

## 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: Juan "Jappy" Francisco (415) 269-5973.

### 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.sjapostle.net)

[office@sjapostle.net](mailto:office@sjapostle.net)

Fr. Antony Vazhappilly, Pastor

## APRIL 21, 2024 4th Sunday of Easter

### PARISH CALENDAR

May 5	Youth Concert
Aug 24-25	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**

3<sup>rd</sup> Monday 7:30pm

**St. Vincent de Paul**

2<sup>nd</sup> Monday 7:00 pm

**Bishop Begin Assembly 3546**

Business Meeting, 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday 7:30pm

**Pastoral Council**

4<sup>th</sup> 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** 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after 10am Mass



### COLLECTIONS

April 14, 2024

1st Collection

\$4363.00

Special Collections

\$379.00

## 4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER (JOHN 10:27-30) I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Jesus is the way to heaven and eternal life,  
As a good Shepherd, He will take us to a new life.  
He'll take us to pastures of everlasting peace,  
We're His sheep who follow Him recognizing His voice.

Sacrifice is the measure of a good Shepherd,  
He puts His sheep first and defends them unafraid.  
They're vulnerable and come across many dangers,  
With their shepherd around, they'll never follow strangers.

At the sight of a wolf, a hired hand runs away,  
With no dedication, he works only for his pay.  
The good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep,  
And watches over them sacrificing His sleep.

The loving shepherd knows His sheep, each one by name,  
Only to love and save His sheep the good Shepherd came.  
We can trust Him, for He will not lead His sheep astray,  
To save His sheep from dangers, any price He would pay.

The Shepherd knows His sheep more than anyone else,  
With love and compassion, His loving heart wells.  
He knows the weak and strong, the stubborn and meek,  
With a total love, everyone He will seek.

With the Shepherd by our side, nothing we will want,  
To guide and protect, He will always walk in front.  
Even though I may walk in the valley of death,  
I'll fear no evil for He is my unfailing strength.

### Questions:

1. Who is your Shepherd?
2. How do you know whether you are following the Good Shepherd?
3. How are you carrying out His precious will with those entrusted to your care?

### Reflections:

The shepherd is the dominant leadership metaphor and idea of shepherding, specifically, the idea of God acting as the Shepherd of His people is found throughout the Bible. The role of the shepherd was a cornerstone of the Hebrew economy, as sheep provided key staples of wool, meat, and other commodities. God's choice of the shepherd as a leadership metaphor made sense for a nomadic society dependent on sheep, goats, and cattle. In the Old Testament, God has words of strong rebuke and warning for bad shepherds and prophecies of a good shepherd that is to come. In the New Testament, Jesus identifies himself as the Good Shepherd, and we find



in the Epistles the notion of good shepherding extended to those who would lead in the church. In Genesis 48:15, Jacob on his deathbed summarized his life, declaring that God had been his "shepherd all of his life to this day." In Revelation 7:17, when the saints come out of the tribulation and are brought before God, John brings together two of the most striking images of the scripture by stating, "for the Lamb in the center of the throne shall be their Shepherd and shall guide them to springs of the water of life; and God shall wipe every tear from their eye."

The characteristic of a good shepherd is to focus selflessly on his flock and its safety and sustenance. In contrast to this, the hireling comes only to steal, kill, and destroy. They will run away whenever they sense danger to their lives. Instead of defending their sheep, they will take care of themselves. This is because they are doing their job only for a salary and not out of love or commitment. Knowing that the bad shepherd fails to provide, protect and guide the sheep, the picture of the good shepherd laid out in scripture comes into clearer view. The most famous description of the good shepherd, and perhaps one of the most well-known passages in the Bible, is Psalm 23. These lines were penned by David, not a theoretician when it came to sheep and their welfare but a proven shepherd. The good shepherd provides nourishment and refreshment for his sheep. At times, sheep stray from their shepherd, but the loving shepherd will leave the fold to find even one lost sheep. Sometimes we too stray from the Lord. We find ourselves in need of God's forgiveness and restoration, which He offers freely to those who repent and return to Him. We can never stray so far that God's long arm of grace can't reach us.

In today's Sunday Gospel, Jesus tells His disciples and us that He is the way to heaven and eternal life. He explains this concept by comparing Himself to a shepherd. The image of a shepherd was one that was common among the members of His audience. Palestine was more of a pastoral region than an agricultural region, so shepherds were very common.

