

Saint Monica-Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish

www.smstaparishsf.org

8th Sunday in Ordinary Time ~ March 2, 2025

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, CSJ
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



NKJV (LUKE 6:39-45)
FOR A GOOD TREE
DOES NOT
BEAR BAD FRUIT
NOR DOES
A BAD TREE BEAR GOOD FRUIT



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Dear brothers and sisters,

As we begin our collections for the Archdiocesan Annual Appeal, I want to first of all thank you for all you have already been doing for our parish community. Your very presence here at Mass is itself an act of love and service to God and his people. I am sure you have heard the adage over and over that we are to give of “our time, talent and treasure.” All giving, all sharing what we have, is a sign that God is working within our hearts, inspiring us to do good for others.

The Annual Appeal is a special way to give financially to not just our parish, but to the greater Archdiocese. Their work supports parishes in many ways: for our seminarians, for religious education, for married couples, for those in prison, and for those going through times of difficulty. As one Church, we all benefit from the good work done through the Archdiocesan ministries.

Let us all remember that ultimately, our giving is a reflection of our union with God. Generosity is one of his greatest attributes, he who has given us life, who walks with us, who strengthens us with the Holy Spirit which he bestows on us, he who has even prepared for us eternal happiness in Heaven. There is no one who gives like God, and we can never outgive him! But we can strive to be more like him as we share our resources with others, and in a particular way with his Church.

Thank you with all my heart for your support in this good work, the very work of the Lord.

Fr. Ben

“For God, does not work in those who refuse to place all their confidence and hope in Him alone. But He does impart the fullness of His love upon those who possess a deep faith and hope; for them He does great things.” ~ St. Jerome Emiliani (Feast Day ~ February 8th)

**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 _____

☐ New Parishioner ☐ New Address ☐ New Phone Number ☐ Remove from List

☐ Send Sunday Envelopes

☐ St. Monica ☐ St. Thomas the Apostle

You may register online at: <https://www.osvhub.com/smsparishsf/directory/register>



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GOSPEL REFLECTION

Today's readings exhort us Christian disciples to form ourselves — mind and heart — in imitation of Christ so we can better reflect His goodness in our daily lives.

The first reading from Sirach offers timeless counsel: "the fruit of a tree shows the care it has had: so too does one's speech disclose the bent of one's mind. Praise no one before he speaks." Jesus uses the very same analogy in today's Gospel reading from Luke: "A good tree does not bear rotten fruit, nor does a rotten tree bear good fruit. For every tree is known by its own fruit."

Everything we have is a gift from God to be used for His honor and glory. This includes the gift of speech and, even more broadly, all forms of modern-day communication — email, text, TikTok, Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, and the rest. What comes forth from our mouths, or keyboard, or phone, reflects what is in our minds and hearts. Our ability to communicate with each other is itself a gift which we must steward well.

In the same Gospel passage, Jesus reminds us, "No disciple is superior to the teacher; but when fully trained, every disciple will be like his teacher." The more time we spend with Jesus, our teacher, through regular prayer and a strong sacramental life, the more we will become like Him. Then all that we do and say (and tweet and post) will bring others to closer to Him. This is the life's work of the Christian steward. It is privileged work indeed.

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LENTEN FAST AND ABSTINENCE

As in the past, the following regulations are in place for abstaining and fasting during Lent:



- **ABSTINENCE:** Everyone 14 years of age and older is bound to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, the Fridays of Lent, and Good Friday.

- **FAST:** Everyone 18 years of age and older but under the age of 60 is also bound to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

On these two days the law of fast allows only one full meal a day, but does not prohibit taking some food during the day, so long as this does not constitute another full meal. Drinking liquids during the day is permitted. When health or ability to work would be seriously affected, the law does not oblige. In the spirit of penance, the faithful should not lightly excuse themselves from this obligation.

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 church's vestibule after the 9:00 AM Mass. To volunteer, please e-mail Christine Aguerre at: chriscrk6@gmail.com



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ASH WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5TH



St. Monica

8:30 AM (Mass with Ashes)

5:30 PM (Mass with Ashes)

St. Thomas the Apostle

8:30 AM (Mass with Ashes)



THE MEANING OF ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday is one of the most popular and important holy days in the liturgical calendar. Ash Wednesday opens Lent, a season of fasting and prayer. It takes place 46 days before Easter Sunday, and is chiefly observed by Catholics.

Ash Wednesday comes from the ancient Jewish tradition of penance and fasting. The practice includes the wearing of ashes on the head. The ashes symbolize the dust from which God made us. As the priest applies the ashes to a person's forehead, he speaks the words: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." Alternatively, the priest may speak the words, "Repent and believe in the Gospel."

