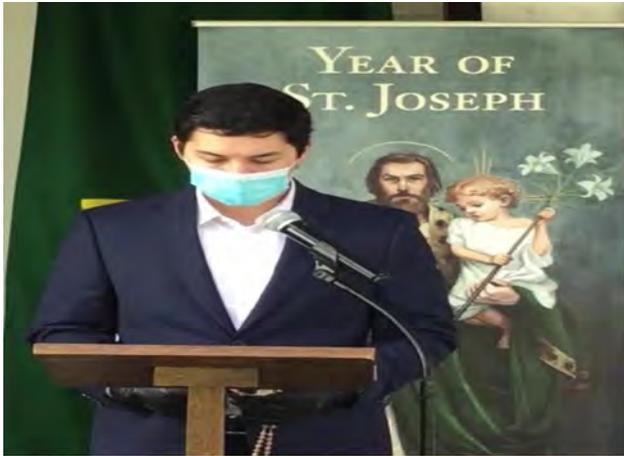
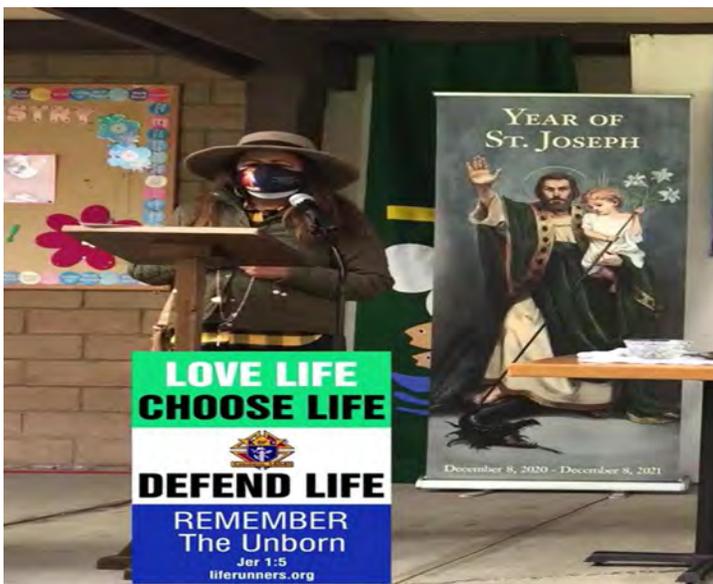
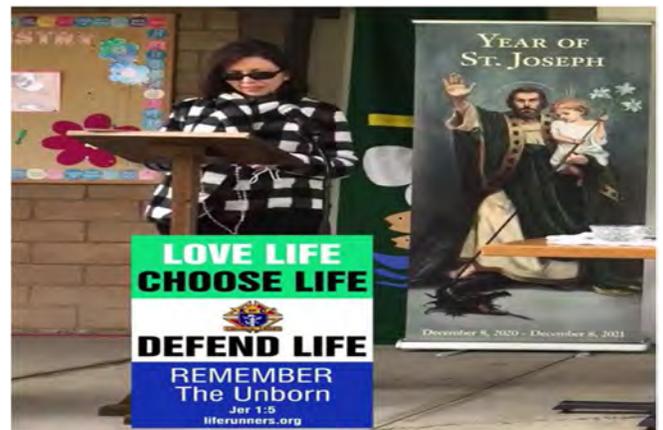
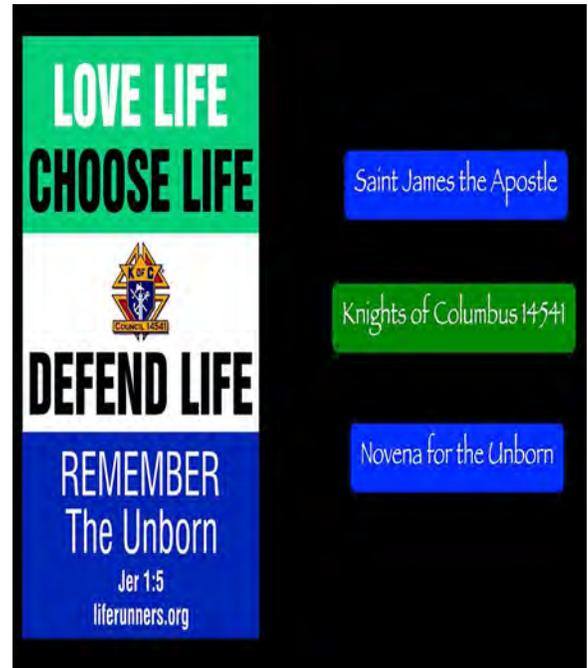


