

## 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 22, 2024

25th 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

## 25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (MARK 9:30-37) WHO IS THE GREATEST?

Among them, there was a competition  
Their hearts were troubled by their ambition.  
Who is the greatest, they wanted to know,  
To Jesus, this indeed was a great blow.

The disciples tried to grab position,  
They did not have the true disposition.  
Two of them fought for seats on His left and right,  
Jesus was disappointed at this sad plight.

Their hearts were set on an earthly glory,  
About power, they would daily worry.  
Jesus warned them about His cruel end,  
To grasp His message, their ears they wouldn't lend.

They were slow to learn and read Jesus' sign,  
From being earthly, they couldn't easily resign.  
He stood a child before them as the first,  
Jesus invited them to be the least.

Jesus washed the feet of the disciples,  
A job that was done only by the slaves!  
By this, He showed them servant leadership,  
And taught the spirit of discipleship.

The Son of man came into the world to serve,  
This example, He wants all to observe.  
In our next life, we should be the greatest,  
For this, we're to have a spiritual thirst.

### Questions:

1. Have you spent your time on earth wisely?
2. How do you think God will judge you?
3. How does your position on earth compare with the position you will have in Heaven?

### Reflections:

Mohammad Ali, a very outspoken heavyweight-boxing champion in 1960, made this declaration "I am the greatest." John Lennon of the Beatles in 1966 said in an interview with an American magazine, "Christianity will end, it will disappear. I do not have to argue about that... today we are more famous than Jesus Christ." Whether it's a sports figure, a musician, or even Jesus' disciples, human nature is the same. There is an insatiable longing in all of us to be the greatest and famous in the public eye. It is a paradox that Jesus' disciples, His closest followers, struggled with the same need for prestige and status as they argued about who among them was the greatest. The fact that even Jesus' chosen twelve disciples were ambitious only goes to prove that they, too, were human, like the rest of us. It took their Master's death and resurrection for them to transcend this human failing to eventually achieve a true spirit of servant leadership.

The first murder in the world took place when Cain killed his brother Abel because he thought God loved Abel more than him. He could not accept to be less than

his younger brother. Abel first offered to God the best lamb from among his sheep, revealing his attitude of gratitude to God for all the blessings in his life. His offering was pleasing to God more than the offerings of Cain, who offered God what was left over from the produce instead of offering what was the best. Ever since the first murder, thousands of people all over the world have suffered violent deaths every day. It is shocking to know that the number of people who die at the hands of their fellow humans outnumbers those who die through natural disasters or calamities.

Many of these murders have been motivated by the desire to grab power and position. Countries fight wars to prove their supremacy and superiority. Many a friendship suffers because of unhealthy competition. Numerous relationships are reduced to bitter memories due to rivalry and competition among friends. Struggles between spouses to prove who is better result in subsequent divorces or separation. And lately, our society is just beginning to understand the monstrous scope of the murder of babies for the sale of their body parts.

The disciples quarreled among themselves to find out who among them was the favorite of Jesus. Was it Peter? Or was it John? Power blinded them even to the extent that they forgot what their Master had told them, "The greatest among you must be your servant." As students, we all wanted to be the favorite of our teachers. The apostles were not different. As an excellent teacher, Jesus used an illustration to answer their question, "Who is the greatest?" He made a little child stand in front of them and pointing to the child said that anyone who has the simplicity and disposition of a child is the greatest in His kingdom. The apostles' disappointment was clear on their faces but they had something to think about.

Today, we live in a world driven by ambitious people trying to prove themselves smarter, more powerful, or more successful than others. Some of them succeed in achieving their ambitious goals; however, at what expense do they realize their ambitious dreams and for how long will the world remember them? Their glory does not go beyond their graves. Rather, their name and fame fade and die like leaves under the scorching sun. Many of these worldly heroes end up miserable, and some of them even commit suicide. If the apostles had acted with blind ambition, their names would probably have been erased from history, and we would not speak of them today. Jesus helped them to open their eyes to see beyond the "here and now." He enabled them to focus on the glory yet to come after their death. Their Master, who washed their feet, taught them that true greatness lies in the willingness to take the lowest place.

