

Saint Monica-Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish

www.smstaparishsf.org

4th Sunday of Advent ~ Dec. 24~25, 2023 ~ Christmas

St. Monica Catholic Church

470 24th Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94121
Tel: 415-751-5275 Fax: 415-751-0440

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



Administrator

Rev. David Schunk

In Residence

St. Monica Rectory
Rev. Paulinus Iwuji, SMMM
Catholic Chaplain VA Hospital

St. Thomas the Apostle Rectory
Rev. Te Van Nguyen
Vietnamese Ministry
Catholic Chaplain for UCSF

Fr. Andrew Spyrow
Vicar for Clergy

Deacons

Rev. Mr. Dana Perrigan
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Parish Staff

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Music Ministry
Alix Jerinic

St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church

3835 Balboa Street
San Francisco, CA 94121



St. Monica Catholic Church ***MASS SCHEDULE***

Saturday Vigil
5:00 PM

Sunday
8:00 AM (Vietnamese)
11:00 AM

10:00 AM Divine Liturgy at
Our Lady of Fatima Byzantine

Weekdays
8:30 AM (Monday-Saturday)

Rosary
8:00 AM (Monday-Saturday)

Confession
4:00 PM - 4:40 PM Saturday

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





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Dear Sisters and Brothers,

This weekend, we celebrate the Fourth Sunday of Advent, and then Sunday evening, we begin the season of Christmas! It is a busy time for many of us and also a joyful time. Our joy comes from spending time with our loved ones, from the sights and sounds of the season, from the tasty treats that adorn our tables, and from thoughtful gifts from a special you know who! All these are wonderful things and



the cause of much joy and gratitude. Yet, the true and lasting joy of the Christmas Season comes not from things we can buy in a store or online, but from God who is the true giver of all good things. Our joy has its foundation in the great mystery of faith that God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to be born into our human family. When we look at the Christmas manger scene, whether in church or at home, may we be reminded of the fact you and I are not trying to survive alone in this world, but that the Son of God has come to be present to us in a very important way. Some of His gifts to us are love, mercy, and peace. It is these gifts that cause us to lift up our hearts to Him and from whom we ask to bless us with joy during the coming year.

I take this opportunity to thank all of our parishioners who make the two churches of our parish such wonderful places during the Advent and Christmas seasons. In particular, for those who sing and are in our music ministry, for those who have contributed to the decorating of the churches for Advent and Christmas, for the parishioners who donated poinsettia plants that adorn our sanctuaries, and for those who have contributed time and items for our parish charitable projects during this past month. To all of you, we give heartfelt thanks.

And finally, on behalf of the entire Pastoral Staff of our Parish, I pray all of you and your families receive many blessings from the Christ Child during this holy time of year. Enjoy a very merry and blessed Christmas season.

Father Schunk

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.*





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CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve Masses

5:00 PM – St. Monica

8:00 PM – St. Monica - Vietnamese

8:00 PM - STA Christmas Caroling

8:30 PM – St. Thomas the Apostle Mass

Christmas Day

9:00 AM - St. Thomas the Apostle

11:00 AM – St. Monica

New Year's Day

8:30 AM - St. Thomas the Apostle

10:00 AM - St. Monica

Vietnamese New Year's Mass & Celebration

1:00 pm - Sunday, February 25 - St. Monica

Christmas Proclamation

There is a tradition that before the Mass during the Night of Christmas, the Church chants a proclamation of the birth of Jesus Christ from a book call the *Roman Martyrology*. It is a text that situates the birth of our Lord in the context of sacred and secular history. May it be a reminder for us that God is truly in our lives and world today.

