

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

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

APRIL 28, 2024

5th 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
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 4th Sunday after 10am Mass



COLLECTIONS

April 14, 2024

1st Collection	\$4299.00
Special Collections	\$1700.00

5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER (JOHN 15:1-8) VINE AND THE BRANCHES

Branches of trees can't survive for long,
Without the trees, where they belong.
Cut off from them, soon they will wither,
And will die in scorching weather.

Branches cannot survive without roots,
And on their own, they cannot bear fruits.
They can yield only if they remain,
With the tree, which alone can sustain.

We're the branches and Jesus the Vine,
With Him we can drink spiritual wine.
Without Him, we die a spiritual death,
In Jesus, only we can get strength.

As pruned branches produce better yield,
We'll be rich if His teachings we heed.
Prayer and good deeds nourish the soul,
In our lives, we can't ignore God's role.

We'll not produce fruits of joy and peace,
Our families will not live in love and ease.
Unless we're the branches on the tree,
In God alone we are truly free.

We are transformed by God's living Word,
And become the Gospels others could read.
Without God, there's nothing we can do,
With Him, we can live without ado.

Questions:

1. Consider what little children may be doing today: would it be possible without their parents?
2. How does your own life align with what God is asking of you?

Reflections:

Jesus' story of the Vine and the Branches was very easy for people to grasp. Like all His stories, this too is taken from daily life experiences of people so they could easily relate to them. It is common sense that branches cut off from the vine cannot live for long. This is because they can no longer receive the sap, a fluid that circulates in all plants and is as indispensable to vegetable life as blood is to animal life. Cut off from the tree, the branches will wither and die. These branches can only produce fruit so long as

they remain with the tree. In the story, Jesus uses the vine as an example. Jesus was a very good teacher. I can imagine Him using visual imagery by showing dry branches that have been cut off from the vine.

Every story Jesus shared had hidden meanings and applications. In this story, Jesus drew a powerful connection between Him and the people by saying that they are the branches, and He is the Vine. He made it very clear that apart from Him they could have no life, in the same way that the branches of the vine do not have a life of their own without the tree. The branches will produce fruits only as long as they remain on the vine. Jesus makes a very good point that our strength is in the connection we have through our relationship with Jesus and the community. Working together with Jesus, we are able to produce much fruit. Our life will be productive so long as we remain with Him. If not, we will be like those branches fit for fire.

Though the apostles were very ambitious and worldly, their lives changed drastically after the death and resurrection of Jesus. They understood the importance of maintaining an important connection with Jesus. This is seen in the lives of the early Christians, who shared everything and maintained strong relations with one another. They faithfully followed the teachings of Jesus, and their lives and examples became the best witnesses to the people of Jesus' love. The spirit of these Christians became so contagious that the Christian community grew day by day. As Christianity grew far and wide, the initial fervor and commitment dwindled. Over the years, Christians lost their passion and love for Jesus, and they became nominal Christians with no deep conviction or commitment. Christians are a chosen people for whom Jesus died on the cross in order to bring us salvation. Unfortunately, many Christians today are a frozen people, with no zeal or enthusiasm for Christ or His Church.

We are increasingly tempted today to follow our own way without Jesus. The media bombards us with the idea that Jesus is not needed, and that we can be entirely self-sufficient and live without Him. Secularism has penetrated every fiber of modern man to the point that he sidelines God or ignores Him. What is



MESSAGE
FROM
FR. ANTONY



(Continued on page 3)

shocking is the fact that despite mankind's intelligence, most people are oblivious to the alarming number of people who fall into depression every year. There is much more loneliness all around us than ever before, and the number of suicides is on the rise. Broken marriages and broken rings have reached sky high proportions. Families are no longer sacred places where peace and happiness exist. Moral values have been eroded, giving way to unquenchable greed.

Over the years the quality of life has definitely improved in certain important respects, as you can see people having better living conditions, better jobs, and better facilities. We are able to travel faster than people in the past, and we have a much greater wealth of information at our fingertips today than our counterparts in the past. We are more knowledgeable and better informed to such a great extent that the world has become a global village. However, amidst all these material improvements is a spiritual decadence paving the way to secularism. We still refuse to accept that, with all this progress and improvement, we have not concomitantly improved in our spiritual life. It is important that we understand that, without God, we cannot have peace in our families or happiness in our lives. The only way we can make our lives peaceful and prosperous is by remaining faithful to Christ. There is no other way. Jesus is the only way to a happy life.

It is important for us to understand that, in the present time, connection is very important. Think about the connections on which you depend in your life. In your job, if you have the right connections, you may advance in your career. If you are looking for work, often it is your connections that help you get an interview. How many times have we heard about a person meeting the love of her life by being introduced to the person through personal connections? There are special business opportunities that arise through connections, and CEOs of certain companies curry the favor of politicians through their connections. It is often through connections that you find many of the practical solutions in your life, that you make friends, and that you find opportunities to improve your life in countless ways. Nobody would deny that personal connections with others are the lifeblood of society and personal success. Yet, all these trappings of comfort and material success pale in comparison with spiritual peace and true love in one's life. How much we all desire to have true peace and love all the time! If we only had a connection who could provide such things! We actually do. Jesus is our connection to God and the infinite happiness that is available only through Him. Reach out to Jesus. He is your connection to what

you truly desire in the depths of your heart and soul and will fulfill your greatest needs for eternity.

Take a moment for your personal reflection and introspection. Are you truly happy today? Do you feel that you are well connected with Jesus, the Vine? I hope you have a "Yes" as an answer to these questions. For one thing, I know that my life is as good as the questions I ask myself. Self-examination is very important to a happy living. Unfortunately, in a fast-changing world we get so busy that we have no time for a personal review of our life which makes life like a ship drifting along without radar. We must be honest enough to admit, if applicable, that we are not happy with all the material things that surround us. Materialism makes us believe we possess things but instead we have been possessed by them. We do not want to admit that despite all the material blessings we have, we are not emotionally or spiritually blessed. Often, we are in denial and refuse to admit there is an emptiness or loneliness in our hearts. This emptiness can be filled only by Jesus who alone is the way to our happiness and peace. We can be spiritually and emotionally nourished and sustained only if we are attached to Jesus, the true Vine. Many of us are like withered branches today because we are cut off from the Vine.

Do you love our Blessed Mother? Do you have a desire to bring others closer to Jesus? If you have answered "yes" to these questions, then Legion of Mary may be just for you. If you

have any questions, please contact Lou Caron at 510-565-8254 email: lourdescaron@yahoo.com and/or Judi Domingo at 510-767-9548 email: jayd8560@gmail.com



READINGS FOR THE WEEK

United Conference of
Catholic Bishops Website

[https://bible.usccb.org/
daily-bible-reading](https://bible.usccb.org/daily-bible-reading)



St James the Apostle Church Presents



ST JAMES GOT TALENT TOGETHER IN THIS



5 MAY 2024 3-6PM

2ND SPRING CONCERT \$20. RAFFLE PRIZES
PORTABLE TV/DVD, AMAZON ECHO DOT, KEURIG & MANY MORE



PLUS FOODIE FEST



starts at 2 pm

Fishball, Binatog, Lumpia, Goto, Ginataan, Siomai, Pansit, Sago
Gulaman, Tamales, Turon, Empanada, Boba, Atbp



Proceeds to go to building the New Church