This week at St. James the Apostle

February 21, 2021
Open Mind • Open Heart • Open Door



Photos courtesy of Willie Lagos



A TEMPTATION IN VAIN

Satan, an angel before his rebellion,
Forgets power is merely an illusion.
Arrogant, he didn't want to be the second,
To eternal punishment he was condemned.

Satan is always busy and has no rest,
He prowls around human beings like a beast.
Seldom, to us he makes himself manifest,
At subtle and innocuous ways he's the best.

He didn't leave Jesus alone in the desert,
In vain he tempted our Master to desert-
His Father's eternal plan of salvation,
But Jesus was strong and won his temptation.

The tempter comes when we are at our weakest,
At deception he is always the smartest.
We should be on our guard not to be his prey,
As Jesus said, we should always watch and pray.

Sadly, the world is losing its sense of sin,
Without God, people want their own life to win.
Efforts are made to make God irrelevant,
The concept of sinlessness is prevalent.

Prayer and fasting are two powerful weapons,
On the word of God our daily life depends.
We should learn to rely more on Jesus' strength,
Without God, there can never be lasting wealth.

Questions:

1. How has temptation led you into sin?
2. How did that affect the way you treated others?
3. Have you sought reconciliation (confession)?
4. How can you deal with temptation so you achieve good instead?
5. How can you tell whether your decisions lead to a greater good?

Reflections:

Are you surprised at Jesus' temptation in the desert? Have you thought about how daring Satan was in tempting the Son of God? Our next natural question should be, if Satan could tempt our Savior, how much more are we susceptible to his temptations? Are we lacking in our ability to resist them?" For many people today, their prayer is no longer 'lead us not into temptation' but rather tell us where the temptations are and we will find them'. Temptations are ubiquitous. We see them everywhere, and we struggle to fight against them. More often than not, we succumb to them, unlike Jesus who proved that He is above all temptations. We can take consolation in the fact that Jesus, who understands what it means to be tempted, is our best friend in the moments of our own temptations. With Him we can overcome them!

The three temptations of Satan were actually tests of Jesus' power. Look at the time of the temptation. Satan tempted Him when He was very hungry, after having fasted for forty days and forty nights. Knowing Jesus was very hungry and weary, the tempter approached Jesus because he thought Jesus was vulnerable. Jesus could have easily turned stones into bread to satisfy His own hunger. Examine the devil's words: "If you are the Son of God..." The devil was attempting to address Jesus' ego, thereby challenging the very being and nature of Jesus. As usual Satan was very subtle and what he was asking Jesus to do seemed very simple. Jesus did not yield as we might do by saying, "It is okay to do it one time and it will not hurt anyone." In fact, Jesus anticipated the attack and was ready with perfect responses.

In contrast to Jesus overcoming His temptations, in the book of Genesis we read about the first man and woman in the garden succumbing to temptation. God had put them in the garden with every possible comfort and convenience, and they had all the freedom they could wish for, with the exception of not being permitted to eat the fruit of a particular tree. But they wanted to



MESSAGE FROM FR. ANTONY

equal God. They were tempted. Again theirs was a test of power. Satan comes in the form of a serpent.

"With one act of disobedience against God to become as powerful as God, why not give in just once?" they argued. They followed human logic, which seems perfectly rational, doesn't it? The consequences of their sin were terrible. They were driven out of the garden, and suffering, misery, and death entered the world through their sin of disobedience. Everything suddenly changed for them. They were never the same as their sin cut them off from God. Did they learn from this mistake? Did their children learn any useful lessons from their parents' painful experience? Mankind continues to live in sin by falling easy prey to temptations. Adam and Eve thought that they would fail only once. They were

wrong in their thinking. They moved from one sin to another as the Bible shows. Sin is always progressive. From the first sin of disobedience of our parents came the next recorded sin: Cain's murder of Abel. Human nature is very vulnerable, and there is no one strong enough to resist temptation without God's strength.

