

St. James the Apostle

"It is the Rosary prayed by families that will keep the lights of faith glowing in the days of darkness of faith, as it has done in the past."

-Servant of God, Patrick Peyton



Mary Our Mother, Save Our Families

Yearbook 2022

CATHOLIC FAMILIES & DEVOTION TO THE HOLY ROSARY

I was blessed to be born and raised in a family that prayed the Rosary every night. Everyone attended the Night Prayers without exception. Mother and Father were the best examples, and they would never miss a single day. The only day we did not have the family prayers was on Good Friday. We did not know why but I longed for Good Friday every year because we did not have to pray. Dinner was served only after the prayers, a practice that has been carried on even to this day. I must confess that I was not really eager for it every night. But I had no choice. Looking back, I must tell you that prayer is the foundation of a good home. I am very happy this tradition is kept even to this day by my brothers and sisters. It is an important routine of their every day.

At St. James, every effort is made to promote and popularize the recitation of the Rosary in the homes of our parishioners. It is very encouraging to see our CCD children praying the Rosary at the end of their classes on Saturdays. Our policy is to catch them young. Teaching the children how to pray the Rosary is one of the best habits they can cultivate. They will never forget this habit and, as they grow older, this habit will grow with them. And again, one of the best things that happened during the Covid was the virtual Rosary that we started at 7.00 every evening. I have observed how happy and committed are those who attend it. It is an unbroken chain for almost two years, and I have seen how powerful the Rosary is. We begin the Rosary by reflecting on a quote from the saints. It has been an eye-opener for me to see how those holy men and women loved our Blessed Mother Mary and how they made the Rosary a powerful weapon in their lives. From what they say, one thing is clear that no one can ever become a saint without having devotion to Mary. The life of every one of them is a profound testimony to that.

One good thing about praying the Rosary is that you can pray it at anytime and anywhere. You do not need a specific time or place. You can pray it while you drive to your workplace or back. You can pray the Rosary while you are walking or cooking in the kitchen. However, the most efficacious way is to pray with your family every evening. Evening is the best time because during the day you are busy doing one thing or another. In the evening everyone is home. Decide a convenient time for all to pray it. The parents should be the ones to lead by examples. Cultivate this as a family habit and you will see how this habit is going to change your life. There will be much more peace and harmony in your family. You



will begin to see your life from different perspectives where God and His mother will play a big role. You will see your priorities in the right order, and you will focus on what is important and avoid what is fleeting. Prayer will make you look up in love and gratitude to God and you will see clearly all the blessings God has given you. Praying the Rosary will make you to slow down and enjoy living your life every day.

We make habits by doing something repeatedly. Look at some of the habits that you have formed. How did you form them? Unfortunately, many of these habits are not healthy or productive. The habit of praying the Rosary every day will change you for good. You will learn to be patient and kind. You will become slow to anger and quick to forgive. You will better understand others and you will stop changing others and instead, you will begin to change yourself. As a mother and father, you will understand your children better and the children will find you a big inspiration. The proof of the pudding is in the eating. You will only know the fruits of your prayer by praying. Our families are suffering today because they do not have a strong foundation. In Matthew Chapter 7, Jesus makes a beautiful comparison which you should read: "Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. And everyone who hears these



words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it” (Mathew 7: 24-27). Build Your House on the Rock of prayer. A praying family will never collapse in the storms of challenges or problems that best you because your house is built on a solid rock of prayer.

One of the best things that prayer does is to make you feel humble. Most of our human problems are because of our ego and pride. Prayer will make you open your eyes to God and understand you are nothing without God. Today many of us are possessed by our possessions which create an emptiness in your hearts. With all your wealth and material blessings there is something missing in your life. There is no peace, and you suffer from anxiety attacks. There is no time for one another because you are constantly on the run chasing one thing after another. Prayer will help you discover that relationship is the best ingredient to happy living and happy families will enjoy good relationships. That is what prayer can do to you.

I am sure you have noticed, before the closing prayer of the Holy Mass, we pray for the families.

There is a bit of silence during which we pray for any needs in the families. Our emphasis is on our children because they are our hope and our future. We are sadly witnessing many of our young children getting lost spiritually and emotionally. Many of them in high schools and colleges abandon God and church. It looks very scary. We end our prayer by the ejaculatory prayer, Mary our Mother, save our families. By this I want to constantly remind the parents and families that they may have every material or educational blessings but if they do not have good relationships, they miss everything. As someone rightly said, do not teach your children how to be rich. Teach them how to be happy.

Our theme for the yearbook 2022 is: PRAY THE ROSARY AND SAVE YOUR FAMILY. I earnestly invite you to make Rosary a powerful weapon in your life by praying it every day. You will be the best inspiration to your children if you, as parents, promote it in your family by praying the Rosary every night.

With assurance of my love and prayers,
Fr. Antony Vazhappilly

Please subscribe to Fr. Antony's YouTube Channel to view his weekly videos for "We Can Make A Difference". Here's how:

- **Go to the St. James the Apostle website via <https://sjapostle.net/>**
- **Under the “Welcome” tab, scroll down to “We Can Make A Difference” Video Program**
- **Click on the red box that says “Subscribe to my channel”**



The Divine Mercy Apostolate of St. James the Apostle Church

It was 11 years ago that Devotion to the Divine Mercy Apostolate Ministry at St. James was established. The Divine Mercy Apostolate is a group of parishioners and other devotees from different parishes who are committed to serve the Lord under the spiritual guidance of our Spiritual Director/Parish Pastor, Father Antony. Our Divine Mercy Ministry has grown in strength and numbers and members are ever so faithful. The Divine Mercy is open to anyone who would like to join and be a part of this wonderful ministry.

