

## PARISH INFORMATION & SCHEDULES

### Office Phone 510-792-1962 - 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 the office 510-792-1962 or 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

## SEPTEMBER 8, 2024

23th Sunday in Ordinary Time

### PARISH CALENDAR

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

## 23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (MARK 7:31-37) EPHPHATHA: BE OPENED!

Tall and handsome he had a special appeal,  
Strong and muscular his body was like steel.  
Everyone felt sad when they knew he was deaf,  
But he accepted it and never played bluff.

He was thankful to God for the gift of sight,  
And thought of others with more terrible plight.  
He knew his hope, was Jesus, the Carpenter,  
His friends took him to the miracle worker.

He saw something special in the Master's bright eyes,  
Thousands waited for Him under the sunny skies.  
Holding on to his hope he waited in patience,  
He felt a special calm as he stood in silence.

He had never prayed with such faith like this day,  
If Jesus could open his ears, he did pray.  
Every moment of waiting seemed like a thousand days,  
He wouldn't give up because of further delays.

Jesus took him by his hand away from the crowd,  
Blessing his ears and tongue, He made a groaning sound.  
Looking up to heaven, Jesus said, "Be opened."  
To everyone's amazement, it really happened.

The deaf man jumped up and down with excitement,  
Tears of joy rolled down showing his contentment.  
His world was never the same now that he could hear,  
"Thank you, Lord Jesus," was this man's unceasing prayer.

### Questions:

1. Have you been like the man in this poem?
2. What will you ask of God?
3. What faith do you bring with you?

### Reflections:

As I was writing this poem, I tried many a time to get into the shoes of the deaf man in the Gospel of Mark (Mark 7:31-37), the subject of our story. I tried to capture his excitement and joy when he realized that he was able to hear and speak clearly. He could hear his own voice which he had never heard before. It was too good to believe. Everything happened so fast. His friends who had brought him could not believe what they saw. Everything changed in a split second. I wonder if he followed the instruction of Jesus that he would tell no one about this great miracle. I am sure the news of his healing spread faster than the wind. The news was too good to contain in his heart alone. I would have struggled to keep this to myself. The whole village probably talked about it for many days. This miracle that Jesus worked changed his life entirely. The

Gospel does not give us his background. We do not know whether he was born deaf or some sickness later in his life caused his deafness. One thing we know for sure is that he was cured by Jesus. We do not know his name. You can call him by any name of your choice. Therefore the description of him is the fruit of your own imagination. I do not know how old he was



MESSAGE  
FROM  
FR. ANTONY

when he came to Jesus for the cure. For me, he is young and handsome with a very attractive personality. Two things that are very important for us to reflect upon are his faith in Jesus Christ and how promptly Jesus responded to his request and cured him. Unless you had prior knowledge about his background, you would not even know that he was deaf with a speech impediment. He always felt embarrassed in public for obvious reasons. He suffered from an inferiority complex and felt inadequate in front of others because of his speech impediment. Suddenly, this became a thing of the past, and he felt Jesus gave him another lease on life.

In the process of getting into the shoes of the deaf man, it dawned on me how easily I take the wonders of touch, sight, and hearing for granted. A blind man appreciates light. A deaf man who cannot speak and hear understands better the power of speech and the beauty of hearing. For one thing, I realized that I take these faculties as if they are mine forever. I forget that I am blessed with these gifts by God, my creator. How little I use them to enjoy the creation of God. Nature that God magnificently created offers so much for me to hear and enjoy, but I often miss them. It is enough for me to look at the lilies of the fields and the birds of the air to appreciate more and understand how much God loves me. God speaks to us through nature. Look at the trees that grow quietly, the wind that makes their branches dance rhythmically, and the mighty oceans in front of which you become so small. All these speak volumes of God's love and His presence. We often miss them.

His deafness was absolute and he could hear nothing. This greatly limited him, especially in those days when sign language and other communication assistance did not exist as prominently as they do today. The poor had no access to speech therapists and the medical practices of the time offered no hope at all. His deafness also put him in danger, as people use their hearing more than they realize to avoid harm. Many a time this helpless man had put himself in danger because he could not hear. How

*(Continued from page 2)*

many people are killed because they could not hear fast approaching vehicles? Your house can be easily broken into if you cannot hear the noise made by the burglars. One saying Jesus often repeated to his audience was: "If you have ears, hear." In the parable of the Sower, Jesus said, "Still another seed fell on good soil. It came up and yielded a crop, a hundred times more than was sown. When he said this, he called out, 'Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear.'" Spiritual deafness is no different: When we cannot hear or refuse to hear the Word of God, we endanger ourselves greatly by not hearing the warnings of God's ministers against the enticement and pull of sin and its curses and penalties. While physical deafness is a very limiting disability, it does not normally lead to death, but spiritual deafness is infinitely worse, leading to eternal death.

Physical deafness is not of your choice. You are born with it, or some accident or sickness might cause it. You have to live with it unless some miracle happens, and you are cured. Spiritual deafness, instead, is of your choice. You can choose to make yourself spiritually deaf by refusing to listen to the voice of God speaking to you or by deliberately ignoring the Word of God. Deafness and dumbness are closely related to one another because humans learn to speak by hearing. A person who cannot hear his own voice or the voices of others has difficulty with pronunciation. If a person becomes deaf later in life, he will be able to speak much better than one who is born deaf or who loses his hearing as a child. In the same way, those who are deaf to the Word of God will have great difficulty speaking properly of spiritual matters.