Sheep are quite dumb. They will follow anyone who leads them, even if it means that they will be led astray. A good shepherd watches out for his flock and protects them even to the point of sacrificing himself. Like the sheep, we are vulnerable and very often we are oblivious to the dangers around. Our society emphasizes self-indulgence and shuns self-giving. Despite this, there are those who are willing to give up something in exchange for something far greater. They sacrifice themselves for people they love and things



### MESSAGE FROM FR. ANTONY

*(Continued on page 3)*

they have faith in. The spirit of sacrifice is the mark of a good shepherd. It proves the worth of their words and intentions. A good shepherd is not all talk, but he is a man of action and commitment by setting good examples. Explaining this concept by comparing Himself to a shepherd, Jesus calls us to do likewise. A good shepherd is ultimately a man of action and a living example.

We are living in a time when there are too many leaders who want to lead us. The question is whether we can trust them. What guarantee do we have that they will not lead us astray? We can't trust politicians because they often make promises they will not keep. They will all begin well with a lot of promises and commitments, but when they win the elections and become secure of their positions and their future, they change their colors. Their promises are easily broken. I once read a humorous political campaign story of a politician who was running for a second term. He openly told the voters that during his first term he had made enough money for himself and his family that he would spend some money for their welfare and development if they elected him a second time. He won the election. Can you honestly think of an honest politician who has the welfare of the people uppermost in his agenda? Make a study of some of the leading non-governmental organizations in the world today. You will be shocked to find out varying levels of corruption in every department. Many of these organizations, sad to say, are cover-ups for their clandestine dealings. In the name of humanitarian service, millions are pocketed by those who look like lambs outside but inside they are ravenous wolves.

We cannot guarantee that all church leaders are just, sincere, and honest shepherds who remain faithful to their sheep and their Shepherd, Jesus Christ. We keep reading more and more of corruption stories in the high and low ranks of those who are supposedly committed men and women. Many of them make millions in the name of Jesus and lead a scandalously rich life. They preach in the name of Jesus who was born poor, lived poor, and died poor. Some of them own personal jets, all in the name of Jesus, who walked from place to place preaching the kingdom of God. They teach and preach about Jesus, but they have no spirit of Christ in them, and their lifestyle is in stark contrast to Jesus, who warned, "You cannot serve two masters, God and mammon." Even at the Vatican, supposedly the holiest of all places, we hear of stories of corruption. We must humbly admit that we need a true Shepherd now more than ever before.

In Jesus' description of Himself, He adds to our understanding of what makes for a good shepherd. The good shepherd is sacrificial. He is willing to ignore his own needs in order to meet the needs of his sheep. Over and over in the gospel He states that the good shepherd gives his own life for his sheep. The other characteristic of the good shepherd that Jesus makes crystal clear is that the good shepherd is personally, if not

intimately, involved with all his sheep. His closeness with the individual sheep is clear when he calls them by name. In short, the good shepherd showed great concern for his sheep. He provided nourishment and rest. He guided them and led the way. He was immediately involved with the flock and concerned for the safety of each sheep. He is willing to sacrifice his own comfort, even his own life, for the sake of his sheep.

This is the kind of love and care with which God wanted His rulers to lead Israel in the Old Testament, and the writers of the New Testament have much of this in mind when it comes to leadership in the church. It was in this context that Jesus challenged Peter to prove his love after his betrayal. Unfortunately, this is the kind of leadership which is hard to find in the world, in the church, and in society today. We cannot pass the buck by blaming it on others. Each one of us is called to make a difference in the leadership of the church of which we are members by becoming a true shepherd after the model of Jesus, the good Shepherd. The change should start with each one of us.



## 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](http://sjapostle.net)) FAQ

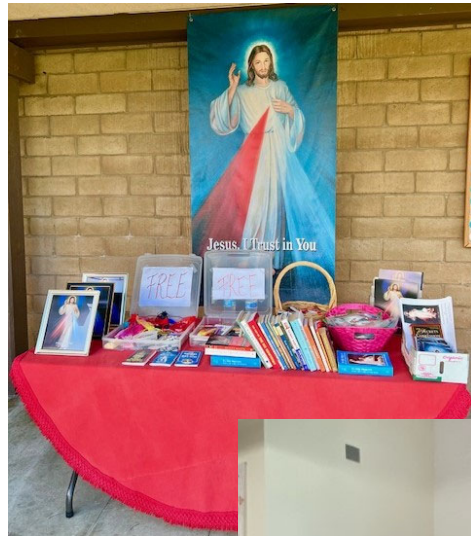
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# Divine Mercy Sunday April 7, 2024







## **Divine Mercy Sunday April 7, 2024**

