

This week at St. James the Apostle

January 10, 2021
Open Mind • Open Heart • Open Door



My Jesus

I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You.

Amen



JOHN BAPTIZES JESUS

Jesus' Baptism surprised John the Baptist,
He did not comply with the Baptist's request.
Thus began three years of His public ministry,
And revealed to the world His Father's mystery.

Father acclaimed the Son in the whole world,
"He is my beloved Son," the Father told.
The mission of the Son wasn't very easy,
The path He chose to follow was not cozy.

The Father was well pleased with His beloved Son,
In obedience to His Father, death He won.
He chose His Father's will and died on the cross,
Kind and loving to sinners, He came across.

At His Baptism the heavens were opened,
With the Holy Spirit He was anointed.
The Father revealed His Son's identity,
He came to show us the way to eternity.

John's Baptism was a call to repentance,
It was a preparation for acceptance-
Of Jesus, the Savior of the world to come;
To His Kingdom everyone He would welcome.

With baptism, we are heirs to His Kingdom,
His Spirit will ever free us from boredom.
We, too, are anointed to serve Him with our life,
Love alone brings us to our eternal life.

Questions:

1. Do you believe the Eucharist contains the real presence of Jesus?
2. When you consume the Eucharist, are you transformed into the Body of Christ?
3. Does your attitude in consuming the Eucharist reflect in your obedience to God and to His Holy Catholic Church?

Reflections:

The Baptism of Jesus reminds us of our own baptism. Probably, most of us were baptized as babies and we therefore do not remember the day when we became God's children and heirs to His kingdom. All of us, I am sure, have attended baptismal ceremonies. There are three meaningful rituals you probably noticed after the actual baptism. The first ritual is the anointing of the baptized with the oil of chrism. As God anointed His Son for a Mission, every baptized is anointed for special God's mission in the world. The next ritual is placing the white garment on the baptized as a sign that the baptized has become a new creature and begins a new life in Christ. The last ritual is receiving the lighted candle, which usually is lit from the Paschal candle. With baptism, you become another Christ in the world and are called to spread the Light of Christ. Through baptism, the baptized begin to share the fullness of life with Jesus: Jesus the Priest, the Prophet and the King.

Not long ago, when I was baptizing a child, I asked the people who were present at the ceremony which sacraments can be received more than once. Almost all of them knew that the sacrament of marriage could be repeated. But some of them also thought baptism, too, could be received more than once. Normally speaking, baptism is not repeated. The Catholic Church accepts the baptisms of other denominational churches. Therefore, if one has been baptized in another church and wants to become a Catholic, there is no need for that person to go through baptism again. The Sacrament of Baptism can be repeated only when the baptized does not remember if he or she was baptized, or doubts whether the prior baptism was



MESSAGE FROM FR. ANTONY

valid. In order for baptism to be valid, the following must be said: "I baptize you, (name of the baptized) in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." If any deviation from this statement occurs, the baptism is invalid and the candidate may be re-baptized through a process known as conditional baptism.

Baptism is the foundation of all sacraments, without which one cannot receive other sacraments. Hence this is called Sacrament of Initiation.

Therefore it is the parents' responsibility to baptize their children. Parents must never neglect this responsibility for any reason whatsoever.

Unfortunately, many so-called modern Catholic parents neglect this essential parental duty. Understandably, the grandparents are more concerned in getting their grandchildren baptized than the parents. They often take the initiative in convincing their sons and daughters to have their children baptized. However, grandparents cannot assume the duty of the parents. It is praiseworthy when the grandparents simply motivate the parents, but the final decision relies on the parents. Baptism must not be regarded as fulfillment of a law; rather, it is a joyful responsibility of sharing the faith with the children.

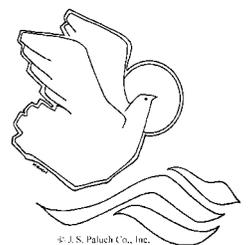
Therefore, if the parents do not believe in Sunday worship of God or are not practicing Catholics, baptism becomes a minor social event, comparable to other times when you invite your friends and relatives to a festive meal. It is the responsibility of parents to raise their children in the faith and in the Church. Parents must set good examples.

There are many young parents who think that children should be baptized when they are old enough to choose their own religion. Parents who think this way are often not very convinced Catholics. They are often lukewarm in the practice of their religion, rarely attending Church on Sundays or even on holy days of obligation. They are mediocre Catholics who do not have deep roots in their faith. To these parents I have a question: "Why don't you wait to admit your children to schools until they are adults; this way they can choose their own schools and decide what subjects to take?" Every effort is made to send their children to the best schools, even from the age of three years. Why does this double standard exist? Why is there no joy or enthusiasm to share one's faith and religion with the children? Is this an indication that one's faith is weak or there is no deep conviction about what one believes?

