

## 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

# OCTOBER 6, 2024

27th 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**

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

## 27TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (MARK 10:2-16): LET NO MAN SEPARATE WHAT GOD HAS JOINED

Divorce has become the order of the day,  
Breaking the sanctity of marriage in every way!  
Sadly, it spreads faster than the worst cancer,  
Destroying the fabric of family forever.

Divorce offers a quick-fix solution,  
It will surely cause spiritual pollution.  
Hearts are broken and emotions are shattered,  
And your problems are only multiplied.

Anger and resentment will burden your heart,  
Peace and tranquility from your life will part.  
There's an emptiness you'll refuse to accept,  
You are blinded to options, which are relevant.

Children are left in fear and uncertainty,  
They live with their feeling of anxiety.  
In silence, they shed tears of abandonment,  
It will certainly affect their development.

If only couples live by their commitment,  
And renew their promises in every predicament;  
Marriage would become a lifelong celebration,  
Death alone would cause separation.

Marriage is the foundation of a family,  
God intended its permanence, universally,  
At Cana, Jesus blessed and made it sacred,  
Marriage makes husband and wife consecrated.

### Questions:

1. Which line of the poem reached your heart?
2. What longings, deep in your heart, does this poem inspire?

### Reflections

Every time I celebrate a marriage, there is a nagging question that always comes to my mind: "How long is it going to last?" In all honesty I must confess that this thought makes me very sad. I blessed a grand wedding some years ago. I could see the amount of planning and preparation that went into this celebration. The couple looked as if they were made for each other. From my experiences, I must say I do not believe that there are couples made for each other. Rather, each couple must make themselves for each other every day. It is a lifelong process, and there are no shortcuts to a happy marriage. It is a lifelong commitment and lifelong adjustments. The couple whose marriage I blessed looked magnificent in their wedding clothes. Their eyes sparkled as they walked back down the aisle as husband

and wife. Six months after their wedding, they came to see me. This time, there was no more joy. Tears ran down their young countenances. Their marriage was over. They filed for divorce. Again, many questions flooded my mind: "Was it worth going through all the trouble they took to enter their marriage? What went wrong during the six months they lived together as husband and wife? What did they discover that was new in each other that they had somehow missed during seven years of their courtship? Did they really try everything possible to save their marriage before they made up their minds to go their separate ways?" As I listened to this couple, these questions flashed through my mind, without answers.

I come from a background where marriage is arranged. To many, this is shocking news. They can't understand how this works. But with gratitude, I can tell you that I have not seen a bad marriage or divorce in my family or even in my huge extended family. I am not saying all these marriages are problem-free or are a perfect marriage. Problems are bound to happen in every marriage because marriage is a union of two individuals from two totally different backgrounds. To understand the other person is not easy. This will cause problems and difficulties. However, when the husband and wife are committed to love and respect one another, they can face problems that might come their way. If they have learned to make their problems into possibilities, their marriage can become a lifelong experience of self-discovery. Couples should never try to make their marriage a perfect marriage but a happy one. Please remember, there is no perfect marriage. I always humorously say that I have never seen a perfect marriage. But I saw a marriage which came almost close to a perfect marriage which was my mother and father. Then I would add, did they fight? Everyday! Yes, the more you fight the closer you should come to each other. You will never understand your spouse. But love him/her anyway.

Marriage is basically a life-long adjustment where there are only win-win or lose-lose situations. There should never be a win-lose situation. The closest thing to a perfect marriage I have seen, as mentioned above, was that of my own parents. Did they have problems, misunderstandings, and difficulties in adjusting to each other? Did they understand each other perfectly or did they quarrel? Of course they had. Though they experienced an abundance of issues related to such questions, it never entered their minds that they had somehow made the wrong choice. They were able to see their problems as part of human nature and their marriage as part of Divine Will. They wouldn't ever think of filing for divorce when they had problems. They were able to transform their problems into opportunities to understand each other better and love each other selflessly. The result was fabulous: sixty-five years of life together. They called those years God's blessings, with



MESSAGE  
FROM  
FR. ANTONY

(Continued from page 2)

the best blessing of having eight wonderful children, four sons and four daughters.

The sacredness of marriage has suffered immensely today. The seriousness of the sanctity of marriage has given way to a life of convenience. As marriage becomes inconvenient to either party, divorce becomes an easy solution. One day, some Pharisees approached Jesus and asked Him if it was all right for a man to divorce his wife or vice versa. Quoting from the Old Testament, Jesus answered them saying that marriage binds the husband and wife together for life, and no one can ever separate them. The marital bond is so strong that the two become one body of mind and heart. Before a man and a woman enter their irrevocable marriage covenant, they state clearly their intention of entering into a permanent relationship separated only by death. In free consent, they begin this new life with the commitment to love and honor each other. They accept the responsibility of lovingly accepting children from God and raising them up according to the law of Christ and His Church. They pledge their faithfulness and love until the end of their life.

Instituted by God, marriage is a sacrament for Catholics. This is the reason why a Catholic wedding must take place in a Church, witnessed by an ordained minister. This is imperative, and without it, the wedding cannot be considered Catholic. Marriage can be saved only if the couples become mature in their responsibility toward their union, both before and after they get married. They must accept their marriage as a sacred

institution founded by God. Unless the wife and husband bring God into their marriage and choose to live the divine aspect of the Sacrament of Matrimony, I am afraid the sacrament of marriage will continue to suffer.

