

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

OCTOBER 20, 2024

29th 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

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

29TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (MARK 10:35-45) SONS OF THUNDER!

Jesus called the brothers Sons of Thunder,
Why Jesus called them by this name, you may wonder.
From their nickname, we can guess their character,
Fiery men, they had to deal with their temper.

Sons of Zebedee, these two were aggressive,
They got into fights as they were impulsive.
Behind their human nature and weakness,
Jesus perceived their golden hearts and goodness.

Worldly, they looked for power and position,
And did not hide from others their ambition.
They would eventually know Jesus' mission,
And embraced it with a relentless passion.

With Peter, these two formed the Lord's "inner three,"
And were Jesus' closest friends all would agree.
Once worldly, they became impassioned for the Gospel,
With their ardent preaching, darkness they would dispel.

First to die, James became the number one martyr,
And showed, to die for Jesus was even better.
John died last and became the Apostle of love,
His life was always focused on heaven above.

John's Gospel began with a divine thunder,
Opening the heart of every gospel reader.
He preached the Gospel for a very long time,
John, Jesus' beloved, lived for long into his prime.

Questions:

1. What nickname do you think Jesus would choose for you?
2. In what ways do you need to be transformed?
3. What is your path to sainthood?

Reflections:

The brothers James and John asked Jesus for a big favor. They wanted the premium positions, the ones right beside Jesus, when He finally would establish His kingdom. They manifested a strong appetite for prestige and power. The other ten disciples were no better. They became angry at James and John because they also wanted the premium seats. They also wanted important positions and power. All twelve disciples missed the point about the kingship of Jesus. Although He had told them repeatedly of His approaching execution and resurrection, they just did not get it. Surprisingly, two blind men Jesus had healed shortly before and after today's gospel became His disciples. But the apostles were blinded with persistent blindness. Jesus never lost patience with them, nor did He give up on them. They were slow to learn but once they learned they gave up everything, even to the point of dying for Jesus.

Today's gospel was the text for one of the most memorable sermons preached by Martin Luther King, Jr. He called his sermon, "The Drum Major Instinct." Dr. King defines the drum major instinct as "a desire to be out in front, a desire to lead the parade, a desire to be first." He tells us that "it is something that runs the whole gamut of life." All of us have this drum major instinct, King tells us. There is in everyone an insatiable thirst for name and fame. Jesus always followed the role of a servant by life and example. He publicly stated that He came "not to be served, but to serve." And, during the last supper, Jesus scandalized everyone at the table by washing their feet.

Jesus shocked the world with those He chose to be His confidants, His disciples, and the ones who would carry on with His mission here on earth after He was gone. None of them measured up to the worldly standards of educational qualifications and social backgrounds. In the eyes of the world, the mission of Jesus would have been a total failure at the hands of the rustic fishermen of Galilee. They had neither the class nor the rich cultural background. Peter, likely the oldest of the group, knew about nothing but fishing. An impetuous character, his words were louder than his actions and very often his deeds did not match his promises. Once he had boasted that as long as there was life in him, he would defend Jesus at any cost. He was the first to deny the Master, and when persecution against the new Christians began, he ran away. Judas, the only non-Galilean, was the one to betray Him for thirty silver coins. John called him a thief. But the irony was that he was the treasurer. Everyone was shocked when Matthew was called to be one of the twelve. He was a tax collector hated by the Jews. If Jesus knew his background, how could He call him?

Look at the two brothers, James and John. From the nickname that Jesus had given them, "Boanerges" meaning "sons of thunder," one could easily predict trouble. The only information we have about James and John is that were brothers whose father was named Zebedee, and they were the only apostles to whom Jesus assigned a nickname. Nicknames typically reveal something about a person's character. My grandfather was good at giving nicknames, and this was because he was a keen judge of character. Jesus would call the two brothers "Boanerges." This is the only place in Scriptures that mentions the designation of the sons of Zebedee as the sons of thunder, and there is no stated explanation as to why Jesus named them this. However, Jesus has a purpose for everything He does, so He must have had a good reason, as He knows all men. He did not need man's testimony about man, for He knew what was in a man (John 2:24-25). In other words, Jesus knew the brothers' nature when He first met them, and He chose a fitting nickname. In one vivid incident, we see that James