Our goal is to be transformed into a living reflection of God's love and mercy.

Our Mission -

- To spread the Word of God and The Divine Mercy message.
- To share our Catholic Faith through reflection and reading the Sacred Scripture, the Catechism of the Catholic Church, and the Diary of Saint Faustina Kowalska through our cenacle prayer meeting.
- To practice the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy.
- To encourage Devotion to the Divine Mercy and Eucharistic Adoration.

The meaning of Divine Mercy and The Message of The Divine Mercy:

The meaning of The Divine Mercy is God's very nature is love, eternal, self-giving love among The Father, The Son and The Holy Spirit.

The message of The Divine Mercy is that God is merciful and forgiving and that we too must show mercy and forgiveness. He is love itself poured out for us. His mercy is greater than our sins.



To incorporate in our daily lives, we remember the ABC's of mercy:

- **A - Ask for His mercy.** God wants us to approach him in prayer, repenting of our sins and to ask Him to pour His mercy upon us and upon the whole world.
- **B - Be merciful.** God wants us to receive His mercy and let it flow through us to others just as He does to us.
- **C - Completely Trust in Jesus.** God wants us to know that the graces of His mercy are dependent upon our trust. The more we trust in Jesus, the more we will receive.

What does The Divine Mercy do for the parish of St. James ?

As an act of **Corporal and Spiritual work of mercy**, The Divine Mercy administers Communion to the sick and the homebound of our parish community. We feed the homeless of St. Vincent de Paul and we pray for the sick, the living and the dead. We also bring the “house to house pilgrimage “images of our Divine Mercy and Mother of Mercy to a home, to pray the novena for 14 days.



The Divine Mercy also participates and supports the many activities and fundraising events surrounding our parish throughout the year such as: the yearly festival fundraising event, bake sale, crab feed, soup night during the Lenten season, Simbang Gabi, the Divine Mercy Sunday Feast and the building of the new St. James Church. We do this in humility, keeping in mind that, it is not about us. It's about serving the Lord!!

In this time of pandemic, it has been extremely difficult and challenging for all of us. We learned what is really important in life and what really matters - our Faith in God and in the love we have for our families and for one another. During this time, our Divine Mercy members have become more engaged and have grown closer to one

another, as we pray virtually, every day at 3 o'clock, the Great Hour of Mercy, the Chaplet of the Divine Mercy, the Holy Rosary and the Holy Infant Jesus. We instill in our hearts the virtues of humility, kindness and the love for one another.

In closing, I would like to quote St. Faustina's Diary #72: "Let every soul trust in the passion of the Lord, and place its hope in His mercy. God will not deny His mercy to anyone. Heaven and earth may change, but God's mercy and love will never be exhausted."

JESUS I TRUST IN YOU!

✦ Marie Rapp





Divine Mercy Group feeding the homeless at St. Vincent de Paul

Grand Knight	Sydney Jacques
Deputy Grand Knight	Van Cabrieto
Chancellor	Antonio Zaragoza, Jr
Financial Secretary	Paciencio Juan, Jr., PGK
Warden	Robert Brindle
Recorder	Juan Francisco
Treasurer	Bruno Whittle
Advocate	Manuel Sandico
Lecturer	Rosendo "Jim" Navarro
PGK Inside Guard	Rommel Prejula
Outside Guard	Noel Limcolioc
Trustee — 1 year	Roger Wharton, PGK
Trustee — 2 years	Willie Lagos, PGK
Trustee — 3 years	Roeli Iranzo, PGK

Knights of Columbus Council Installation CY22-23





Knights of Columbus Installation 2022



**CONGRATULATIONS,
BILLY PANGANIBAN,
WHO WAS AWARDED THE
BOLDEST BROTHER FOR
THE COLUMBIAN YEAR
2020-2021
BY THE KNIGHTS OF
COLUMBUS, CALIFORNIA
STATE COUNCIL 7/11/21**