Jesus who taught to "deny yourself" and to "take the back seat" when invited to a party, is still relevant in a world that has, unfortunately, grown far too ambitious. His Gospel message of two thousand years ago is still the



MESSAGE  
FROM  
FR. ANTONY

*(Continued from page 2)*

foundation for a happy life today. The world is trying to thwart Jesus' teachings by offering shortcuts to greatness and happiness and efforts to become the greatest in a hurry show lack of introspection and evaluation of people's lives. In this pursuit, unknowingly or unconsciously, people move away from the real sources of lasting joy and happiness, as life becomes for them a mirage of ultimate disillusionment. Disappointingly, they seldom come to grips with the reality that it is only the narrow way that will lead them to lasting greatness. Worldly greatness is fleeting and elusive. Jesus proved His greatness not by His power and authority. As a matter of fact, He followed the path of a servant owning nothing. He openly told Pilate during the trial, "My kingdom doesn't belong to this world. If my kingdom belonged to this world, my followers would fight to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. My kingdom doesn't have its origin on earth" (John 18:36).

Even after two thousand years, Jesus continues to be the best example, the best inspiration, and even the greatest challenge in the world. And yet, He was born poor, lived poor, and died poor, even having to borrow His own burial plot. He showed us by living examples that we should never lose sight of the ultimate, our eternity. The most painful danger is that in our mad rush for power and position, we forget that our life here on earth is temporal. You may attend thousands of funerals and return from all of them without even thinking that yours could be the next funeral that others will be attending. You may begin to think that you are here

forever. Concluding the nineteenth chapter, Matthew recalls the words of Jesus: "But many who are first now will be last, and many who are last now will be first." There is no connection between worldly positions and heavenly positions. Jesus makes it abundantly clear that those who are first here on earth will be last in the life to come. You may have all the power, positions and fame in the world, but they should not be at the expense of your eternal life! You should consider your power and position as opportunities to serve God by serving your fellow men and women. You should put them all at the service of others, without any desire to build up your own earthly kingdom. The more you have, the more will be demanded of you on the day of your judgment. In our ambitious world, let us not forget today's reality:

Big house— small family.  
More degrees—Less common sense  
Advanced Medicine—Poor health  
Touched moon—neighbors unknown  
High income---Less peace of mind  
High IQ—Less emotions  
Good knowledge—Less wisdom  
Lots of human—Less humanity

You cannot be blind to these realities of the world today. You cannot pretend that they are lies. You cannot deny them. Your ambition should not be to make money or attain power or position but to find true happiness which none of the above can bring. Enjoy life now in the way God has asked of you. Your life on earth has an expiration date.



## 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**





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

**COLLECTIONS**

September 15, 2024

1st Collection \$4888.00

Special Collections \$2974.00

Please sign up at:  
[https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B44AEA62EA2F4C25-50112309-pilgrims#/#/](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B44AEA62EA2F4C25-50112309-pilgrims#/)

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



**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](mailto:fammck@aol.com) or call/text 510-648-4876. Or contact the St. James Parish Office. We look forward to seeing you!

**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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Name

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**Subject:** Support St. James the Apostle with Your Vehicle Donation!

Dear Parishioners,

We are excited to announce a new opportunity to support St. James the Apostle Catholic Church! Our parish has launched a **Vehicle Donation Program** with CARS and we invite you to be a part of it. By donating your old or unused vehicle, you can help us continue our mission and make a difference in our community.

### **Why Donate?**

- **Easy Process:** CARS organization will handle everything from pickup to paperwork.
- **Tax Benefits:** Your donation is tax-deductible.
- **Support Our Parish:** Proceeds from your donation will directly benefit in the building of the new and permanent church.

### **How to Donate:**

1. Visit our website <https://careasy.org/nonprofit/st-james-apostle-catholic-church>.
2. Complete a simple form.
3. CARS will arrange a convenient time for vehicle pickup.

Thank you for considering this generous way to support St. James the Apostle Catholic Church. Your donation will help us continue to serve our parish and community.

Please share this information with friends and family who may be interested in supporting our cause.

Blessings,

Jim Navarro  
Program Chair