

Saint Monica-Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish

www.smstaparishsf.org

Fourth Sunday of Lent ~ March 30, 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

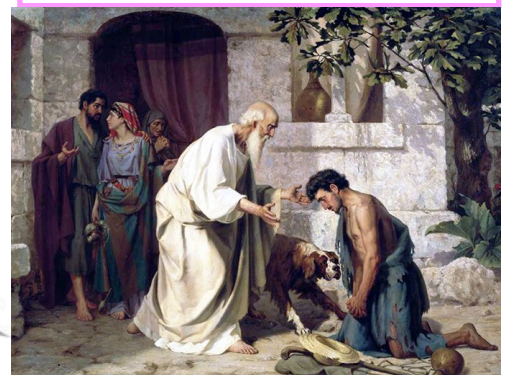
Sunday
9:00 AM

Weekdays
8:30 AM
(Monday, Wednesday,
and Friday)

First Saturday
Mass
8:30 AM

First Saturday Adoration
9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

LAETARE
Sunday
-to rejoice
a day of hope - Easter is near





Fourth Sunday of Lent ~ March 30, 2025



Dear brothers and sisters,

We continue to reflect on the three Lenten practices of fasting, almsgiving, and prayer. Of course we do more than simply reflect or consider them. We are to put them into practice as we are entering into the Holy Season, so as to obtain its benefits.

Today we consider almsgiving, which is the sharing of material goods with those in need. Everyone can give alms, not just those who are wealthy. We are to give according to our means. Some can give more, and some less. What matters is that we give in such a way as to make a sacrifice for God and for others.

We do this because our God is abundant in his giving. He has given us all things: life, health, our intellect, our abilities, our family and friends, and so much more. Through our giving, we are to imitate the generous heart of God. The more we become like him, the more we will understand him. The more we understand him, the more we will love him.

There are many charitable organizations that we can assist. Especially those that truly embrace the Catholic mission, those who serve others in the name of Christ. It is not hard to find people in need, in fact they are waiting for us. Let us determine to love them as God loves them, and give as he gives. Let us boldly proclaim that "It is no longer I, but Christ who lives in me." It is Christ who gives in me.

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 **TODAY 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: 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 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

For too many of us, Lent is a season of doom and gloom, a time to feel bad about all the ways we are not “measuring up” in our spiritual lives. But this view could not be further from the truth. Lent is a season of refreshment and love, of awakening and rebirth. The Gospel Reading, the parable of the Prodigal Son, is filled with this theme of awakening and the extravagant, life-changing love that the Father has for each one of us.

We are all familiar with this amazing story of the bratty younger son who has the audacity to ask his dad for his inheritance early, only to squander it sinfully away. It makes us bristle instinctively at his nerve when we read it. But isn't that exactly what we do when we selfishly turn away from God (in big or small ways) in our own lives? We squander away the inheritance of grace He has given us.

In desperation from the mess he had made of his life, the son finally “comes to his senses”. He is awakening to the truth that he is a beloved son of a loving and merciful father and decides to return home. His contrition is faltering and imperfect and seems motivated in large part by his growling stomach. But it is enough for the loving father.

In fact, as soon as the father catches sight of his son he is “filled with compassion for him” and immediately sets about preparing a feast and fine clothes for this son. What an extravagance of love! What a beautiful picture Jesus gives us of our Father's love and mercy. Oh, how this should fill us with gratitude for such a Father!

And how it should inspire us with just the tiniest bit of spiritual “spring cleaning” we can be sure we will be swept up in our Father's loving embrace and find ourselves feasting in His presence. That is what Lent is all about.

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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



Today, 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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EASTER & HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

St. Monica

Palm Sunday, April 13th

5:00 PM (Saturday)

8:00 AM (Vietnamese)

11:00 AM

Holy Thursday Mass, April 17th

7:00 PM

Good Friday, April 18th

1:00 PM - Seven Last Words

2:00 PM - Good Friday Liturgy

3:00 PM - Confessions

Holy Saturday Vigil, April 19th

8:00 PM

Easter Sunday, April 20th

8:00 AM (Vietnamese)

11:00 AM

St. Thomas the Apostle

Palm Sunday

9:00 AM

Holy Thursday,
Good Friday, and
Holy Saturday will be
held at St. Monica
Church.

Easter Sunday

9:00 AM

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.



Lent IS A TIME TO
GROW
CLOSER TO JESUS

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

LAETARE SUNDAY



Laetare, taken from the first words of the Introit at Mass, "Laetare Jerusalem" which means "Rejoice, O Jerusalem" Like Gaudete Sunday, Laetare also reminds us the even we look forward to at the end of the penitential season and the joy in anticipation of the resurrection.



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Mass Intentions

St. Monica				St. Thomas the Apostle			
Mon.	03/31	8:30 AM	Teresa & John Vasquez †	Mon.	03/31	8:30 AM	Parishioners
Tue.	04/01	8:30 AM	Helen Ang, Thanksgiving	Tue.	04/01		No Mass
Wed.	04/02	8:30 AM	John & Mary Hanley †	Wed.	04/02	8:30 AM	Emily Tung, Birthday
Thu.	04/03	8:30 AM	Josephine Smith, In Thanksgiving	Thu.	04/03		No Mass
Fri.	04/04	8:30 AM	Andy Pons †	Fri.	04/04	8:30 AM	Deceased Members on the Memorial Wall †
Sat.	04/05	8:30 AM	John N. Sullivan †	Sat.	04/05	8:30 AM	Deceased Members of the Parish †
		5:00 PM	Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary †				
Sun.	04/06	11:00 AM	John N. Sullivan †	Sun.	03/06	9:00 AM	Parishioners

THANK YOU	ST. MONICA	ST. THOMAS	
March 23, 2025	ENGLISH	VIETNAMESE	THE APOSTLE
1ST COLLECTION	\$2,017.00	\$435.00	\$1,093.00

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.

- ♦ Your generosity supports our **Diaconate program** - a couple having marital problems reached out to their parish Priest – and he suggested they speak with the parish's married Deacon and his wife. They did, and after many conversations the relationship was saved.

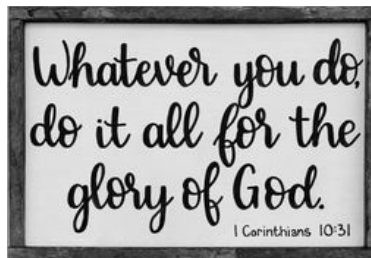
Our 2025 Archdiocesan Annual Appeal Goal is \$46,186.00.

We have reached 38% of our goal.

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

Thank you for your generosity!

Thank you



ST. MONICA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PRAY FOR US