Parents, remember this: if you are weak in your religion and in the practice of it, your children will be even weaker than you are, and there is a substantial danger that your offspring may altogether give up religion. Take a look at your religious background for a moment. Your parents were likely stronger than you are today in their religious practices, and they probably attended Church with much more sincerity and seriousness than you do today. If this is the case, you have been witnessing a natural change and diminishment of your religious convictions and practices. Today fewer Catholics attend Sunday Mass than ever before. According to a recent study, only 20% of Catholics attend Church on Sundays in the United States of America.

We can easily predict that this percentage will continue to decrease in the years to come, unless we do something immediately and with earnest intentions. One of the commitments Catholic couples make on the day of their marriage is bring up their children according to the law of Christ and His Church. Parents, if your love your children, help them to love their God.

He will baptize
with the
Holy Spirit



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PARISH CALENDAR 2021

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.



COLLECTIONS

NOVEMBER 28 ST. VINCENT DE PAUL	\$1354.00
DECEMBER 5/6	\$6955.00
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT	\$2709.00
DECEMBER 12/13	\$13,921.00
RETIREMENT	\$880.00
OTHER CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT	\$4326.00
DECEMBER 19/20	\$7370.00
BISHOP'S APPEAL	\$1143.00
OTHER CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT	\$4682.00
DECEMBER 26	\$16,387.00
OTHER CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT	\$5883.00
DECEMBER 30	\$5046.00
OTHER CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT	\$4951.00
TOTAL SIMBANG GABI (INCLUDED ABOVE)	\$10,565.00

From the Weekly Collection Counters:

We are asking for parishioners' help so that our counting and scanning can go more smoothly.

- Please write your envelope number on your check in the memo line.
- On your envelope, please write ✓ or cash or online.
- Please **DO NOT** use felt tip or colored pens on your check. Blue or black ink only.
- On the first line, please write only dollars and include .00 - Example:
\$100.00
NOT \$20.--
NOT 20²⁰/₁₀₀

Thanks so much for your help!!

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)

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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

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
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.

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

ST. JAMES THE APOSTLE CELEBRATES SIMBANG GABI 2020

Amidst the uncertainty brought about by the Covid-19 restrictions, St. James the Apostle Parish was able to celebrate the beautiful Christmas tradition of the "Simbang Gabi". The "Simbang Gabi" Masses were held outdoor on the lawn at 6:00 in the evening from December 15th through the 23rd. All Masses were well attended by the St. James parishioners and friends. Everyone followed the safety protocols of the parish by wearing their masks and keeping their safe distance while some participated in the celebration from their vehicles. It was heartwarming to see so many people attend and continue the spirit of this tradition. This year Father Antony focused on the following messages for his "Simbang Gabi" homily: Body, mind and soul; we don't own anything; we can only change ourselves; change your habit and change your life; simplify your life; did you live your life with happiness; attitude of gratitude; empty suitcase; and every problem has to be faced.

As in previous "Simbang Gabi" celebrations, masses were offered for both the living and the deceased members of the St. James families. The Masses were sponsored by the following ministries: Divine Mercy, Agila Cycling Group, Parish and Finance Council, Faith Formation, Sound of Light Choir, Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers, Knights of Columbus, St. Vincent de Paul, Legion of Mary, Parish Office Staff and Two Thousand Rosary Group. Sincere thanks goes to all of these ministries for their support and help with the celebration.

Each mass was also livestreamed on Facebook. Thanks for the time and talent of Billy Panganiban and the support of his family for making this happen and available to our parishioners who can only join virtually.

We also acknowledge our worthy Grand Knight, Willie Lagos, and the Knights of Columbus Council 14541, for managing the entire logistics of each mass.

Lastly, the "Simbang Gabi" will not be possible without the untiring efforts and dedication of the dynamic team of sisters – Solita Cruz, Alice Rivera and Anita Sacramento. They are truly a blessing to St. James Parish. This tradition has been going on for so many years at St. James and this team led by Solita Cruz never ceases to make this tradition truly special each year. We are happy to share the great news that this year's "Simbang Gabi" generated a total of \$10,400.00 in offerings. Thank you for your hard work, Solita, Alice and Annie! We appreciate your dedication, leadership and unconditional love for this tradition and St. James Parish.



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