

OLD SAINT MARY'S CATHEDRAL & CHINESE MISSION

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

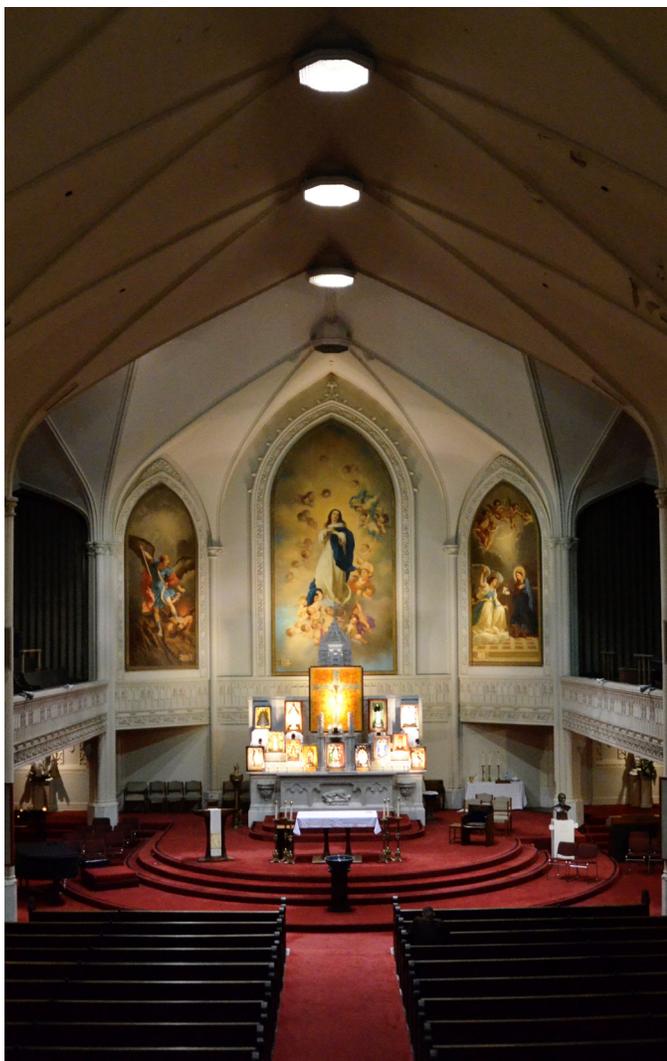
660 California Street • San Francisco, California 94108-2566

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

Website: www.oldsaintmarys.org | Email: piaosm660@gmail.com

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



CHRISTMAS IS FOR EVERYONE!

The English writer Thomas Hardy wrote a Christmas poem called "Oxen." In the poem he recalls being a child by the fireside at the stroke of twelve on Christmas Eve. A family elder repeats the ancient legend that all the oxen in the field fall to their knees at that holy hour as they did in Bethlehem so long ago. Hardy muses....

Nor did it occur to any of us there
to doubt they were kneeling then.
So fair a fancy few would weave
In these years! Yet, I feel
If someone said on Christmas Eve
"Come, see the oxen kneel...
(In the place) our childhood used to
know"
I should go with him in the gloom,
Hoping it might be so.



Like Hardy, we find it hard to summon to our hearts the childhood magic of Christmas. And like Hardy, each Christmas, we can't help hoping it might be so.

The fanciful story of the oxen kneeling at the birth of Jesus tells a truth. ALL creation has good reason to be thankful that Jesus has entered our world. Not just the shepherds and the magi but the sheep and camels as well. And what about Isaiah's vision that the lion and the lamb will one day sleep side by side with peaceful trust? And what about: "let heaven AND NATURE sing?"

My first assignment as a priest was to a parish which featured a large mural behind the altar. It revealed a Jesus figure embracing all of creation with his extended arms, the largest galaxies along with the smallest microbes. It was NOT traditional church art and for many years I tried to live with it without understanding it. I've come to believe it is the most profound religious art I ever encountered.

This mural is based on a vision about Jesus St. Paul reveals in his letter to the Colossians:

"He is the image of the invisible God,
The firstborn of all creation...
For in him the fullness was pleased to dwell..
And through him to reconcile ALL things for him
making peace by the blood of his cross."

One English Christmas carol puts it well: "He saved us ALL from Satan's power." According to St. Paul, this ALL includes animals and vegetables and minerals as well as people. We have genuine reason to hope that we will get to see our beloved cats and dogs in heaven!

I no longer believe in that angry God who condemns people to everlasting hell. First of all, because a God who dares to become a helpless baby in a manger would never be in a punishing mood. Perhaps even more, because it simply cannot be in the Creator's nature to exclude anything created. I believe that nothing can exclude us from God's favor, not our race nor our gender nor our color nor our sexual orientation nor our religion. Jesus daring to become a baby with arms open to the world means that there are no fences on God's side of heaven.

If we are as grateful as the oxen, we will work to break down the fearful barriers that keep us from loving the weary travelers of today's many Bethlehems. If we are as grateful as the oxen, we will nurture the stars and the fields and the sheep with the care God has asked of us. If we are as grateful as the oxen, we will forgive as generously as we have been forgiven.

Just as a bit of fun for Christmas, try sneaking out of bed at midnight and observing the behavior of your pet dog or cat. Who knows, you might be amazed!



Fr. Joe Scott, CSP

The Parish Office will be closed December 24th and December 31st. There will be Masses on the 24th at 5:00PM, December 31st at 12:05PM.

Happy Holidays

**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.**

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.

**WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS
(December 25 - January 01, 2022)**

SATURDAY, December 25

9:00AM Celebration of Life - †Cresencia Jimeno
11:00AM †Peter Chan

SUNDAY, December 26

9:00AM †Uncle & Aunt of Francis Wong
†Cesar Limjoco
11:00AM FOR THE PEOPLE
GIFT of LIFE - Yat Ping Wong & Family

TUESDAY, December 28

12:05PM REPOSED of the SOUL - †May Chung

WEDNESDAY, December 29

12:05PM †GIFT of LIFE—Fr. Daniel McCotter,CSP

THURSDAY, December 30

12:05PM †Francisco Aquino

FRIDAY, December 31

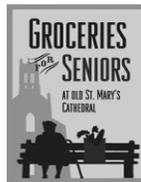
5:00PM †BIRTHDAY - Ariel Silva

SATURDAY, January 01, 2022 (NEW YEAR'S DAY)

12:05PM PRAYER for WORLD PEACE

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 HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY and JOSEPH
DECEMBER 26, 2021**



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