Just as Jesus physically healed the man to enable him to hear, He must spiritually heal us so that we can understand God's Word. We are living in a time when it is very difficult to listen to the voice of God. First of all, there are too many voices and often we are confused. When we are not spiritually sound or mature, it becomes all the more a problem to listen to the voice of Jesus. We are living in a time when every effort is made to silence the voice of God. Many are choosing to be spiritually deaf so that they need not hear the voice of God or the Word. The most vulnerable victims are our children who with very little spiritual foundation easily mistake the voices of the world for God's voice. Many of them are trapped, unable to come out of painful situations. In the story, the deaf man was brought by his friends to Jesus, and Jesus cured him without hesitation. No questions were asked, and no remuneration was demanded. He gave it to him free

of charge. Those who brought him set an excellent example which all of us should emulate.

We should lead people to Christ as the solution to their needs. This work involves compassion and sacrifice of time, effort, and even money. Those who are spiritually sound should consider it to be their responsibility, as well as a calling, to bring to God those who are in danger of spiritual deafness, refusing to listen to the voice of God. It may even bring you criticism and ridicule from the world. It may not be an act that brings name or fame in the eyes of the world but is definitely wonderful in God's sight if it is done in His name and for His glory. In a time like ours, when we live in a computer world, our job may be easier than those who brought the deaf man to Jesus. Our job may be as simple as turning a person's attention to an article or sermon, or in this Internet age, showing him the Church's website to make him aware of spiritual solutions to his problems. While these efforts can lead people to Christ, the most effective way is to be a true witness of God's way of life by living righteously (Psalm 37:30/Proverbs 10:20-21 and Revelation 20:40). Let us recognize our spiritual deafness and pray: Lord Jesus let me always hear your voice.

## **JOIN OUR TEAM AT ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL IN FREMONT!**

We are seeking dedicated individuals to fill the following positions. immediately:

**Third Grade Teacher:** A full-time position for a passionate educator with a Bachelor's degree (minimum). The ideal candidate is committed to fostering student growth in a supportive and nurturing environment.

**Part-Time Learning Support Assistants:** We have openings for two part-time Learning Support Assistants to work with Kindergarten and Fourth Grade students. This role is perfect for those who are enthusiastic about helping young learners thrive.

If you have a heart for education and a desire to make a difference, we'd love to hear from you! Apply today to be part of our vibrant school community. Contact Mrs. Lopez at [llopez@sjsmsj.org](mailto:llopez@sjsmsj.org) or 510 656-6525.

## **READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

United Conference of  
Catholic Bishops Website

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





**St. James Parishioners  
You are invited  
to have  
Our Lady of Fatima  
statue  
in your home for two  
weeks.**

Please sign up at:  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B44AEA62EA2F4C25-50112309-pilgrims#/>

If you have any questions, please call  
 Judi Domingo at **510-767-9548**

**COLLECTIONS**

**August 18, 2024**

1st Collection \$4458.00  
 Special Collections \$8430.00

**August 25, 2024**

1st Collection \$4456.00  
 Special Collections \$753.00

**September 1, 2024**

1st Collection \$4538.00  
 Special Collections \$7228.00



**ST JAMES RCIA IS STARTING  
SOON!**

**RCIA MEETINGS RESUME ON  
SUNDAY, 8 SEPTEMBER 2024.**

RCIA is open to adults and their families  
who:

- Want to become Catholic;
- Want to receive the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and/or First Holy Communion;
- Want to learn more about the Catholic faith (even those who have been Catholic all their lives);
- Want to sponsor or support RCIA participants.

Please come join us! We welcome you! RCIA or “Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults” is the program used to prepare adults to receive the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist. At St. James, we welcome anyone who would like to learn more about or share the Catholic faith.

Meetings are held weekly on Sunday mornings starting 8 September 2024 at 10:00 AM through Pentecost. Sacraments will be offered to those who are eligible at the Easter Vigil on 19 April 2025.

If you would like to know more, please contact: FrancesAnn McKenney, fammck@aol.com or call/text 510-648-4876. Or contact the St. James Parish Office. We look forward to seeing you!

**Fatima  
Celebration  
September 13  
Rosary 7:00pm  
Holy Mass  
7:30pm**



**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

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Name

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Email

# FESTIVAL MENTAL HEALTH BOOTH







# ST. JAMES THE APOSTLE CHURCH FAITH FORMATION

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



## Currently accepting Registration for CCD Classes SY 2024-2025

For inquiries, please contact Sheila Remolar-Reduta  
(650) 743-5728 or [sjtafaithformation@gmail.com](mailto:sjtafaithformation@gmail.com)

Please visit <https://sjapostle.net/> and look for the Faith Formation page under Sacraments for a complete list of requirements.

Open House and First Day of Class is on  
**October 5, 2024 from 9am to 12pm, Mother Teresa Center**