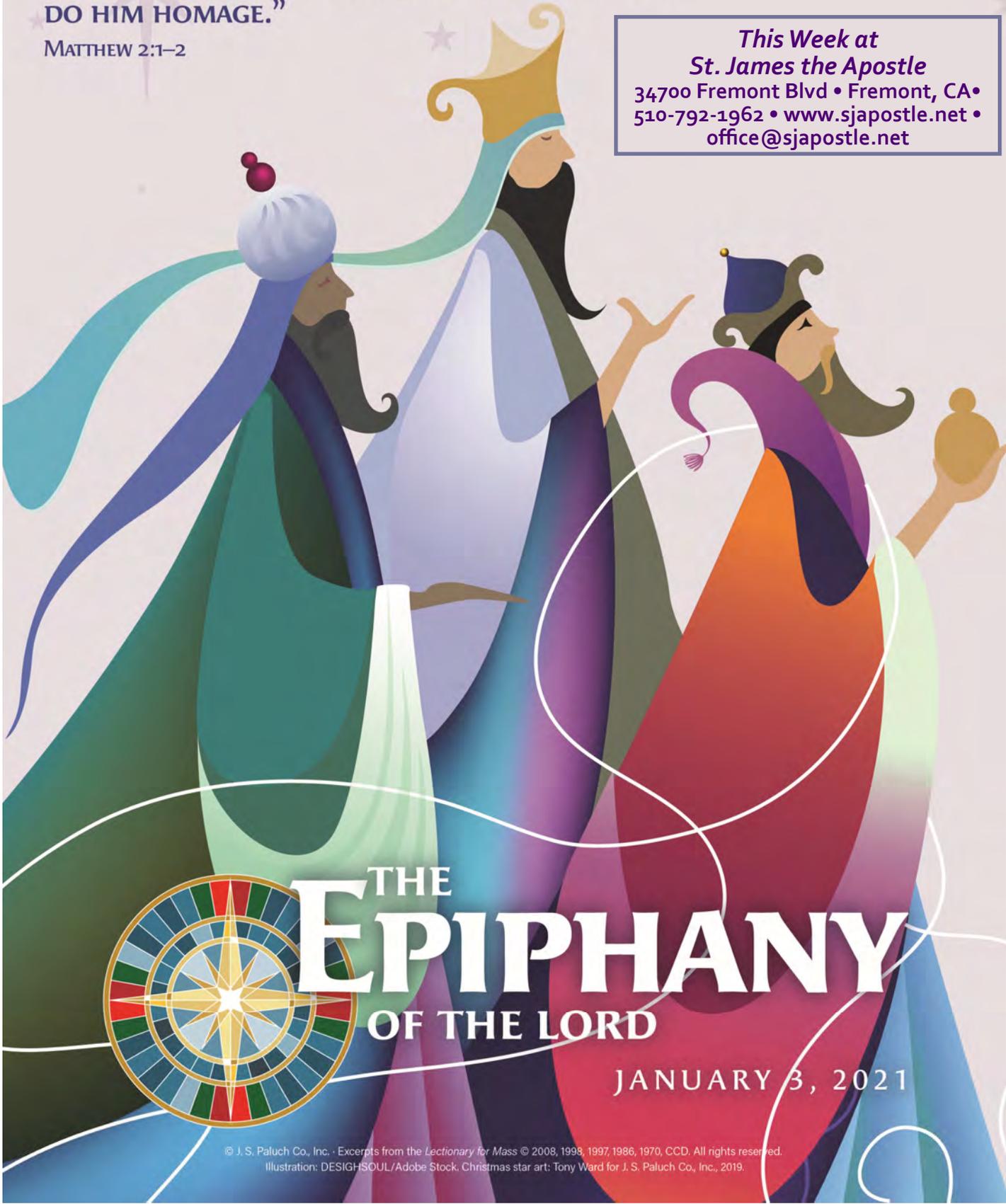


MAGI FROM THE EAST ARRIVED IN JERUSALEM, SAYING,
“WHERE IS THE NEWBORN KING OF THE JEWS?”
WE SAW HIS STAR AT ITS RISING AND HAVE COME TO
DO HIM HOMAGE.”