Ashes also symbolize grief, in this case, grief that we have sinned and caused division from God. Writings from the Second-century Church refer to the wearing of ashes as a sign of penance.

Priests administer ashes during Mass and all are invited to accept the ashes as a visible symbol of penance. The ashes are made from blessed palm branches, taken from the previous year's Palm Sunday Mass.

It is important to remember that Ash Wednesday is a day of penitential prayer and fasting. Some faithful take the rest of the day off work and remain home. It is generally inappropriate to dine out, to shop, or to go about in public after receiving the ashes. Feasting is highly inappropriate. Small children, the elderly and sick are exempt from this observance.

It is not required that a person wear the ashes for the rest of the day, and they may be washed off after Mass. However, many people keep the ashes as a reminder until the evening.

Recently, movements have developed that involve pastors distributing ashes to passersby in public places. This isn't considered taboo, but Catholics should know this practice is distinctly Protestant. Catholics should still receive ashes within the context of Mass.

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Season of Lent. It is a season of penance, reflection, and fasting which prepares us for Christ's Resurrection on Easter Sunday, through which we attain redemption.

While the ashes symbolize penance and contrition, they are also a reminder that God is gracious and merciful to those who call on Him with repentant hearts. His Divine mercy is of utmost importance during the season of Lent, and the Church calls on us to seek that mercy during the entire Lenten season with reflection, prayer and penance.

PARISH LENTEN SCHEDULE

St. Monica Church

Fridays - Stations of the Cross - 9:00 AM (following our 8:30 AM Mass)

St. Thomas the Apostle Church

Fridays - Confessions at 5:30 PM

Stations of the Cross at 6:00 PM followed by our Lenten Soup Supper

If you'd like to sign up to bring soup or bread to one or more of the Lenten Friday Suppers, please see our Organist and Coordinator, Debi Curley, at the organ bench after Mass or contact the Parish Office.

All are welcome - we hope to see you there!



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Mass Intentions

St. Monica				St. Thomas the Apostle			
Mon.	03/03	8:30 AM	John & Mary Hanley †	Mon.	03/03	8:30 AM	Parishioners
Tue.	03/04	8:30 AM	Parishioners	Tue.	03/04		No Mass
Wed.	03/05	8:30 AM 5:30 PM	Parishioners Parishioners	Wed.	03/05	8:30 AM	Parishioners
Thu.	03/06	8:30 AM	Parishioners	Thu.	03/06		No Mass
Fri.	03/07	8:30 AM	Deceased Members on the Memorial Wall †	Fri.	03/07	8:30 AM	Parishioners
Sat.	03/08	8:30 AM 5:00 PM	Parishioners Parishioners	Sat.	03/08	8:30 AM	No Mass
Sun.	03/09	11:00 AM	Peter & Alice Kerley †	Sun.	03/09	9:00 AM	Susan Mabes †

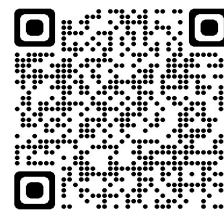
THANK YOU	ST. MONICA	ST. THOMAS	
February 23, 2024	ENGLISH	VIETNAMESE	THE APOSTLE
IST COLLECTION	\$1,657.00	\$651.00	\$1,802.00



Thank you for your continued support to our Parish.

To donate:

Use your personalized parish offertory envelopes



Mass Intentions for 2025 may be offered in honor of loved ones at either St. Monica or St. Thomas the Apostle Church. For scheduling and additional information, you can either stop by or mail your list to the parish office at 470 24th Ave. SF, CA 94121. Please list all your Mass intentions and requested dates. You can also call Jessica at 415-751-5275 during office hours: Monday - Friday 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM.

BENEFICIARY STORIES FROM THE ARCHDIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL (AAA)

- Your generosity supports the **Restorative Justice** ministry. The Restorative Justice program assists crime victims and their families, former offenders, the incarcerated and their families. It does so via its own outreach and through partnerships with community groups. The family of one young man killed in San Francisco said that without the Restorative Justice ministry, they "...would not have been able to meet other families already supported by this ministry, and through this support group, they find comfort in the journey of their healing."
- Your generosity supports **The Gabriel Project**, our person-to-person outreach to pregnant women, many of whom are on the street. Through the Appeal, you can help these women in their search for services, housing, etc.

Our 2025 Archdiocesan Annual Appeal Goal is \$46,186.00.