

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

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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.

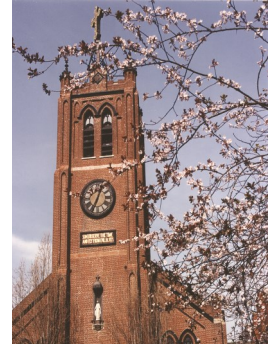


A MINISTRY OF THE PAULIST FATHERS



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

Senior Priests In Residence:

Fr. Joe Scott, CSP | Fr. Richard Chilson, CSP

Fr. Tom Tavella, CSP | Fr. Michael Evernden, CSP

Fr. Steve Bossi, CSP

Parish Receptionist: Pia Lim

Admin. & Adult Faith Formation: Rachael Smit

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.



WELCOME TO OLD SAINT MARY'S CATHEDRAL

WHY DO WE HAVE SO MUCH FUN WITH THE MAGI?

Whenever I read Matthew's account of the magi, I'm surprised at how sparse it is. Matthew tells us that they came 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, or maybe twelve, 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 Casper, Melchior, and Balthazar, if not Ashik, Estanbuzon and Marduk. Within our own lifetimes, the story has kept building. Poets of the stature of William B. Yeats and T. S. Eliot have journeyed with the magi, with new details added (the gospel says nothing about iced sherbet). 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 have you seen the Christmas card featuring three wise women?

Why are we so fascinated? Overall, Luke was a better storyteller than Matthew. But the Church has never seemed quite as interested in its shivering, raggedy shepherds. Why do we care so much about the magi? I have three opinions, solely my own.

First, the magic represents luxury to us, and we love luxury. One of the reasons so many medieval and renaissance artists strove to paint the visitation from these astrologers "from the East" had to do with the pleasure of painting the luxurious colors and textures of their magistral robes.

In recent years we Catholics have become less comfortable in acknowledging our love of luxury. We're embarrassed by our history of sumptuous vestments and shimmering candlesticks. We want to be more like St. 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. The Catholic Church created the Byzantine dome of St. Mark's in Venice and the stained-glass windows of Chartres. music of Mozart and the Sistine Chapel of Michelangelo. It is a fact that poor people enjoy luxury as much as rich people do and should be able to enjoy our cathedrals and basilicas free of charge and free of hassle. Luxury, when freely and universally shared, carries us away and into the luxurious quality of God's love.

A REFLECTION BY PAULIST FR. JOE SCOTT

"Give, and gifts will be given to you, a good measure, packed together, shaken down and overflowing, will be poured into your lap" (Luke 6:38).

The magi also represents mystery—and we love mystery as well! Why else would we watch film noir detective stories on television? Magi is the word from which magician comes. We are fascinated by the magic only so long as we don't understand the trick. As soon as we figure it out, or the unwise magician explains it to us, we lose interest.

No matter how many details we invent about their lives, the magi manages to remain elusive. We don't know what they meant to Jesus. We don't know what Jesus meant to them. But what we DO know is what it means to be thrown into a trance by a star. To be so entranced as to follow a shimmering light without truly understanding where it may take us, what it will give and what it will cost.

The final reason we cherish the magi is—well, they bring gifts. We've never lost interest in the other gift-giver with a white beard and a red suit. December 6 begins the season of gift givers and January 6 brings it to completion. Yes, we DO love luxury! But POSSESSING luxury becomes a problem. We want to enjoy our special treats, but we end up being afraid that a pesky big brother or neighborhood bully will steal them from us. We begin to hate those outside our locked door for making us feel afraid. We build our walls higher. We hire guns.

The magi knew what to do with their luxury. They gave it away. Gold, frankincense, and myrrh are precious gifts. Lavish gifts. They're also impractical. It's not care what a baby would do with these gifts, even if the baby is the Son of God. Maybe a basket of diapers would be more helpful to both mother and child. Sometimes both the gift and the gift giver can seem foolish—like the precious oil and the repentant woman who wasted it for love over the feet of Jesus.

The magi leave their gifts and return home empty-handed. Or do they?

This year of 2024, try making some of your gift's foolish ones. God seems to like foolish gifts, and foolish givers. Certainly, Jesus does. Be a little more lavish, more surprising, with your love!



Fr. Joe Scott, CSP

**THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD
JANUARY 07, 2024**

THANK YOU for the lovely cards and gifts this Christmas, for myself and the Paulist Fathers. Your thoughtfulness and generosity as well as your support of Old Saint Mary's Cathedral mean a great deal to me. May GOD Bless you in 2024!
Fr. John

After 17 years with OSM, *Pia Lim*, our receptionist will be retiring at the end of April 2024. The RECEPTIONIST supports the goal of ensuring efficient operation of the Parish Office and maintains an attitude of flexibility. Provide a welcoming presence for anyone who contacts the office, either in person or by phone. Support the pastoral staff through the proficient use of secretarial and administrative skills. If interested, please contact Fr. John Ardis at 415-288-3804. or email resume to johnardis@paulist.org.



BIBLE STUDY with FR. TOM TAVELLA
Thursday, January 11, 2024 | 5:00PM

SUNDAY READINGS : JANUARY 14th

1SM 3:3b-10,19,1COR 6:13c-15a,17-20

JN 1:35—42

Join ZOOM Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81936410610?pwd=-SUpxZHVCOUU4dnZLV3dnVDh4C1J5QT09>

Meeting ID : 819 3641 0610

Passcode : 016304

ALL ARE WELCOME!



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.

**DATES: FEB. 10 | APRIL 13 | JUNE 15 | AUG. 10
OCT. 19 | DECEMBER 14**

Website: www.oldsaintmarys.org

Email: tomtavella@paulist.org

ARCHDIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL 2023

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

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
JANUARY 06 –13, 2024

SATURDAY, JANUARY 06

5:00PM Thanksgiving - Maria Siu-Ling Eng
+Aleck Vanhook
Prayer For All Souls

SUNDAY, JANUARY 07

9:00AM +Jose Limjoco
Good Health - Rachel Telles

11:00AM **FOR THE PEOPLE**

Birthday - Larry Ma
Speedy Recovery - Regina Newport

TUESDAY, JANUARY 09

12:05PM Intention - Aidan Bautista
Good Health - Marcus Chan

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10

12:05PM +Patrocinio Limjoco
Good Health - Melvin Chan

THURSDAY, JANUARY 11

12:05PM +Thap Nham
+Milt Commons

FRIDAY, JANUARY 12

12:05PM +Thap Nham
+Macrino Vargas

SATURDAY, JANUARY 13

5:00PM +Maria To Puong
+Raguraman Nagarajan Gomathi

Prayers for our Sick Parishioners, Loved Ones & Friends :

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

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