MATTHEW 2:1-2

This Week at
St. James the Apostle
34700 Fremont Blvd • Fremont, CA •
510-792-1962 • www.sjapostle.net •
office@sjapostle.net



THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

JANUARY 3, 2021

© J. S. Paluch Co., Inc. - Excerpts from the *Lectionary for Mass* © 2008, 1998, 1997, 1986, 1970, CCD. All rights reserved.
Illustration: DESIGHSOUL/Adobe Stock. Christmas star art: Tony Ward for J. S. Paluch Co., Inc., 2019.

THREE WISE MEN

They were men of wisdom and knowledge,
Came to give the King of Kings homage.
Tradition tells us that they were three,
They didn't bring Him a Christmas tree.

They traveled far and came from the east,
Brought gifts so rare for the special feast.
The star guided them to the manger,
Kneeling down, they worshiped the Savior.

The newborn lay on bed very rude,
Born poor, He did not have special food.
His mother's warmth kept him from the cold,
With gladness, prostrated men of old.

The Magi took out the gifts they brought,
Paid Jesus rich tribute, as they ought.
They gave Him frankincense, myrrh and gold,
The Child was beautiful to behold.

God thus announced His Son's arrival,
And confirmed His love universal.
He sent His only begotten Son,
On the cross our salvation He won.

Jesus is our only guiding star,
With Him, we will not stray very far.
He is our changeless friend and sure guide,
Let us make Him our glory and pride.

Questions:

1. Describe your efforts on your path to holiness.
2. Looking back since last Christmas, has your life increased in holiness?
3. What would it take to be sure that your decisions result in greater holiness?

Reflections:

The three wise men are commonly called Magi, which is derived from the Greek word *magoi*, meaning a select sect of priests. We do not know their historical background. Even their exact number is not certain. According to the tradition, three wise men came from the East. As the years passed, the tradition became increasingly embellished. By the 3rd century, they were viewed as kings. By the 6th century, they were known as Balthasara, Gathaspa, and Melchior. A 14th century American tradition identifies them as Balthasar, king of Arabia, Melchior, king of Persia, and Gaspar, king of India. The three gifts were also prophetic, speaking of our Lord's offices. Gold speaks of Jesus' Kingship. Frankincense speaks of Jesus as Priest, and used in priestly duties. Myrrh was an embalming ointment anticipating His death.

Wherever they came from, one thing we know for sure from the tradition is that a star guided them. Did they come walking or did they travel on the back of donkeys or horses? We have no answers to such questions. They were certainly men of learning and authority. Whether they were priests or kings, their long and tedious journey in search of the King of the kings speaks volumes of their healthy religious attitude and spiritual longing. They did not suffer from a lack of human respect; they were not shy about inquiring after the newborn king of the Jews. They never gave up their search until they found Him. We read in the Gospel of Matthew, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We have observed his star at its rising and have come to pay him homage" (Mt. 2: 12). The other three Gospel writers, John, Mark, and Luke, do not mention the visit of the three wise men.

These three men did not have any problem in seeking the Messiah. They were ready to go through all hardships and challenges in order to find Him. Probably this is the lesson that we should learn from the Magi. We should seek Him all of our lives. In the modern world we have become so busy that we



MESSAGE FROM FR. ANTONY

have no time for God. The journey the three men of old embarked upon was long, challenging, and time consuming. But they made God their highest priority, and God sent them a star to guide and lead them to the manger where they found baby Jesus. When we are sincere in our search for God and ready to make any sacrifice until we find Him, God will surely bless our efforts. Very often, our desire for God is not strong enough to sustain such a quest day after day.

The path to holiness is rough and tough. We have no option but choose to walk along this way. The world has many attractions today, and materialism offers us with many temptations. With our own strength we can never conquer these temptations alone. It is not easy to resist worldly temptations. We certainly need divine strength, which comes only by following the teachings of the Gospels. The three wise men brought special offerings to the King of Kings in thanksgiving for the gifts with which God had blessed them. Even though these were men of power and position, they recognized their dependence on God, something the modern men and women seem to be losing every day. The gifts they brought showed their attitude toward God, and showed the world that gratitude is the only sure path to the heart of God.

