# Saint Monica-Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish

www.smstaparishsf.org

## First Sunday of Advent - December 1, 2024

### St. Monica Catholic Church

470 24th Avenue San Francisco, CA 94121 Tel: 415-751-5275

> Office Hours: Monday - Friday 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM



## St. Monica Catholic Church MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil 5:00 PM

Sunday 8:00 AM (Vietnamese)

11:00 AM

Weekdays 8:30 AM (*Monday-Saturday*)

Rosary 8:00 AM (*Monday-Saturday*)

Confessions 4:00 PM - 4:40 PM Saturday

#### <u>Administrator</u>

Rev. Ben Rosado pastor@smstaparishsf.org

Parochial Vicar Rev. Jerome Murphy

#### In Residence

St. Monica Rectory

Rev. Paulinus Iwuji, SMMM, Ph.D.

Catholic Chaplain VA Hospital

St. Thomas the Apostle Rectory

Rev. Te Van Nguyen

Vietnamese Ministry

Catholic Chaplain for UCSF

Rev. Andrew Spyrow Vicar for Clergy

#### **Deacons**

Rev. Mr. Dana Perrigan perrigan2000@yahoo.com Mr. Xristopher Compagno Permanent Deacon Candidate

#### **Parish Staff**

Administrative Assistant

Jessica Montgomery
parishoffice@smstaparishsf.org

Director of Religious Education
Pastoral Associate
Sr. Noreen O'Connor, C.S.J.
noconnor@csjla.org

Music Ministry
Alix Jerinic
alixjerinic@gmail.com

St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church

> 3835 Balboa Street San Francisco, CA 94121



## St. Thomas the Apostle Church MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday 9:00 AM

Weekdays 8:30 AM (Monday, Wednesday, and Friday)

> First Saturday Mass 8:30 AM

First Saturday Adoration 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM







Dear brothers and sisters,

On this first week of Advent, we try to practice the virtue of Hope. In particular, we are to have the hope of Christ being born into our world. This is a hope that people had in the past, a hope that we can have now, and a hope for the future.

In the past, Christ being born was the hope that the people of Israel held onto for centuries. They longed for the coming of the Savior, the Messiah. God's people were waiting for Him, who was to come to both deliver and lead them to peace and fulfillment. He would be like another Moses, who freed Israel from slavery, and led them



into the promised land. They greatly desired His coming to them to bring such a salvation. Jesus fulfilled this when He was born into the world at the first Christmas.

In the present time, we are to have the hope of Jesus being born into our lives now. We who are believers, pray each day that God journey with us in our daily lives. We long for Him to give us guidance, strength, and show His love and mercy to us. Each Sunday, we have the privilege of drawing closer to Him in the Mass, and especially in the reception of Holy Communion with Him. We ought to long for Him and hope to have Him near us always.

In the future, we have the hope of Jesus coming again to bring us into the eternal life of Heaven. This is what Christian hope is all about. We have received this promise from God, and we hope for its perfect fulfillment in the world to come. Amidst the challenges of this life, we should be longing for Heaven, hoping, living, and praying accordingly!

Fr. Ben

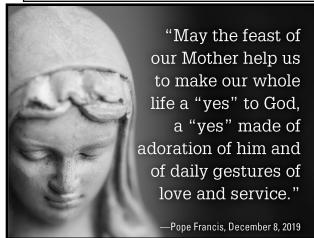


# OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE EVENT Sunday, December 8th

A special fiesta with music and food will be served to celebrate and honor Our Lady of Guadalupe following the 9:00 AM Mass on **Sunday, December 8th**.

To volunteer contact: Carole Touye at <u>carole.touye@gmail.com</u>.

All are welcome!



## SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION ON Monday, December 9, 2024 A HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

MASS TIMES
ST. MONICA
8:30 AM AND 5:30 PM

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE 8:30 AM





### GOSPEL REFLECTION

We have arrived at the powerful season of Advent, a season to prepare with awe and wonder for the Feast of the Incarnation of Jesus — born to us as Savior and Brother. It is a season to prepare for His return at the end of time. It is also a moment to remind ourselves that our individual judgment day is coming too, when we will be called to give an account for all that God has given to us during our lifetimes. In other words, Advent is a steward's season!

Our readings for the first week of Advent waste no time in calling our urgent attention to these themes of reflection and preparation. They seem to shout, "Wake up! Get ready!" and offer us some practical advice as we enter into this season.

The Gospel, from Luke, warns, "Beware that your hearts do not become drowsy from carousing and drunkenness and the anxieties of daily life." How easy it is to lose focus on our Lord either by too much indulgence in our lives or by too much worry about our lives. During Advent, we Christian stewards must ask ourselves some hard questions. Am I staying faithful to my prayer life? Am I using my energy and skills to serve others? Am I overly concerned about material gain? Am I relying on my "stuff" or my investments as my source of comfort or security? Am I living for the moment or for the coming of the Lord?

