

Saint Monica-Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish

www.smstaparishsf.org

Fourth Sunday of Advent ~ December 22, 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
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Director of Religious Education
Pastoral Associate
Sr. Noreen O'Connor, C.S.J.
noconnor@csjla.org

Music Ministry
Alix Jerinic
alixjericin@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)

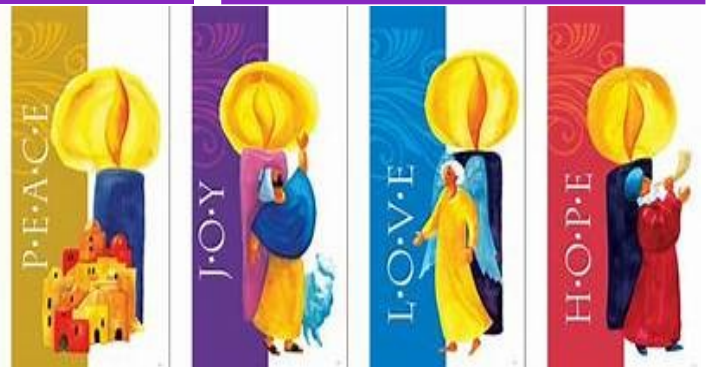
First Saturday
Mass
8:30 AM

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

December 24, 2023

Fourth Sunday of Advent

The Candle of Love





Fourth Sunday of Advent ~ December 22, 2024

Dear brothers and sisters,


In this final week of Advent, our theme is Love. We are to recall the love that God shows us in sending his Son into the world to save us. Love is more than a feeling, it is a force that leads us to act. It is one thing to say we love someone, it is another to do good for them out of love.



There can be no love without sacrifice. It is only when we give of ourselves for another that we can say we have shown them love. Parents know this, as they give of themselves each day for their children. Why do they do it? Love. It is the same with God. He comes to us to give himself for us. We see this at Christmas, in Jesus leaving behind the glory of heaven to enter into our world. This was not easy, it would lead to suffering and even death. Yet God did this out of the abundance of love for us.

As we prepare for his arrival, let our hearts be open to God's love. Let us see in Jesus the proof that God has not forgotten us, the proof that he cares for us with a love beyond all telling.

Fr. Ben



**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 **this Tuesday, December 24th.**

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

Prayer and Blessing of a Nativity Scene

*God of every nation and people,
from the very beginning of creation
you have made manifest your love:
when our need for a Savior was great
you sent your Son to be born of the Virgin
Mary. To our lives he brings joy and
peace, justice, mercy, and love.*

*Lord,
bless all who look upon this manger;
may it remind us of the humble birth of
Jesus, and raise our thoughts to Him,
who is God-with-us and Savior of all,
and who lives and reigns forever and ever.
R/. Amen.*

Fourth Sunday of Advent



MARY'S YES

*Come Holy Spirit, breath and life of God and fill
us this day with all that is holy. Give us the
courage and strength that you gave Mary. During
these days of our final preparations for
Christmas, may we too hear your words 'Do not
be afraid, I am with you.'*



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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 TODAY** so that they can be distributed on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

#2 Giving Trees – We have once again be established our Advent Giving Trees at both Churches. We are collecting 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) **TODAY**.

If you were 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!**

GOSPEL REFLECTION

Our Blessed Mother takes center stage on this fourth Sunday of Advent, and fittingly so as we draw near to the celebration of her Son’s birth. After our Lord Himself, Mary is our model and guide to a stewardship way of life. We see her steward’s response in every passage of Scripture that relates to her, from her “yes” at the Annunciation, to her faithfulness at the foot of the Cross.

Mary’s response to the angel Gabriel in our “Alleluia” today captures her stewardship spirit: “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word (Lk 1:38).” At the moment of the Annunciation, Mary recognized God’s gift to her and made a generous and trusting return to Him, offering her very self to God as His servant. This reply to such an overwhelming request — made by an angel, no less — shows us how extraordinary our Blessed Mother is. She is indeed “full of grace.”

But her response also displays the depth with which she possessed two of the pillars of stewardship, formation, and payer. Because of her formation (in her own Jewish faith) she knew that a Messiah had long been prophesied and promised to her people. Because of her intimacy with God in prayer, she was ready to offer her “yes” to Him when asked to be mother of this Messiah.

Today’s Gospel passage, also from Luke, goes on to describe Mary’s actions immediately after her “yes” to the angel Gabriel’s message. We read that “Mary set out and traveled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah... and greeted Elizabeth.” Mary immediately begins to think of others before herself, setting out quickly to be with her cousin, modeling two other of the pillars of stewardship, Hospitality, and Service. What warmth and humility the Mother of our Savior shows, traveling to Elizabeth to spend time with her, rejoicing with Elizabeth over her own incredible pregnancy, and assisting her in a time of need. And what joy this hospitality and service bring to Elizabeth who exclaims, “how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy.”

How beautifully our Blessed Mother models the mind and heart of a steward. It is an example that we, her children, can follow in our own lives 2,000 years later. With all the gifts God gives us — our time, our talents, our material possessions — we, too, can offer ourselves to God by using all these gifts to serve and glorify Him. In so doing, we will effectively spread the Good News of the Gospel to the world around us today. We will be stewards after our Mother’s own heart.

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Mass Intentions

St. Monica				St. Thomas the Apostle			
Mon.	12/23	8:30 AM	Jim Mandarano †	Mon.	12/23	8:30 AM	Ricardo Calma, Jr. †
Tue.	12/24	5:00 PM	William Nanry, Jr. †	Tue.	12/24	8:00 PM	Parishioners
Wed.	12/25	11:00 AM	Parishioners <i>MERRY CHRISTMAS!</i>	Wed.	12/25	9:00 AM	Parishioners <i>MERRY CHRISTMAS!</i>
Thu.	12/26	8:30 AM	Luz C. King †	Thu.	12/26		No Mass
Fri.	12/27	8:30 AM	Luz C. King †	Fri.	12/27	8:30 AM	Maurice Revel †
Sat.	12/28	8:30 AM	Peter & Alice Kerley †	Sat.	12/28		No Mass
		5:00 PM	Maurice Revel †				
Sun.	12/29	11:00 AM	Simon Lee †	Sun.	12/29	9:00 AM	Parishioners

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.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL COLLECTION & VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Thank you to all those who helped with sandwich making on Wednesday, December 18th. A special thank you to those who volunteered to help with shopping for supplies and delivery to the shelter the next day. Future sandwich making will be on the 3rd Wednesday of every month. The next opportunity will be this **Wednesday, January 15th at 7:00 PM**. We meet in the St. Monica Parish Hall. For questions contact: Maria McDevitt at megmared@comcast.net or 415-515-6945.

Our next St. Vincent de Paul collection will be next weekend, December 28th-30th.
Thank you for your generosity.

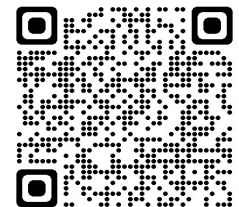


SVDP online donation QR code:



Thank you for your continued support to our Parish.

To donate:
Use your personalized parish offertory envelopes
or scan the QR code to donate online!



ST. MONICA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PRAY FOR US