

# Saint Monica-Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish

[www.smstaparishsf.org](http://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

#### Administrator

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. Kristopher 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





# First Sunday of Advent ~ December 1, 2024



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 [carole.touye@gmail.com](mailto:carole.touye@gmail.com).

All are welcome!



“May the feast of our Mother help us to make our whole life a “yes” to God, a “yes” made of adoration of him and of daily gestures of love and service.”

—Pope Francis, December 8, 2019

## 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



## First Sunday of Advent ~ December 1, 2024

### 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.

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### 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 **Sunday, December 15th**, 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 **Sunday, December 24th**.

**#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 December 22nd** 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!**



**First Sunday of Advent ~ December 1, 2024**

SAINT MONICA SCHOOL PRESENTS

# Santa's Village

## Brunch & Holiday Fair

*Sunday*

DEC 8 2024

Noon to 3pm

Advance Tickets (Online) before Dec 3  
 General Admission: \$15  
 Kids 5-13: \$10 | 4 and under: Free

Tickets at the Door: \$20 Adults,  
 \$15 (kids) | Kids under 4 Free  
 Admission Includes: Pancake brunch  
 holiday crafts, hot cocoa / cider bar &  
 access to the market!

Featuring:  
 Photos with Santa: \$5.00  
 Cookie Decorating: \$5.00  
 + More!

<https://stmonica.schoolauction.net/santa2024/>

**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](mailto: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](mailto:chriscrk6@gmail.com).



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## *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 Committee, Thanksgiving
Sun.	12/08	11:00 AM	Bernard J.C. Smith †				

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/>.



Please give to those who have given a lifetime.

### 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 PRAY FOR US*