**KNIGHTS
OF COLUMBUS**
IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.

ST. JAMES THE APOSTLE
COUNCIL #14541
FREMONT, CALIFORNIA

ST. JAMES THE APOSTLE
CATHOLIC CHURCH
SUNDAY, AUGUST 1, 2021



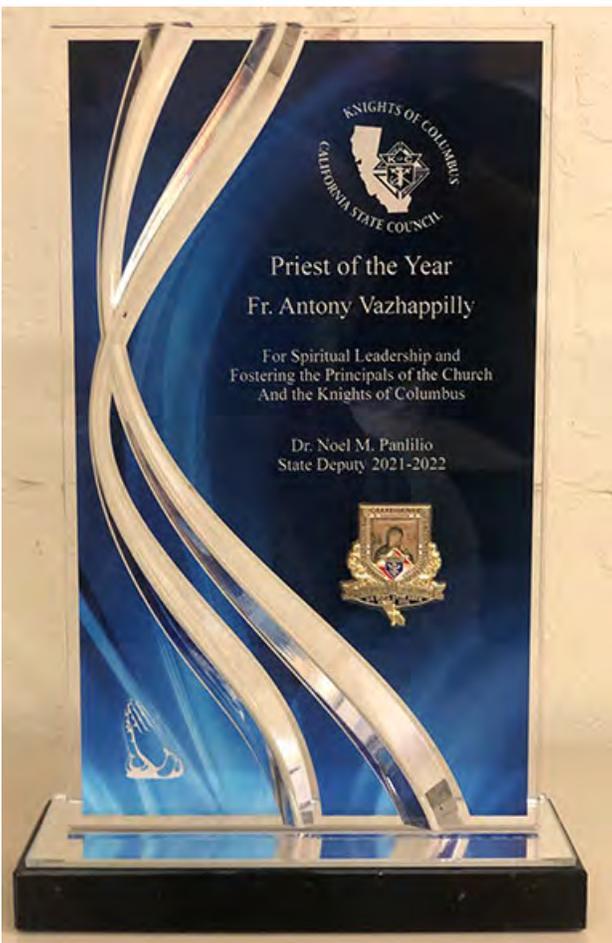
Officers 2021-2022

Grand Knight Roeli Iranzo
Deputy Grand Knight Sydney Jacques
Chancellor Antonio Zaragosa
Financial Secretary ... Pacencio Juan
Warden Jun Cabangangan
Recorder Van Cabrieto

Treasurer Bruno Whittle
Advocate Ron Lord
Inside Guard Manolo Sandico
Outside Guard Roy Talagon
Lecturer Augusto Aldana
Trustee - 1 Year Vincent Padiapco, PGK
Trustee - 2 Year Roger Wharton, PGK
Trustee - 3 Year Willie Lagos, PGK



**May 2022
Awards re-
ceived by
St. James Coun-
cil with
Grand Knight Roeli**



**Father Antony receiving
“Priest of the Year” Award**



Newly Installed Sir Knights September 25, 2021

SK Eamonn Kent, SK Rommer Llanes,
SK Saul Lal, SK Jorge Lezama,
SK Robert Brindle



First 2022 Stations of the Cross



March 4



RCIA 2022

St James RCIA is open to everyone who wants to learn more about the Catholic faith. The RCIA meets weekly from August to June each year. In addition to those seeking the Sacraments, we are also joined by members of our Catholic community who wish to support our Catechumens and Candidates and get a “refresher” in what the Church teaches.

At the Easter Vigil, Catechumens who wish to join our Catholic community are Baptized, Candidates who wish to be full members of our community are Confirmed, and Baptized Catholics who have not yet made their First Holy Communion receive the Most Holy Eucharist for the first time. St James Parish was blessed this year to have four Candidates for Confirmation all of whom also made their First Holy Communion.

We proudly welcome Matthew, Dessire, Geoffrey, and Allison to the St. James Family. We also acknowledge the people who prayed for them, supported them, and joined them in the weekly RCIA lessons, especially Genevieve Boxberger, JoAnn Souza, Denise Mayfield, Joe and Sue Parrish, Carolyn Fiori, Kelly McHan, and Denise Dugas.



St. James 2022 RCIA

In their own words:

	<p>Matt: I feel wonderfully blessed to have found the RCIA program at St James, Frances Ann, and Father Antony! I was baptized and confirmed in the Lutheran faith, and FrancesAnn's expertise and explanations, and the wonderful RCIA material made learning, understanding and accepting the Catholic faith and traditions very easy and satisfying. I also enjoyed the opportunity to revisit many bible passages in our weekly readings.</p> <p>Genevieve: Frances Ann is a kind and caring soul, and helped me renew and strengthen my Catholic faith</p>			
<p>Geoffrey: I truly believe Heavenly Father has helped guide me to St. James the Apostle Catholic Church. For some time, I have wanted to receive the sacraments and gain a better understanding of the Catholic faith and my relationship with God. At St. James, I felt safe and at ease. It was through RCIA, and the guidance of FrancesAnn, where I was able to feel comfortable, supported, and accepted for who I am. It's been one of the best experiences for me personally. I'm so grateful.</p>				
 <p>Denise Mayfield: I have been Baptized in the Catholic Church, even took my First Communion, Confirmation and even married in the church. It was after I took Confirmation I would come and go until 3 years ago. I thought when I got married, I would stay but no. I would stay somewhere for a few years then leave again.</p>	<p>Just could not find my place until I found St, James 3 years ago. I started attending mass regularly even was seriously thinking of becoming a Parishioner then COVID hit. I thought here I go again but no. I found St. James on Facebook and attending virtual mass regularly. Then they started on what I call drive-in mass. Again attended regularly and said to myself this is where I want to be. I felt God calling me.</p> <p>I got on the St. James website and sent in my</p>	<p>application to become a Parishioner. About this time we started going into the church for mass. I met different Parishioners, some folks I already knew. One led me to the virtual Rosary. I can honestly say for the past year or longer I attend virtual Rosary 5 to 6 times a week. But this was not enough. I was hungry for more.</p> <p>I was looking for a Bible Study however it had not started up again then someone suggested RCIA. I contacted</p>	<p>FrancesAnn and the rest is history. I had never heard of RCIA. It is not just for people who want to become Catholic. It is also excellent for people like me. People who would come and go from the Church. It has given me everything I have been looking for and more. I have a better understanding of my faith and what it means to be a child of God. It is a big commitment of your time. However if you believe as I have learned to do again, it will help and assist you along the way.</p>	<p>In fact do not be surprised to see me attending other classes. The class and the people who have journeyed with me is what has helped me to be the Catholic I am today.</p> <p>If at any time someone is not sure where they belong, please give me a call and I will help you along the way with the RCIA class. It is now my calling to assist lost Catholics to feel loved by God and help where I can</p>

