

OLD SAINT MARY'S CATHEDRAL & CHINESE MISSION

THE OLD CATHEDRAL OF SAINT MARY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION (1854)

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PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

Old Saint Mary's Cathedral & Chinese Mission is a culturally diverse Catholic community which seeks to evangelize in the light of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.



A MINISTRY OF THE PAULIST FATHERS



OLD SAINT MARY'S, built in 1854 as California's first Cathedral, was the first Cathedral to be named in honor of the dogma of the Immaculate Conception. The Paulist Fathers were given Pastoral responsibilities of Old St. Mary's in 1894 and have faithfully ministered to the people of Chinatown, Nob Hill and the Financial District ever since. A Survivor of the 1906 earthquake and fire, this major historical landmark has been retrofitted to



meet new seismic codes; however, we must now comply with the American Disability Act and refurbish the interior of this beautiful old cathedral. Your prayer and financial support today will help save this beautiful landmark, preserve its rich history, and continue the welcoming presence of Old Saint Mary's Cathedral and Chinese Mission.

LITURGY SCHEDULE

Tuesday - Friday : 12:05PM

Saturday : 5:00PM Vigil Mass

Sacrament of Reconciliation -
(by appointment only)

Sunday : 9:00AM

11:00AM - Bilingual Mass*

(*Cantonese & English)

Livestreamed on YouTube*

PASTORAL TEAM

Pastor: Fr. John Ardis, CSP
Deacon Simon Tsui

Parochial Vicars In Residence:

Fr. Joe Scott, CSP
Fr. Tom Tavella, CSP

Parish Receptionist:

Pia Lim

OFFICE HOURS

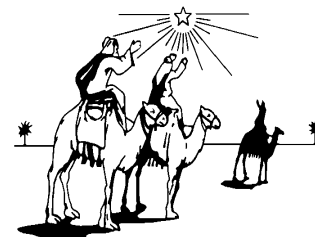
Monday - Friday 9:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.

For more information on the sacraments call the parish office at 415-288-3800.



All Are Welcome

Notes from the Paulist



WHY DO WE HAVE SO MUCH FUN WITH THE MAGI?

Whenever I read Matthew's account of the Magi, I'm surprised by how sparse it is. Matthew tells us that they have come from the East, and brought gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. They learn from a dream to avoid Herod and travel home by another route. That's it.

But boy, have we filled in the picture! Over the past 2,000 years, we've imagined that the Magi were three in number, that they were kings, that they rode on camels, that their skin color was white, black and yellow. They came from Persia, or perhaps Arabia, or maybe Africa. They are buried in magnificent tombs in the cathedral at Cologne, if they are not buried in Persia. Their names were Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar, if they were not Arshik, Estanzuzon and Marduk.

Within our own lifetimes, the story takes on new chapters. Poets of the stature of William B. Yeats and T. S. Eliot have taken their own journeys with the Magi, adding new details. There is a novel about a fourth wise man and a musical occasionally performed at Christmas about the Magi's encounter with a disabled man named Amahl. And what about the three wise WOMEN? They ride as well, although their gifts are perhaps more practical, more what would delight a real, true baby.

Why are we so fascinated? Overall, Luke was a better storyteller than Matthew. But the church has never been quite so interested in his shepherds tending their flocks by night. Why do we care so much about these travelers from the East? I have three opinions, solely my own.

First, the Magi represent luxury to us, and we love luxury. One of the reasons that so many medieval and renaissance artists chose to paint the visitation of these traveling star-men is because they enjoyed creating the rich colors and sumptuous textures of their magisterial robes.

In recent years we Catholics have been less forthcoming in acknowledging our love of luxury. We want to become more like Luke, and like Pope Francis, in seeking to befriend the poorest of the poor. And this is as it should be.

All the same, Catholics are not Puritans. Catholics created the Byzantine domes in Italy and the stained glass windows of the Gothic cathedrals. Catholics inspired the poetry of Gerard Manley Hopkins, the music of Mozart, the Sistine Chapel of Michelangelo. It's a fact that poor people appreciate luxury as much as rich people do and should be able to enjoy the beauty of our cathedrals and churches free of charge and free of hassle.

Luxury, when graciously shared, can remind us of the luxurious quality of the Creator's love: "give, and the gifts will be given to you, a good measure, packed together, shaken down and overflowing, will be poured into your lap." (Lk. 6:38).

The Magi also represent mystery. We love mystery as well—why else would we watch detective stories on television? Magi is the word from which magician comes. We are fascinated by magic only so long as we don't understand the trick. As soon as we figure it out, or the magician explains it to us, we lose interest. No matter how many details we can invent about their lives, the Magi have managed to remain shadowy silhouettes against a desert sky. We don't know what they meant to Jesus or what Jesus meant to them. But perhaps most of us know what it's like to be entranced enough to follow a star, without truly understanding where we are going and what the choosing will give or cost us.

