

PARISH INFORMATION & SCHEDULES

Office Hours:

Monday through Friday: 9:00am to 12noon

Sundays: 9:30am to 11:30am.

Mass Schedule

Monday-Saturday Mass: 8:30am

Saturday Evening: 5:00pm

Sunday Masses: 8:30am, 10:00am,
12:00noon

Bible Study

Thursdays at 7:30pm in the Rectory.

Registration in the Parish

Warmest welcome to all who worship in our Community.

Please complete a registration form available online.

(Parish Info)

St. Vincent de Paul

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

Knights of Columbus

For information, please contact: Tony Zaragoza
510-509-5413.

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

Please call to **make an appointment** with Fr. Antony. For details, please go to the Church website (Parish Info) or contact Jappy/Jan Francisco (415) 269-5973.

Baptism Preparation/Training class: Last Friday day of the month from 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm in the Small Chapel.

Baptism Celebration: Last Saturday of the month 11:30am in the church

Faith Formation

For questions or help with registration, please contact Sheila Remolar Reduta at (650) 743-5728 or sjtafaithformation@gmail.com

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults)

Please contact FrancesAnn McKenney at 510-648-4876 or contact the parish office at 510-792-1962.

Funerals

We recommend using Catholic Funeral and Cemetery Services / Holy Sepulchre Cemetery and Holy Angels Funeral and Cremation Services. You may contact Bill Russell at 510-901-2191.

Mother Teresa Center Reservations.

Call 510-589-6909, email MTC@sjapostle.net. (No prices or quotes are given over the phone or in an e-mail.)



ST. JAMES THE APOSTLE CHURCH

34700 Fremont Blvd • Fremont, CA 94555

510-792-1962 • www.sjapostle.net

office@sjapostle.net

Fr. Antony Vazhappilly, Pastor

MARCH 17, 2024

5th Sunday of Lent

PARISH CALENDAR

Aug 17-18	Festival
Sept 28	Dinner Dance
Dec 8	Parish Christmas Party

Monthly Meetings:

Knights of Columbus Officer's Meeting

First Monday 7:30pm

Knights of Columbus Business Meeting

3rd Monday 7:30pm

St. Vincent de Paul

2nd Monday 7:00 pm

Bishop Begin Assembly 3546

Business Meeting, 4th Thursday 7:30pm

Pastoral Council

4th Tuesday 7:00pm

Monthly Devotions:

First Friday begins at 8:30am Mass, adoration during the day, 6:30pm

Rosary, 7:30pm Mass

KofC Novena Prayer for the Unborn 2nd Sunday after 10am Mass

**ST JAMES IS HAVING A
SHRED EVENT ON MARCH 24
FROM 9:30AM TO 1:30 PM.**

**THE SHREDDING IS FREE. PLEASE DO
NOT INCLUDE PLASTIC FOLDERS OR
HARD DISCS. ALL DONATIONS GO TO
BUILDING THE NEW CHURCH.**



5TH SUNDAY OF LENT (JOHN 12:20-33) UNLESS A GRAIN OF WHEAT FALLS TO THE GROUND

Death is unknown to a newborn baby,
Every child is born to live and be happy.
But there was one Child who came only to die,
The Savior He was and still held very high.

His parents were poor and came from poor background,
His birth was known to shepherds who were around.
He had no welcome like any other Prince,
Jesus came with a message of love and peace.

The Church came into existence with His death,
Jesus filled the apostles with eternal breath.
On Pentecost Sunday, the Church came to be,
By dying, Jesus brought a new life to me.

A seed, if doesn't die, cannot produce new life,
If it dies in the ground, it brings out new leaf.
Jesus, in the same way, by dying brought new life,
He is the only way to eternal life!

He knew He wouldn't save without laying down his life,
For millions, He became food for spiritual life.
The seed, that He was, has grown to be a huge tree,
With Jesus alone, from sin we will be free.

As Jesus' disciples, we should die to sin,
By good examples, followers we should win.
In Jesus' name, we should unify the world,
If God is Father, everyone is His child!