St. James 2022 RCIA



Dessire



Allison



Geoffrey



Matthew



Faith Formation Ministry

Level 1





Faith Formation Ministry

First Communion



**“CREATING GREAT MINDS
AND BIG HEARTS
TO SERVE AND LEAD”**





Faith Formation Ministry

Level 3





Faith Formation Ministry

Level 4-5





Faith Formation Ministry

Level 6





Faith Formation Ministry

Pre-Confirmation



**“CREATING GREAT MINDS
AND BIG HEARTS
TO SERVE AND LEAD”**





Faith Formation Ministry Confirmation





Faith Formation Ministry Christmas Party





Faith Formation Ministry Christmas Party





Faith Formation Ministry Christmas Party





Eucharistic Ministers & Lectors



Capital Campaign Tent



Grandparents Day celebrated yearly now on the fourth Sunday in July.

Altar Servers
are back!
October 7, 2021



Blessing of the Children



November 2021
Photos courtesy of Willie Lagos



PAST GRAND KNIGHT
DINNER FOR
WILLIE LAGOS



Star Council

13th Grand Knight of
St. James Council
2020-2021



Plaque for Past Grand Knight Marcial





Knights of Columbus



Certificate of Appreciation for supporting the Knights: Fae Albano, Shirley Aldana, Brenda Bagis, Leah Barinque, Yolly Dandan, Carolyn Fiori, Maria Gayas, Aurora Habana, Bianca Panganiban, Cora Rafael, Sheila Reduta, Tessie Ricafort & Gloria Vasco

Christmas Party 2021



Easter 2022



Vigil



Good Friday





Honoring Mothers
Mother's Day
May 8, 2022



Mother's in Heaven - May 27, 2022

Photos courtesy of Maria Rapp





**Confirmation Class 2022 (above)
First Communion Class 2022 (Below)**



St. James Parish
celebrated the
Feast Day of
St. James
the Apostle,
our Patron Saint,
on July 25, 2022. You
can watch the
celebration of Mass on
the St. James Facebook
Page.



Planning Team for the St. James Festival
September 2022

OMG !!!

Arts & Craft

Games

Food

**\$10,000 cash
Grand Prize**

Music

St. James Parish

9/17

8:30 AM to 8:00 PM

9/18

9:00 AM to 8:00 PM

FESTIVAL

34700 Fremont Blvd., Fremont CA



Parishioner of the Month

August 2022



When she is in the office, which is almost every Wednesday, there is a lot of laughter. She brings a lot of good spirit to those who are with her. Though she looks quite serious and reserved and likes no attention or limelight, her cheerfulness is contagious. She likes to do things quietly and does everything diligently and with a great sense of commitment and dedication. She has something humorous to share every time and people hang on to her every word with apt attention and interest. I



would like to choose Fae Albano, for the parishioner of the month of August. She is one of the earliest parishioners of St. James. I met in 2007 when I first joined the parish.

Even though I was assigned to St. James in May 2007, I could only come in August of the same year. A lot of repairing and maintenance work had to be done before I came in. Fae and her husband Joe Albano were two of the first volunteers who came forward to help me. I remember them attending the first town-hall meeting. We tried to hire a contractor for the needed work of repairing and repainting of the rectory and the sacristy. One of them gave us a quote for more than a hundred thousand dollars. I asked Fae and a few others what they would have done if they had such work at home. Fae Albano told me she would find someone who could do all the work instead of hiring a big contractor. Thankfully, everything was completed under thirty-five thousand dollars and saved more than fifty thousand dollars for the parish.

Fae, with some of her friends, came out with a grand idea of organizing a wish-list tree. Fae cut and brought a small pine tree from her garden, and, on its branches, they hung a wish-list: a list of things needed for the rectory. The tree was up after the evening Mass one Saturday evening for the parishioners to pick up any items they wanted to donate. To everyone's surprise soon after the evening Mass there was not a single wish-list left. They had to make new ones for the two Sunday Masses on the next day. As a result the generous parishioners had brought enough for the rectory to last for many years. I am still using some of them. Fae

Albano was the architect of that great idea.

Fae Albano is one of the most efficient office secretaries we have. She takes care of the registration of the new parishioners. She also makes sure to order various offering envelopes for different occasions. Most importantly she maintains the Denarius accounting system for Sunday collections and other days. I admire her and appreciate her total commitment and dedication to St. James. She is a generous giver of her time, treasure, and talents as she continues to inspire all of us. She does not enjoy the best of health. She suffers from lots of aches and pains. But she is a cheerful giver of her time to St. James. She even claims that she is much better physically and mentally because she comes to work in the office. I find in her a good listener, a quality not many have. Thank you, Fae Albano for all that you do for St. James. May God bless your generosity a hundredfold! May you continue to bring cheer and laughter wherever you are. On behalf of St. James please accept my love and gratitude.

