

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>

EASTER SUNDAY

HE IS NOT HERE, HE IS RISEN

His friends buried Jesus in a borrowed tomb,
He would be, for three days, in mother earth's womb.
Jesus would rise gloriously on the third day,
And to heaven, He would become the true way.

The disciples were heartbroken at His death,
Without any hope, they feared for their own health.
Jesus had told them about His resurrection,
But failed to remember in fear and confusion.

An angel dressed in dazzling white rolled back the stone,
The tomb open, the angel sat on it alone!
Trembling in fear, the guards became like dead men,
With heavy hearts, two women came to the tomb then.

They were terrified to see the tomb empty,
And they thought someone had stolen His body.
The angel told them He had been raised from the dead,
With great rejoicing, this good news they would soon spread.

The women shared the news with Peter and John first,
John outran Peter, yet he entered the tomb last.
Both of them observed the wrapping cloth on the ground,
They became witnesses to the truth most profound.

The twelve didn't know what rising from the dead would mean,
Jesus had told them to believe without being seen.
They were very slow to understand and learn,
Once learned, to Jesus alone their life would turn.

QUESTIONS:

1. What is the reason for your hope?
2. Deep down in your heart, do you have faith in the Resurrection of our Lord?
3. How does that faith and hope shape your responses to the trials you encounter?

REFLECTIONS:

I can imagine everyone shouting at the top of their voices, "He is risen!" The news reached every corner of Jerusalem, spreading rapidly to the neighboring regions like wildfire. It was the greatest news that the world had ever heard, but for the high priests and the Pharisees who had Him crucified, this was their moment of dread and reckoning. Their cunning plan to crush Jesus' followers failed, even though the chief priests had bribed the guards with a huge amount of money and told them to spread the rumor that while they slept at night the disciples came and stole Jesus' body. They assured them that they would take care of them in case they would get into trouble with the governor. Even though the guards were first to witness the resurrection of Jesus, they did not become disciples. They were frightened at the earthquake and dazzled by the angel, but their hearts were not open to Jesus. They were bought and they stayed bought. The rumor that the Pharisees created, circulates even to this day.

The news of the resurrection suddenly brought a new perspective to the lives of the apostles who had given up hope. We can well guess the excitement and joy of Peter and John when Mary Magdalene and her friend, another Mary, brought the news of the empty tomb. While Jesus had been with them, He had told them more than once about His rising from the dead. They had been too preoccupied with worldly affairs to grasp His meaning. Hearing this happy news, both ran to the tomb, and being

APRIL 20, 2025



**MESSAGE
FROM
FR. ANTONY**

younger and faster, John arrived first but respectfully waited for Peter to enter first. They saw everything as described by the two women but they did not see Him. I can imagine them shouting praises to God while singing, "He is alive." Indeed, He is alive! Everything suddenly changed. Life is not the same anymore, our sufferings have a special meaning now and our greatest hope will always be in the resurrection. No pain or suffering will be too much to bear in the face of our own promised resurrection and union with God.

All four Gospels contain an account of the resurrection, with differences which makes them even more credible since this means they were written independently. The resurrection is the central event of the Bible, the reason for our Hope, and is the most emphasized event in the New Testament. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the foundation of our faith. Without this reversal of the ignominy of the cross, Jesus' death would have atoned for nothing. As St. Paul says, if the resurrection is false, "we are of all men most pitiable" because we have staked our faith on a lie. If the resurrection is true, it validates Jesus' teachings and ministry as well as our faith. While there are several reasons to believe in the resurrection, we cannot prove it but can see it only through the eyes of faith.

The earthquake that occurred, the presence of the angel with dazzling clothing, and the rolling away of the stone are eschatological symbols, telling us that God is ushering in a new age. The angel's appearance makes it clear that the angel is no ordinary being and this is no ordinary moment in history. Jesus has risen to inaugurate a new era in the salvation history. The angel's appearance is reminiscent of Moses' shining face after his encounter with God at Sinai and Jesus' shining face and dazzling white clothes at the Transfiguration. The angel's appearance reflects God's glory and authenticates the angel's heavenly origins. Jesus, who was supposed to be dead, is alive. The guards, who were supposed to be alive and guarding Jesus' body, became like dead men. The angel rolled the stone back not to let Jesus out, but to let the women in. There were no human witnesses to the actual resurrection. The disciples witnessed Jesus' death and His burial, yet now they offered witness to the fact that, despite Rome's best efforts, Jesus is the resurrected Son of God. The angel gives these women four imperatives: "Go quickly and tell His disciples, 'He has risen from the dead, and behold, He goes before you into Galilee; there you will see Him.' Behold, I have told you." The angel commissions the women to tell the disciples, making them the first to proclaim the Good News of the resurrection.