Questions:

1. What is virtue?
2. What is sin?
3. Where do you find each in the poem?
4. Where do you find them in your life?
5. Where will you find the strength to sin no more?

Reflections:

Agriculture was my father's bread and butter. As a landlord, he knew everything about sowing seeds, planting, and harvesting. I, on the other hand, grew up with no agricultural understanding. As a five-year-old, I once planted a mango seed. Every morning I would dig it up to see if it was sprouting. Little did I know that the seed must die before it brings forth new shoots but was too young to understand this. Jesus uses the same example: "If a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it produces much fruit." It is unlikely Jesus was talking about agriculture, though He certainly loved the subject, as evidenced by many of

His parables. The seed of which Jesus speaks is not of a particular plant or tree. He is talking about Himself. He is referring to His own death and resurrection. Inasmuch as a seed can bring about good results only if it dies, it's only if Jesus dies that He would be able to bring about new life for us. There was no other possible way by which the world could be redeemed. As His metaphor about the seed suggests, without the shedding of His divine blood there could be no remission of our sins, which were nailed to the cross in the form of His precious body. As a matter of fact, many years before the coming of Jesus, the prophet Isaiah had already prophesied: "Yet, it was the Lord's will to crush Him and cause Him to suffer, and though the Lord makes His life an offering for sin, He will see His offspring and prolong His days, and the will of the Lord will prosper in his hand" (Isaiah 53:10).

At Jesus' death, everyone ran away, including the apostles. They were afraid that they would be the next target. Apparently, the future of the Church looked very bleak. Many thought it was all over and the followers of Jesus would disappear. This obviously did not happen. The Acts of the Apostles describes the exponential and unstoppable growth of the Church. The more persecutions the early Christians suffered, the stronger their faith became. They would walk into the Roman arenas to be devoured by wild animals, almost vying with each other, as if it was a chosen privilege to die for Jesus. Many gave up their lives in defense of their faith in Jesus and the Gospels. The Church grew strong and spread to every corner of the world. Two thousand years later, the Church is still the largest organization in the world, with over 1.3 billion members. Surprisingly, it all came to be from Jesus, the Seed, who died for us. The Church will never stop growing and let us hope, one day, the entire world may be united in His name bringing to fulfillment Jesus' final prayer, "That all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me, and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me" (John 17:21).

In our spiritual life, we cannot produce anything new nor have an experience of a new life unless we die to sin. Sin came into the world through the disobedience of our first parents, growing beyond all proportion to the point where man's greatest struggle today is to be free from temptation and sin. Sin is all around us and it is a challenge to live our life without committing sin. According to Romans 5, we are in this predicament because of the sin of the first human,



**MESSAGE
FROM
FR. ANTONY**

(Continued on page 3)

Adam. Sin entered the world “through one man [Adam], and death through sin, and in this way, death came to all people” (Romans 5:12). Now, the only way we can find liberation from sin is through death, for “anyone who has died has been set free from sin” (Romans 6:7). In every human being, there is an inclination to sin that no one can overcome without divine assistance. Such power comes from Jesus, who by dying on the cross conquered sin and death. Therefore, you can only be dead to sin if you are able to discipline all your sinful inclinations by the grace of God and remain faithful to Jesus, your Lord.

St. Paul, more than anyone else, speaks about dying to sin. For him, to be dead to sin is to be “alive to God in Christ Jesus.” For this, you should have an experience of Jesus through a personal encounter like Paul did. Those who have centered their lives on Jesus will be in a better position to overcome sin. In Romans 12:1-2, Paul writes: “Therefore, I urge you, brothers, and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.” Dead to sin does not mean we are sinless and that we have conquered sin forever. Through his writings, Paul has made it abundantly clear that he continued to struggle with temptation and sin: “For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing. Now, if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it” (Romans 7:19-20). He calls himself the “worst of sinners” (1 Timothy 1:16). The only way the devil can conquer men and women is by tempting them. He does it in his subtle and compromising way. The last thing he will stop doing is tempting us as temptation is his strongest weapon to lure God’s people away. This is the reason we find plenty of temptations all around us. Unfortunately, living in sin seems to be the order of the day. Their justification is, “everybody is doing it.” This is a blatant lie that the devil whispers in everyone’s ears. He is the master of lies and he has many followers.