✠ Father Antony

Parishioner of the Month

July 2022



Corona hit us suddenly, and no one knew how it was going to affect our daily life. We had not seen anything like that in our lifetime. Suddenly everything was shut down, and the use of masks became mandatory.

Churches were closed and daily and Sunday celebrations of the Holy Mass were stopped. Livestreaming of the Holy Mass was unknown as we never had gone through that experience before. It was a nightmare not knowing who would be able to help with livestreaming of the Sunday Mass. People were not able to come to Church for Mass anymore and the only way they could attend the Mass was virtually. Like in many other cases at St. James, I did not need to worry about it for too long. Billy Panganiban came forward volunteering to do the Livestreaming of the Mass. He did not have any formal training, but he had the good will and determination. Almost immediately after COVID struck we began to Live-stream the Mass every Sunday. Thanks to Billy and his family who helped him. Specially I would like to mention Bianca, his eleven-year-old daughter, who single handedly livestreams the Rosary every evening. And so it goes without saying that Billy Panganiban is the Parishioner of this month.

I greatly appreciate his commitment to help with the livestreaming every Sunday. This takes a lot of commitment and love to take care of livestreaming Sunday after Sunday. He finds time to livestream other days of obligation. He is there at every Fatima Mass and at other special occasions. I know how some days he comes straight to the church from his workplace. Every now and then he has graveyard shifts but he would never miss his job and does it with such passion, love, and dedication. I can never thank him enough. His service to St. James is praiseworthy and he does it joyfully without counting the cost. May God bless him and his family a hundredfold!

My dear St. James Parishioners, as I told you umpteen times, what makes our parish distinctly special and amazing is the commitment and dedication of many of our parishioners. It is parishioners like Billy Panganiban who define the character of our parish. They are so reliable, committed and amazingly generous. May they continue to inspire others who are still to make their presence felt in the parish. Wonderful parishioners like them make my job as the pastor very easy and effective. I strongly believe that the running of any parish should be in the hands its responsible and trustworthy parishioners who will make their parishes a “Home away from home.” After your own homes every parish should be a place where you make best friends who will stand by you through thick and thin. Besides nourishing spiritually by the Sacraments the Parish should also take care of the emotional, spiritual, and social needs of her members. I hope our parish is doing justice to these needs of her people. There is no place for indifference in the life of a parishioner. A parish is the responsibility of every parishioner, and every parish should find loyalty, generosity, and commitment from every member. Billy Panganiban, we are proud of you and appreciate everything you do. Parishioners like you are the biggest assets to St. James.

✠Father Antony



Parishioner of the Month

June 2022



Manny and Aurora Habana have been involved with St. James from the year 2000. Their commitment to James is beyond words can articulate. They have overseen the choir on Saturday Evening Mass for many years. They make sure there is a choir for Saturday evening Mass. One or two Saturdays Manny plays the piano or guitar. Their love and generosity are commendable. They are always ready to serve the church with music. I can rely on them for any emergency when we do not have any choir to sing for the Mass. He makes every sacrifice to be available. One clear example comes to my mind. I had asked one of our choirs to sing for the Mass during Mothers in Heaven Mass on May 27, 2022. Unfortunately, two days before the day the leader of the choir texted me to inform that he was tested positive, and he will not be able to sing. I tried a couple of choirs that I know of in the



neighboring parish. But they were not available. Finally, I called Manny Habana and he readily accepted to come and play for the Mass. I really admire his generosity and I am deeply indebted to them. St. James is dear to their hearts, and they will make any sacrifice to serve the parish. For many years he played for the Mass on Wednesday evening with the Novena to Our Lady Perpetual Help. And he also takes care of the music for the First Friday Mass.

Ever since I have known them, they have happily served the parish. A few years ago we replaced the carpet at the sanctuary with wooden flooring. Manny and Aurora came forward and generously supplied us with all the necessary plywood free of cost. Their generosity is beyond description, and I can never thank them enough. I am sure the good Lord will reward them a hundredfold! God loves a cheerful giver!

Manny and Aurora, thank you for all that you do for St. James. You make no noise of your giving to the parish, and you have always told me that you are ever willing to serve the Lord by putting your time, treasure, and talent at the service of the parish. Parishioners like you are those who make St. James an amazing parish. You are an asset. Both of you lead by example and I pray that many will find inspiration in your example and will deepen their personal commitment to serve the parish. St. James is going through a special time as we are moving forward to building a new and permanent church. We need the full support and involvement of every parishioner. If all our parishioners were as generous and giving like you, our ten million projects of building the new church will be an easy and achievable goal. On behalf of St. James parish let me place in record my sincerest love and gratitude to you both. May God continue to bless you!

Father Antony

Parishioner of the Month



May 2022

I wonder how many of you know Maria Gayas. Maybe not many, and I am not surprised because she is very quiet. She goes around doing many things unnoticed. But certainly, she is noticed by Jesus and His mother, Mary, who see her doing an outstanding job at St. James. She is short in stature but very big in heart.



