

Saint Monica-Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish

www.smstaparishsf.org

First Sunday of Advent ~ December 3, 2023

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



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

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
perrigan2000@yahoo.com
Rev. Mr. Peter Solan
petsol04@aol.com

Parish Staff

Office Manager
Jessica Montgomery
parishoffice@stmonicasf.org

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

Music Ministry
Alix Jerinic

St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church

3835 Balboa Street
San Francisco, CA 94121



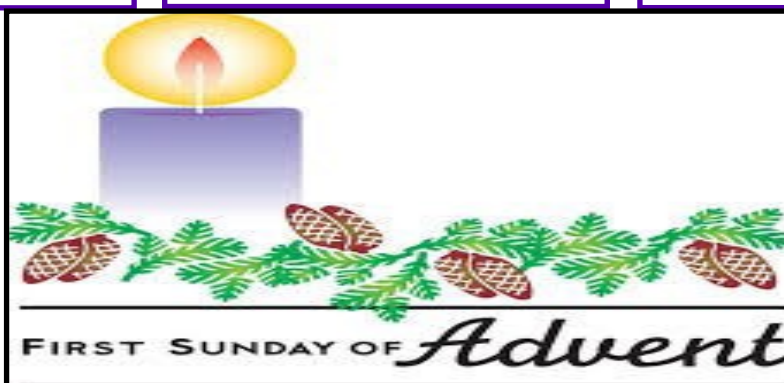
St. Thomas the Apostle Church ***MASS SCHEDULE***

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 3, 2023

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

The season of Advent is upon us! While decorations around the City and the world tend to be already wishing us a merry Christmas, as if the birth of the Christ child has already happened, I encourage all of us enter the sacred season of Advent with a focus on waiting. Waiting for His birth, waiting to celebrate God's presence among us. None of us likes to wait, especially in a culture that can have things right away. (...hold on, my Amazon package just arrived...) Waiting can help us slow down and re-focus ourselves. It helps us to recall why the celebration of Christmas is so important and why we celebrate Christmas at all. In the coming days and weeks, we will have various opportunities to celebrate, pray, and serve, and all in view of waiting for what is to come – the Light of the World who will be entering our lives. May this time of Advent, be a sacred time of waiting and anticipation for you and your families.

Father Schunk

Reflections on the Mass and Sacred Liturgy The Season of Advent - December 3rd - December 24th

The season of Advent begins on the First Sunday of Advent and continues until Christmas. This season has a two-fold character. First of all, it is a time when we focus on waiting in joyful expectation for the second coming of the Lord at the end of time. For that reason, on the First Sunday of Advent, we hear in the gospels of the three-year cycle about staying awake for the coming of the Son of Man, about being watchful and alert since we do not know when he will come, and about the Son of Man coming with power and glory.

As Advent progresses, however, the first coming of Christ becomes more prominent. He is the Son of God and the Son of Mary as well as the baby born in Bethlehem who will suffer, die, and rise again for our salvation. The Second Sunday of Advent, therefore, has John the Baptist crying out: Prepare the way of the Lord. The Third Sunday of Advent again features John the Baptist hearing about the miracles of Christ, instructing the people that there is one among them whose sandal strap he is not worthy to untie, and then teaching that there is someone mightier than he who is coming and who will baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire.

Then, at last, on the Fourth Sunday of Advent, we hear in the Gospel of how the birth of Jesus Christ came about, of Mary saying to the Archangel Gabriel: Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord, and the exclamation of Elizabeth at the visitation: How is it that the mother of my Lord should come to me?

