

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 27, 2024

30th 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

30TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (MARK 10:46-52) JESUS HEALS THE MAN BORN BLIND

A man born blind made his living as a beggar,
He begged daily, whether rain or shine, didn't matter.
One Sabbath day, Jesus came and saw his blindness,
Jesus restored the blind man with sight in His kindness.

With His saliva, Jesus, first of all, made clay,
And smeared it on the man's eyes in a humble way.
"Go and wash in the pool of Siloam", Jesus said.
He could see, after he washed, as Jesus had said.

The blind man's healing caused a big controversy,
Many were upset and became very noisy,
Jesus healing on the Sabbath, they did not approve,
He violated the Sabbath rule people would prove.

The Pharisees questioned the blind man many times,
The stories of healing by Jesus they thought were lies.
They questioned His parents to find out His background,
Affirming Him as their son, they stood well their ground.

The blind man repeated what Jesus did for him,
The Jews cross examined Him with their faces grim.
The blind man defended Jesus and showed no fear,
The Jews threw him out but he was calm at their jeer.

The blind man recognized Jesus as the Son of Man,
Worshipping Him as Savior, he became His fan.
Lord, many a time I am spiritually blind,
To reach out to those in need, make me always kind.

1. **Questions:**
1. Which stanza is a reflection of you?
 2. Why does God permit people to be born blind?
 3. What opportunity to grow closer to God do you see?
 4. What actions will you take?

Reflections:

Among all the miraculous healings that Jesus performed, none spurred such controversy as the healing of a man born blind. This miracle where Jesus healed the blind man is reported by John (John: 9: 1-41). This miracle would eventually underpin one of the most convincing accusations the Jews brought against Jesus. Time was running out and the Pharisees and the elders were desperate to find reasons to arrest Jesus. The only crime punishable by death, according to the Roman law, was treason, and only Rome had the authority to condemn someone to death by crucifixion. All their meticulous plots and scheming to trap Jesus had so far failed. Jesus was still performing His ministry openly.

One day, as Jesus was passing by, He saw a beggar who was born blind from his birth. As Jesus approached him, the disciples wanted to know what the cause of his blindness was. The Jews believed that physical

deformities like blindness, deafness, and muteness, or even some physical sicknesses, were caused by God as punishment for sins or because of the sins committed by their parents or relatives. They also reasoned that a woman incapable of conceiving and becoming a mother was considered as suffering God's punishment. These "barren" women were the ridicule and taunt of their neighbors. Jesus dismissed this claim and affirmed that it was

caused neither by sins nor by the sins of the parents. It was rather for the glory of God. Jesus then went on to make clay by mixing the mud with His saliva and smeared the clay on the blind man's eyes. Then Jesus told him to go and wash his eyes in the pool of Siloam. The blind man did as he was told and was instantly able to see. Suddenly, the blind man became the center of attention. Some recognized him as the beggar they used to see in the street every day. Others opined that he just looked like the beggar but was someone else. The blind man cleared up the confusion by asserting that he was the man who had been born blind. They were curious to know what happened to him and who had cured him. He described everything in detail, but they did not believe him. They brought him to the Pharisees for cross examination. Jesus had made clay on the Sabbath. According to the law, the Sabbath was to be kept holy. Some of them immediately claimed that the one who broke the Sabbath law by curing a blind man could not be from God, while others asked how a sinful person could perform such an extraordinary sign. The Jews further questioned the parents of the blind man to ascertain whether he was truly their son. They affirmed him to be their son and that he was born blind. However, they did not answer how he was able to see. They were afraid of being expelled from the synagogue. The Jews had already warned that if anyone claimed Jesus to be Christ they would be expelled.

The Jews did not want to give the credit to Jesus and accept Him as the Son of God. This miracle was not done in a private setting unseen by others. If the Pharisees were sincerely looking for information, they could have easily found it, for there were many people who knew the blind man. There would have been many witnesses to testify that he was born blind and that they had seen Jesus smearing his eyes with clay. They had also heard Jesus telling the blind man to go and wash in the pool of Siloam. These facts were all public. The Jews were prejudiced against Jesus. Accepting the miracle done by Jesus would lead them to accept Jesus as Christ. If they accepted Him as Christ, they would be unable to execute their plan of crucifying Him.

In contrast, we can say that the blind man was only physically blind. Spiritually he was sharper than the people who had questioned him. He had the simple common sense to believe that if Jesus was a sinful man, He would have never restored his sight. The Pharisees



MESSAGE
FROM
FR. ANTONY

(Continued from page 2)

tried to impress upon him that Jesus was an evil charlatan. Though poor and illiterate, the blind man had more wisdom than everybody else. Later on, the blind man was expelled from the synagogue. Knowing this, Jesus met him again and asked him if he would believe in the Son of God. "Who is He, sir that I may believe in Him?" Jesus revealed Himself to him. The blind man fully accepted Jesus as his Savior by worshipping Him.

This story of Jesus' miracle makes for wonderful reading. This story has not lost its relevance and significance even to this day. Spiritual blindness prevented the Pharisees from recognizing Jesus as the Savior. The folly of the Pharisees was that they did not admit that they were blind. They accused others of it but could not see it in themselves. They were not bad people. They had a lot of good will. But, their faith was something else. Spiritual blindness is a common disease even today. Spiritual blindness makes you one sided. A spiritually blind person sees only part of the truth and mistakes it be the whole truth. When Jesus was hanging from the cross and said, "Father, forgive them for they do not know what they are doing," He was talking about their spiritual blindness. Any one of us can fall into this trap. We need to examine ourselves every day to see if we are suffering from it. There is danger everywhere we look. A spiritually blind person is quick to judge others. They can become very critical of others and of their actions. They will never see in themselves the same shortcomings they condemn in others. Spiritually blind people exaggerate their own good deeds, magnifying them beyond proportion. They have an attitude that they are doing enough for God and His people. Ultimately, the spiritually blind do not see Jesus and His teaching. As long as they do not see Jesus, they cannot see God either. One day, Philip asked Jesus, "Lord, show us the Father and it is enough for us." Jesus said to him, "Have I been so long a time with you, and you have not known me? Philip, he who sees me, sees also the Father" (John: 14:8-9).

Here is the test for you to determine if you are suffering from spiritual blindness: Do you recognize that all you have are God's gifts to you and they come from Him? Do you understand you are called by God to share a portion of what you have with people who are less fortunate? Do you admit that your parish is your responsibility, and that you are expected to serve it by sharing your time, treasure, and talent? If your answer is yes to these three questions, your spiritual sight is sound.



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>

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