

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

PARISH CALENDAR

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>

2nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (John 2:1-12)

A BIG MIRACLE IN A SMALL TOWN

There was a wedding at Cana in Galilee,
Mary was invited with her family.
Wine ran out during the celebration,
Causing the family great humiliation.

Among the relatives, there was sudden confusion,
How to save the family name was the discussion.
For the bridegroom, this caused shame and embarrassment,
Suddenly, all were in a major predicament.

Mary silently observed the situation,
She knew her Son easily would find a solution.
Without doubt she said to Jesus, "They have no wine."
"My hour has not come," He said, as His face did shine.

"Do what He tells you," That's all the mother said,
There was confidence in her words the servers could read.
They filled six big jars to the brim with clean water,
Jesus told them to take some to the headwaiter.

Awe and wonder spread among guests in a jiffy,
Suddenly people's moods changed, and all became cheery.
Everyone rushed to see the Miracle Worker,
While the mother humbly thanked God with a prayer.

Mary's intervention saved the family's name,
To this day, she continues to be the same.
Her Son can never refuse her request,
To grow in her love, we should always quest.

QUESTIONS:

1. What does it mean to you that Jesus chose to reveal His divinity at a wedding?
2. What if Mary had not said anything to Him that day?
3. What role does Mary have in your life?

REFLECTIONS:

John closes the first chapter of his gospel with Jesus' being introduced to Nathaniel by Philip. Nathaniel was surprised that Jesus already knew him and wanted to know how. Jesus said, "Before Philip called you, I saw you under the fig tree." Nathaniel immediately acknowledged, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God; the King of Israel." Jesus further assured him that he would see greater things than these. It didn't take very long at all for Jesus to fulfill His promise to Nathaniel. On the third day, there was a wedding in Cana, a small and insignificant village which would serve as the place of His first amazing sign of changing water into wine. Jesus kept his promise to Nathaniel by working a big miracle in a small town.

The first miracle Jesus worked was during the wedding celebration at Cana, in Galilee. Mary, together with Jesus and His disciples, was invited to the wedding. Mary moved around quietly, observing everything. She suddenly noticed that the wine, an integral part of a wedding, ran out. Remember, unlike the present day, there was no corner store where they could go at the last moment to buy something if it was needed. Guests came from far and wide, and some of them even traveled great distances to attend. They had to be fed several times a day for the duration of the entire celebration. The feast often lasted as long as two weeks. Hence, the preparation for such feasts was critically important, even more so than today. If an issue such as wine running out would occur, the family name would have been at risk, leaving the bridegroom to bear the brunt of the

JANUARY 19, 2025



**MESSAGE
FROM
FR. ANTONY**

humiliation and embarrassment. In the midst of this particular wedding celebration, the wine did run out, causing terrible shame and embarrassment to the family. Sensing the predicament, our Blessed Mother interceded and requested her Son to do something to allow the family to save face. Apparently, Jesus was not happy with her request as He said, "Woman, how does your concern affect me? My hour has not yet come." Mary ignored this remark and told the attendants to do what Jesus would tell them. Six huge jars were filled with water, and Jesus told the servers to take some to the head steward for testing. After tasting the wine, the steward was amazed at its quality, which was better than the wine they had already served. Mary saved the host family's name and honor. This is Mary. She understands all our shame and embarrassment, all our fears and anxieties, and all our needs and dreams. She is our best advocate with God and her Son. On our behalf, she continues to tell Jesus: "She has no job, find one. He is having a financial problem, be his help. His mother is dying of cancer, console him. She is depressed and needs your healing. They are having problems with their marriage: help them." We have an endless list of favors we want to ask Mary. Her Son can never turn a deaf ear to her request. He did not turn down His mother when she requested His help, even before His "time had come."

The influence of Mary, Jesus' mother, has never waned. Her intercessory power with God and her Son has not diminished over the years. She continues to be the number one advocate on our behalf with God and Jesus. Unfortunately, certain Christian denominations try to undermine Mary's role and importance in the Church and in Christian lives. Some of them even accuse Catholics of worshiping and adoring Mary. I am sure most of them have realized that this accusation has no foundation as it only manifests their ignorance of Catholic spirituality. God alone deserves our adoration and worship, while Mary is loved and honored.

It is truly unfortunate that even among some Catholic institutions or communities there is an ever-decreasing focus on the role of Mary in the faith journey of the disciples of Jesus. Years ago, traditional Marian prayers and devotions were very popular all over the world. Unfortunately, this rich tradition has nearly completely disappeared. It is as though the younger generation of the faith community has no need to develop an intimate relationship with the mother of Jesus. Subsequently, little or no effort is made by young people to know Our Lady well enough for them to be able to love and appreciate the richness she can bring to their relationship with Jesus, her Son. Many faulty and half-baked teachings about Mary, purposely promulgated by certain groups with a vested interest, have corrupted the minds of many young Catholics, who accept this false propaganda against Mary without critically analyzing the misinformation. I have encountered many such people, and my prayer for them is that they open their eyes of faith to see what Mary can do for them. There is no substitute for Mary in the world, and she continues to be our best guide to Jesus, who is the ultimate purpose of all devotions.

The contrast between water and wine can speak to us of the contrast between what we were before Christ came into our lives and what we have become through the love and power of our Lord Jesus Christ. Look at the transformations that Jesus has brought about for us after we received Him. Before coming to Him, we were lost. In Him, we have been found. Before trusting the Lord Jesus, we were guilty. In Him, we are forgiven. Before coming to the Lord, we were in bondage to sin. In Him, we are free. This is the new wine of the Spirit. Only in Jesus can we find the meaning and purpose of our lives. The water did not turn itself into wine. Jesus turned the water into wine. It is only when Jesus turns our lives into a new wine of hope and love that we truly become His disciples and experience the miracle of the new birth. As His disciples, we must learn to do what He tells us to do. The attendants did what Jesus told them to do and the result was amazing. Our lives, too, can be amazing if we learn to do what Jesus tells us every day.



**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#/](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B44AEA62EA2F4C25-50112309-pilgrims#/)

If you have any questions, please call
Judi Domingo at **510-767-9548**

**THE DIVINE MERCY
APOSTOLATE
OF ST. JAMES PARISH**

invites you to welcome **The Divine Mercy and Mother of Mercy** into your home. We bring the images to your home, for your special prayers, intentions, for sick family members and prayer of heartfelt Thanksgiving.

The following are the dates available for the Year

Jan 26

Feb 9 & 23

March 9 & 23

April 6

May 4 & 18

June 1, 15 & 29

July 13 & 27

Aug 10 & 24

Sept 7 & 21

Oct 5 & 19

Nov 2, 16 & 30

Dec 14 & 28

For contact information :

Marie Rapp 510 574 6939



2025.