The resurrection stands as the single, most powerful declaration by God that this truly human Jesus "delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God," and was also "the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness." Jesus and His mighty works were vindicated when God raised Him from the dead, exalting Him as "both Lord and Christ." If the resurrection did not happen, then we followers of Jesus, along with Saint Paul, "are of all people most to be pitied." In other words, if Christ had not been raised, we are the most wretched, unhappy, sorry lot the world has ever seen, because we have believed the cruelest deceit. The resurrection is part and parcel of that gospel message of life in Jesus' name. It is non-negotiable. One cannot consider himself or herself in line with "apostolic Christianity" without affirming the bodily resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth. What is most important is its meaning. We must truly understand what significance the resurrection has in God's redemptive plan. Jesus' role as the second Adam is clearly displayed in the resurrection of Jesus. Jesus, the Messiah, sent from God defeated the sin of Adam's disobedience with His own perfect obedience to God's will. Jesus came and perfectly fulfilled the will of God, even unto death. In so doing, He reversed the faithlessness of Adam, starting in His resurrected life a new family of God that would bear His characteristics instead, and turned a fallen, corruptible world on its path toward renewal. What is a praiseworthy point is that being baptized into Christ Jesus, we too share in His victory and exaltation. Not only was sin defeated by the perfect obedience (right through to the resurrection) of Jesus, but death was also destroyed as well. It is as if death had the rug pulled right out from under its feet, subsequently powerless to keep Him in the grave. Along with this came the guarantee that those who die once, if they are in union with Christ, will never die again. Thus, the third day, Easter morning, witnessed the dawn of a new day. The story of Jesus' literally empty grave not only confirms the hope to which we cling, it simultaneously offers even now the future resurrection life to each person found in Christ. Thus, we routinely proclaim the faith each Lord's Day: "Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again."

We invite all the children to bring flowers
from their gardens for the
May crowning of our Blessed Mother Mary
during all the Masses on
Sunday, May 4.



April 2025

For April 2025, I have chosen a couple, Andrea and Romy Bautista, as the parishioners of the month. I can see in

them a sense of belonging to the parish which is very clear from their generous contributions. Whenever we need donations for different functions like the Annual Crab feed, the first names that the organizers will consider are these two names. They are always very generous and never once turned down our requests. Both are deeply



devoted to their parish, and they recognize their responsibility to the well running of the parish. They love their parish not in an abstract way but in a concrete way and that is why they become very generous by making generous donations whenever they are asked.

The reason why I share this story or similar stories is because by reading these stories others may be inspired to follow these examples. I consider this one of the best marketing strategies. You may have the best products but if you do not have good marketing plans you will not sell your products however good they may be. According to me, parishioners should be marketing agents promoting their parish by inviting more and more people to the parish. If you love your parish, you should speak about it among your friends or relatives. As an example, if you have discovered a new restaurant and you like the food, I am sure you will talk about it with your friends and invite some of them to go with you to the same restaurant later. Or if you like a particular product, you will certainly speak about it among others and most likely you will encourage them to like the same product. The best marketing is from word of mouth. Even your parish needs marketing skills. Your parish will depend on how you promote it. Good stories of the parish will invite people to come and join the parish. Have you ever talked to others about your parish and invited them to join you in worshipping God? On a practical point, have you ever brought a new member to the parish? For many Catholics, their parish is a place where they come and go. They don't want to get attached to it for fear of getting more and more involved with the parish activities. They are happy to come and attend Mass, and as soon as the Mass is over, they are gone. What about you? Are you well connected with your parish by being involved in one or two of the parish ministries? How much of your time, treasure, and talent do you contribute to your parish? Do you feel a sense of pride to belong to St. James? At a deeper level, do you feel you are making an adequate contribution to your parish? Or can you improve a little because you now understand your parish is your responsibility?