Jesus is our guiding star and we do not need anybody else for our guidance. If we follow the teachings of Jesus in the Gospels and make Him the center of our lives, we will never go astray. He is ever ready to guide us and protect us from all that is evil. The wise kings came to worship Jesus. Let us worship Him, especially on every Sunday, by participating in the Holy Eucharist. The kings brought the newborn King rare gifts. Today, He needs no gifts from us except ourselves. What gifts are we going to give Him? The best gifts we can give Him are our own lives. Let us, with the Psalmist, pray this prayer every day: "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me" (Psalm 51:10). The visit of the wise men is called Epiphany, a term used in Christian theology for a manifestation of God's presence in the world. This was God announcing His long awaited Son's arrival, a further confirmation of God's universal love. Today, each Christian should be a manifestation of God's presence in the world. He has called us to be witnesses of His love in the world.

Christmas is a time to exchange gifts. Whether young or old, everyone is eager to receive gifts. Different families have varying traditions for opening Christmas gifts. Some families open them as soon as they come back from midnight Mass. Others wait until the Feast of Epiphany. But there is always an eager expectation to see what the wrapped boxes contain. Gifts have become such an important part of the Christmas celebration that many value Christmas only according to the measure of the gifts they receive. And because so much importance is given to this material aspect of the celebration, there is a great danger of neglecting or forgetting the most important gift of Christmas: Jesus. Christmas loses its significance or meaning if Jesus is not received into our hearts or homes on Christmas. You can become so preoccupied with giving and receiving Christmas gifts that you miss the Gift of all gifts. The three kings who came in search of Jesus recognized Jesus as their greatest Treasure. For them no sacrifice was too much in their search for their Treasure. God gave you His greatest Gift in His only begotten Son, Jesus. That is why Jesus is the only reason for the celebration of Christmas. As you have the best gift in Jesus, God wants you to become the best gift to others, starting with your family. When everyone in the family becomes the best gift to one another, you have a heavenly family right here on earth. If you have not been behaving or acting like a gift in the family God is calling you now to become one. It is never too late to start. If you begin to respond to God's invitation to become the best gift, you will soon be that gift. You will not only become the best version of God's creation, but will also contribute to make your family a great gift to your neighborhood and community.

PARISH CALENDAR 2021

Jan 4 KofC Officer's Meeting 7:30pm
 Jan 10 KofC Novena Prayer for the Unborn after 10am Mass
 Jan 11 St. Vincent de Paul Meeting 7:00pm
 Jan 18 KofC Business Meeting 7:30pm
 Jan 26 Pastoral Council 7:00pm
 Jan 28 Bishop Begin Assembly 3546 Bus. Mtg 7:30pm
 Feb 17 Ash Wednesday
 April 4 Easter

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



Pastor Al®



© 2003 WLP, a division of J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

"I don't know where my life is going. Why doesn't God provide directions online, like those map services?"

Missed a bulletin? Go to Parish Info on the St. James Website

<https://sjapostle.net>.

Get the weekly bulletin delivered to your email. Sign up at <https://www.jspaluch.com/BulletinSubscribe.aspx> - (Bulletin #000268)

BulletinSubscribe.aspx - (Bulletin #000268)

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

Facebook: Search *St. James the Apostle Church*, Like the page.

Please, NO tagging pictures.

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
Holy Days of Obligation: Masses 8:30am & 7:30pm
Confessions: Saturday 4:00pm or by appt.
 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.

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



Please update this list for 2021. 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.

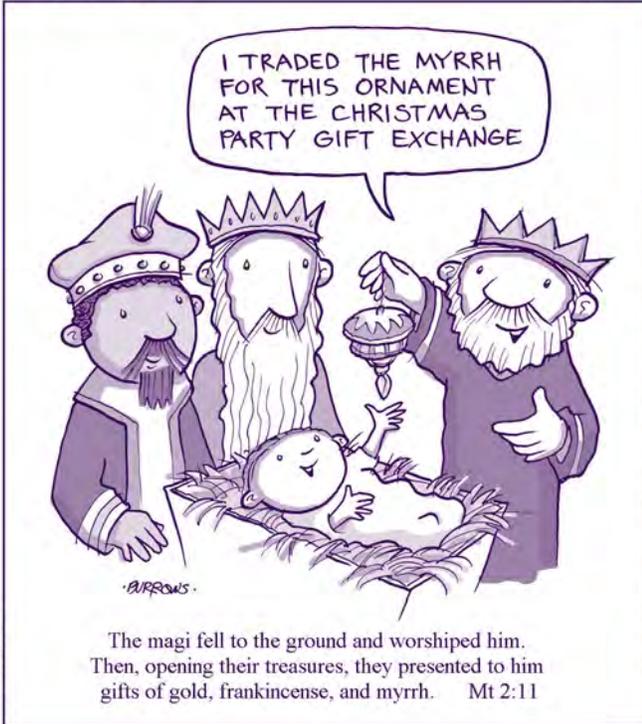
Please fill out this form and place it in the collection basket and we will mail you a Parish Registration form. You can also find a registration form on the website (sjapostle.net) - Parish Info - Parish Membership.

