

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

NOVEMBER 17, 2024

33rd 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

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

United Conference of
Catholic Bishops Website

<https://bible.usccb.org/daily-bible-reading>

33RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (MARK 13:24-32) SIGNS OF THE TIMES

The Sign lived among the Jewish people,
Being poor, He was born in a stable.
He didn't fit with their expectations,
Painfully, He suffered their rejection.

His works showed He came from above,
His preaching and life revealed God's love.
He healed the blind and made the lame walk,
By His healing touch, the dumb could talk.

The dead He brought to life by His power,
Upon the poor, blessings He did shower.
He was the Master over wind and storm,
His call to repentance caused great alarm.

He taught with passion and authority,
His message had superior quality.
The miracles He performed were the best sign,
His Father's love in Him would always shine.

God speaks to us daily in numerous ways,
Through various events, He visits us always.
We miss Him like the people of Jesus' time,
We're busy making for ourselves, name and fame.

Silence is the enemy of modern man,
He's busy achieving many a plan.
God is not on our priority list,
To do God's works, we forget to enlist.

Questions:

1. Which line of the poem most vividly reveals the essence of Jesus to you?
2. What call to action does the poem inspire within you?

Reflections:

St. Francis of Assisi could communicate with the birds in the sky, the fish in the waters, and the animals in the forests. He felt the presence of God in these creatures and would glorify Him through them. Through these witless creatures, God would talk to him. To him, those creatures were signs of God's love and providence. Every leper that Mother Teresa of Calcutta bathed and nurtured was a sign of God's unconditional love. Every abandoned child that she picked up from the slums and streets spoke of God's everlasting concern and mercy. She was able to read God's signs all around her. Saints like her knew how to read and interpret the signs of the times. These signs directed and helped them to focus on the ultimate purpose of their lives. God speaks to us through every event of the day. We need to be still and listen to Him patiently.

During the Second Vatican Council, Pope John XXIII popularized the expression "reading the signs of the times." What is implied here is that God speaks to us in various and numerous ways. Every event that happens in the world is a message from God, and we should be alert to these messages. As we tune the radio for better clarity, our minds and hearts should be attuned to read the signs of the times. God is actively present in the world. As we lovingly interact with the people around us, we begin to personally know God in a more tangible way. This allows us to reflect and respond deeply to the events of the day.

Towards the end of His ministry, Jesus wanted to know what the people thought about Him. The incident happened at Caesarea Philippi, where Jesus gave a lesson in "signs of the times" theology. He asked the disciples what the people thought about Him. Suddenly, they became very noisy as everyone shouted out their opinion. Unsatisfied, Jesus moved on like a reality show by asking, "And you, who do you say that I am?" He insisted on hearing what their inner voice, the Spirit within them, had to say. Peter experienced sudden enlightenment as he answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the Living God." For a moment, Peter was able to read the sign that Jesus was the Messiah for whom the Israelites waited so long. God is present in the world around us. We can find God in science, history, and anthropology. The knowledge of God is within us by discovering ourselves better through intensive meditation and contemplation. In addition, reading the Word of God helps us to discover Him personally.

For many years, the Jews lived in slavery under Roman rule. They did not have freedom and longed for it like the blind long for sight. However, they knew the Liberator would come to liberate them. Unfortunately, when He came, they did not recognize Him. He lived among them, associating with the people. During the last three years of His public ministry, Jesus did many extraordinary things, which were impossible for ordinary people to comprehend. The Pharisees accused Him of saying that He was using the power of Beelzebub, the prince of demons. They tried to persuade the crowd that the astounding powers of Jesus were not Messianic but demonic. Jesus performed several miracles to prove that He was the Son of God. These miraculous Godly actions or "signs of the times" were still incomprehensible to the baffled crowds. They kept asking for more and more signs from Jesus. King Herod, in fact, wanted Him to perform magic. He did not frivolously perform miraculous signs, which pointed to heaven from where He came. As a final blow, they crucified their God on the cross.

Are we any better than the Pharisees and Sadducees? We say, "If God just gives me some miraculous sign, I will believe in Him; if God finds me a new job, I will follow Him." We can never count God's blessings, and still we are looking for more signs. Those who ask for signs are normally blind people who want to play God. Each morning, when we open our eyes, it is a sign that



MESSAGE
FROM
FR. ANTONY

(Continued from page 2)

God loves us unconditionally. Every gift we have today comes from Him who is Omnipotent. We should be grateful for our existence itself. We should thank God for any ordinary miracles of daily life, our daily bread, the stars, the oceans, the flowers, and the fall foliage. As Christians, let's keep in mind that God is a God of love expressed in specific blessings, which are all shown through the life, teachings, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Gratitude humbles; it also uplifts. As God is who God is, we can make the Psalmist's words our own: "Give thanks to the Lord who is good, whose love endures forever" (Psalm 107:1).

When I came out of the Church after Mass one morning, a mother approached me. She appeared very sad and upset and said, "It's about my son. I spent all my money on giving him a Catholic education through college. Today, he is living like an atheist. Never goes to church or prays. I am totally disappointed." I suggested that the only thing she could do for him was to pray. She agreed. It is very hard for a mother to go through such a trial, and there are many similar cases. This may be a modern trend reflecting the depth to which modern man has fallen victim to materialism. A disturbingly high number of young people have been distancing themselves from God and the Church. There is a spiritual vacuum in their hearts, and while they may be consciously unaware of it, their starving spirits are suffering. Since they do not know how to properly fill this vacuum, they poison their spirits by chasing wealth, luxury, pleasure, and all manner of idols, a pursuit that ultimately leaves them even lonelier and more isolated.

Man is made up of body and spirit. If the spirit is not taken care of, man becomes dangerous. You can see signs of it around us, especially with the disturbingly high number of dysfunctional families. We are living in a culture of single parenthood that ignores the singular fact that a child needs both a mother and father. One cannot take the place of the other, however smart or rich he or she may be. Families are being attacked both by the devil and man, and the children suffer the most, having no guidance or direction. The true foundation of families is prayer, and prayer has been the first casualty of our modern culture. Children deprived of a prayer life have no future whatsoever. A parent can spend their life's savings educating their children and ensuring them the greatest career, but without instilling a loving relationship with God and surrounding them with a loving family reflecting God's love and mercy, they may as well have thrown their children to the wolves.

Jesus in the Gospel (Mark 13:24-42) speaks about the fig tree. "When its branch becomes tender and it sprouts leaves, you know that summer is near." Jesus, through this story, stresses the fact that man can interpret the signs of the times like weather. But He also goes on to say that man has too often failed to recognize God's divine manifestations. The people of His time failed to recognize Jesus, the Son of God, who lived with



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**

them. Today, there are many signs which should invite us to look beyond this world. Look at the gun violence occurring in this country. How many innocent lives have been claimed? We should be able to read this sign very clearly. Gun violence is an unmistakable sign that without God in our lives, there will be no life at all! Modern man suffers from an emptiness of the heart, which only God can fill. We must all admit that it is time to bring God back to our lives and to our homes. Do you see the hand of God behind all these signs, inviting us to a conversion?

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