



**St : Josephs Parish**  
582 Hopes St Mountain View CA 94041

**Tamil Mass will be celebrated every  
second Saturday at 6.45 PM**

[www.tamilcatholic.org](http://www.tamilcatholic.org)



## Saint of the Month

James son of Zebedee and Salome, was a native of Bethsaida which was on the northern coast of Sea of Galilee. His brother John was also another apostle. Zebedee was a rich fisherman. According to Mark 1:20 which reads "he had hired men" for fishing. John's gospel mentions Salome as "his mother's sister" who was one of the women under Jesus' cross. We should not confuse St. James the great with other James' we come across in the bible. There was the apostle, James the lesser, who was the son of Alphaeus. Yet we see another James who wrote the "Epistle of James". He was considered to be the first Bishop of Jerusalem and was martyred in 62 AD.

Jesus invited James and John to join as the third and fourth apostles. They left the boat at once and joined Jesus. Although St. Andrew, a disciple of John the Baptist, first recognized Jesus as the messiah, he does not get prominence. It is said that James was preferred over others due to his closeness with Jesus as a relative. In almost all listings of apostle, James comes within the first three.

In Luke's gospel we hear James and John asking Jesus to bring fire from heaven to destroy the Samaritan town. Due to this, Jesus called John and James as "sons of thunder". Their mother Salome asked Jesus to reserve a place for each in His kingdom, one on His right and the other on His left. They were also very strong in their faith. They declared that they were willing to drink the same cup Jesus was going to drink. James was one of the only three privileged apostles who were with Jesus during His transfiguration, when curing Peter's mother-in-law, when Jesus raised the daughter of Jairus and later at the Garden when Jesus suffered.

James was honored to be the first apostle to be martyred in AD 44. It is believed that James' accuser himself got converted to Christianity while leading James to the killing field. Both of them were

beheaded by King Herod Agrippa. Legend holds that St. James's remains were carried by boat from Jerusalem to northern Spain where he was buried on the site of what is now the city of Santiago de Compostela. James is the Patron Saint of Spain and St. James is supposed to have helped the Spanish army in the battle of Clavijo. The traditional pilgrimage to the grave of the saint, known as the "Way of St. James", has been the most popular pilgrimage for Western European Catholics from the early Middle Ages onwards. 262,458 pilgrims registered in 2015 as having completed the final 100 km walk to Santiago to qualify for a Compostela. The grand pilgrimage ends in the Basilica on July 25th, his feast day. When the Feast falls on a Sunday it is considered a Jubilee Year. In the last Jubilee year in 2010, over 272,700 completed the pilgrimage which is a record. The next Jubilee year will be in 2021. There was a movie called "The Way" based on this pilgrimage starring famous actor Martin Sheen.

As an ancient pilgrim center, Srivaikundam, Tamil Nadu has been attracting pilgrims for the past 400 years. After St. Francis Xavier, Jesuits who had been serving the coastal parishes with Punnaikayal as the center, came into the interior places for evangelization. In the 1600s they built churches at Thirukaloor dedicated to St. Matthew and Srivaikundam dedicated to St. James. This church was fashioned in the form of cross with 3 passages. Hence it is known as "Cross Church".

Let us all pray to St. James on his feast day July 25th to give us courage to follow Jesus during difficult times.

— Joe B Natar

### Upcoming Events

#### August 13th 2nd Saturday Tamil Mass

**Time : 6:45 pm**  
**Location : St. Joseph 's Church**  
**Mountain View , CA 94041.**

## Most Precious Blood of Jesus

Month of July is dedicated to the Precious Blood of Jesus. The Precious Blood has been given to us as the Treasure of the Church which we may offer again and again for ourselves and for others. What can we call more our own in Christ's Sacred Body than His Blood, which He let fall to this earth from the Cross as the priceless endowment of our souls? In a world where we are running behind Silver and Gold the bible says we were redeemed by the Precious Blood of Christ **"For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect"** (1 Peter 1:18-19).

Jesus shed His blood to cleanse the humanity not only for Christians but for the whole world as we read from the bible **"But He was wounded for our transgressions; He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was on Him; and with His stripes we ourselves are healed"** (Isaiah 53:5). As the beneficiaries of Jesus' blood it is good to know how and when His blood was shed.

First Jesus shed blood in the garden of Gethsemane. **"And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground"** (Luke 22:44). Jesus again prayed: **"Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done"** (Luke 22:42). In a selfish world where we only care about "My" will and "My"self, Jesus did the will of the Father even in His suffering not like us to do the will of the Father only when situations are favorable or only when we have the support of large crowd.

Next Jesus shed blood when he was flogged. **"Then he released Barabbas to them. But he had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified"** (Matthew 27:26). We don't know how many times Jesus was flogged. Very often we cannot keep quiet if someone is falsely accusing us or cheating us but Jesus knew all the accusations against Him were false still He kept quiet and bore all the suffering without blaming anyone, murmuring, complaining, shouting or sending emails to everyone to justify Him. Many times Jesus shut the mouths of Pharisees, Sadducees and teachers of the law but now He keeps quiet because if He shouts His purpose for this world (death and resurrection) will not be completed. Jesus set an example for us. If we think once or twice for what purpose we argue or fight, we will not continue with the argument or fight.

Next Jesus shed His blood when they put the crown of thorns on His head and struck Him on the head again and

again. **"And then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand. Then they knelt in front of him and mocked him. "Hail, king of the Jews!" they said. They spit on him, and took the staff and struck him on the head again and again"** (Matthew 27:29-30). Jesus, you shed your blood by the repeated beating on your head, let your blood wash all the evil thoughts such as revenge, pride, lust, worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things in this world, etc. repeatedly attacking our peace of mind and spoiling our thoughts and happiness.

Next Jesus shed blood when they pierced His hands and feet. **"When they had crucified him, they divided up his clothes by casting lots"** (Matthew 27:35). Jesus the blood came out of your hands and feet wash our hands and feet so that we will always walk with you in all our sufferings and happiness. Your blood from your hands may help us to give you from our hands when you are hungry, when you needed cloths or when you are thirsty. Your blood from your feet may help us to use our feet to meet you when you are in prison or when you are sick.

Next Jesus shed blood when they pierced His side. **"One of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water"** (John 19:34). Jesus, the blood came out of your side may wash our hearts so that the things coming out of heart such as murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander will not defile us. May your blood help us to guard our hearts so that whatever coming out of heart will be pleasing to you? Moreover set our hearts to go after the treasures in heaven which will not be destroyed by moth and rust and the thieves will not break in and steal.

Jesus Christ, your precious blood was shed in many ways for our redemption. Let us not forget that while we live in this world. May your blood guide us to grow in holiness in the eyes of God and men as you grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man as we read in Luke 2:52?

— Leenus Rich



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