I am convinced that many couples are in denial and defend divorce, even though in the depths of their hearts they recognize their folly. I can never see divorce as a solution to the problem. At best, I may accept it as a compromise. Second and third marriages contracted after divorce suffer an even bleaker success rate. Moreover, failure breeds failure, as children of divorce carry their experiences of a dysfunctional family life into their own adult years. There is only one solution to strengthen and defend the sacrament of marriage: holding fast to the commitment and responsibility inherent to the marriage. Selfishness should give way to selflessness in order to make marriage a lifelong commitment. Marriage is that relation between man and woman in which the independence is equal, the dependence mutual, and the obligation reciprocal. As Louis K. Anspacher said: "A successful marriage is an edifice that must be built every day!" On his 50th anniversary, Henry Ford was quoted as saying the key to a successful marriage was the same as his car business: "Just stick to one model."

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK

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



## 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**



OCTOBER 2024

## Parishioner of the Month

I would like to describe her as “the woman with a walker.” I am sure many of you have seen her coming to church using her walker and if you have seen her once you will not forget her smiling face because her smile is contagious! My first vivid



memories of Beverly (Bev) were during our pilgrimage to Jerusalem in 2015 when she was still struggling to deal with the death of her husband. I will never forget a particular incident when after the wedding renewal in Cana we were all rushing to catch up with boat-ride in the sea of Galilee when we found Bev was missing. Witnessing the Renewal of wedding must have been very painful experience for her as she had just lost her loving husband recently. When she came out of the church she took a wrong road to the bus. When we found her, she was crying like a child. I have always found in her the simplicity of a child!



Talking about her coming to our parish, she says that she joined the parish early 2014, when her husband had died, and her only daughter wanted her to move in with her in Union City. To put it in her own words she says, “I tried several parishes and then I went to St. James for a weekday Mass. I introduced myself to Fr. Antony and asked him if there was a bereavement group in the parish. Father introduced me to Joe and Sue Parrish. What impressed me about Father Antony was that when I went to Sunday Mass that week, he remembered my name. I said this was going to be my parish.”

I know she does not enjoy the best of health, and I am truly impressed with her determination to come for Mass several times a week and she is never absent for Sunday Mass. A woman of great faith, she is an inspiration to all her friends. She is an active member of the Legion of Mary and her best contributions to the group is her life and example. She comes to me with some questions every now and then concerning the Church and Faith and I love answering them. Like a child, she still is searching for the Lord, and she makes every effort to deepen her faith in Jesus. For me she is one of the best examples of piety and devotion to the Holy Eucharist and our Blessed mother Mary. If you carefully look around, you will find many unsung living saints among us. I strongly believe that heaven begins here on earth and our journey to heaven is a simple transition from here to the next which happens when God, our Creator, calls us to Himself. I have seen at least a few saints in St. James and others are in the process of making themselves saints. The parish is the best place

where we can begin to work our way to sainthood! Jesus has given us the greatest assurance when He said, “He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is food indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him” (John 6:54-57). We are a chosen people who have the special privilege of eating His Body and drinking His Blood. It is very unfortunate that not all of us understand the significance of the Holy Mass. I consider Holy Mass as a ticket to heaven. If we receive Him with adequate preparation and devotion, we have the Key to eternal life!

I asked Bev what makes St. James very special to her. This was her response, “St. James is special to me because of the people! They are so warm and friendly! I really feel at home here!” My dear parishioners, you have a responsibility to make St. James a warm place. You have a responsibility to make your Parish a place where everyone one feels loved and welcomed. For this you need to go out of your way and reach out to people with an attitude of openness and love. Every parishioner should become an open door through which everyone can enter the parish with a great sense of belonging. You should have an open to heart to receive everyone without looking at the differences of their colors or places of origin. We should receive everyone as brothers and sisters because God is our Father and in God, we are all brothers and sisters. We are made in God’s image and likeness! We should be open to everyone without any bias or prejudices. We welcome everyone and everyone is welcome to our parish is our motto. No one should go back from Sunday worship without feeling a sense of welcome. As Beverly said, everyone should feel ‘this is my parish’ and should feel a great connection. I call everyone of my parishioner to this mission of making our parish a warm place where everyone one feels loved and accepted.

Bev feels a great sense of belonging to our parish and that is what makes her so comfortable and committed to St. James. She is one of our parish volunteers who is so committed and dedicated to her work. At her age she could have easily chosen to stay at home. But she finds a great joy in helping her parish because she considers St. James as her spiritual home where she gets spiritually nourished and nurtured!

Bev, please accept my personal love and gratitude for all that you do for your parish. May you continue to be an inspiration and example to your parishioners. As I mentioned earlier, you are an inspiration to me. It is sincere and committed people like you who make our parish an amazing parish!

Fr. Antony



**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**

September 22, 2024

1st Collection \$4208.00  
 Special Collections \$356500

September 29, 2024

1st Collection \$4845.00  
 Special Collections \$14,169.00



**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!

**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

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 Name

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