

Saint Monica-Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish

www.smstaparishsf.org

Second Sunday of Advent ~ December 8, 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

Advent Prayer

GOD OUR FATHER
HELP US KEEP WATCH
AND STRENGTHEN OUR FAITH
AS WE WAIT FOR THE COMING
OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST.
WAKE US UP
AND FIND US READY
TO SERVE AND PRAISE HIM.
AMEN.

Second Sunday
of Advent

Prepare the way of the Lord!





Second Sunday of Advent ~ December 8, 2024



Dear brothers and sisters,
On this second Sunday of Advent, we are to consider how the coming of Jesus into our lives brings us peace. It was at the birth of Christ that the angels announced what we proclaim in the Gloria "Peace to people of good will." Peace to those who long for God's presence in our world. Peace is a great gift. When we have it, we are at rest, we are content. We can have the peace of Christ whether we are rich or poor, in good times and in bad. His peace comes to us because we know that he is with us, and that no one can take him from us. We are to rest in Christ and find our peace in him. He tells us "My peace I give to you."



This Advent, may we take time to recall how near Jesus is to those of us, who believe. How blessed we are to have the Prince of Peace himself breaking into our world, into our very hearts to dwell with us always. Glory to God in the Highest!

Fr. Ben



OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE EVENT AFTER MASS TODAY

A special fiesta with music and treats will be served to celebrate and honor **Our Lady of Guadalupe** following the 9:00 AM Mass at St. Thomas the Apostle Church today, **Sunday, December 8th.**
All are welcome to join our celebration!



"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

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.
Thank you for your generosity.



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CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Simbang Gabi

Thursday, December 19

6 PM - Mass and Reception - St. Monica

Christmas Eve Masses

5:00 PM – St. Monica - English

8:00 PM – St. Monica - Vietnamese

8:00 PM - St. Thomas the Apostle - English

Christmas Day

8:00 AM - St. Monica - Vietnamese

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

11:00 AM – St. Monica - English

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

CANDLE OF Peace



The second candle, also purple, represents peace. It is called the "Bethlehem Candle" as a reminder of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem.

"Faith is like the feet wherewith the soul journeys to God, and love is the guide that directs it."
St. John of the Cross (Feast Day - December 14th)

GOSPEL REFLECTION

The readings for the Second Week of Advent offer both encouragement and challenge as we reflect and prepare for the two "comings" of Christ — His coming as a baby on the great feast of Christmas, and the anticipation of His second coming at the end of time.

Our First Reading, from Baruch, is a wonderful reminder that God has triumphed over sin and death and that we — His faithful disciples — will live in the light of His glory one day. Until He comes again, we must remain faithful to Him as true disciples and good stewards of all the gifts He has given us. While it can be tempting to give in to the materialism and calls for self-indulgence that surround us, (ironically more than ever at this time of year), this reading calls us back to the spiritual reality that this life is passing and that we are made for eternal life with God. We are called to prepare for eternal life by the way that we use our time, our talents, and our treasure now.

The Gospel reading from Luke shows us how personal and detailed is God's love for humanity as He prepared the way for Christ's coming among us. We are told the precise time, place, and person, John the Baptist, He appointed to announce the arrival of our Savior. John tells us how to celebrate to the fullest this first "coming", on the feast of Christmas, and how to prepare for the second coming - through repentance.

Let's turn away from any bad habits or sin that may have crept into our lives and turn our hearts and minds back to Christ this Advent. This is what the stewardship way of life is all about - moving closer in relationship with Christ and imitation of Him, ready to celebrate His birth, with eyes fixed on eternal life with Him.

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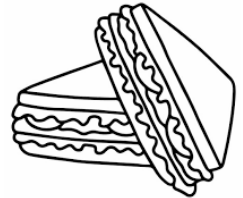


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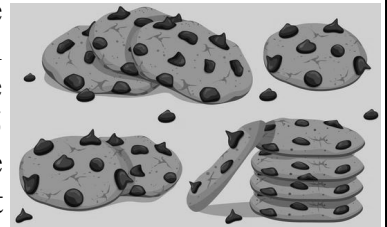
ADVENT GIVING TREE ACTIVITIES

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



#3 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**.



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!

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. | 12/09 | 8:30 AM | John & Theresa Siu † | Mon. | 12/09 | 8:30 AM | Ricardo Calma, Jr. † |
| Tue. | 12/10 | 8:30 AM | Eleanor Louis † | Tue. | 12/10 | | No Mass |
| Wed. | 12/11 | 8:30 AM | Luz C. King † | Wed. | 12/11 | 8:30 AM | Ricardo Calma, Jr. † |
| Thu. | 12/12 | 8:30 AM | Janice Prie † | Thu. | 12/12 | | No Mass |
| Fri. | 12/13 | 8:30 AM | Bermejo & Magana Families † | Fri. | 12/13 | 8:30 AM | Ricardo B. Calma, Jr. † |
| Sat. | 12/14 | 8:30 AM | Luz C. King † | Sat. | 12/14 | 8:30 AM | Mary Bernardone † |
| | | 5:00 PM | Milt Reiterman † | Sun. | 12/15 | 9:00 AM | Carmen Evangelista † |
| Sun. | 12/15 | 11:00 AM | Parishioners | | | | |

| THANK YOU | ST. MONICA | ST. THOMAS |
|-------------------|------------|-------------|
| November 24, 2024 | ENGLISH | THE APOSTLE |
| 1ST COLLECTION | \$1,814.00 | \$1,413.00 |



Retirement Fund for Religious TODAY

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.

Please give to those who have given a lifetime.

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