There are a few who were able to say “no” to sin. Look at the luminaries of saints who lived in the world in the same way as we are living today. They were not born saints in saintly families. They were born like anyone of us and grew up like us. They, too, had to face all the temptations and sin. They did not have shortcuts to overcome sin. It was a daily struggle, and they achieved the crown of glory. They took up their daily cross that came their way. They had to deny themselves as Jesus showed them as the only way. Their life was not a bed of roses without thorns. With St. Paul, they would say, “I can do all this through Him who gives me strength” (Philippians 4:13).

Yes, they did everything with the power of Jesus. On the night He was arrested, Jesus spent many hours praying in the garden of Gethsemane. Peter, James, and John were with Him. When Jesus found them sleeping, He told them, “Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak” (Matthew 24:41). Indeed, prayer is the weapon in our hands against temptations. Be on your guard. The stronger your prayer life is the easier it is for you to fight against temptations. At the end of our earthly sojourn, we can proudly say with Paul: “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have kept the faith.” Let us therefore choose to die to sin so that we can live in Christ every day!



READINGS FOR THE WEEK

United Conference of
Catholic Bishops Website

<https://bible.usccb.org/daily-bible-reading>

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 an online registration form on the website (sjapostle.net) FAQ

Name

Address

Phone

Email

MARCH 2024

Parishioner of the Month

One of the original parishioners of St. James, Jolly Schmidt, has been attending St. James for more than forty years. According to her own version, for seven years she and her husband had left St. James and joined the Holy Spirit during the years her daughter attended Holy Spirit school. It was a customary practice then for the family to be registered in the parish first before their children would be admitted to the school. Faithfully the family came back to St. James after their daughter graduated. Ever since she and her husband have been loyal members of our parish!

One of the first things that I did after I came to St. James was to bring the tabernacle to the center of the sanctuary from the left corner. Gary Schmidt, Jolly's husband who is an accomplished carpenter, helped me shift it. He made the present steps to the tabernacle. Jolly and Gary are two wonderful parishioners who have



St. James in their hearts, and they will never hesitate to help our parish in whatever way they can. Their financial support to our parish is commendable. When we started the campaign for the new and permanent church, they readily came forward making a commendable pledge and they continue to do contribute beyond their pledge. What is commendable about their giving is their generous and joyful spirit with which they give. They literally follow the words of St. Paul who said, "Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each one should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not out of regret or compulsion. For God loves a cheerful giver." I wish all my parishioners had this spirit of giving and commitment. It is my conviction that unless you have discovered Jesus in your life, you will not give. Every giving is a humble investment in one's own eternity!

Jolly has been one of the Monday morning money counters of our Sunday offerings. She does an excellent job in scanning all the checks. She has been doing this job for some time now and she does it with a rare commitment and dedication. I have said it so many times and let me repeat again: a parish is as good as its committed members. I am so blessed with so many parishioners like Jolly who manifest a great sense of belonging to the parish. They feel in their hearts a special attachment to the parish. They are different from those floating parishioners who have no attachment to the parish and will make no contribution to the parish. They will be the first ones to complain about anything and everything but the last ones to contribute. They will have many suggestions and recommendations, but they will seldom lift a finger to help. They very well fit in with the group of people about whom Jesus said, "The teachers of the law and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat. So you must be careful to do everything they tell you. But do not do what they do, for they do not practice what they preach" (Matthew 23:2-3).

Jolly has been assigned to take care of the collection basket after Saturday evening Mass and she keeps the money in the safe religiously. There is a sense of joy in all that she does. No doubt, parishioners like Jolly make our parish so welcoming. Last week my niece, Jeece Rose, paid me a short visit from British Columbia, Canada. She was so impressed with the spirit of warmth and love that existed among our parishioners that she said, "I have never seen anywhere such a loving parish community like St. James where you feel immediately at home as you are surrounded by smiling faces ready to talk to you as if they knew you always!" It does not take a lot to touch the lives of people. It is in our spirit of openness and friendliness with which we deal with others!

