

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 ARE WE SO EMBARRASSED BY ST. VALENTINE?

When I was a child, the feast of St. Valentine was one of my favorites. No surprise—I loved candy! What other feast day provided an unending supply of chocolates and heart shaped sugary messages? It was also true that St. Valentine was one of the few saints we heard about and honored not only in my Catholic parish but also at my public elementary school. What was there not to like?

I was 13 years old in 1959 when St. John XXIII announced that St. Valentine had been dropped from the church's calendar. Pope John did many wonderful things but this was not one of them. The reason he offered for Valentine's demotion was that there was not enough evidence to prove the existence of the saintly Valentine in history. Pope John, a truly good and wise man, should have realized that the STORY is what truly counts when it comes to saints. And St. Valentine has a great story. It tells of a priest who joined couples in Christian marriage even when such ceremonies were forbidden in pagan Rome. After one such wedding Valentine was imprisoned and beheaded by the Emperor Claudius II. It's a happy coincidence that the color red evokes the romance of roses as well as the blood of martyrs.

Those of you who have been to Mass on February 14 have discovered that the saints of the day are now Cyril and Methodius. These two were admirable missionaries to the Slavic peoples but neither inspires thoughts of love and romance. We Catholics find ourselves in the awkward position of liturgically ignoring one of the few saints the entire secular world celebrates with enthusiasm!

I suspect that a lot of our de-haloing of St. Valentine has not much to do with his historical reality and a lot to do with our historic Roman Catholic discomfort with love, romance, and especially sexuality (yes, even with married sexuality). In our Eucharistic Prayers we have Prefaces for saints who are virgins. Why is it not surprising that there are no Prefaces for saints who are husbands or wives or mothers or fathers? Even Mary and Joseph are honored in the liturgy chiefly for their virginity.

Do we believe that no spouse or parent has ever been worthy of sainthood? Most of us could without effort find wonderful examples of such if we searched among our own family or friends and neighbors. Why don't we as a church recognize and honor their special form of selfless love and holiness much more than we do?

St. Valentine represents that part of our Catholic church that invented Marriage Encounter and Engaged Encounter and Marriage Preparation classes such as those offered monthly (now by zoom) from Old St. Mary's. And yes, Catholic dating services like "Catholic Match." Newman Centers and University parishes long ago discovered that along with the classes in Catholic faith and opportunities to pray the Rosary, it's not such a bad idea to offer a dance now and again.

The fate of St. Valentine might remind us of what happened to "The Song of Songs." This Old Testament book describes the joys of passionate love between two human beings. Although it is understandably a popular choice of couples preparing their wedding Mass, this scripture almost never appears in the Sunday or daily liturgies. It may well be the least quoted book in our Bible. When Scripture scholars do admit to the existence of the "Song of Songs" they try to pretend that it is solely an allegory of God-focused mysticism, although the words clearly describe the earthly and earthy reality of a couple delighting in one another.

"St. Valentine's Day" can focus our eyes and hearts upon the desire of human beings to connect with one another, to become partners, to create families—and, in the midst of for better and for worse, to delight in the joy and the sheer fun that can come in loving and being loved.

This year February 14 falls on a Monday. Enjoy this day and pay St. Valentine the honor and attention he deserves!



Fr. Joe Scott, CSP

Participate in Pope Francis's Synod at Your Parish *Take the Disciple Maker Index Survey!*

Pope Francis invites the whole Church to participate in the preparatory process for the upcoming Synod of Bishops on Synodality. This unprecedented opportunity will facilitate discussion and reflection to help shape the Church's understanding of herself and her mission of evangelization and forming disciples. The Archdiocese of San Francisco has kicked-off the local synodal process this month by asking every Catholic to participate in the Disciple Maker Index survey between now and February 15. The process will continue in February and March with engagement sessions offered throughout the Archdiocese. The Disciple Maker Index survey is a nationally recognized survey administered at parishes around the United States and Canada since 2013 by The Catholic Leadership Institute. The results from this survey will provide baseline feedback from which content for engagement sessions will be developed. To take the survey for your parish, go to www.sfarch.org/synod and click on your parish.

Be sure to participate by February 15!

