

Saint Monica-Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish

www.smstaparishsf.org

Third Sunday of Advent ~ December 15, 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. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church

3835 Balboa Street
San Francisco, CA 94121



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 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

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



Third Sunday of
Advent

"Joy springs from a grateful heart. Truly, we have received so much, so many graces, so many blessings, and we rejoice in this. It will do us good to think back on our lives with the grace of remembrance."

Pope Francis

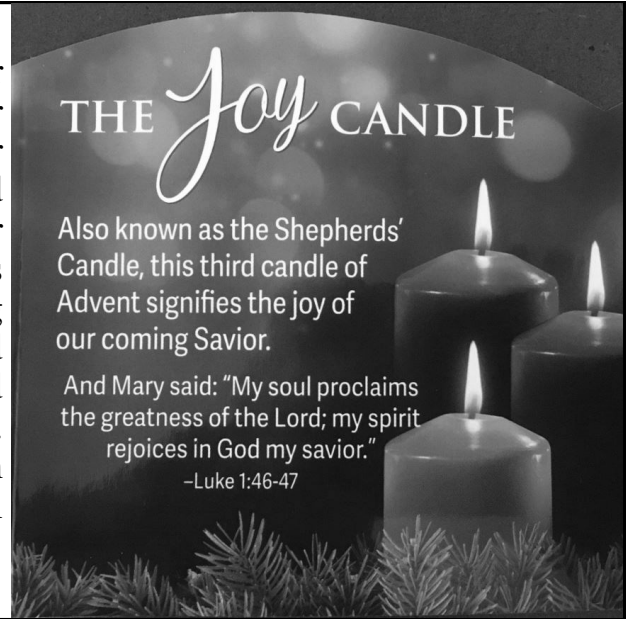
Advent is a time to Praise! God is among us asking us to let His love grow in our hearts in preparation for His coming at Christmas.



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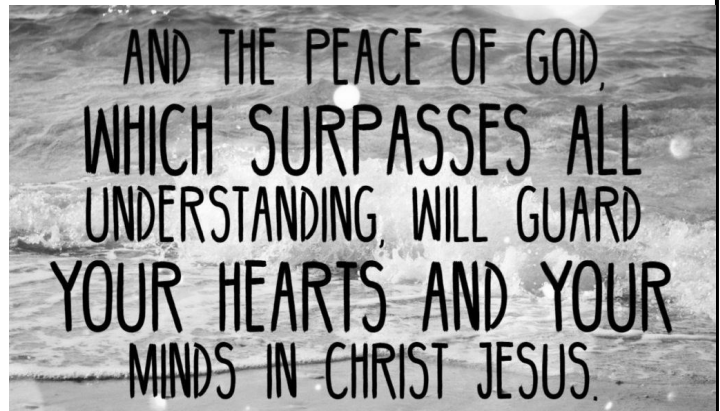
Dear brothers and sisters,
 As we enter into this Third Week of Advent, our theme is Joy. It is joy because we recognize how near the Lord is to us. We discover this nearness whenever we pray and whenever we reach out to God. We find that he is there, waiting for us. He is ready to enter into our lives, if only we turn our lives to him. This is what Christmas presents to us. That God was willing to come very close, to be with us. Let our hearts find joy in this. He has shown us such a compassion and love, one that is not distant but very close and real. This is reason to rejoice, sing his praise, and with trust, reach out our hands to God. If we do, he will surely embrace us, and our joy will be complete.
 Fr. Ben



GOSPEL REFLECTION

We have arrived at Gaudete Sunday (*Gaudete* is the Latin word for "rejoice") this Third Week of Advent, and the Scriptures takes on a joyful tone as we continue our preparations for the feast of our Savior's birth.

Our Second Reading gives us cause for joy as St Paul reminds us, "The Lord is near. Have no anxiety at all..." Then he gives us a prescription for maintaining this peace: "In everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus." Paul's instructions for obtaining peace come as an early Christmas gift. They remind us that we can and should go to God with all our needs and present them to Him *along with our thanks*. This guidance calls to mind a vital aspect of a stewardship way of life: gratitude to God in response to His great love and countless gifts to us.



The Gospel passage, from Luke, shows us how to *live out* this sense of thankfulness, making our lives a "Christmas gift" to Christ in joyful response to His love for us. When the crowds hear John the Baptist's message that their Savior is coming, they ask him what they should do to prepare. He responds, "Whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do the same." He tells tax collectors to stop collecting more than is prescribed and soldiers, to be satisfied with their wages. In other words, he tells them to be good and generous stewards of all God's gifts to them!

As the great feast of Christmas draws near, let us rejoice in Christ's extravagant love. Let's avail ourselves of the peace He longs to give us. And let's look carefully at our lives to make sure we are indeed making of them a gift fitting for Him.