Name

Address

Phone

Email



Scripture from the New American Standard Bible © (NASB) by the Lockman Foundation. Used by permission. www.Lockman.org

SEARCHING

In Matthew's Gospel today we see two extremely different perspectives, two different reasons for searching for Jesus. In some ways, this resembles the polarization of our nation in today's time. What one group sees as good for the nation, those with opposing views think will wreck the country. The Magi were astrologers who saw a vision in the sky and were trying to find a way to follow it and discover the new king of the Jews. Herod heard about this king, and his reaction was dark and negative. He saw the birth of such a king as a threat to his power as the Roman leader of the country and wanted the Magi to pass on to him what they knew about this Christ child. Similarly, on a more personal level, we can either feel threatened or excited by changes that may come, depending on our perspective.

In our minds, it is easy to mix up bits and pieces from Luke's account of the shepherds coming to see Jesus in the stable and the story of the magi. Clearly, it has taken the magi time to get here, and the reading speaks of them coming to the house where the star led them. Nevertheless, they "prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures ..."

How do we do this? Do we continue looking for Jesus, even if it takes a while and he is not where we expect to see him? Are we paying attention to the signs showing us the way? What gifts do we have with which to pay him homage? After seeing him, the Magi were warned in a dream not to go back the way they came. But if we have seen the Christ child, how can we go back to where we were? We must continue to respond to God's call to move forward and grow in our lives. We must seek the right and just path and turn away from the "Herods" and inherent evils in our life.

Today's Readings: Is 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12
JS Paluch

HOLY SEPULCHRE

CEMETERY & FUNERAL CENTER FD1456

Start planning today:

Funeral | Cremation | Cemetery | Family Estates

(855) 894-6540 | cfcsoakland.org

Call to inquire about available discounts.
Serving all faiths throughout the Bay Area!



Living Our Mission

CATHOLIC FUNERAL & CEMETERY SERVICES
A MINISTRY OF THE DIOCESE OF OAKLAND

Please Cut Out This "Thank You Ad" and Present It The Next Time You Patronize One of Our Advertisers

Thank You

Thank you for advertising in our church bulletin. I am patronizing your business because of it!

BERGE • PAPPAS • SMITH

CHAPEL of the ANGELS

Funerals & Cremations



bergepappasmith.com
510-656-1226 FD 668

ONE PARISH

Grow in your faith, find a Mass, and connect with your Catholic Community with OneParish!



Download Our Free App or Visit
MY.ONEPARISH.COM

Consider Remembering Your Parish in Your Will.
For further information, please call the Parish Office.



Grow Your Business, Advertise Here.

Support Your Church & Bulletin.

Free professional ad design & my help!

email: kwiatkowskim@jspaluch.com

www.jspaluch.com



Call Marcy Kwiatkowski

925.239.1401

Fremont Chapel of the Roses

FD1007

*Catholic Owned & Operated
Serving Your Parish Since 1958*

510-797-1900

Funeral • Cremation • Reception Hall

Fremont Memorial Chapel

FD1115



Catholic Cruises and Tours and The Apostleship of the Sea of the United States of America

Take your FAITH ON A JOURNEY. Catholic Cruises/Tours to Worldwide Destinations

Holy Land Discovery • Fatima, Lourdes and Shrines of Spain • Grand Catholic Italy
Footsteps of Apostle Paul • Shrines of Alpine Europe • Pilgrimage to Lourdes
Scottish Highlands • Camino, A walking journey for the soul

www.CatholicCruisesandTours.com

Call us today at 860-399-1785 or email eileen@CatholicCruisesandTours.com

catholicmatch[®] California



CatholicMatch.com/myCA

FINDaPARISH.com

Check It Out Today!

*The Most Complete
Online National
Directory of
Catholic Parishes*



Get this weekly bulletin delivered by email - for FREE!

Sign up here:

www.jspaluch.com/subscribe

Courtesy of J.S. Paluch Company, Inc.

