

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>

4th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Luke 4:21-30)

A PROPHET IS NOT ACCEPTED IN OWN VILLAGE

Prejudice can cause spiritual blindness,
And creates around you a total darkness.
Sadly, it makes you very judgmental,
It is the result of being temperamental.

Prejudice is the enemy of brotherhood,
It only creates divisions and falsehood.
You classify people according to color,
And refuse to admit you're making an error.

Prejudice is a curse of the society,
It destroys the beauty of diversity.
Prejudice is often caused by a narrow mind,
To label human beings is not very kind.

Jesus in His time suffered cruel treatment
He humbly accepted people's abandonment-
Because, with no status, His parents were poor,
Biased, they did not see in Him their savior.

They agreed His teaching was very profound,
But rejected Him because of His background.
They refused to show Him their love and honor,
Since He was the Son of Joseph, the carpenter.

You're not valued by the color of your skin,
Nor judged by the status of your kith and kin.
Treat everyone with respect and dignity,
You'll, then, discover others' inner beauty.

QUESTIONS:

1. Which line of the poem causes you to reflect on your own predispositions and biases?
2. When you examine your conscience, what do you find?

REFLECTIONS:

On July 25, 1997, when K.R. Narayanan, India's first Dalit or "untouchable" to be elevated to the highest political position as the president of India, the biggest democratic country in the world, many eyebrows were raised. I heard one of the unkindest remarks from a religious leader when she said, "I can never accept him as the president of my country." The fact that he was an able leader, administrator, author, journalist, cabinet minister, politician and diplomat made no impact on the people. He even served as the Indian Ambassador to the United States of America. With the eyes of prejudice, many people could only see him as a "low caste Hindu."

Prejudice segregates people and can sow seeds of deep hatred in the hearts of people. The deeper its roots grow, the harder it becomes to uproot it. Prejudice is a common sickness that may affect one and all to varying degrees. The world has witnessed numerous such cases and the history books have faithfully recorded them to remind the coming generations. Hitler annihilated six million Jews because his prejudice blinded him to the fact that he and the Jewish people had the same blood running through their veins. Slavery was advocated and promoted because of prejudice. Nations fought against one another and killed innocent people because they thought they were of a superior breed. Holy wars have been fought and crusades have been organized all in the name of God where thousands of innocent people were killed. You are told to believe that killing your enemies is the will of God and you would be amply rewarded. People are disliked or even hated because of their ethnicity or cultural background. How sad!

FEBRUARY 2, 2025



**MESSAGE
FROM
FR. ANTONY**

You can be prejudiced against anything. It may be skin color, religious background, education, poverty, wealth, the country of origin, accent, speech patterns, hair color, parents' occupation or profession. The list is too long to enumerate. A little self-examination will unfold the unending list of "prejudice triggers." Prejudice corrupts human thinking and reasoning, and one is not able to make an unbiased evaluation of a person. The media or others' opinions can negatively influence your judgment of others. It is not fair to judge a whole community as bad just because you had an unpleasant experience with one from that community. It is not uncommon that your child comes back from school crying because someone teased him or her by calling names.

In your day-to-day life and relationships, there may be a danger that you accept or reject people because of a prejudice you have formed in your mind about them. Sometimes, you may not even know why you deal with certain people with coldness or indifference while with others you are so warm and engaged. Likes and dislikes, very often, are formed by prejudice. It is important that you learn to treat everyone with respect and dignity. It is not correct that you label people. Once labeled, it is very difficult to remove the label. Only books are labeled and, as such, these labeled books will remain in that specific area of the library. Labeling human beings is not correct.

The Jews in the time of Jesus labeled Him as Mary's Son or Joseph, the carpenter's son. He did not have a desirable social status, wealth, or name. However, they were amazed at His teachings. They marveled at His wisdom and knowledge. They were unanimous in accepting His teaching as unique and agreed that they had never heard anyone preach like Him. And yet, they rejected Him because He did not come from a royal background with name and fame. His relatives were just ordinary people from middle class families. His dad was a carpenter, a job that belonged to a lower strata of the society. Therefore, He received no acceptance or recognition from among His own people.

It was a humiliating experience for Jesus as His own people did not accept Him. His own people did not see in Him what others saw. People came from all over to listen to Him. They brought Him sick people to cure. Because Jesus was not accepted by His own kith and kin, He could not perform many miracles in His own hometown. There was a tinge of sadness when He declared, "A prophet is not without honor except in his native place and among his own kin and in his own house." He could have done many mighty deeds for His own people had they accepted Him. You may find an apt application of this saying in your own life right this moment. You may be loved and appreciated by your co-workers, your bosses, or your friends. But the same may be something you can only wish for from your own dear and near ones or from among your own relatives. Once, I happened to be invited for dinner with a few of my priest friends. Personally, I did not know the host. While at the dinner table, the host suddenly asked, "Who is Fr. Antony who has written a Marian book?" This query came like a bolt from the blue. I thought one of my priest friends would introduce me to be the author of the book. There was a silence, but no one responded to his query. Immediately, I remembered the words of Jesus that I am writing about now. I have unsuccessfully tried very hard to erase this from my memory, but it still comes back to my mind now and then. I am afraid, prejudice may be caused by jealousy.