Maria has been a parishioner of St. James from 2007. Since then, she has been serving the parish with sincere love and devotion. She has always impressed me with her simplicity and commitment. She is a good cook and uses her talent for the parishioners of St. James. Singlehandedly she has taken care of the food for several of our Dinner Dances and other smaller events. Every year she gets involved with our Annual Crab-feed. She had the great plan of making twenty thousand dollars from selling lumpias. Unfortunately, she had to keep her plan on hold because of the pandemic. She has formed a team of committed helpers for this. I can rely on her for food for all gatherings that we have. Every year during our Festival she had a food booth. I always saw a big crowd in front of it. A tree is known by the fruits it produces. A cook is known by the number of customers she attracts.

When you come to the church next time, look at the sanctuary and see how beautifully it is kept. The person behind that is Maria who comes very early on every Thursday to sweep, swab and polish the floor. She is also part of the cleaning ladies who take care of the church. Presently she takes good care of the kitchen at the Mother Teresa Center where she cooks food for the children.

Maria, I want to recognize you with my love and gratitude. All that I can promise you is that your reward in heaven will be great. Your good Father who sees you doing everything in secret will reward you a hundredfold.

My dear parishioners, let me present to you Maria Gayas as the Parishioner of the Month of May 2022. May God continue to bless and keep her for many years to come. Maria, you will always have my love and prayers. Truly you are an asset to our parish, and we are proud of you.

✠Father Antony

Parishioner of the Month



April 2022

I met Frank Ricafort for the first time in a hospital bed when he was battling cancer at an advanced stage. He was a humorous guy and loved jokes. I became his frequent visitor to the hospital and we laughed together a lot. His end came soon on January 18, 2009, when the Good Lord took him to his everlasting dwelling place in heaven. But he died only after he had gifted his wife Tessie Ricafort and his family to St. James.

Tessie, who made St. James her second home after her husband's death, is the parishioner of the month of April 2022. To say she is a committed parishioner will be an understatement. She is much more than that. She is involved in many ministries which prove beyond a doubt her loyalty to our parish. She was the first person who initiated Enthronement of Homes to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. She, along with a few of her companions, began this ministry and we have today many homes consecrated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.



We have not been able to continue this work due to COVID. This is an ongoing project, and I am sure she will resume it when we are safer from Corona which is still lurking around.

She, with the help of others, takes an active role in organizing First Friday Mass, by decorating the statue of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in front of the altar. She distributes the prayer of consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus among the people and everyone renews their consecration after Holy Communion. She has been doing this for many years and she enjoys doing it with such love and dedication. She also takes care of the money offering at the two electronic candle stands by counting the money every now and then and putting it in the safe.

On every Monday morning a small group of our parishioners faithfully count the offerings collected on Sundays. This group is very sincere and committed to their job and never miss a day. Tessie is one of them. She is also one of the office secretaries who conscientiously carries out her job on Mondays.

For several years we have organized annual pilgrimages to different places like the Holy Land, Fatima, Lourdes, and Medjugore. Probably very few at St. James may know that Tessie was behind organizing it. She did it with such expertise that everything went well with the tours. Through every trip we were able to make a little revenue to the parish. Thus, these pilgrimages became fundraising for St. James. Little drops of water make an ocean. Every little drop made a difference. I am grateful to Tessie for doing this quietly.

I thank God everyday for giving me such a wonderful Parish of St. James with many amazing people. It is people like Tessie who make our parish very special. But I must also say that there are still many parishioners who are indifferent to the parish's life and activities. They make no contributions, and they care less to get involved in the parish. I hope and pray that parishioners like Tessie will inspire those namesake parishioners to be loyal and faithful. Tessie, the parish community of St. James joins me in expressing our love and gratitude to you. May you continue to serve your parish for many years to come!

✚Fr. Antony

Parishioner of the Month

March 2022



My Dear Parishioners,

My first memories of this special couple are about their coming hand-in-hand for 8.30 Mass every Sunday. After my first meeting with them, I immediately struck up a friendship with them, a friendship which grew day by day, week by week, month by month and year by year and continues growing today. Those who are close to them will have already guessed about whom I am writing. I am talking about Sue Long and Joe Parish whom I would like to present to you as the Parishioners of the month of March 2022.



On July 25, 2015, St. James Parish, Fremont, witnessed a miracle that took place at the Parish church: Joe and Sue became husband and wife, through the Sacrament of Marriage which I had the privilege of officiating. Physically they may be a bit old, but in their hearts they both turned 21 on that red-letter day. They were longtime friends which became a life-long relationship as husband and wife with a strong commitment to each other.

Here is the couple who walk the talk and lead by example - 100% committed to St. James, they constantly ask this question: "What more can we do for the betterment of our parish." If any one of my parishioners wants to learn more about loyalty to the parish, I will readily recommend this couple as the example. You must learn loyalty at their feet. Joe has served as the Head of Financial Committee for several years now, a job he has taken seriously with utmost love and devotion. Sue works as an Office volunteer and joyfully coordinates the schedule of the other volunteers besides taking care of the Parish calendar. For more than two years both have been in-charge of running the Mother Teresa Center, and they do it with a rare sense of dedication. Joe also serves as the Executive Committee member for the New and Permanent Church.

When they both appear at the podium in the church, you will immediately guess why they are there and what they are going to talk to you about. I had requested that they take care of the Annual Bishop's Appeal. They have done an amazing job with it, and I am proud to say that ever since they shouldered this great responsibility, we have always met our goal and beyond. I personally want to encourage every St. James family to support our dear Bishop and his many social and religious projects. I could not have found better persons than Joe and Sue. I must say, they have touched many lives in our Parish. They will never miss any Parish activity. They are truly an exemplary couple.