WHAT IS THE HOPE for the FUTURE CAMPAIGN?

The campaign is an extraordinary opportunity for all parishioners to play a role in strengthening the Paulist Fathers. The campaign will focus on raising funds to build a new Paulist House of Mission and Studies, fortify outreach ministries, support senior Paulists and attend to deferred capital needs of Paulist houses around the country. Parishioners at Paulist parishes and downtown ministry centers will be asked to consider making a gift above and beyond their existing support for their parish and Annual Paulist Appeal.

Paulist President Fr. Eric Andrews and pastors around the country will call on their parishioners to make a gift to the *Hope for the Future* campaign. Your support to this campaign will impact the future of the Paulist Fathers for years to come. To learn more about the campaign, please visit Hope for the Future webpage at paulist.org/future.

HOPE for the FUTURE CAMPAIGN

Old Saint Mary's Cathedral and Chinese Mission is participating in the *Hope for the Future: A Comprehensive Campaign* for the Paulist Fathers. The landmark campaign is the product of years of planning and hard work by Paulist priests, lay leaders and Paulist staff.

The focus of the campaign is to build a new Paulist House or Mission & Studies, fortifying outreach ministries, supporting senior Paulists and attending to deferred capital needs of Paulist houses around the country. Detailed information about the campaign goals will be sent to every parish household in the months ahead. This campaign is a one-time, extraordinary effort to fund the Paulist Fathers for many years to come.

Our parish is participating in this campaign starting in late-February. We need many volunteers to assist Old Saint Mary's for this campaign to be successful. Volunteers will serve as ambassadors on behalf of Paulist President Fr. Eric Andrews, CSP, and our pastor, Fr. John Ardis, CSP, to fellow parishioners.

If you are interested in volunteering and helping our community in this landmark effort, please contact Fr. John Ardis at 415-288-3800 and we can provide you additional details.

EPIPHANY CENTER'S 25th ANNUAL BENEFIT PARTY & SHOW will be held on Thursday, March 03, 2022 at 6:00PM at The Family (701 Bust Street) in San Francisco. A gourmet dinner, live entertainment, an online silent auction, and an uplifting client testimonial. Supporting holistic, life-changing services for San Francisco's most vulnerable children, women, and families. Tickets are \$250/person. Reserve online at www.theepiphanycenter.org or call (415)351-4055.

Prayers for our Sick Parishioners, Loved Ones, and Friends - Xandy Alicante, Mary Nham, Frankie Chios, Catalina & Regina Bautista, John Garcia, Sorcy Apostol, Loida Marzan & Family, Joshua Ruelas

SIXTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME FEBRUARY 13, 2022

INTO BATTLE: A SILENT RETREAT AT VALLOMBROSA CENTER
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 9:00AM - 5:00PM. We cordially invite you to a traditional silent retreat entitled "*The Spiritual Battle with Jesus and Through Jesus.*" Father Agapetos, a monk from Transfiguration Monastery in Ukiah will guide us to recognize and fight the spiritual battle for our souls. CONFERENCE COST: \$45.00 which includes continental breakfast, a simple lunch, Holy Mass at 4PM and lots of quiet time for reflection. To register and more information, visit Vallombrosa.org/calendar or call 650-325-5614 with any questions.

GROCERIES FOR SENIORS LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS.

This February, be a sweet-heart to a low-income senior, and consider volunteering with Groceries for Seniors. 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 - 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 tgroc4sen@gmail.com



WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS (February 12 - 19, 2022)

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12

5:00PM +Deena Kaye

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13

9:00AM GIFT OF LIFE - Phyllis Smith & Family

11:00AM FOR THE PEOPLE
Thanksgiving - Yat Ping Wong & Family

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15

12:05PM +Mariano Chua Yu King
+Poor Souls in Purgatory

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16

12:05PM +Caridad Nepomuceno
IN LOVING MEMORY - +Peter Tso

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17

12:05PM SPL. INTENTIONS - Fr. Daniel McCotter, CSP

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18

12:05PM GIFT OF LIFE - Phyllis Smith & Family
PRAYER for HEALING - Joshua Ruelas

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19

5:00PM + REPOSED SOUL - May Chung
THANKSGIVING - Gregory Audureau