Temptations have worsened over the years, and they are everywhere. Men cannot visit any place without being seduced by scantily clad women. You cannot turn on the television without being exposed to sins of all kinds. The Internet, which is easily accessible to people everywhere, is replete with temptations. As a result, mankind's sense of sin has been diluted. It is not easy to live a pure life in the world today. These temptations speak of one thing clearly: that mankind is in great danger of being separated from God. We see evidence of this in the undeniable reality that moral values have been largely eliminated in the world. Man is a spiritual being: if the spirit is ignored or abandoned, he loses his substance. If the spirit is not nourished or sustained by prayer and good deeds, man becomes incapable of choosing the righteous path. In such situations, every possible sin will enter the world, and the result is obvious today. Murder, theft, and promiscuity have become a normal part of our landscape. Countless groups of people have dedicated limitless resources and thought in trying to address these ever increasing trends. Even changes in legislation have been recommended. Inasmuch as people, especially politicians, trumpet their shortcut solutions, in the depth of their hearts they know these solutions are empty promises because they do not hold any water. They deliberately avoid the real and lasting solutions, because they believe that actually coming out in favor of God and recommending a return to truth and morality is political suicide. As long as we keep God out of our lives, we know our efforts will fail.

Jesus spent the night of His arrest in the garden of Gethsemane with three of His closest friends, Peter, John and James. To His disappointment, He found them sleeping instead of praying with Him. He found them this way a couple of times. Jesus warned them to "watch and pray" lest they fall into temptation. Only prayer can prevent us from falling into temptation. No human is strong enough to rely solely on his or her power or strength. Humbly, we should pray for God's wisdom and guidance. Mankind has unfortunately chosen to increasingly rely on his own power and capabilities, rather than on the power of God, his Creator. Man has begun to live as if he does not need God, and in a tragic act of mass delusion assumes to be fully self-sufficient without relying on God's assistance or intervention. No one denies the power of man or his achievements. From the moment of creation, God told Adam and Eve, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it." Man has done an excellent job and has established complete dominion in the earth. The real truth is that man has his moments of strength and weakness. It is precisely in those moments of weakness that he needs the strength and the power of God. Temptations come when you are physically or spiritually at your weakest moments. In all humility we need to admit that, without God, we are powerless and vulnerable. Therefore, it is very important that you watch and pray every day lest you fall into temptation. Prayer is your best weapon: rather than follow the vast majority of mankind on the road to death, make the courageous decision to no longer neglect prayer in your life. The Sunday worship of God has been largely abandoned in favor of materialism. Reflect on what it will take to convince you that without God's power you will become easy prey to Devils' subtle temptations that you face every day.

PARISH CALENDAR 2021

Feb 23	Pastoral Council 7:00pm
Feb 25	Bishop Begin Assembly 3546 Bus. Mtg 7:30pm
Feb 26	Virtual Stations of the Cross
Mar 1	KofC Officer's Council Mtg. 7:30pm
March 5	First Friday (Mass 8:30am, anointing of the sick, Adoration until 12noon. Virtual Stations of the Cross
Mar 8	St. Vincent de Paul Mts. 7:00pm
March 12	Virtual Stations of the Cross
April 4	Easter

WEEKEND COLLECTION FEB. 8, 2021
\$10,906

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

We pray for our Parishioners and friends who need our prayers or who are ill:

Suzanne Dalton, Susan de Dios, Arnold Ecija, Agnes Harris, Monica Horton, Estrella Kabagat, Ron Lord, Nina Monela, Santos Monela, Bob Nehls, Cris Oteyza, Joe Parrish, Aryan Preetish, Hermie Ramos, Anita Sacramento, Laura Skaff, Priscilla Verdeflor, Ruth Welch



We especially pray for all those suffering from COVID-19.

We pray for the repose of the souls of
Fernando Acosta, Raymundo Hidalgo and Estrella Kabagat

To update this list, please 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.