Joe and Sue, you are truly playing a big role in making our Parish an amazing Parish. You are deeply appreciated, admired, and accepted by the Parishioners. Personally you are an inspiration to me. On behalf of our Parish community, let me thank you from the depth of my heart. May God grant you good health of body and mind!

✠ Father Antony

Parishioner of the Month

February 2022



My Dear Parishioners,

I am happy to tell you that Lou Montez is the Parishioner of the month of February. For almost fifteen years Lou has been serving as the Sacristan at St. James. Every morning she comes faithfully and opens the church. She prepares the altar diligently and makes sure everything is in the right place before the 8:30am Mass. After the Mass she takes care of the sacred vessels and puts them back in the right place. She is a quiet worker not known to many of our parishioners. She seeks no attention but faithfully discharges her duties. She does everything quietly for the greater glory of God. What is remarkable about Lou is her commitment, perseverance, and devotion. She visibly manifests her sense of belonging to the parish. Rain or shine, she is in the church morning after morning. She loves what she does at the Altar. To put it in her own words, "I love to do what I am doing, and it is a blessing for me to serve the Lord."



One of her passions, besides serving the Lord, is tennis. She is an ardent tennis player. She has played in many competitions. Though I have not watched her play I am sure she must be good. For one thing, the game has helped her stay physically and mentally healthy and strong. You can easily see the athlete in her.

On behalf of the St. James Parish Community I would like to thank you, Lou, and place in record our love and gratitude to you. May you continue to serve St. James for many more years to come! May the good Lord keep you in His love and protection! Your loving services to the Lord will be recorded in the book of

your life and Jesus will reward you a hundredfold!

Dear Parishioners, St. James offers many opportunities to all of you to serve the Lord. Seize every opportunity that comes your way and serve the Lord in gladness. It is your love and participation that will make our parish an amazing place where you feel loved, nourished, and sustained. Remember, it is parishioners like Lou Montez who make our parish an AMAZING ONE. May God bless you!

✠Fr. Antony Vazhappilly



January 2022

Dear Parishioners of St. James,

I would like to present to you the Parishioner of the month for January 2022. Before I do that, let me



ask you if you have noticed the beautiful flowers on the Altar? You should be blind if you have failed to see and admire them. Every Sunday when you come for the Mass (Hope Sunday Mass is your top priority) you notice the sanctuary is beautifully decorated with a variety of flowers. The church has an added attraction when the altar is tastefully decorated with the flowers. The Altar is the center of our worship and the flowers create a beautiful environment. This has been going on for a long time, Sunday after Sunday. And I take this opportunity to thank Brenda Bagis who has diligently taken care of the Altar for so many years. Brenda, please accept the love and gratitude of St. James Community. Your commitment and dedication to serve St. James is gratefully

accepted and acknowledged. May God bless you a hundredfold!

I will never forget my first meeting with Brenda, which unfortunately was not in the best of circumstances. Probably that was the first visit she made to St. James. Her husband Jim had just died and she had approached all the parishes around including her own parish of thirty years and requested if they would kindly conduct the funeral of her husband on a Holy Thursday. She did not have luck with any one of them. Some of her friends brought her to St. James. I was still very new to the parish. I readily agreed and I did the funeral of her husband on Holy Thursday 2008. Ever since she has continued to serve our parish with total commitment and devotion.

As Pastor of St. James, I am blessed with many wonderful individuals who serve their parish with utmost love and care. My continuous prayer is that many more of our parishioners follow their examples and come forward to serve their parish with greater love and commitment. You hold the key to making our parish truly an amazing one.

Parishioner of the Month

December 2021



One of the best attractions our Parish is the prayer-garden with different statues of saints and the variety of flowers. I have seen many taking in the fragrance of the roses in front of the rectory by sniffing them. I am sure, all of you admire the roses and other flowers in our front garden. But many of you may not know who takes good and diligent care of them. And so, I thought of presenting to you as the Parishioner of the month of December, Cora Surla, who for more than twelve years, has been taking meticulous care of the flowers. She takes personal care of them spending many hours every week. You will agree that she has green thumbs. But not all those who have green thumbs are blessed with such beautiful flowers. Along with green thumbs, one should also be totally committed. Like babies, these flowers need a loving touch and care which is the secret of Cora Surla. She talks to the plants with much affection and love. This is her style of gardening, and the results are fabulous as you can see.

Cora is gentle in her demeanor, and she is very quiet when she works in the garden as if she is praying her. Cora, I really appreciate your commitment to St. James. Parishioners like you make St. James an amazing Parish. May you continue to be an inspiration to others who may still lack a sense of belonging and ownership. You are a great asset to St. James. My dear Parishioners please join me in expressing our love and gratitude to Cora. May God bless you a hundredfold!

