

Saint Monica-Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish

www.smstaparishsf.org

Third Sunday of Lent ~ March 23, 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

THIRD
Sunday
OF
LENT

Do not come near!
Remove your sandals from your feet,
for the place where you stand is
holy ground.

Exodus 3:5

The Parable of The
Unfruitful Fig Tree

Luke 13:6-9



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Dear brothers and sisters,

As you may know, this time of Lent, is a time of walking with Jesus as he carries his cross for us. It is a time of penance and a time to grow in our holy Faith, a Faith that unites us to the Lord.

Each Lent, we are to embrace the Lenten practices of the Church. These are three practices: Fasting, Almsgiving, and Prayer. Let us consider each one of these holy practices today and in the weeks ahead. They are good for our souls and they lead us to new life in Christ.

First of all we practice fasting. This is simply the denying ourselves of the good things of this world, that we might better appreciate the blessing of spiritual goods. We can fast from certain foods, for example luxurious foods, and eat more simply. That way we can save up something to give to the poor. We can also fast from media, entertainment, and partying (although I don't believe we are the partying type). But of course you might surprise me.

We can also say that Lent is a time to fast from sinful thoughts, words and deeds, but of course it is always the time to do that. Jesus calls us "to repent", and Lent is a proper time to turn away from all that is an obstacle to our relationship with God. The more we turn away from sin, the more we will find God present in our lives. The more we deny ourselves, the more we find him.

This Lent let us walk this path courageously, willing to make sacrifices for Christ and with Christ. May our souls rise up from the earth to the things of Heaven.

Fr. Ben

RETIREMENT CELEBRATION - SUNDAY, MARCH 30TH

The St. Monica-St. Thomas the Apostle Parish community warmly invites you to a retirement celebration for **Father Jerry Murphy and Father Terry Sullivan!** We're so grateful for the years of service Father Jerry and Father Terry have given to our parish. To celebrate their retirement, we're hosting a potluck gathering, a chance for us to come together as a community and share a meal while we honor their legacy. Please join us on **Sunday, March 30th, immediately following the 11:00 am Mass (about 12 noon) in the St. Monica Parish Hall** as we celebrate their retirement and thank Father Jerry and Father Terry for their guidance, wisdom, and unwavering faith to our parish and community. We'll have a potluck luncheon, so please bring a dish to share. Let's make this a memorable occasion.

Potluck: Please bring a dish to share! Feel free to contribute your favorite dish, whether it's an appetizer, main course, salad, or dessert. Light fare, cake and refreshments will be provided.

* You may drop off your potluck items in the Small Hall before Mass. Please contact Vera Rodkewich at verarodkewich@gmail.com should you have any questions or would like to help out with the event.

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CHURCH IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

For generations, St. Thomas the Apostle Church has stood as a pillar of faith and community in the Outer Richmond. Its craftsman architecture has inspired and offered solace to all who pass through its doors. Time and the elements have taken their toll, and the exterior of the building now needs a professional cleaning to maintain and protect our Church.

We are reaching out to you to help preserve this sacred space. With your support, we can restore the Church's exterior to its former glory, ensuring it continues to be a beacon of hope and beauty for years to come.

No donation is too small - every contribution brings us closer to our goal. Together, we can make a difference.

If you prefer to donate online use the QR code and donate to the Maintenance Fund.





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GOSPEL REFLECTION

Today's Gospel passage reminds us that life is precious and the gift of time on this earth is just that, a gift. None of us knows how much time will be granted to us, so we must use this gift intentionally to glorify God and serve our neighbor. Jesus offers the parable of the fig tree to further illustrate this truth. The owner of the orchard came searching for fruit on a fig tree he had planted in his orchard. Finding no fruit on the tree after three years, he told the gardener to cut it down.



But the gardener intercedes and asks for one more year to cultivate and fertilize the tree in hopes it would bear fruit in the future. The fig tree was not dying; it simply wasn't doing much of anything at all. Can this be said of us and our lives as well?

The season of Lent is a time to carefully reflect on the way we spend our time. Do we make God our first priority, tending to our spiritual growth and sacramental life with diligence? Do we give the next priority to our loved ones, focusing intentionally on them each day without distractions from phones, screens, or thoughts of work? If not, now is the moment to repent of our waste of time or of misplaced priorities on our use of time. God is merciful but just. Let's turn to Him and ask Him to make our lives fruitful while we still have time to do so.

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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 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.

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES COLLETION



Next weekend, we will take up The Catholic Relief Services Collection to reveal Christ's love to our brothers and sisters in need. This collection makes grants to six Catholic agencies that provide relief and support for struggling communities and work for peace and reconciliation among our marginalized brothers and sisters, both here and around the world. Please prayerfully consider how you can support the collection. Learn more about the collection at www.usccb.org/catholic-relief.



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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 a 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 contact the Parish Office.

All are welcome! We hope to see you there.

HELP OUR CHURCHES BLOOM FOR EASTER!



As we approach Easter, we are beginning to accept offerings for the purchase of flowers for Easter for our two churches. Use the Easter Flower envelope in your envelope packet or pickup one on the tables in church. You may make an offering in honor/memory of a loved one, and we will place the envelopes on the altars of our churches during Easter season. Please drop off the completed envelopes in the regular collection, at the parish office, or donate online by using our QR code. Thank you for your generosity.



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL COLLECTION & VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Thank you to all those who helped with sandwich making on Wednesday, March 19th. 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, April 19th 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 Today! St. Thomas the Apostle's collection will be next weekend. Thank you for your generosity.

SVDP online donation QR code:





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Mass Intentions

St. Monica				St. Thomas the Apostle			
Mon.	03/24	8:30 AM	Parishioners	Mon.	03/24	8:30 AM	Parishioners
Tue.	03/25	8:30 AM	Helen Ang, Thanksgiving	Tue.	03/25		No Mass
Wed.	03/26	8:30 AM	John & Mary Hanley †	Wed.	03/26	8:30 AM	Parishioners
Thu.	03/27	8:30 AM	Bany Woo †	Thu.	03/27		No Mass
Fri.	03/28	8:30 AM	Parishioners	Fri.	03/28	8:30 AM	Thakamna Chaco †
Sat.	03/29	8:30 AM	Parishioners	Sat.	03/29	8:30 AM	No Mass
		5:00 PM	Parishioners				
Sun.	03/30	11:00 AM	Parishioners	Sun.	03/30	9:00 AM	Louie & Tung Families, Good Health

THANK YOU	ST. MONICA	ST. THOMAS	
March 16, 2025	ENGLISH	VIETNAMESE	THE APOSTLE
1ST COLLECTION	\$1,065.00	\$183.00	\$1,730.00

 * We pray for the repose of the soul of *
 * **Barbara Siu** *
 * and offer our sympathy to her family and friends. *
 * Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May her souls and the *
 * souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen. *

JOIN THE SUCCESS!

If you have not yet made a gift to the Annual Appeal, we ask you to do so today. We invite everyone to share a portion of God's blessings with others by supporting the Annual Appeal. Your gift has a great impact. We hope for **100%** participation from our parish family this year. Thank you for supporting our Archdiocesan ministries and the people who need and depend on our programs and services.

- ♦ **The Adventures in Marriage Couples Workshop** in our **Marriage & Family Life** ministry focused on helping married couples struggling in their relationship. In the words of one attendee, "It was down-to-earth, relatable, and compassionate. Others' willingness to speak about their marriages helped us let down our guard. We left feeling hopeful that we'd revitalize our marriage."

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

We have reached 24% of our goal.

Donate online: <https://sfarchdiocese.org/aaa/>

Thank you for your generosity!

Thank you

