

alleluia!



Christ has Risen!

OLD SAINT MARY'S CATHEDRAL & CHINESE MISSION
THE OLD CATHEDRAL OF SAINT MARY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION (1854)

660 California Street • San Francisco, California 94108-2566

Tel: (415)-288-3800 | Fax: (415)-288-3838 |

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

In the Gospel of John, Mary of Magdala is the first to the graveside on Easter morning. Finding the tomb empty she runs back to tell the disciples that someone has taken Jesus from the tomb, and that *"We don't know where they have put him."*

Easter is for us Christians a sign of new life. As I write this letter, I am acutely aware that this is the last letter that I will write you as pastor of Old Saint Mary's Cathedral and Chinese Mission. In October 2023, I was elected Vice President of the Paulist Fathers, and since that time I have been trying to serve in the capacity of pastor and superior here at Old St. Mary's and at the same time serving the broader Paulist Fathers community as our Vice President. In early July 2024, I will move to New York City to our motherhouse and serve primarily in the role of Vice President. The new life is that the Paulist Fathers committed during the week of March 10th to continue our long ministry here (130 years) at Old St. Mary's and a new pastor will assume this role and continue our dedication to all those we serve.

In a city as large as San Francisco, in a culture where faith and religious practice are seen as two options among many, it can be hard to know where Jesus is. Studies show that the average citizen of the U.S., and likely the world, is lonelier than ever before. Not simply because of the pandemic that we have lived through, but because of our shifting culture. People have fewer friends. They spend inordinate amounts of time commuting in the car or scrolling through online feeds. They have more transient commitments to their jobs, locals, friendships, and spirituality.

Old St. Mary's Cathedral and Chinese Mission has a history of 170 years as being a place of permanence in an unpredictable world. Our beloved church building and this marvelous community sit calmly in the eye of the cultural storm, ready to serve the people of Chinatown, the Financial District, visitors from out of town - anyone who wishes to enter and find some peace. It is a home and a landing place for people blessed with strong faith and people bedeviled by doubts and questions.

I am certain that with your continued generous support we will keep the doors of Old St. Mary's open, as they have these last 170 years. And, when people weary of what life has brought their way begin to look for Jesus, they will know where they can find Him.

Easter is a symbol of hope, renewal and new life. On behalf of the Paulist Fathers and the staff, I want to wish you and yours a very blessed and hope-filled Easter. I am deeply grateful for the part you play in this community. I look forward to seeing you again soon.

Happy Easter,

Fr. John B. Ardis, C.S.P.
Pastor



WELCOME TO OLD SAINT MARY'S CATHEDRAL



SHOULD WE BE OVERWHELMED WITH EASTER JOY? A REFLECTION BY PAULIST FR. JOE SCOTT

I confess that I'm always a little baffled by this expectation our liturgy conveys that we are "overwhelmed" with Easter joy. Maybe I feel some relief that I've gotten through the complicated, once-a-year Triduum rituals. But that's it.

I've come to understand that part of my Easter experience is that of a white man of the middle class who has never experienced a day of true hunger or oppression. My life has been comfortable, and my comfort may get in the way of my feeling overwhelmed by just about anything. I grew up learning it's cool to be cool.

Some years ago, I attended a funeral of a good friend. Marshall had died young, and without warning. His farewell took place in a Black Baptist Church in a poor neighborhood in Chicago. The Church was packed to the rafters with mourners, not a frequent experience in CATHOLIC Churches. The Gospel music was truly overwhelming, and quite unexpectedly, I found myself joining the congregation as we danced our hearts out.

This did not seem at all inappropriate, even to me, who had never ever thought of dancing in Church. We were all feeling the Good Friday of grieving our dear friend, the loss of whose life was irreplaceable. But the dance of Easter resurrection was in our feet, surging toward our hearts.

It seems that every Spring these days, I listen to the news about a Coptic Church in Egypt being bombed on Easter. Coptics are descendants of the very oldest of Christian communities. Now, they are a very small and very persecuted community in Egypt. The bombings don't happen every year, but often enough to give a Coptic worshipper pause.