Jolly has a special talent for baking, and she makes some of the best cakes for auction at our Crab Feed or other events. Her Kalua Cake has become very popular. As she would say, "My happy place is my kitchen but then she adds, "My parish is my happy home." She calls St. James her extended family. "I have seen many people come and go for various reasons. Some moved due to having families in other states, or because California is too expensive for retirees. Many have passed on! I am very blessed to be a part of St. James for over 50 years. Gary and I will be celebrating our 50th wedding anniversary this year and we are blessed to be part of St. James. We are so excited about the building of our new and permanent church

and our ardent prayer is that we will live to see it completed."

Do you feel a sense of pride that you belong to St. James? Here is the best test. Recently a family who had happily planned to move to St. James was warned by one of the gossipers that St. James is always asking for money and as a result, the mother of the family developed cold feet and almost gave up her idea of joining St. James even though her husband scolded her for listening to gossips. However, she shared her episode with one of St. James Parishioners who opened her eyes by saying that St. James is asking for money for a worthy cause of building a new and permanent church. She explained that a campaign has been launched for this purpose. To cut a long story short, this proud parishioner was able to remove the poisonous seed the gossip had sown in her heart and replace it with a good seed. Do likewise is the meaning of "feeling a sense of pride." Gossip is cancer of the soul. You find them in every parish, and they are the worst enemies of your parish, watch out!



Father Antony Vazhappilly

Holy Week Schedule

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday

March 25, 26, 27

Morning Mass - 8:30am

Easter Triduum

Holy Thursday, March 28

8:30am - 10:00am Retreat/Recollection (No Mass)

7:30pm Mass of the Lord's Supper

Adoration until Midnight

Good Friday, March 29

8:30am - 10:00am Retreat/Recollection (No Mass)



Afternoon Services

12:00 - 1:00pm Personal Way of the Cross

1:00 - 3:00pm Good Friday

Liturgy with Communion

3:00pm Divine Mercy Novena Day #1



Evening Services

7:30pm Good Friday Liturgy with Communion

Holy Saturday, March 30

8:30AM - 10:00AM RETREAT/

RECOLLECTION

(NO MASS)

After the 8:30 Prayers

Divine Mercy Novena Day #2

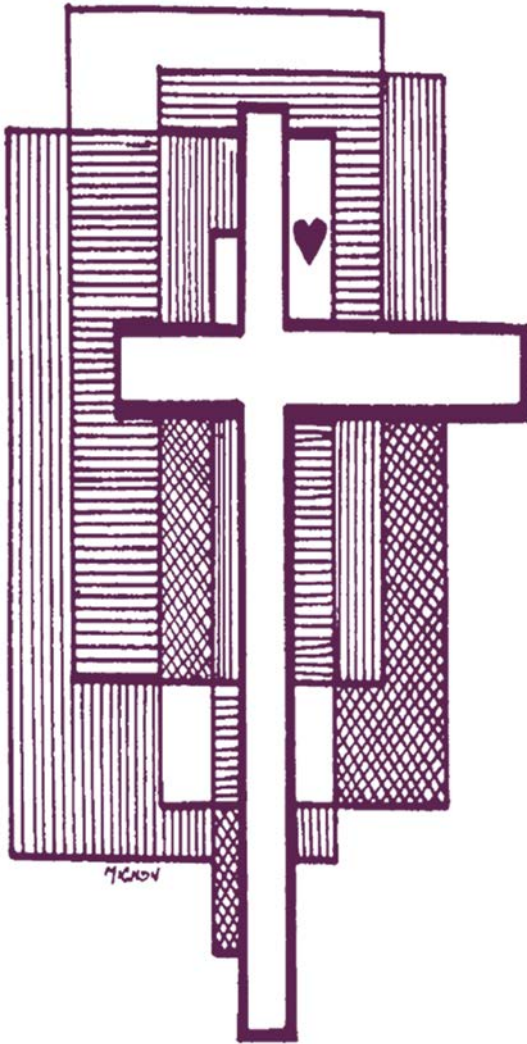
7:30pm Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday, March 31