I have known Andrea and Romy for many years and I have always been impressed with their love and generosity. When it comes to giving to the church, they are very generous, and Andrea once told me that the more she gives the more she receives. I can vouch for it as this is also my experience. The more I give, the more I receive. Unfortunately,

there aren't many Catholics who believe this. They are yet to experience the joy of giving. I am sure the story of this couple will inspire them and change their style of giving. This is something one must experience. And once you experience it, there will be no turning back and you will become a cheerful giver! Only those who are cheerful givers will enter heaven for heaven belongs to happy people who had Jesus as their Treasure. They clearly understood the difference between serving two masters, God and mammon; they chose God. Not an easy choice as you will be under tremendous pressure to choose Mammon instead. Happy are those who have chosen God and persevere in serving Him until the end!

Talking about how long they have been parishioners of St. James, they told me that they have been attending St. James since 2007. One of their friends had invited them to attend the Mass on a Wednesday morning when the Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help is conducted. They had grown up with this devotion back in the Philippines and they were happy to continue with it. Talking about her first experience at St. James, Andrea shared her first experience of smelling roses in the church, and to her surprise there were no roses in the church. A big Marian devotee, she thought this was our Lady's way of inviting her to the church. She talks about how she grew up in love and devotion to Mary, our mother. She admires the prayerful atmosphere of the parish which helped her to grow and develop a deep spirituality. The asset of the parish, according to them, is the friendly and welcoming spirit of parishioners which makes Andrea the visitors feel welcome and acceptable. Andrea and Romy attend almost every daily Mass. They admitted that they have been amazingly blessed ever since they began to attend St. James parish. A sincere joy was visible as they talked about their experiences of the parishioners ever since they became parishioners. Recently Andrea joined one of the choirs and increased her commitment to the church. When asked if they would recommend newcomers, she introduced me to one of her nurse friends with whom she had worked a long time by saying, "We always bring new members to our parish." They had brought this friend to attend a Friday morning Mass. Her friend told me that she was very happy she came and added that she was attending Holy Mass after a long time. Thank you, Romy and Andrea! Please continue to support St. James in whatever way you can because St. James needs dedicated and committed people like you!

✠ Father Antony

Parishioner of the Month





Women of the Cross - April 11, 2025



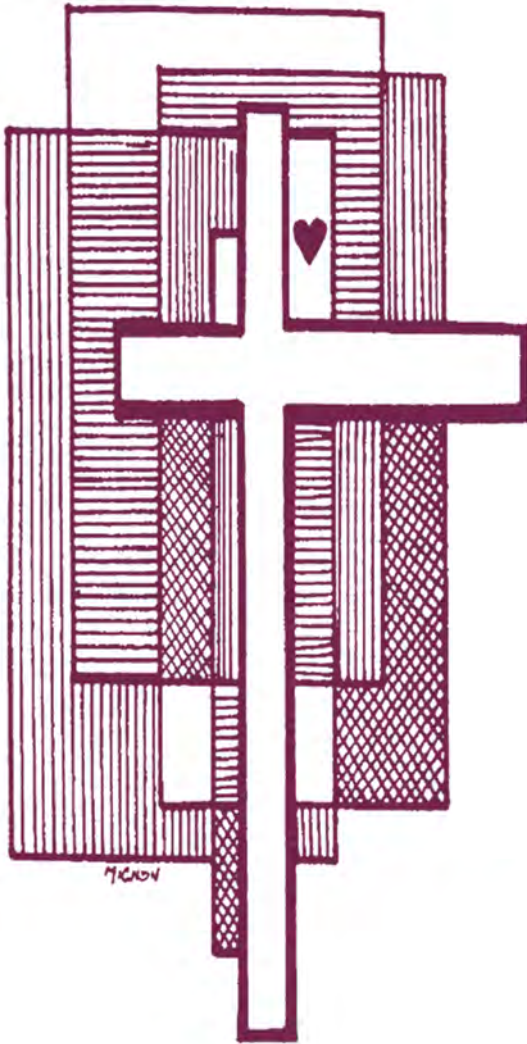
Holy Week Schedule

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday

April 14, 15, 16

Morning Mass - 8:30am

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Easter Tridium

Holy Thursday, April 17

8:30am - 10:00am Retreat/Recollection (No Mass)