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Advent & Christmas Schedule

Simbang Gabi

Thursday, December 19

6 PM – Mass and Reception - St. Monica

Christmas Eve Masses

5:00 PM – St. Monica in English

7:30 PM – St. Thomas Apostle Christmas Caroling

8:00 PM – St. Thomas the Apostle

8:00 PM - St. Monica in Vietnamese

Christmas Day

9:00 AM – St. Thomas the Apostle - English

11:00 AM – St. Monica - English

New Year's Day – Holy Day of Obligation

8:30 AM – St. Monica

8:30 AM – St. Thomas the Apostle

5:30 PM – St. Monica

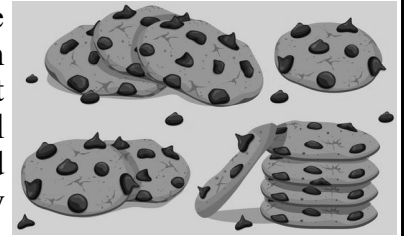


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ADVENT GIVING TREE ACTIVITIES

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 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 parishioners 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 Next Sunday, December 22nd** so that they can be distributed on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.



#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 Next Sunday, December 22th.**



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!**



**POINSETTIA DONATIONS ARE NEEDED FOR
ST. MONICA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CHURCHES**

We would appreciate a donation of potted poinsettia plants to add to our Christmas decorations in our Churches. Poinsettia plants are due on
Wednesday, December 24th.

Please bring your donated poinsettia to the Church or Parish Office.

2024 SIMBANG GABI MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 15th	St. Dominic	5:30 PM
Monday, December 16th	St. Vincent de Paul	8:15 AM
Tuesday, December 17th	Star of the Sea	6:00 PM
Wednesday, December 18th	St. Agnes	12 Noon
Thursday, December 19th	St. Monica	6:00 PM *
Friday, December 20th	Most Holy Redeemer	8:00 AM
Saturday, December 21st	St. Ignatius	5:00 PM
Sunday, December 22nd	St. Benedict	10:30 AM
Monday, December 23rd	St. Mary's Cathedral	7:30 AM



*** FOLLOWING THE MASS AT ST. MONICA, WE WILL HAVE A RECEPTION IN OUR SMALL HALL. ALL ARE WELCOME TO JOIN!**



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Mass Intentions

St. Monica				St. Thomas the Apostle			
Mon.	12/16	8:30 AM	Luz C. King †	Mon.	12/16	8:30 AM	Adelaida Maximo Iglesias †
Tue.	12/17	8:30 AM	Jim Mandarano †	Tue.	12/17		No Mass
Wed.	12/18	8:30 AM	Ann & Dan Halloran †	Wed.	12/18	8:30 AM	Ricardo Calma, Jr. †
Thu.	12/19	8:30 AM	Fr. David Knight †	Thu.	12/19		No Mass
Fri.	12/20	8:30 AM	Fred Bautista †	Fri.	12/20	8:30 AM	Panes & Munar Family †
Sat.	12/21	8:30 AM	Moyra Moy †	Sat.	12/21		No Mass
		5:00 PM	Parishioners				
Sun.	12/22	11:00 AM	Sr. Teresa Kerley †	Sun.	12/22	9:00 AM	Robert Anderson †

THANK YOU	ST. MONICA	VIETNAMESE	ST. THOMAS
December 8, 2024	ENGLISH		THE APOSTLE
1ST COLLECTION	\$1,793.00	\$410.00	\$1,618.00
2ND COLLECTION - RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS	\$980.00	\$213.00	\$596.00
NOVEMBER ONLINE DONATIONS	\$1,546.00		

NEW PARISH PIANO AT ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

Dear Parishioners,

I'm happy to announce that a new piano has been donated and now arrived in the sanctuary. The new instrument is a lovely and well-maintained Sohmer & Co. baby grand, with an estimated value of \$12,000. This instrument is a significant improvement over our old one, and will greatly enhance our music ministry for years to come. It also provides the possibility for additional concerts and recitals for the parish community. We would like to particularly thank parish council member Mari Mahoney for her essential efforts in coordinating the donation.

While the instrument was a gift, there were some expenses associated with obtaining it. Specifically:

- ◆ **Moving Costs: \$500**
- ◆ **Assembly/Repairs post moving: \$240**
- ◆ **Tuning and maintenance: \$380**
- ◆ **Purchase of a protective cover: \$59**

Should anyone wish to make a donation towards these expenses, please speak to Alex Jerinic or Jessica Montgomery.

Finally, we are now giving away our old instrument for free to a good home. Anyone with interest and the ability to pay the moving cost is encouraged to contact Alex. The instrument would be ideal for a home with a beginning student, or for a school.



Sincerely
Alex Jerinic