A long time ago, a young lady came to me for counseling. She was a high school teacher, and she had a postgraduate degree in science. She was very sad and depressed because she was not counted among her siblings. As the only sister among three brothers, she told me that her parents did not appreciate her. Instead, they admired and accepted her brothers. The only reason she was not accepted, she told me, was because she was a girl. She told me that her society did not give any importance to girls. You may not have experienced such a thing. If you carefully follow the conversations in your own families, you may find that your parents speak very highly of your cousins but have nothing to say of you or your siblings. I know of many people who do not feel accepted or loved in their own homes.

We should accept people as they are. We should not look at them according to their socio-economic background or their ethnic background. We should not value them according to their appearances. We should not measure people based on how much wealth or influence they have. Don't you want others to accept you as you are without comparisons? If you want acceptance and appreciation, you should begin to accept and appreciate others as they are. Keep the golden rule always in mind: "Do unto others what you want others to do to you."

Now a last thought. Luke presents Jesus as the radical missionary who steps out of the box and proclaims the radical perspective of the church which should be an inclusive and encompassing body of believers. The consequences would be drastic. Like Jesus, we may have to run out of town. Certainly Jesus shocked the synagogue officials when He spoke of the widow who was neglected and the lepers who were not cleansed. He pushed them to think of what they had not done to the point that they were ready to push Him off the cliff. But, He went straight through their midst and walked away unhurt. They were puny men; they could not stop His plan!

January 2025

Parishioner of the Month

Very quietly she goes around doing her job with total dedication and without any distractions. You may think that she is in perpetual meditation or contemplation. She is the first one to arrive almost every morning and opens the church at about 7:00am. She then goes around preparing the altar for the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. She makes sure



everything for the Mass is in the right place. She fills the altar candles with oil if needed. She makes sure all the lights are turned on and that the church is ready before the daily attendees arrive. She chooses the right readings for the daily Mass. She faithfully takes part in the Rosary, sometimes leading it when needed. Thank you, Aleni Nate, for your love and commitment to serve our church. I love to see the way you prepare the altar for the Mass, and I truly appreciate your help.



Even though Aleni is considerably new to the parish, she has made St. James her home where she feels at home. She embraced the parish with a great sense of belonging and ownership. She sees the parish as her responsibility and her love and commitment to serve the church comes from these feelings of belonging and ownership. It is only when every parishioner feels a sense of responsibility towards the parish that a parish can become a special parish. It is unfortunate that not every parishioner thinks this way. For them, their parish should come to help them when they need help. They do not want to know how their parish is functioning. They do not want to get involved in finding out what the different needs of their parish are. For many of them, Sunday attendance is not the priority, but they come when there is nothing else to do. Let me ask you how many of my parishioners consider Sunday worship as their number one priority and will never miss Sunday attendance of the Holy Mass. A family that comes to church every Sunday

understands their need for thanksgiving to God for all His blessings. The Eucharist is the best of all prayers and there is no better spiritual experience than a well-attended Mass. After Jesus had cured ten lepers and only a Samaritan returned to thank Him, Jesus asked him where the other nine were. I am sure every Sunday Jesus must be asking those who attended Mass the same question, where are the other members of the parish? He would further say, "I had blessed many more than the ones who are in the church. Do they have no time for me?" If you become truly grateful to God and recognize all His blessings you and your families have received, you will never miss attending the Holy Eucharist because the Eucharist is the greatest expression of your love and gratitude to God.

You can read below what Aleni writes about her experiences of being a parishioner of St. James. You can easily feel the warmth of her love for the parish. Thank you Aleni for your inspiring presence in the parish.

"My experience at St. James Church spans over a decade, a journey driven by my desire for a faith community that deeply nurtures spiritual growth and strengthens moral character. I sought a church where the Mass is celebrated with reverence and a profound focus on Jesus Christ, coupled with a consistent devotion to the Blessed Mother, expressed through novenas and the recitation of the Rosary. St. James has provided this and more.

What resonates most deeply with me are the practical and insightful homilies. They aren't merely theological discussions; they offer relevant guidance for navigating the challenges and complexities of daily life, providing a roadmap for personal growth and problem-solving. The active participation of the pastor in the novenas and Rosary devotions is deeply appreciated, fostering a genuine sense of shared faith. His approachable nature, coupled with his transparent and straightforward leadership, builds trust and strengthens the bonds within the parish.

Beyond the spiritual aspects, I've been consistently impressed by the pastor's compassionate care for parishioners, particularly those who are sick or facing end-of-life situations. His willingness to sacrifice for his flock is evident in his dedicated ministry. Furthermore, the church thrives on the dedication of its volunteers, whose tireless efforts maintain the church's beauty and efficiency, ensuring a welcoming atmosphere. The well-managed office adds to this sense of order and organization. Beyond the physical upkeep, the community spirit is remarkable; parishioners consistently demonstrate a willingness to support each other, offering help and extending compassion to those in need. This mutual support creates a truly welcoming and inclusive environment."

✠ Father Antony



Saturday January 25, 2025
: CIVIC CENTER PLAZA,
SAN FRANCISCO



**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.