

Executive Committee

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Address Correspondence To:

Bryan J. P. Seefeldt
660 California Street, Suite 1100
San Francisco, CA 94108
bseefeldt@spj.com

Regis Servus Dei Prius

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Dear Members:

On behalf of the Executive Board, I would like to wish you and your families a happy and holy Lenten season. Please find our upcoming events for your consideration, as well as additional opportunities for our members to observe the three pillars of Lent: **Prayer** (justice towards God), **Fasting** (justice towards self), and **Almsgiving** (justice towards neighbors).

Old St. Mary's Cathedral- Help Support

Several members have inquired about ways to support and help to preserve historic Old St. Mary's Cathedral, located on 660 California Street in the Financial District. Many members have attended the daily noon masses at Old St. Mary's, in particular during this time of Lent. However, the closure of businesses since the Pandemic has resulted in severe financial difficulties at the Church and a loss of collection money. In light of these challenges, the church faces closure.

[The Chronicle has recently drawn attention to these difficulties, which include a seventy \(70%\) recent reduction in revenue due to the loss of tourists and Catholics working in the downtown as a result of the lockdowns. <https://www.4mat.com/local/chronicle/article/Historic-San-Francisco-landmark-may-close-forever-1.8175403.php>](https://www.4mat.com/local/chronicle/article/Historic-San-Francisco-landmark-may-close-forever-1.8175403.php)

Since the Pandemic, there has been a seventy percent drop in weekly collections, and Old St. Mary's owes \$250,000 in insurance premiums. More importantly, the church has been unable to service the poor members of the nearby Chinese community because of interest problems at the church.