MESSAGE
FROM
FR. ANTONY

(Continued from page 2)

and John possessed some truly thunder-like qualities. Jesus and His disciples were traveling through Samaria on their way to Jerusalem when they ran into trouble. Jesus attempted to find accommodations for the night in one place but was met with opposition from the villagers simply because His destination was Jerusalem. This opposition was due to Jewish-Samaritan prejudice. "When the disciples James and John saw this, they asked, 'Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven to destroy them?'" (Luke 9:54). Jesus rebuked the brothers, and they all went to another village. James and John's response to the Samaritans reveals a fervency, impetuosity, and anger that could properly be called "thunderous," and we can be sure that there were other times when James and John lived up to their nickname.

James and John were two of Jesus' closest friends, being two of the "inner three" disciples. Jesus did not blindly choose them. He was fully aware of their backgrounds, temperaments, and human weaknesses. Jealousy and selfish ambition made them fight for power and position. They dragged their mother into it by making her ask for a special place at the right and left of Jesus. Jesus' criteria in choosing them was not so much who or what they were. Instead, Jesus looked beyond their external appearances and saw hidden qualities and talents that nobody else could know about. Jesus recognized that with a little re-sculpturing they could be recast into wonderful human beings capable of choosing Him and His Gospel and go happily to their own death in doing so. Jesus had called them to lofty positions, but they could not transcend to such heights because they were of a worldly stock until His death and resurrection. As the church age began, James was the first apostle to be martyred (Acts 12:2), while John was the last to die, in his old age. John's epistles, written late in his life, hint that he still possessed a fervency of spirit, especially in his denunciations of apostates and deceivers (1 John 2:22; 2 John 7; 3 John 10). However, it is a fervency tempered by love. In fact, in 1 John the word "love" and related terms occurs over 40 times. When he first met Jesus, John was one of the "Boanerges." But after walking with Jesus for a lifetime, the "Son of Thunder" earned a new nickname: the "Apostle of Love." The thunder of James and John had been purified of all worldly ambition and vainglory as the two were transformed into thunder and zeal lovingly dedicated wholly for Jesus' kingdom. Hence, also his Gospel began with divine thunder, as it were an eagle of God crying with a voice of thunder.

Later on, each of them would prove that the world's judgment was wrong; Jesus had not committed any human error by choosing them. Who would believe today that the Catholic Church, numbering more than 1.3 billion, had its foundation on the apostles? The Church has repeatedly proven that, once you are touched by the grace of God and have had a personal experience of Jesus, your life will never be the same and your commitment to serve Him will be beyond human understanding. Look at the lives of the saints! None of them, except our Blessed Mother Mary, was born a saint.

They struggled to walk the path of holiness. They faced every human problem that you and I face today. They became so passionate about Christ that no human power or position would distract them, and no challenge or sacrifice would make them re-route their journey or compel them to turn back. They held on to the mission so strongly that no worldly power could detach them from it. Even when they had to die for their Savior, they did so while singing praises to Him! See how the power of God can transform you if you but open your heart to Him.

God does not call the qualified, the best or the powerful. Behind the life of every saint the Church honors today, there is a past. None of them was born a saint. Saints are made by deliberately choosing to walk the narrow way, by boldly picking up their own daily crosses that come their way, and by renouncing all the worldly attractions and temptations. Look at Matthew, the apostle! He was a public sinner rejected by society. See how the grace of God transformed him. Look at St. Augustine of Hippo. Certainly, he did not begin life as a holy man who lived according to God's commandments. The tears of his mother had almost dried up as she cried and prayed for her son's conversion. Monica's thirty years of constant and persistent prayer did not go in vain. Today, both the son and mother are saints. Do you want to be a saint? All that you must do is to will it. The Lord will do the rest.



**St. James Parish-
ioners
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/10C0B44AEA62EA2F4
C25-50112309-pilgrims#/
/](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>