Source: Rev. Kurt Belsole, OSB, Saint Vincent Archabbey, Latrobe, PA
www.liftupyourhearts.church

***Welcome to all who worship with our parish family,
whether long time residents or newly arrived in the parish.***

***If you are not registered, please fill out this form and put it in the collection basket or
mail it to the Rectory.***

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> New Parishioner | <input type="checkbox"/> New Address | <input type="checkbox"/> New Phone Number | <input type="checkbox"/> Remove from List |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Send Sunday Envelopes | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> St. Monica | <input type="checkbox"/> St. Thomas the Apostle | | |



First Sunday of Advent ~ December 3, 2023



THE SOLEMNITY OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION IS A HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

Mass Times

Thursday, December 7th - Vigil

5:00 PM - St. Monica

Friday, December 8th

8:30 AM - St. Monica

8:30 AM – St. Thomas the Apostle

Father,
you prepared the Virgin Mary
to be the worthy mother of your Son.
You let her share beforehand
in the salvation Christ
would bring by his death,
and kept her sinless
from the first moment of her conception.
Help us by her prayers
to live in your presence without sin.
We ask this through
our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns
with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God for ever and ever. *Amen*
— *The Liturgy of the Hours*

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 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 – TODAY, Sunday, December 3 after both the 9:00 AM Mass at St. Thomas and the 11:00 AM Mass at St. Monica's, 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 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 24**.

#3 Cookies for Christmas – We will have the opportunity to bake cookies for the staff to distribute to clients. More details to come later in December.

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!

2023 Advent Reflection Booklets

As we prepare to enter the holy season of Advent, we invite each household to pick-up a copy of the *Magnificat Advent Companion*. As you will be able to see, the booklet has daily reflections for Advent, as well as prayers such as a blessing for the Advent Wreath and Christmas Tree that you may pray at home. We hope these daily reflections will help you grow spiritually as we prepare for the joyous season of Christmas. The reflections are based on the daily Mass Gospel reading for which may be found here: <https://bible.usccb.org/>.

We have a limited number of books so please take only one book per household.

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SANTA'S VILLAGE

BRUNCH & HOLIDAY FAIR

Join Us

★ **Sunday, December 10, 2023** ★

NOON - 3 PM

Advance Tickets Pricing **ONLINE** before Dec 6, 2023
<https://stmonica.schoolauktion.net/santa2023>
General Admission: \$15
Kids 5-13: \$10 | 4 and under: FREE

Tickets At the Door:
General Admission: \$18
Kids 5-13: \$12 | 4 and under FREE
Admission Includes: Pancake brunch,
holiday crafts, hot cocoa bar and access to the market!



EXTRAS:
PHOTOS WITH SANTA \$5
COOKIE DECORATING \$3
WREATH MAKING TBD
+ MORE



QUESTIONS? CONTACT: SHEN.LIANNA@GMAIL.COM

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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THANK YOU	ST. MONICA	ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE
November 19, 2023		
1ST COLLECTION	\$1,531.00	\$917.00
2ND COLLECTION	\$673.00	\$298.00
Catholic Campaign for Human Dev.		
VIETNAMESE COLLECTION	\$452.00	

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.

UPCOMING SECOND COLLECTIONS

12/03/2023	Parish Religious Education Fund
12/10/2023	Retirement Fund for Religious
12/17/2023	Parish Upgrades & Improvements

 * We pray for the repose of the *
 * souls of *
 * Julia Ngo *
 * Chinh Nguyen *
 * and offer our sympathy to *
 * their family and friends. *



Please give to those who have given a lifetime.

Retirement Fund for Religious

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.

Mass Intentions

St. Monica			
Mon.	12/04	8:30 AM	Francisco Sousa Rocha †
Tue.	12/05	8:30 AM	Tomas & Morelia Bermejo †
Wed.	12/06	8:30 AM	Jerry Lollock †
Thu.	12/07	8:30 AM 5:00 PM	Andres "Andy" Pons † Irene Nanry †
Fri.	12/08	8:30 AM	Emilio Lam †
Sat.	12/09	8:30 PM 5:00 PM	Eleanor Louis † Mary E. Hanley †
Sun.	12/10	11:00 AM	Bernard J.C. Smith †

St. Thomas the Apostle			
Mon.	12/04	8:30 AM	Maurice O'Connor †
Tue.	12/05		No Mass
Wed.	12/06	8:30 AM	William & Irene Nanry, Sr. †
Thu.	12/07		No Mass
Fri.	12/08	8:30 AM	Milagros Salcedo †
Sat.	12/09	8:30 AM	No Mass
Sun.	12/10	9:00 AM	Parishioners