The Twenty-fifth Day of December, / when ages beyond number had run their course / from the creation of the world, / when God in the beginning created heaven and earth, / and formed man in his own likeness; / when century upon century had passed / since the Almighty set his bow in the clouds after the Great Flood, / as a sign of covenant and peace; / in the twenty-first century since Abraham, our father in faith, / came out of Ur of the Chaldees; / in the thirteenth century since the People of Israel were led by Moses / in the Exodus from Egypt; / around the thousandth year since David was anointed King; / in the sixty-fifth week of the prophecy of Daniel; / in the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad; / in the year seven hundred and fifty-two / since the foundation of the City of Rome; / in the forty-second year of the reign of Caesar Octavian Augustus, / the whole world being at peace, / JESUS CHRIST, eternal God and Son of the eternal Father, / desiring to consecrate the world by his most loving presence, / was conceived by the Holy Spirit, / and when nine months had passed since his conception, / was born of the Virgin Mary in Bethlehem of Judah, / and was made man: / The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to the flesh. (From the USCCB)



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Parish Advent Charity Projects

In looking for a charitable parish project for the season of Advent, our parish council decided to offer support to the Opiate Treatment Outpatient Program Methadone Clinic at SF General which 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 medical treatment. We will have three opportunities to do this:

#1 Sandwiches – Thank you to all who made PB&J sandwiches!

#2 Giving Trees – 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) by Sunday, December 31.

#3 Cookies for Christmas – Thank you to our bakers for your donation of cookies for the staff at San Francisco General to distribute to patients on 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!

FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT - LOVE

In our last Sunday of Advent, we are invited to experience the love of Christ, as well share that gift with others. It is love that brings Jesus into our world and it is love that transforms our being. Advent has prepared us for the coming of Christ, and this last week brings it all together. "God so loved the world that he sent his only Son" (John 3:16). And it is because of that love that we are called to be loving to the stranger, oppressed, and marginalized.

~ San Diego State University, Founders Hall

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The most important thing that can happen to a person is to encounter Jesus: the encounter with Jesus who loves us, who has saved us, who gave his life for us — to encounter Jesus.

And we walk to encounter Jesus. ~ Pope Francis

WE INVITE ALL OUR PARISHIONERS TO SPEND TIME IN FELLOWSHIP.

ST. MONICA CHURCH - FRIENDSHIP SUNDAY will be held on the 1st & 3rd Sunday of each month in the Small Hall following the 11:00 AM Mass. To volunteer please email 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 vestibule of the Church after the 9:00 AM Mass. To volunteer (clean up and refreshment donations) please email Christine Aguerre at chriscrk6@gmail.com.



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Mass Intentions

St. Monica				St. Thomas the Apostle			
Mon.	12/25	11:00 AM	Parishioners	Mon.	12/25	9:00 AM	Parishioners
Tue.	12/26	8:30 AM	Kathryn Ringgold, Birthday	Tue.	12/26		No Mass
Wed.	12/27	8:30 AM	Evelyn Elchico Magie †	Wed.	12/27	8:30 AM	Michael McCrory †
Thu.	12/28	8:30 AM	Peter & Alice Kerley †	Thu.	12/28		No Mass
Fri.	12/29	8:30 AM	Felipe Arguello †	Fri.	12/29	8:30 AM	Michael McCrory †
Sat.	12/30	8:30 PM	Fr. Edward Bohnert †	Sat.	12/30		No Mass
		5:00 PM	Milt Reiterman †				
Sun.	12/31	11:00 AM	Noralyn Breiz, Birthday	Sun.	12/31	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.

Online Parish Giving Update

As we have noted in the bulletin for the past couple of weeks, our parish is transitioning to a new vendor (Our Sunday Visitor-OSV) to process online donations for St. Monica-St. Thomas the Apostle Parish. There will be a single site for both St. Monica and St. Thomas to streamline the donation process. We are planning to continue the old donation sites running through January 2024 during the transition period. The new site is currently set-up for regular, Sunday offerings (one time, weekly, bi-monthly, monthly, quarterly) and for single, one-time general donations. In time, we will add options for donating for the Second Collections, etc.

- To find the donation page, please visit our Parish Homepage and click the DONATE menu at the top or use the QR code on the bottom right of this page.
- If you already have donations reoccurring with the old site(s), we ask you to cancel those transactions on the old site and set-up your regular offerings with the new site.
- If you are interested in making your regular offering online, please check out the new site.
- For those who use offertory envelopes, that option for giving will continue as usual.

We thank those who already participate in online giving for their generosity to our parish, and for all those who give of their time, talent, and treasure, helping to make our parish of St. Monica-St. Thomas the Apostle a faith-filled Christian community.

DONATE TO ST. MONICA-ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE ➡