I wonder what a Coptic man or woman or father or mother or child contemplates while preparing to attend the Easter Liturgy, factoring in that on this day they or one of their loved ones might be killed? Not certain, but certainly possible. Would I hesitate, or think, "maybe next year"? How would I talk about this with my family before church? Would I pray more?

All I know is that Coptic Christians keep showing up, in the churches where they've honored Easter with their family and friends, all their lives. Even knowing that this joyful prayer might be their last.

To be honest, I would remove that line in our Easter season about being "overwhelmed" by Easter joy. In its place, I would substitute these words of Jesus, "by patient endurance, we will save our

MASS INTENTIONS For The WEEK
MARCH 30 - April 6, 2024

SATURDAY, MARCH 30

5:00PM +Kyle Nathan Arnold
+Francisco M. Aquino

SUNDAY, MARCH 31

9:00AM **THANKSGIVING** - Bautista Family
THANKSGIVING - Rachel Telles

11:00AM **FOR THE PEOPLE**

TUESDAY, APRIL 2

12:05PM +Mr. and Mrs. Joe Law
THANKSGIVING - Mrs. Chang

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3

12:05PM **THANKSGIVING** - Juliana Low
THANKSGIVING - Jamie Ong

THURSDAY, APRIL 4

12:05PM +Ruth Ann Curata
HEALING - Victor Tang

FRIDAY, APRIL 5

12:05PM **HEALING** - Victor Tang
HEALING - Yoshihisa Tajihara

SATURDAY, APRIL 6

5:00PM For All Souls Prayer
Poor Souls in Purgatory

Prayers for our Sick Parishioners, Loved Ones & Friends :

Fr. Thomas Foley, CSP, Fr. Daniel McCotter, CSP,
Ida & Carolyn Hom, Johnson & Nina Leu, Stella Bielat,
Mary Nham, Arnold Low, Oscar Mendoza, Maria Tan,
Frankie Chios, Erlinda Cheng, Trish Bui

EASTER NOVENA CARDS

CARDS are available in the back of the church and in the church office for a Novena of Masses to be offered after Easter for the Living and Deceased. Please fill out the enclosed paper with the name of those to be remembered.

Worldly Failure and Then . . .
An Easter Reflection with Fr. Terry Ryan, CSP

Saturday, April 6, 2024,
8:00am—10:00am (PT) / 9:00-11AM (MT)
Zoom Meeting ID: 849 2729 9159,
Passcode: 047528

Sacred Heart of Jesus Jubilee Hall, in person
14th St and Mapleton Avenue
Boulder CO 80304

It seems that Jesus was the only one who went into the desert to discern the Father's will and follow it. He overcame any need for esteem, power or control that might have made for an easier and softer life. Most everyone else was into their own will, even as they seemed to respond to Jesus' invitation, "Follow me." So, where are you in Jesus' invitation to follow him?

There will be homemade baked treats to celebrate Resurrection. For more information, contact 303-442-6158.

PIA LIM, our receptionist since 2007

has officially retired! Her last day in the office was Tuesday, March 19th. She was gracious to extend our time with us to train her replacement. Thank you very much, Pia, for more than 16 years of service to the community of OSM Cathedral and Chinese Mission. Have a great life ahead! We hope you get to experience all the adventures you wanted to after retirement and hope you enjoy every bit of your life.

Pia will be at the auditorium on April 7 during hospitality after the 9 am Mass to say goodbye. All are invited!

Earl Fong is our new receptionist. He works Monday to Friday, 10am to 3pm. The email address to the front office is now receptionistatosm@gmail.com.

SATURDAY for ENGAGED COUPLES (SFEC)

Thinking of getting married in 2024? Take your Pre-Cana class with us. One Saturday from 8:30AM - 4:30PM.

DATES: APRIL 13 | JUNE 15 | AUG. 10
OCTOBER 19 | DECEMBER 14

Website: www.oldsaintmarys.org