

## 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

## DECEMBER 1, 2024

1st Sunday of Advent

### 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

### READINGS FOR THE WEEK

United Conference of  
Catholic Bishops Website

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

# 1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (LUKE 21:25-36) THE GLORIOUS RETURN OF THE LORD

No one knows when Jesus will come again,  
But, to know of His coming, we need no brain.  
He did teach about His second coming,  
And warned His followers from the beginning.

Some expected Him to come very soon,  
And thought His return would be a boon.  
He is still to come, and we do not know when,  
But His coming is definitely certain.

Unexpected, He may come like a thief,  
When He comes, He will take away all grief.  
Be on your guard against worldly temptations,  
The devil will send you many distractions.

Be prepared and always be on your guard,  
And His message you should never discard.  
The great day may close on you like a trap,  
Be on your watch and follow the divine map.

Jesus mentioned a cosmic disturbance,  
The moon and stars may bear a new appearance.  
Nations will be in anguish engaged in war,  
God's Son will come on a cloud in great power.

When these signs appear, take them seriously,  
It's a call to examine our lives consciously.  
Those who have lived in vigilance and prayer,  
Will be ready for Jesus without fear.

## Questions:

1. Do you believe that Jesus is Truth and Wisdom personified?
2. If you truly believe this, what is your response to those who contradict His teachings?
3. Which is easier: to live in sin or in a state of grace?
4. Think of the worst things that have ever happened on earth and realize they are absolutely nothing in comparison to the terrors of hell. Think of the greatest pleasures and wonders of life on earth and realize they are nothing compared to the joys of Heaven. Is God's path of holiness worth the effort and sacrifice He asks of you?
5. Are you willing to be honest with yourself about what you're doing? If most non-religious people agree with it, beware!!! Make your choice, live by it, and reap what you sow!

## Reflections:

The second coming of Jesus is the constant theme in the New Testament, particularly in the writings of St. Paul and St. Peter. There are about two thousand references in the Bible to the first and second coming of the Lord. The New Testament describes the second coming of Jesus as the Glorious and Majestic King. In

the Apostolic Creed, we profess "He is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from there He will come to judge the living and the dead."

The day of the Lord has always been a central theological issue in church pulpits, books, and movies. There are doomsayers who interpret wars, earthquakes, famines, and calamities as signs of the end of the world. People have been predicting the end of the world since the first century. St. Paul thought Christ would return in his lifetime. On October 23, 1844, thousands of Christians sold their earthly possessions, dressed in white robes, climbed to the tops of the highest mountains they could find, and waited for Jesus to return. They had been told this was the date by William Miller, a farmer from western New York. When nothing happened, he announced a calculation error. There are numerous similar scenarios that have taken place over the last 2000 years.

We have no doubt His second coming will come as He promised, but He said that nobody except the Father knows when this will occur. The day of the Lord is often associated with some extraordinary event, such as the destruction of Jerusalem or the final moment when God will banish all the forces of evil to hell forever. It is the last judgement on all evil and sin and the final reward for the faithful believers. It includes both punishment and blessing. This is how Jesus talks about His coming: "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back again and take you to myself, so that where I am you also may be" (John 14:3). In Matthew, 16:27 we read, "For the Son of Man will come with His angels in His Father's glory, and then He will repay everyone according to his conduct." Luke puts it this way, "Whoever is ashamed of me and of my words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of when He comes in His glory and in the glory of the Father and of the holy angel" (Luke 9:26).

"There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. People will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. At that time, they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near" (Luke 21:25-28). Jesus spoke of the destruction of the temple and Jerusalem, and then turned His attention to the future of the entire world. The former will be characterized by the coming of armies that will bring destruction. The latter will be characterized by the coming of the Son of Man who will bring redemption. Both events will be cataclysmic, but the destruction of Jerusalem will be catastrophic, while the coming of the Son of Man will be redemptive for the believers. The picture is that of the birth of a new world—of all creation in labor. However, that labor will give birth to a wonderful new world where evil will be ended—where creation will be restored to God's design.



**MESSAGE  
FROM  
FR. ANTONY**

(Continued from page 2)

It is therefore a time for hope—for eager anticipation—for joy.

So, Jesus tells us to be careful, or your hearts will be loaded down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that day will come on you suddenly. For it will come like a snare on all those who dwell on the surface of all the earth. Jesus has instructed us regarding the signs for which we are to watch and has told us the meaning of those signs. Now He warns us to keep ourselves ready. It is as if Jesus was preparing us to stay alert for something wonderful, such as the coming of the bridegroom. That will be a time of great joy for those who are prepared and alert but waiting can be very challenging. Who can stay awake hour upon hour, staring into the darkness at nothing? What is the harm if we fall asleep now and then?

The answer is that lack of readiness will lead to disaster. “Therefore be watchful all the time, praying that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will happen, and to stand before the Son of Man.” Jesus calls us to stay alert and to pray. Prayer will help us to avoid dissipation, drunkenness, and anxiety. Prayer will keep us open to receive God’s blessings and will focus our spiritual energies to do God’s will. In the garden of Gethsemane, the night before He was arrested, seeing the three apostles sleeping, Jesus said, “Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak” (Matthew 26:41). Unfortunately, more and more of His followers were becoming too drowsy from worldly cares and worries and spiritually weak in their flesh. Padre Pio warned of these temptations, saying there are so many fallen angels, demons, and evil spirits who wander through the world seeking the ruin of souls, that if every single one were the size of a grain of sand, together they would blot out the sun!

Jesus had talked at length about His kingdom yet to come and made it very clear to His disciples that they did not have an everlasting kingdom here on earth. When Pilate asked Him if He was a king, Jesus said to him that His kingdom was not of this world. Even the twelve apostles had misunderstood Jesus and thought He would establish an earthly kingdom. Think of James and John asking for special positions in the kingdom Jesus would establish. Through His teachings and through His many parables He kept reminding everyone to focus on their life to come. He told them, “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal.” Almost all His stories have been a wakeup call to those who follow Him to turn away from the material world and focus instead on their everlasting reward in heaven. A constant theme that runs through the Gospels is, “Be prepared and be on your guard.” To a great extent, the early Christians understood this and from the writings of Peter, Paul, and others, they clearly lived in the grace of the Holy Spirit. Over the years, this spirit of love and solidarity is lost, and Christians became very



## 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**

selfish and hard of heart. Jesus’ followers have lost their sense of sin and follow a new lifestyle where they choose to do anything and everything if they feel good. They forget that the only thing which will help us to be on our guard is to think of our own eternal reward or punishment. The gospel is very straightforward in telling us that there will be a final judgment when we will be required to give an account of our life. How true is the saying, “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding” (Proverbs 9:10).

### 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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Address

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