Masses: 8:30am, 10:00am & 12:00 noon

Divine Mercy Novena Day #3

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The Divine Mercy Apostolate of St. James Catholic Church invites you to join us during
Divine Mercy Novena, March 29 - April 7, 2022

March 29 – Good Friday	After the Good Friday Liturgy at 1:00PM, the Divine Mercy Novena begins
March 30– Holy Saturday	After the 8:30AM prayers
March 31 – Easter Sunday	After the 12:00PM Mass
April 1 – Monday	After the 8:30AM Mass
April 2 – Tuesday	After the 8:30AM Mass
April 3– Wednesday	After the 8:30AM Mass
April 4 – Thursday	After the 8:30AM Mass
April 5 – Friday	After the 8:30AM Mass
April 6 – Saturday	After the 8:30AM Mass followed by Exposition of Blessed Sacrament, Benediction and Reconciliation
April 7 – Sunday	Divine Mercy Sunday Feast Day at the 12:00noon Mass. Please Join Us!

Mankind will not have peace until it turns with trust to My Mercy...Faustina



Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska **The Humble Instrument**

Sister Faustina was a young, uneducated nun in a convent of the Congregation of Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy in Poland during the 1930s. She came from a poor family that struggled during the years of World War I. She had only three years of simple education, so hers were the humblest tasks in the convent, usually in the kitchen or garden. However, she received extraordinary revelations — or messages — from our Lord Jesus. Jesus asked Sr. Faustina to record these experiences, which she compiled into notebooks. These notebooks are known today as the *Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska*, and the words contained within are God's loving message of Divine Mercy.



Though the Divine Mercy message is not new to the teachings of the Church, Sr. Faustina's *Diary* sparked a great movement, and a strong and significant focus on the mercy of Christ. Saint John Paul II canonized Sr. Faustina in 2000 making her the "first saint of the new millennium." Speaking of Sr. Faustina and the importance of the message contained in her *Diary*, the Pope called her "the great apostle of Divine Mercy in our time."

Today, we continue to rely on St. Faustina as a constant reminder of the message to trust in Jesus' endless mercy, and to live life mercifully toward others. We also turn to her in prayer and request her intercession to our merciful Savior on our behalf. At the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy in Stockbridge, Massachusetts, we include the following in our 3 o'clock prayers:

Saint Faustina,

you told us that your mission would continue after your death and that you would not forget us. Our Lord also granted you a great privilege, telling you to "distribute graces as you will, to whom you will, and when you will." Relying on this, we ask your intercession for the graces we need, especially for the intentions just mentioned. Help us, above all, to trust in Jesus as you did and thus to glorify His mercy every moment of our lives. **Amen**

2024 Spring Prize Drawing



Sponsored by
St. James the Apostle Church
St. James the Apostle Council
Bp. Floyd L. Begin Assembly
Drawing Will be @ St. James Church on
Sunday, April 7, 2024 after 12pm Mass



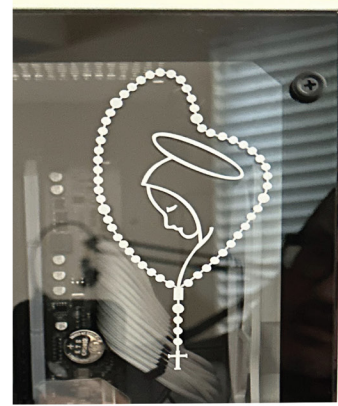
Grand Prize*: Gaming Computer worth \$3000



Specifications:
Panda White Case
RGB Fans
Ryzen 5 5600 processor
16 GB Corsair RGB RAM



2x NVME SSDs total 3 TB storage
MSI RTX 4060
AOC 27" LCD Monitor
Gaming Keyboard and Mouse
RGB Mouse mat



Wireless Game Controller
Corsair Headset
1080p Webcam
Built in WiFi
Bluetooth

Second Prize*: \$1000 cash Third Prize*: \$500 cash

***Need not be present to win. Winner is responsible for all applicable taxes.
Proceeds to benefit building our new and permanent Church!**

TICKET DONATION: \$10.00