A final reason we pay attention to the Magi is, well, they bring gifts. We've never lost interest in that other seasonal gift-giver in the red suit. December 6 begins the season of gift-givers that January 6 ends. Yes, we DO love luxury, but possessing luxury becomes a problem. We want to enjoy our special treats, but we end up afraid that someone will beg, borrow or steal them from us. We can begin to hate those outside our locked doors, for making us feel afraid.

The Magi know what to do with their luxury—they give it away. Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh are precious gifts. Lavish gifts. They're also impractical. It's not clear what a baby would make of these gifts, even if the baby is the Son of God. Sometimes both the gift and the gift-giver can seem foolish—like the precious oil and the sinful women who wasted such unvalued love over the feet of Jesus.

This new year, try making some of your gifts foolish ones. God seems to like foolish gifts and foolish givers. Jesus certainly does. This new year, be a little lavish with your love!



Fr. Joe Scott, OSP

Respect Life Essay Contest

The 33rd Annual Respect Life Essay Contest is open to all students in grades K-12 in public school, private school, and home school in the Archdiocese of San Francisco. The theme this year is Our Lady of Guadalupe: Patroness of the Americas and of the Unborn. Essays will be due on January 31, 2022. To participate, parents, educators and children can go to sfarch.org/essay-contest or contact prolife@sfarch.org.

18th WALK for LIFE WEST COAST January 22, 2022

Join fellow Catholics and Pro-lifers from all over California and beyond as we stand up for the littlest among us at the 18th Annual Walk for Life West Coast in San Francisco on Saturday, January 22, 2022. Archbishop Cordileone will begin the day with a Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Mary of the Assumption at 9:30AM. The program starts at San Francisco's Civic Center Plaza at 12:30PM and the two-mile Walk down Market Street to Justin Herman Plaza. For complete information about the Walk, visit the website at www.WalkforLifeWC.com or call 415-658-1793.

WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS (January 01 - 8, 2022)

SATURDAY, JANUARY 01

12:05PM Prayer for World Peace
5:00PM THANKSGIVING - Stephen Bucholtz

SUNDAY, JANUARY 02

9:00AM REPOSE of the SOUL - †May Chung
GIFT OF LIFE - Jane Go
11:00AM FOR THE PEOPLE
THANKSGIVING - Mabel Chan

TUESDAY, JANUARY 04

12:05PM †Franklin Chinn
GIFT OF LIFE - Phyllis Smith & Family

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 05

12:05PM †Felicidad B. Ong
†Daisy Cadiz

THURSDAY, JANUARY 06

12:05PM PRAYER - Poor Souls in Purgatory
†Gregorio Limjoco, III

FRIDAY, JANUARY 07

12:05PM †PRAYER for All Souls
THANKSGIVING - Juliana Low

SATURDAY, JANUARY 08

5:00PM †Lourdes Pandi
BIRTHDAY - Larry Ma

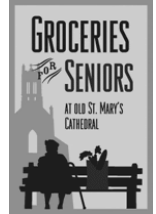
Prayers for our Sick Parishioners, Loved Ones, and Friends -

Xandy Alicante, Mary Nham, Frankie Chios, Catalina & Regina Bautista, John Garcia, Sorcy Apostol, Tina & Bob Panelli

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD JANUARY 02, 2022

GROCERIES FOR SENIORS LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS.

Did you make a resolution to volunteer more in 2022? Let Groceries for Seniors help you keep that goal. Groceries for Seniors is looking for volunteers to help us pack the grocery bags we deliver to over 1,100 low-income seniors each week. Monday through Thursday, 8:30 – 11:00AM. Groceries for Seniors team meets in Old Saint Mary's basement to create over 200 bags of nutritious food. If you have a free morning Monday-Thursday, we hope you'll consider joining us. **For more information, please email Tim Thompson at ttgroc4sen@gmail.com**



We Welcome . . .

*People of All Faiths & All Races
People of Diverse Cultures
Divorced or Separated Persons
Families with Children
Gays, Lesbians, & Transgenders
Homeless Persons
Loving Relationships
Married Couples
Single Persons
Those in Recovery
Travelers: Far and Near
Widows & Widowers
Visitors*

We Seek...

*To Live the Gospel of Jesus Christ
To Gather the Community and tell the Story
To Break the Bread and Share the Cup*

We Celebrate...

*Diversity
A Spirit of Hospitality
The Unity that God Wills
Enlightening Those who Seek God
Forming Small Faith Communities
Reaching Out to Alienated Catholics
Reverencing the Dignity of Each Person
Caring for the Needs of the Less Fortunate
Empowering Christians to Realize their Call
Providing an Oasis in the Financial District
Honoring Understanding among All Faiths
Nurturing our Gifts and Sharing Them
Supporting the Arts through Concerts
Pursuing New Ways to Serve
Being a Good Neighbor*

We Treasure our Past

We Hope in the Future