DAILY READINGS

February 21	Sunday	Mark 1:12-15
February 22	Monday	Matthew 6:13-19
February 23	Tuesday	Matthew 6:7-15
February 24	Wednesday	Luke 11:29-32
February 25	Thursday	Matthew 7:7-12
February 26	Friday	Matthew 5:20-26
February 27	Saturday	Matthew 5:43-48

☪ Liz and Cris Oteyza

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



LOCAL FOOD DISTRIBUTION SITES

The Pandemic has resulted in more and more families and individuals experiencing "food insecurity." Our Lady of the Rosary (olrchurch.org) and Holy Spirit (holyspiritfremont.org) St. Vincent de Paul have food pantries. Call or check their website for more information. Here are some other resources:

Ruggieri Senior Center - 33997 Alvarado-Niles Road, Union City
Every first and third Monday of the month, 100 boxes of food are distributed on a first-come first-served basis, starting at 12:00 p.m. Every Thursday, 200 boxes of food are distributed on a first-come first-served basis, starting at 12:30 p.m.

Chabot College - In Parking Lot J
Food distribution every Friday from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Check the Spring Schedule. Drive-through only

Family Resources - Oakland Diocese

(<https://oakdiocese.org/resources-for-families>)

- <https://vencuentro.org/resources-for-ministry-during-covid-19-outbreak/>. This is an EXCELLENT comprehensive resource with inspiration, activities, enrichment and prayers with something for everyone.

- www.pastoralcenter.com

A wide assortment of downloadable resources and activities for growing in faith together as a family

- www.usccb.org

Official site of the US Bishops with daily mass readings, prayers, information and links to resources for all ages during the Corona Virus

- www.catholicdoors.com

Explore prayer, catholic traditions, learn about patron saints and much more.

For Children:

- www.Catholicicing.com Activities and resources for families with young children. Currently featuring Lenten activities to engage in at home.

- www.cgsusa.org/discovercgs-approach/cgs-in-the-home-parent-resources/ Great resource with info and activities for parents of children ages 3-6 years.

For Teens:

- www.lifeteen.com Resources and inspiration including a link to a series of global Life Nights starting this Sunday

- www.youcat.org Has an app of daily 5 minute faith talk with activities

WASHINGTON HOSPITAL COMMUNITY HEALTH SEMINARS & EVENTS

Visit whhs.com/seminars or call 800-963-7070

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP MEDICAL FOUNDATION COVID-19 CALL CENTER

510-248-8200 (People 65 and older can call for eligibility information and details.)

ALAMEDA COUNTY RESIDENTS are encouraged to sign up with the county to be notified when they are eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. This can be done on the county website at <https://covid-19.acgov.org/vaccines>

ST. JAMES THE APOSTLE PARISH OFFICE HOURS

The office is closed due to the COVID shutdown. You can call and leave a message. 510-792-1962 (Parish Office)

MASS SCHEDULE (outside during the COVID shutdown.)

Monday-Saturday Mass: 8:30am
Saturday Mass: 5:00pm
Sunday Masses: 8:30am, 10:00am, 12:00noon

NEW TO THE PARISH?

Warmest welcome to all who worship in our Community. Please complete a registration form available online. (Parish Info)

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 leave a message at 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 call to **make an appointment** with Father Antony. For 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 Bill Russell @ 510-901-2191.

MOTHER TERESA CENTER RESERVATIONS.

Call 510-999-5940, email MTC@sjapostle.net. (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



Join the *Daily Zoom Rosary*
 at 7:00pm followed by Holy Mass
 Mondays thru Thursdays.
 Fridays during Lent after the
 Rosary, there will be *Virtual
 Stations of the Cross.*
 Rosary only Saturdays and
 Sundays:
[https://us02web.zoom.us/
 j/3834698894](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3834698894)
 Meeting ID: 383 469 8894

CENTER FOR SPIRITUALITY

Please see the website (Weekly Bulletin) for announcements
 about Lenten presentations by the Dominican Sisters of Mission
 San Jose



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**Missed a bulletin? Go to Parish Info on the
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<https://sjapostle.net>.**

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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

Ericson Reduta Webmaster

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