



Christmas 2023

Dear Friends,

“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.” How true those words are to us here at Old Saint Mary’s Cathedral and Chinese Mission. As I write this letter, we are just finishing a long-awaited re-lighting of the Church and Rectory, a project we had hoped to finish in time for Christmas last year. It is amazing being able to see the wonderful and bright faces at mass for the first time in 5½ years here. It is a rebirth for all of us, and calls us to re-birth for ourselves, as we take the opportunity to reflect on Jesus’ life in different ways.

The Good News as recorded in the Book of Mark will be our primary source for the liturgical year ahead. Mark was the first of the Gospels to be recorded and is the shortest of the four gospels. Gospel scholars consider it a source for both Matthew and Luke’s Gospels. While we will not hear from Mark on Christmas Day, this gospel is considered the most reliable of the four gospels in its overall description of Jesus’ life and ministry. Mark is the first to announce Jesus as the Messiah and then later as the Son of God.

I hope that you can make it out to one of our Christmas liturgies to celebrate together. 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 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 the 1st Cathedral in the West. Our Paulist history here of 129 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 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 in blue ink.



WELCOME TO OLD SAINT MARY'S CATHEDRAL

THE PRINCESS OF DEATH AND THE PRINCE OF PEACE

A REFLECTION BY PAULIST FR. JOE SCOTT

The stories of the birth of Jesus speak of the newborn child as King of the Jews and Prince of Peace.

This is a deliberate contrast with the kings and kingdoms of his day. Herod, King of the Jews was named “the Great” for he was an unmatched builder in stone and marble and gold. Only one of these magnificent constructions survives today—a wall. The wall built around the great Temple of Jerusalem was meant to separate the Jews from those who were not. Samaritans and Gentiles of any type could not pass by its gates. The wall was renowned for the enormous size of the stones from which it was built. To this day it survives as the “Western Wall” which evokes centuries of suffering and inspires the prayers of the long dispersed people of Israel and increasingly of Gentiles traveling from afar like the magi of old.

Caesar Augustus was the true ruler of the occupied people of Judea, as well as all the known world of his time. One of Caesar’s many titles was “Prince of Peace.” His “Pax Romana” was enforced first by the oppression of military might and secondly by a Code which mandated law and orderliness.

Matthew and Luke offer us a different kind of king. Walls, fortresses and military might be not a part of his kingdom. Neither are rigid rules. Nor are stinginess or fear. Jesus’ kingdom, God’s kingdom, is about graciousness, joy and the kind of hospitality that widens the circle and breaks through all barriers.

In my church, named for St. Mary, I can see an image of the first Christmas whose centerpiece is the infant Jesus, arms outstretched, lying in a manger. A manger was a food trough at which sheep and goats and cattle sought their daily nourishment. Luke’s manger reminds us that Jesus was noted for feeding people. The manger was the first table at which the Bread of Life provided nourishment.

Who ate at Jesus’ table? A soldier who begged for his beloved son to be healed. A tax collector whose name was Matthew. A lame man who had no one to lift him into the healing waters of Bethesda. A leper tempted to hide away from the gaze of rejection. A woman caught in adultery whom the enforcers itched to stone.

Today, we remember Jesus best when we share a meal among those who are so alike and so different from ourselves. This is so when we celebrate a parish meal, here at Old St. Mary’s. At my table are tourists from Ireland and Naples, senior Chinese parishioners who speak only Cantonese, a younger man who spends his nights in a cardboard box on Grant Avenue. I learn once again that the most universal human languages are nourishing food, music, and a smile.

This December 25, many of us will settle down to a long-awaited banquet and may welcome a stranger or a guest to our table. Or perhaps we will be the guest, blessed by another’s hospitality. The Jesuit poet Gerard Manley Hopkins reminds us that “Christ plays in ten thousand places, lovely in limbs and lovely in eyes not his...”

May we all be the Christ in our Christmas this year!



Fr. Joe Scott, CSP



FOURTH SUNDAY of ADVENT, DECEMBER 24, 2023

ARCHDIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL 2023

Campaign Goal : \$ 46,762.
Payments Received : \$ 20,835. (as of 12/18)
Needed to Reach our Goal : \$ 25,927.

