

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.

Mariages 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

NOVEMBER 10, 2024

32nd 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

32ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (MARK 12:38-44) WIDOW'S MITE

Jesus noticed the widow dropping her mite,
All ignored her for she did not have might.
The coin made no noise to catch attention.
The woman prayed in her heart for protection.

Her offering was like a drop in the ocean,
Unseen, she continued with her slow motion.
Peace came over her as she gave everything,
God admired her for she kept for her nothing.

She manifested her unconditional trust,
Relying on God, she knew, is a must.
Her faith in God was total and complete,
She did not worry about what she would eat.

She was ignored by all but the Son of Man,
He instantly knew the widow was God's fan.
And seized the occasion to teach a lesson,
He shared with disciples His observation.

Strange, Jesus didn't see those putting big money,
He knew well they were giving from their plenty.
They made sure they had enough for the morrow,
Independent, they would be ashamed to borrow.

The widow shows that God is her security,
Accepts dependence on God in humility.
She knows God will take care of her every need,
Her generous attitude is all that we need.

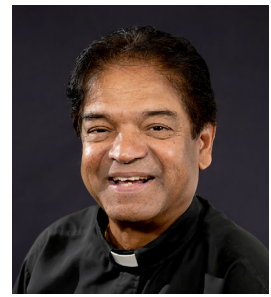
Questions:

1. Which stanza of the poem reveals where your faith must be strengthened?
2. What prayers can you offer to God about this?

Reflections:

Can we read the story of the widow's mite without hearing an inner voice inviting us to do likewise? The widow's example is a challenging invitation to examine our conscience to evaluate our style of giving. This widow, through her life and example, preached a beautiful sermon on stewardship by dropping her last two copper coins into the temple treasury. On an absolute scale, she gave only a pittance to the church in comparison to what the rich people contributed. Apparently, Jesus seemed to be following a different kind of mathematics. According to conventional mathematics, her two coins had little or no value compared to the enormous amount of money the Scribes gave to the temple. In the eyes of the world, they were much more generous than this woman. And yet, Jesus says, "I tell you, solemnly, this poor widow has put more in than all

who have contributed to the treasury; for they have all put in money they had left over, but she from the little she had has put in everything she possessed, all she had to live on" (Mark 12:43-44). She gave without calculations, without worrying about tomorrow. Her generous giving speaks about her faith and trust in God. She manifested her complete trust in her God, the provider of her daily food. She did not give from what was left over after her



MESSAGE FROM FR. ANTONY

purchases. But she gave to her God what was His right. With this example, she stands in sharp contrast to all of us who give to God only from what is left and not what is His right. We are like someone who told me that he would give something to the parish if he got a refund after filing the taxes. I do not want to hurt anyone, but I must say that many Catholics give to the church from what is left after all the purchases. God is not our number one priority. What is your style of giving? Do you first put aside your Sunday offering before you do anything else? I do not want to sound negative. I have come across Catholics who give their best to the church. But their number is very few. It deeply hurts us to give, and to give quietly is even more painful. It is a challenge to follow Jesus' invitation: "But when you give alms, your left hand must not know what your right is doing; your almsgiving must be secret, and your Father who sees all that is done in secret will reward you" (Matthew 6:3-4). We have an insatiable desire for publicity and human recognition.

Your spirit of giving reveals your attitude. You should give only out of gratitude to God who is the giver of all that you have. He is the owner of all that you have, and you have received only because of His generosity and compassion. You are giving only from what God has given you without the cost. This should be the spirit and the reason for giving. You are giving from your generous heart and God is the only reason for your giving. We do not give to build your name or fame. We do not give to receive others' recognition or acceptance but in a spirit of love and gratitude to God. God looks at your heart and not at the size of your gift. Going by the worldly standard, the widow had given just a pittance in comparison to the rich people who gave much more. The world would not have considered the gift of this poor widow. God's logic differs from our logic. In the sight of God, what matters is not the amount you give but the spirit with which you give. Your giving manifests the kind of individual you are. Cain, choosing to give God the discarded and rotten fruits from his garden, manifested his sick and ungrateful heart. Abel, by offering the best fruits to God first, showed that he had a golden heart that recognized God's blessings in his life. The widow, by giving to God everything she had without considering how she would look after herself the following day, manifested her complete faith and trust in God. The world would consider her very foolish since she did not live according to a budget and demonstrated

(Continued from page 2)

no common sense about her savings. She gave it all, without retaining anything for her future. Unlike this woman, we give only when we have taken adequate care of our future and we are careful to donate only from our surplus savings.

There is a big difference between the widow's giving and the Scribes' giving. The widow gave everything to her God, who she wanted to please. She did not seek human recognition or appreciation. Her spirit of giving came from her golden heart, which was completely devoid of pretension. Her heart was pure and her intention, too, was pure. She gave with the right intention and the right purpose which manifested her faith and ability to trust in the Lord. It was not a blind or foolish action because she truly believed in God and completely relied on Him. It was a test of her faith in her Creator in whose hand she had surrendered her life. She gave from her nothingness and gave everything. Others gave much more than this poor widow, but Jesus did not recognize them. There was an air of pride and righteousness in their giving. Their main intent was to establish their own name and fame. They gave more to gain human adulation and recognition. The more they gave, the more they expected their popularity to increase. Besides, they gave only from their surplus and they had taken care of their future. Jesus who could read their hearts and intentions would not accept their reasons for giving. Like in other situations, Jesus seized the opportunity to educate His followers on a good lesson of giving and what should be their motivation in giving.

During Biblical times, widows were shamefully oppressed, often living in a personal hell. In the Book of Ruth, we read how miserably Naomi was mistreated. The widow of our story did not have social security to live on, nor did she have a bank balance. When she parted with her two coins, she emptied her tiny moneybag and walked into an unknown future. It was as though she lived on Jesus' prayer, "Give us this day our daily bread." She totally trusted in God's providence. Jesus did not merely praise her generosity; He told us how the spirit of her giving and her great faith moved Him. Her donation stored a beautiful treasure in His Sacred Heart.

Often, we are reluctant to give generously because we are afraid of the unknown: the future. There is a fear that we may be without any means to support ourselves in our old age. The more we rely on the security offered by worldly possessions, the more anxious we become of the days to come, and we become tightfisted. The key to overcome this fear is to learn to rely on Jesus' words: "That is why I am telling you not to worry about your life and what you are to eat, nor about your body and how you are to clothe. Look at the birds in the sky. They do not now sow or reap or gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they are" (Matthew 6:25-27)?



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