Fr/ Antony



Parishioner of the Month



November 2021

The three sisters, Solita Cruz, Alice Rivera and Annie Sacramento (Twins) are the "Parishioners of the Month" for November 2021. I cannot separate them for they do everything together for St. James Parish. If you ever wondered who prepares the beautiful banners in the church and the sanctuary, you know them



now. They have been doing this service for many years. They take care of the altar covers with such love and dedication. Those wonderful altar covers which are changed according to the different seasons are their creation. These three sisters have taken care of the church banners and altar covers since 2007 until now. If we count thousands of hours they have generously given to St. James and add a dollar amount to their every hour they served, we will know how precious their commitment was. Seeking only God's love and reward they

make no noise of their dedicated services to our parish. They seek no human glory or rewards because they know these services to their parish are their small treasures stored in heaven as Jesus said, "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal." (Matthew 6:19). They are always together in working for the Lord and if you watch them doing something in the church, you will notice immediately how united they are in serving the good Lord. St. James is their second home, and they do everything for St. James with a sense of love and commitment. These banners and decorations have changed the environment of a community hall and transformed it into a magnificent church.

I am sure you are getting more and more convinced about the fact that St. James is an amazing Parish because of parishioners who have taken their parish their responsibility and serve it with a sense of ownership and belonging. They constantly ask a different question, "What more can we do for our Parish to make it even better?" I pray more and more of you will have this question in your hearts and thoughts. This one question will change everything in the parish for the better especially at a time like this when we are planning to build a new and permanent church. Three cheers to the THREE SISTERS!

Parishioner of the Month

October 2021



My Dear Parishioners,

The Parishioner of the month of October is

John Di Paola who for more than ten years managed most efficiently all the financial affairs of St. James. He was reliable, available, and dedicated to everything he did for St. James. The Parish was so dear to his heart that almost every day he would spend several hours taking care of the needs of the parish. He was always a call away and I could totally rely on him. Our Parish community owes him a great debt of love and gratitude.

In normal circumstances a New Pastor takes over the reign of a new Parish which has a well-established staff, well-run departments, and various ministries. I did not have that blessing when I was assigned to St. James in May 2007. The only ministry in existence was the Social Activity Group. At first I did not know anyone, nor did I know whom to approach for any help. From May to August 9, 2007, I had to commute daily from Assumption, San Leandro, because the rooms in the Rectory were far beyond living conditions. One of the first few days I was here, I met John DiPaola who promised to help me in any way he could. John supervised the cleaning and remodeling of the Rectory. When it comes to saving money, you will not find anyone better than John. On a lighter note, I must say sometimes he may be a little too cheap. He has always been very frugal. He continued to be the head of the Finance department for more than a decade. He played a big role in the building of the Mother Teresa Center.

John has not fully recovered from a hip surgery that he went through more than five years ago. The doctors had assured him that he would be back to walking after three weeks. Instead of one surgery he had to have eight of them. He had expected to be back in the office in three weeks. But even after all these years he has not fully recovered. He went through a lot of pain. John, keep fighting and never give up. Please accept our love and gratitude. St. James is proud of you! May God grant you a speedy recovery! You have my daily prayers. Kudos to John DiPaola!

Fr. Antony Vazhappilly



John setting up the
St. James Statue on the pedestal

Parishioner of the Month



September 2021

My Dear Parishioners,

What makes St. James Parish an amazing parish is its parishioners. As I have very often mentioned, our Parish is as good as its members who pledge their loyalty and commitment to serve the parish, recognizing and accepting their responsibility toward their parish community. We are a diverse community with varied talents, gifts, and commitment. Our parish is a symbol of unity in diversity with a strong group of parishioners who have made their parish their second home. It is my bounded duty to recognize them one

by one every month. You will get to know them under the Title: ***THE PARISHIONER OF THE MONTH.***

The first person I have picked for this month is Carolyn Fiori. I do not know how many of you know her as the one responsible for our Sunday Bulletins, Yearbooks, and the Parish Calendar, a job she does with utmost dedication and professionalism. This is a challenging job as week after week she must work with a deadline. Those of you who find time to read it will admit that she does a wonderful job making our Sunday Bulletin amazing. Look at our Yearbook! She captures all the activities of the Parish and records them in a beautiful order. The Annual Yearbook is an Album containing our parishioners in action. It is a treasure of historical information to the present and future parishioners. At one glance you can know what went ahead of us. My dear Parishioners, join me in thanking and appreciating Carolyn Fiori. May the Good Lord grant her good health of body and mind to continue the amazing work that she does for St. James in the years to come!

Fr. Antony Vazhappilly



Carolyn with grandson Vincent

Baptisms



**Christopher and Alissa
Kent
July 31, 2021**



Baptisms



**Alyssa Isabel Rollan
September 11, 2021**

Baptisms



**Juno James Joo
September 11, 2021**

Baptisms



**Andrei Evasco
September 25, 2021**

Baptisms



**Rickson Bangaru
October 2, 2021**

Baptisms



**Ivanka Ambrose
October 23, 2021**

Baptisms



Aedan James Martinez
November 20, 2021

Baptisms



**Mateo Navarro
January 29, 2022**

Baptisms



**Roman Ashe
February 19, 2022**

Baptisms



**Michael David Abad
April 23, 2022**

Baptisms



**Liam Jordan Quianzon &
Ella Faith Liquete
April 30, 2022**

Baptisms



**Ava Natalia Macleod
May 5, 2022**

Baptisms



**Mateo Wong
May 7, 2022**

Baptisms



**Kallen Parker Ong Pereira
May 28, 2022**

Baptisms



Aiden D'souza
June 25, 2022

Credits



SAINT JAMES THE APOSTLE
CATHOLIC CHURCH

Photos

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Billy Panganiban
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