

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

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. (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

SEPTEMBER 29, 2024

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

PARISH CALENDAR

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

26TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (MARK 9:38-43, 45, 47-48) IF YOUR HAND CAUSES YOU TO SIN, CUT IT OFF!

Jesus loved children with a rare affection,
He would lead none of them to perdition.
Children are the mirrors that reflect heaven,
God's kingdom, first of all, belongs to children.

He is strong against those who give them scandal,
Leading children to cause sin is suicidal.
It is better for them to be drowned in the sea,
From God's punishment, they will never be free.

Today, many, children become easy prey,
With allurements, adults have them easily sway;
And lead them to sin destroying their innocence,
Child pornography has reached such prominence.

Adults, today, have made children sexual objects,
A big money racket, there's none to object.
Powerless to fight, many children are lost,
We should dare to protect them at any cost.

Many men will have no hands and feet today,
With their eyes plucked out, they will aimlessly stray.
If they would cut off limbs that cause them to sin,
They will look horrible with only their skin.

Lord, Jesus, you always loved little children,
And promised them a special place in heaven.
We pray they will always be safe and secure,
In true holiness may they ever mature.

Questions:

1. Which stanza of this poem opens you to the grace of God?
2. What is your responsibility to your children? To yourself?
3. Are you owned by the world or by God?

Reflections:

In the Gospel this Sunday, Jesus asks His disciples to be tolerant and patient. As narrated, John told Jesus, "Teacher, we saw a man using your name to expel demons and we tried to stop him because he is not of our company." We can only guess why they made this remark. Were they jealous of the man or were they angry because they assumed that only the followers of Jesus had the exclusive right to expel demons? Jesus was very straightforward, "Do not prevent him. There is no one who performs a mighty deed in my name who

can at the same time speak ill of me. For whoever is not against us is for us." With these words, Jesus had taught His disciples about tolerance as an exercise of Christian humility and charity. No one should think that salvation is reserved only for us who were baptized and who believe in Christ. Like the outsider who performed an exorcism in the name of Jesus, we must understand that it is really Jesus who is the true source of salvation; the rest is just His medium.

Have you ever imagined how the world would have looked if men and women were to literally carry out what Jesus said, "If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life maimed than with two hands to go into Gehenna" (Mark 9:38). The world would have been reduced to a habitat for the cripples, deaf, and the blind. If those who scandalize little children and abuse them were to cut off their limbs, the world would have been an ugly place. With parts of their bodies missing, men and women would have looked terrible. I don't think Jesus meant what He said to be taken literally. However, He did not mince words and was absolutely serious when He said, "Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him if a great millstone were put around his neck and he were thrown into the sea." Every effort must be made to protect and preserve young children. Unfortunately, adults do not take the advice of Jesus seriously. Children are victims of abuse inflicted on them by the adults who use them to their economic advantage. I am sure there is no Christian who will not be troubled or disturbed after reading this verse. There is always a danger that in one way or another you can mislead a child to sin, sometimes without being aware of it.

Jesus always loved to use metaphors, especially when talking about the kingdom of heaven. He would, therefore, compare it to "a mustard seed," "a treasure buried in a field," or "a pearl of great price." Jesus probably is creating another metaphor when He tells us to gouge out our eyes or chop off our hands. Jesus is using strong words to communicate the message that it is a serious mistake to cause others to sin. He is not really preaching self-mutilation but self-denial. What He is really saying is that we should be sensitive to sin, renounce it, run from it, and do whatever it takes to avoid it. It is a clarion call of Jesus to protect, safeguard, and promote children. Do not use them to your advantage. Sadly, we must admit that this prayer of



MESSAGE
FROM
FR. ANTONY

(Continued from page 2)

Jesus has been blatantly neglected. Children have been exposed to neglect and abuse. A quarter of a billion children today work in dreadful conditions. Child labor is still prevalent in many parts of the world. Millions of children never get a chance to have an education. Many of them die of starvation, malnutrition, and want. Numerous children are sexually abused and killed. They continue to be victims at the hands of men and women who treat them with no love or respect. Thousands of them are separated from their parents because of poverty.

We have a responsibility not only to prevent children from sinning but also to form them and mold them in the practice of virtues. Today, many parents neglect this responsibility under the pretext of working very hard to save every possible penny for their children. Parents are too busy doing a million things but, regretfully, neglecting the character formation of their children. Often thrusting their children to acquire worldly knowledge and skills, they have little or no time for their spiritual or moral character. There is no time for religious education or training. Modern man lives with an apparent attitude of “God can wait.” God is the last thing many parents think of today, and painfully devoid of God in their lives, parents are unable to speak about God in a convincing manner. If parents would instill in their children that God is the foundation of their lives and show them by life and example that Godless life can only lead to perdition, our children would better learn how to better make moral choices and decisions in their lives. Catch them young. It is easier to teach young children values than after they have grown up. It is absolutely wrong that some parents allow their children to grow up before they choose their religious affiliation. It is a clear example of how spiritually impoverished these parents are, because without their own religious conviction or foundation, they do not have anything spiritual to share with their children. They have been so secularized making worldly achievements their top priority that they become compromisers with heavenly realities. They are unable to think beyond this earth or they don’t care about what is to come. They not only do nothing to prepare themselves for the life to come but also do not prepare their children for eternity. Unfortunately, this seems to grow faster and wider every day. There is a battle going on in the lives of each of us: a battle between good and evil. Through His cross, Jesus has won the battle, but it is up to us now to accept His grace and live as those redeemed by Jesus. Let us try to avoid the occasions of sin and live in the grace of Jesus so

that we may hear Him say to us at the end, “You are mine.”

From the beginning of creation, the greatest challenge man has faced is the fight between good and evil. This has only become worse over the years, and evil seems to be rampant in the world today. The sin that came into the world through the disobedience of the first man and woman has continued increasing to an alarming level. Unfortunately, Man, created in the image of God, learned to abuse the gift of free will given to him by God. Many blame it on God by saying that if man did not have free will he not have sinned against God, his creator. Of course, we always need someone to blame for our mistakes or wrongdoings. Adam, the first man, said if he did not have a companion, he would probably not have sinned against his creator. Eve blamed it on the snake by saying that it was all the fault of the snake who tempted her with the apple. With the advance of time, we have only further improved and mastered this game of blame.

In his book, *The Great Divorce*, the English writer C.S. Lewis explains this in a vivid allegory. The book talks about a group of people in Hell — fighting, complaining, all bitterly unhappy. One day they were invited to board a bus that would take them on a visit to heaven. Many refused even to get onto the bus. Those who did embark start complaining and quarreling as soon as they have taken their seats. When they get to heaven, they are still dissatisfied and demand to be taken back where they came from. The point of the story is clear. If there are people in hell, it is only because they have chosen it for themselves. If we choose to shut out of our lives all goodness, love, and light, then God will respect our choice. What is hell anyway? Hell is when everyone else has gone to the party and you’re not there; not because you weren’t invited, but because you were invited time and time again and refused every invitation. What this tells us is simply this: the choices we make every day and every hour are determining, right now, where, how, and with whom we shall spend eternity.

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(Continued on page 5)



**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**

**READINGS FOR THE
WEEK**

United Conference of
 Catholic Bishops Website
<https://bible.usccb.org/daily-bible-reading>



**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!

**Final Fatima
Celebration 2024
October 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

 Name

 Address

 Phone

 Email

(Continued from page 3)

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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

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