Get ready Christian stewards! He's coming! Let us prepare with awe and wonder. ©Catholic Stewardship Consultants

### ADVENT GIVING TREE ACTIVITIES

In looking for a charitable parish project for the season of Advent, our parish council decided once again this year, to offer support to the Opiate Treatment Outpatient Program (OTOP) Methadone Clinic at SF General Hospital. OTOP provides detoxification assistance to clients in conjunction with medical and psychiatric services. Since many of their clients are the homeless and poor, our projects will help to provide the clinic staff with items they will be able to distribute to clients as they come in for treatment. We will have three opportunities to do this:

- **#1 Sandwiches** On <u>Sunday, December 15th</u>, after both the 9:00 AM Mass at St. Thomas the Apostle and the 11:00 AM Mass at St. Monica in Small Hall, please join us in making sandwiches that the clinic staff will distribute to hungry clinic clients. Our goal is to make 300 peanut butter sandwiches between the two churches that weekend.
- #2 Giving Trees We will once again be establishing our Advent Giving Trees at both Churches. We will collect new adult gloves, beanies, and blankets (e.g. fleece) which the staff at the clinic will be able to distribute to their clients as they come in for treatment during the colder months of the year. Please take an ornament from the tree that lists the needed item and return the item to either church (unwrapped) by <u>Sunday</u>, <u>December 24th</u>.
- #3 Cookies for Christmas We will have the opportunity to provide baked or store bought cookies for the staff to distribute to clients at San Francisco General Hospital. We ask that parishioner to donate store bought or home made cookies, packaged individually in packets for 4-5 (small cookies) and 2-3 large/medium cookies. The cookies should be dropped off at Church no later than <a href="December 22nd">December 22nd</a> so that they can be distributed on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

If you are able to participate in the projects, your generosity will provide warmth, nourishment, and the sweetness of the season to those in our community who need it most. Let's make this Advent season a time of giving and compassion.

Thank you for your support!







### WE INVITE ALL OUR PARISHIONERS TO SPEND TIME IN FELLOWSHIP

**ST. MONICA CHURCH - FRIENDSHIP SUNDAY** Because of the holidays, Friendship Sunday will be held only on the first Sunday in December following the 11 a.m. Mass. The regular first and third Sunday schedule will resume in January. To volunteer, please e-mail Deacon Dana Perrigan at: perrigan2000@yahoo.com.

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CHURCH - SOCIAL SUNDAY will be held on the 2nd Sunday of every month in the church's vestibule after the 9:00 AM Mass. Special fiesta music and treats will be served to celebrate and honor OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE following Mass on SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8TH. To volunteer please e-mail Christine Aguerre at: chriscrk6@gmail.com.





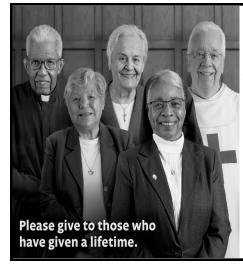
# Mass Intentions

| St. Monica |       |          |                             | St. Thomas the Apostle |       |         |                         |
|------------|-------|----------|-----------------------------|------------------------|-------|---------|-------------------------|
| Mon.       | 12/02 | 8:30 AM  | Luz C. King †               | Mon.                   | 12/02 | 8:30 AM | Elizabeth Nott †        |
| Tue.       | 12/03 | 8:30 AM  | Shirley Tesch †             | Tue.                   | 12/03 |         | No Mass                 |
| Wed.       | 12/04 | 8:30 AM  | Santiago & Enelia Pacheco † | Wed.                   | 12/04 | 8:30 AM | James Goss †            |
| Thu.       | 12/05 | 8:30 AM  | Maria Collier, Good Health  | Thu.                   | 12/05 |         | No Mass                 |
| Fri.       | 12/06 | 8:30 AM  | Foronda Family †            | Fri.                   | 12/06 | 8:30 AM | Ricardo B. Calma, Jr. † |
| Sat.       | 12/07 | 8:30 AM  | Luz C. King †               | Sat.                   | 12/07 | 8:30 AM | Rebecca Bautista †      |
|            |       | 5:00 PM  | Parishioners                | Sun.                   | 12/08 | 9:00 AM | Our Lady of Guadalupe   |
| Sun.       | 12/08 | 11:00 AM | Bernard J.C. Smith †        |                        |       |         | Committee, Thanksgiving |

Please be advised bulletin collection reporting amounts will be delayed during the holiday season due to Mission Publication's seasonal deadlines. Thank you for your understanding.

| THANK YOU                 | ST. MONICA |            | ST. THOMAS  |  |
|---------------------------|------------|------------|-------------|--|
|                           | ENGLISH    | VIETNAMESE | THE APOSTLE |  |
| NOVEMBER ONLINE DONATIONS | \$2,110.00 |            |             |  |

Please drop off or mail your offertory envelopes to the Parish Office if you cannot come to Church. You may also donate online by going to: http://smstaparishsf.org/donate/.



# Retirement Fund for Religious December 8, 2024

You can help. "Religious are blessed to serve," says Dominican Father Bertrand Ebben, age 90. Please donate to the Retirement Fund for Religious next week. Your gift will provide essential care for nearly 25,000 senior sisters, brothers and religious order priests who have dedicated their lives to serving others. Let us show our gratitude to these selfless individuals by giving generously.

ST. MONICA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PRAYFOR US