7:30pm Mass of the Lord's Supper

Adoration until Midnight

Good Friday, April 18

8:30am - 10:00am Retreat/Recollection (No Mass)



Afternoon Services

12:00 - 1:00pm Personal Way of the Cross

1:00 - 3:00pm Good Friday

Liturgy with Communion

Black Nazorene Procession



3:00pm Divine Mercy Novena Day #1



Evening Services

7:30pm Good Friday Liturgy with Communion

Holy Saturday, April 19

8:30am - 10:00am Retreat/Recollection

(No Mass)

After the 8:30 Prayers

Divine Mercy Novena Day #2

7:30pm Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday, April 20

Masses: 8:30am, 10:00am & 12:00 noon

Divine Mercy Novena Day #3

Easter egg hunt for the children after the
noon Mass.

The Divine Mercy Apostolate of St. James Catholic Church invites you to join us during
Divine Mercy Novena, April 18 - April 27, 2025

April 18 – Good Friday	After the Good Friday Liturgy at 1:00PM, the Divine Mercy Novena begins
April 19– Holy Saturday	After the 8:30AM prayers
April 20 – Easter Sunday	After the 12:00PM Mass
April 21 – Monday	After the 8:30AM Mass
April 22 – Tuesday	After the 8:30AM Mass
April 23– Wednesday	After the 8:30AM Mass
April 24 – Thursday	After the 8:30AM Mass
April 25 – Friday	After the 8:30AM Mass
April 26 – Saturday	After the 8:30AM Mass followed by Exposition of Blessed Sacrament, Benediction and Reconciliation
April 27 – Sunday	Divine Mercy Sunday Feast Day at the 12:00noon Mass. Please Join Us!

Mankind will not have peace until it turns with trust to My Mercy...Faustina



Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska The Humble Instrument

Sister Faustina was a young, uneducated nun in a convent of the Congregation of Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy in Poland during the 1930s. She came from a poor family that struggled during the years of World War I. She had only three years of simple education, so hers were the humblest tasks in the convent, usually in the kitchen or garden. However, she received extraordinary revelations — or messages — from our Lord Jesus. Jesus asked Sr. Faustina to record these experiences, which she compiled into notebooks. These notebooks are known today as the *Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska*, and the words contained within are God's loving message of Divine Mercy.



Though the Divine Mercy message is not new to the teachings of the Church, Sr. Faustina's *Diary* sparked a great movement, and a strong and significant focus on the mercy of Christ. Saint John Paul II canonized Sr. Faustina in 2000 making her the "first saint of the new millennium." Speaking of Sr. Faustina and the importance of the message contained in her *Diary*, the Pope called her "the great apostle of Divine Mercy in our time."

Today, we continue to rely on St. Faustina as a constant reminder of the message to trust in Jesus' endless mercy, and to live life mercifully toward others. We also turn to her in prayer and request her intercession to our merciful Savior on our behalf. At the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy in Stockbridge, Massachusetts, we include the following in our 3 o'clock prayers:

Saint Faustina,

you told us that your mission would continue after your death and that you would not forget us. Our Lord also granted you a great privilege, telling you to "distribute graces as you will, to whom you will, and when you will." Relying on this, we ask your intercession for the graces we need, especially for the intentions just mentioned. Help us, above all, to trust in Jesus as you did and thus to glorify His mercy every moment of our lives. **Amen**



Holy Spirit Church and School

1st

CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT

Proceeds go to St. Vincent de Paul

SATURDAY, MAY 3RD AT 11 AM

HOLY SPIRIT SCHOOL, PARISH CENTER
37588 FREMONT BLVD, FREMONT

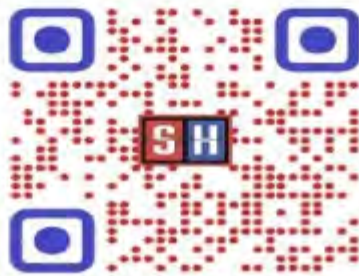
FEES:

Adults \$60/team
Kids (14 & under)
\$40/team

PRIZES FOR ADULTS:

1st : \$300
2nd : \$150
3rd : \$75

Food and Drinks available for purchase
For questions contact TFEZLER@AMPF.COM



Scan QR Code to register!



**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.