20th ANNUAL WALK for LIFE WEST COAST

January 20, 2024. Join fellow Catholics and Pro-lifers from all over California and beyond as we stand up for the littlest among us at the 20th Annual Walk for Life West Coast in San Francisco on Saturday,, January 20, 2024. Archbishop Cordileone will begin the day with a Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Mary of the Assumption at 11:00AM. The program starts at San Francisco's Civic Center Plaza at 12:30PM and the two-mile Walk down Market Street to Embarcadero Plaza. For more information visit the website at www.WalkforLifeWC.com or call (415) 658 1793

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.

February 10 | April 13 | June 15 |

August 10 | October 19 | December 14

Website: www.oldsaintmarys.org

Email : tomtavella@paulist.org

● **No BIBLE STUDY on Thursday, December 28th. We will resume on January 04th, 2024!**

● **Church OFFICES will be closed MONDAY, December 25, 2023, and MONDAY January 01, 2024. There will be one Mass on January 01st at 11:00AM.**

**Have a Blessed Christmas
And A
Peaceful New Year!**

FLOWER ENVELOPES are now available in the church. Please help decorate our church for CHRISTMAS by contributing the flower fund. You may donate in Memory of or in Honor of someone you care about. That's a wonderful way to say "Merry Christmas."



U.S. BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION

**In re: The Roman Catholic Archbishop of San Francisco,
Case No. 23-30564**

Notice of Deadline for Filing Claims: February 20, 2024

**YOU MAY HAVE A SEXUAL ABUSE CLAIM OR OTHER CLAIM
AGAINST THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SAN FRANCISCO**

On August 21, 2023, The Roman Catholic Archbishop of San Francisco, a California corporation sole, aka Archdiocese of San Francisco (the "Debtor"), filed for protection under chapter 11 of title 11 of the United States Code (the "Bankruptcy Code").

If you were sexually abused by any person connected with the Debtor, you must file a claim so as to be received by February 20, 2024, or otherwise you will be forever barred, estopped, and enjoined from asserting such claim against the Debtor.

Claims based on acts or omissions of the Debtor that occurred before August 21, 2023, must be filed on or before February 20, 2024, even if such claims are not now fixed, liquidated, or certain or did not mature or become fixed, liquidated, or certain before August 21, 2023.

For more information on how to obtain and file a proof of claim form and associated documents, please visit <https://omniagentsolutions.com/RCASF>, or contact Omni Agent Solutions, Inc., the Debtor's claims agent via email at RCASFinquiries@omniagnt.com or by phone at 888-480-6507 (U.S. and Canada toll free) or 747-293-0084 (International), between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. (prevailing Pacific Time), Monday through Friday.

If you have questions about the bankruptcy case filed by the Archdiocese of San Francisco, please also visit the website at <https://sfarch.org> and follow the links for Chapter 11 Filing

MASS INTENTIONS For The WEEK
DECEMBER 23 - 30, 2023

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23

5:00PM +Yip Lo ying
HEALING - Viechel Hunter

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

5:00PM DECEASED MEMBERS - Choy Family
THANKSGIVING - Aris dela Paz
IN MEMORY - +Michael Patrick Keenan

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25

9:00AM PRAYER for WORLD PEACE
+Cresencio Jimeno
+Thomas Hine
11:00AM +Illuminada Rigor
+Jaime Wilbert

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26

12:05PM +Andrea Ferraninni
+Rose Fanelli
+Owen T. Viola & Ramon Frias

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27

12:05PM +Dolores Powers
+Steven Casella

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28

12:05PM +Dante Brunetti
+Dominick Fanelli

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29

12:05PM +Dante Brunetti
+Dominick Fanelli

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30

5:00PM +Grace Carramanno
+Andrew Ferraninni, Jr.

Prayers for our Sick Parishioners, Loved Ones & Friends :

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

We Welcome . .

*People of All Faiths & All Races
People of Diverse Cultures
Divorced or Separated Persons
Families with Children
Gays & Lesbians
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

