the time and effort you dedicate to making yourself physically attractive. We seem to have limitless money and resources when it comes to ensuring we are physically in sound condition. Compare this to our spiritual life: we suddenly become very busy, and fail to dedicate the time and energy to improve our spiritual life. A thorough



MESSAGE FROM FR. ANTONY

examination of conscience will help us to diagnose our spiritual problems and better understand our relationship with God. Advent offers wonderful opportunities for this.

An unexamined life is like a ship without radar: it is impossible to know the direction in which the ship is traveling. This results in a very real danger of shipwreck. A life without self-examination only drifts from one direction to another, and we make no progress in our spiritual or material well-being. It is a customary practice among business people to make an evaluation of the day's business to calculate profit or loss. They never close the business without doing it. In our spiritual life we forget to make an evaluation of our day's activities to evaluate the role of God throughout our works during that day. It is a blessing to conclude the day by making an evaluation of our spiritual life and see where we are in relationship with God.

Conversion must begin today, because we are not in control of tomorrow. Only God knows what will happen tomorrow, and it is a mystery beyond us. Procrastination is a problem we find hard to overcome. Noah preached to the people of his time, urging them to turn away from their sinful ways. They did not pay him heed until it was too late: they all perished in the flood. There is a flood coming in your lifetime! Are you paying attention? Conversion is often postponed because it demands painful changes, and we tend to resist change. Conversion requires discipline, determination, and dedication to successfully make the change from the known to the unknown. We often go to great lengths in order to avoid the pain of conversion, which is why all of Heaven rejoices when even a single sinner repents. The only thing that can make conversion easier is to begin an inward journey consisting of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Prayer is the key that opens our hearts to God and we begin to see ourselves from His perspective. Prayer immediately puts us in the presence of God and we become alive to Him. Reading the Word of God also opens us to God's inspiration, breathed upon us by the Holy Spirit. God speaks to us through His Word: you must read the Bible to establish the communication with God that your heart restlessly desires.

Without renunciation there is no conversion. Jesus, our Master, told us that we could be His disciples only through renunciation. Jesus renounced food for forty days while He was making a retreat in the desert preparing for the public ministry. John the Baptist renounced food and comforts while he preached repentance. Renunciation of certain food or drink may be useful. I grew up with a strong tradition: during the seasons of Lent and Advent, the entire family abstained from fish and meat and lived on vegetarian food. I tell you, fish and meat tasted much, much better after these seasons. Renunciation of food or drink may be easier than renouncing certain habits or traits of character. For example, someone who is quick-tempered can work on his temper during this season. If you have the habit of talking ill of people behind their back, you could stop doing it. Or, if you have the tendency to be negative by criticizing others, you should work on seeing the good in others, encouraging them instead of condemning them. Self-discovery is the greatest discovery, which is the stepping stone to conversion.

In closing, I would like to sight the example of Zacchaeus whose conversion will always remain the best model. He was considered a public sinner because he was the chief tax collector who amassed wealth by using dishonest means. He cheated and extorted money from people. He was appointed by Rome to collect tax from the people, but he collected more money than stipulated by Rome. That's how he got rich quickly. People knew of this cheating and hated him. For some unknown reason, Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus with absolutely no intention of following Him. It was sheer curiosity. He realized that, being short in stature, he would not be able to see Jesus who was accompanied by a large crowd of people. That did not make him give up his plan. He climbed up a sycamore tree and hid himself behind the branches so that no one would see him. He did not want people to laugh at him. As he had anticipated,

(Continued on page 3)

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

Address

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JESUS IS CLOSE.
YOU DON'T NEED
BINOCULARS TO
WATCH FOR HIM.



Jesus said to his disciples: "Take heed, keep on the alert; for you do not know when the appointed time will come." Mk 13:33

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Letters from Heaven



Start with the letter in the shaded square. Draw a path from letter to letter to complete the Biblical statement. Move one square at a time, up, down, right, left and diagonally until all letters are used once. Ignore any black squares.

Jesus said, "Be watchful! Be alert!
You do not know when ...

E	M	E	T
O	M	I	H
L	C	E	T
L	I	W	

T _____ .

Answer: *the time will come*

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St. James Bulletin and Website since 2007
Submission deadline is two weeks before publication date. E-mail articles to: bulletin@sjapostle.net.
Send information for the webpage to: webmaster@sjapostle.net.
Carolyn Fiori Editor
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