



Christmas 2022

Dear Friends,

At Christmas, the birth of Jesus calls us to a sense of re-birth for ourselves, as we take the opportunity to reflect on Jesus' life in new and fresh ways. My first four and a half years here have been exciting and challenging times. I was delighted to be renewed as Pastor and Superior for four more years this past July 1st by Fr. Rene Constanza, CSP, our new Paulist President.

The Good News as recorded in the Book of Matthew will be our primary source for the liturgical year ahead. Matthew was the great teacher, and he is the most Jewish of all the Gospel writers in terms of following the Law, but with an openness to the Gentile community (listen to the Magi story of those who come from various lands on the Epiphany) and are welcomed into the Kingdom. Be attentive and listen to how Joseph is included in the Christmas Gospel.

If you have not had the opportunity to be with us recently due to the lingering of the Covid Pandemic, I hope that you can make it out to one of our Christmas liturgies to celebrate together or can join us on You Tube. My hope is that Christmas is a foretaste of the growth that will happen in our ministry with one another and to the community at large in the New Year ahead.

In this season, I am aware that all we have done and will do here is only accomplished through your presence and support. Please know how much I appreciate you and your generosity. We simply cannot move forward without your support with the many challenges that face us as California's 1st Cathedral. Our Paulist history here of 128 years is one of serving various needs in San Francisco. Hopefully the year ahead will give us opportunities to work together to restore our Church to some of its original beauty.

May this Christmas, as we recall an infant in a far away manger, bring you great joy. May the New Year bring abundant opportunities for all of us to connect with each other, deepening our sense of community as we work to make the Good News an ever-deeper reality in our everyday lives.

Christmas Blessings,

Handwritten signature of Fr. John B. Ardis in blue ink.

*Fr. John B. Ardis, CSP, Pastor
Old St. Mary's Cathedral and Chinese Mission*



ALL ARE WELCOME



THE MYSTERY IN THE MANGER

In our time and place, the anti-hero of Christmas may well be King Herod the Great. He was nothing if not successful. He gained fame as a builder, overseeing the construction of a temple that was one of the wonders of his world. He was feared for his violent anger. He murdered his own sons, expecting that they would grow up to overthrow him. He massacred countless innocent children in hopes of eliminating the newborn King of the Jews. His magnificent palace was not a place of comfort and joy. In the Christmas gospels, Herod represents the love of power which brings death. Joseph, Mary, Elizabeth and Jesus represent the power of love which brings life.



Joseph is a quiet man who could be the best listener of all time. He utters not a word that saw print. He is attentive to the angel and attentive to Mary, providing the care, respect and support she needs to do God's will. Joseph is not without courage. When Mary and her baby are threatened by none other than Herod himself, he risks the indignities of an immigrant in a strange land to provide them with safety and life itself.

Mary and her cousin Elizabeth make Christmas happen. Have you ever noticed that for years untold, women have been the primary creators of Christmas? So often it is women who write and send the cards, cook the turkey, take the kids to see Santa Claus, decorate their church with garlands, often with time squeezed out from their other work.

In Luke's account, Mary and Elizabeth are not about themselves. They're about nurturing each other and the child each will birth. In doing so, they give voice to the tidings of great joy. Together, in blessing each other, they speak a joy that will answer the long yearning of Israel for a God who will lift up the lowly and cast the mighty from their thrones. Words that King Herod would not like to hear!

How would we be able to understand the true meaning of Christmas without the words of Mary and Elizabeth? In nearly fifty years as a priest, I've been taught by so many Marys and Elizabeths who have spoken the gospel to me in their words and actions. I have come to truly believe that the gospel will not be preached clearly until men and women share as equal and full partners in its proclamation.

The fourth bearer of Christmas is Jesus, not the articulate, empowered man who preaches and heals and travels and leads, but an infant not yet capable of speech and bound up in swaddling clothes as confining as nails on a cross. This newborn does nothing but what WE'RE asked to do: trust in the love we name God, given in the presence of two parents who are poor, but rich in care.

Strangely enough, we worship a God who greets us not as a mighty king or a movie star or a corporate executive or a guru from a mountain top, but as a baby, naked and voiceless and vulnerable, who gets right down there with the sheep and the oxen.

Whenever we meet a person who needs our love, or a person who needs our care, we meet the Divine. Do we believe this? Whatever the external circumstances of our world, Christ will happen when WE make him happen, as Joseph and Mary and Elizabeth made him happen way back in year zero. We have the power to do so, and the power is love!

When we come to this, we have uncovered the mystery revealed in the manger!



Paulist Fr. Joe Scott



THE NATIVITY of
the LORD
(CHRISTMAS)

December 25, 2022

SUNDAY HAPPY HOUR with FR. TOM TAVELLA will
resume January 01, 2023!

ARCHDIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL

I wish to express my most sincere and humble THANKS
to all of you for the Archdiocesan Annual Appeal for
2022. Your sacrifices and dedication to our parish and
mission is a true testament to the power of God's love
and generosity. **Again, I say THANKS!**

SATURDAY FOR ENGAGED COUPLES.

Thinking of getting married in 2023?
Take your pre-cana class with us.
February 11 | April 15 | June 10
August 12 | October 14 | December 09
One Saturday from 9:00am to 4:30pm.
Website : www.oldsaintmarys.org;



Rejoice Joy Peace

Old Saint Mary's Cathedral & Chinese Mission

MASS SCHEDULE

New Year's Eve
Feast of Mary, Mother of God
Saturday, December 31st
Mass : 5:00 PM

Feast of Mary, Mother of God
Sunday, January 1, 2023
Mass: 9:00 AM
11:00 AM (Cantonese & English)

- NO Bible Study on Thursday, December 29th. We will resume on January 05th, 2023.
- Church OFFICES will be closed MONDAY, December 26th, and MONDAY, January 02, 2023.

*Have a Blessed Christmas and a
Peaceful New Year!*

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK
(DECEMBER 24—31, 2022)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24

5:00PM SPECIAL INTENTION - Imelda de Dios
+Janus Thomas Ebarvia

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25

9:00AM BIRTHDAY - James Go
Prayer for World Peace

11:00AM FOR the PEOPLE

BIRTHDAY - +Cresencia Jimeno

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27

12:05PM +Lamberto Bautista, Jr.
SPECIAL INTENTION - Imelda de Dios

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28

12:05PM SPECIAL INTENTION - Imelda de Dios
+Janus Thomas Ebarvia

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29

12:05PM SPECIAL INTENTION - Imelda de Dios
FOR HEALING - Christian Bocobo

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30

12:05PM SPECIAL INTENTION - John Michael Bautista
SPECIAL INTENTION - Imelda de Dios

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31

5:00PM BIRTHDAY - Asher Silva
SPECIAL INTENTION - Imelda de Dios

Prayers for our Sick Parishioners, Loved Ones, & Friends :
Fr. Thomas Foley, CSP, Fr. Daniel McCotter, CSP, Mary Nham,
Catalina & Regina Bautista, John Garcia, Ida & Carolyn Hom, Daniel
Kreps, Johnson & Nina Leu, Teresa Daniels, Stella Bielat, Oscar
Mendoza, Christian Bocobo, Rose Haw