

# Saint Monica-Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish

[www.smstaparishsf.org](http://www.smstaparishsf.org)

## Fifth Sunday of Lent ~ April 6, 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



#### Administrator

Rev. Ben Rosado  
pastor@smstaparishsf.org

#### 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  
alixjericin@gmail.com

### St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church

3835 Balboa Street  
San Francisco, CA 94121



### 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

### 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

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of  
*Lent*





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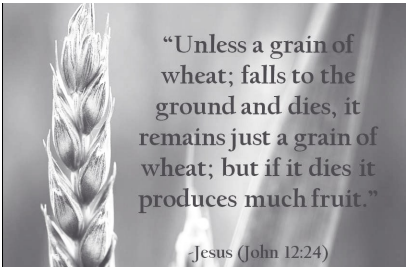
Dear brothers and sisters,

In our reflection on the three Lenten Disciplines, today we consider prayer.

The best definition I have heard of prayer is “a heart to heart conversation with God.” It is the sharing of our very self with God: our hopes, our dreams, our concerns, our needs, our thanks, our love. The more we practice prayer, the closer we draw to God, since it brings us into a relationship with him. He waits for us to speak with him, patiently longing for our friendship. Some Lenten prayer practices we can do to improve our prayer to the Lord are first and foremost our regular daily prayers, both morning and evening, and in between. Stations of the Cross are an excellent way to be reminded of the suffering our Lord endured for us. We might also consider coming to Mass more often than just Sundays, as we have the Holy Mass available everyday. When we pray the Mass, we are praying the most powerful prayer that exists. In it, Jesus’ very sacrifice is made present, and his gift of himself is wonderfully received.

Let us raise our hearts and minds to God in prayer. If we do, our lives will be empowered, transformed by the One who is with us, the God who seeks for us. May he find us near to him!

Fr. Ben



“Unless a grain of wheat; falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies it produces much fruit.”

-Jesus (John 12:24)

### PALM SUNDAY

Next weekend, we will celebrate Passion (Palm) Sunday and the beginning of Holy Week. For the 9:00 AM Mass at St. Thomas and the 11:00 AM Mass at St. Monica, you may gather inside the church as usual and then at the start of Mass, we will go outside, weather permitting, for the blessing of palms and procession into the church. For the 5:00 PM Saturday Mass at St. Monica, we will have an indoor procession from the back of the church.

### NOTES OF THANKS

Dear Parishioners,

Thank you to all for your support over the years, as well as your words of thanks and many gifts as I move to Villa Siena Senior Living Community in Mountain View, California. It has been a joy to be able to be part of St. Monica-St. Thomas the Apostle parish in my retirement. You made me feel welcomed at home as I returned to my home parish after many years of ministry in other areas. I will remember you in my prayers. Please remember me in yours.

Gratefully, Fr. Terry Sullivan

Dear Parishioners

Thank you all for your extraordinary kindness while I was here at St. Monica-St. Thomas the Apostle Parish. I enjoyed meeting and getting to know everyone. I look forward to settling in my new home at Serra Clergy House in San Mateo. May you all have a blessed Triduum.

In Gratitude, Fr. Jerry Murphy

### 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.





# Fifth Sunday of Lent ~ April 6, 2025

## GOSPEL REFLECTION

Once again, this week, we are reminded of what a loving and merciful God we serve. The theme of the readings for this Fifth Sunday of Lent are summed up beautifully in today's Gospel passage from Luke, which recounts the story of the woman caught in adultery. After all those who would have stoned this woman leave the scene, Christ says to her, "Neither do I condemn you. Go, and from now on do not sin anymore."

When we turn to God for forgiveness, He is indeed gracious and merciful. So much so, that not only will He forgive our sins without condemnation, but He will also make us completely new creations in Christ.

What is more amazing is that this all-perfect and holy God of ours draws so very near to us. Our sins do not drive Him from us, but rather to us so that He can set us free from our sins. Look carefully at Christ's actions and posture in the Gospel reading as He deals with the crowd of people, the Scribes and Pharisees, and the adulterous woman. "All the people started coming to Him and he sat down and taught them." "He bent down and began to write with His finger." He "straightened up" when He confronted the Scribes and Pharisees about their own sins. And he "straightened up" when He assured the woman that He did not condemn her for her past. Like a skilled teacher, or loving "big brother," Christ bends down to where we are, He sits among us, He stands to confront us when needed and He stands to look us in the eye to remind us of our true dignity.

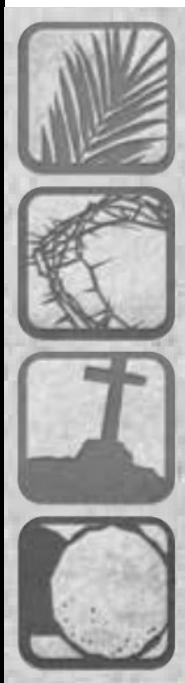
We're all unworthy of the great privilege of serving Him. But that, quite simply, is cause for greater joy in serving Him with all our hearts.

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## EASTER & HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

### St. Monica

### St. Thomas the Apostle



**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

**Palm Sunday**  
 9:00 AM

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

**Easter Sunday**  
 9:00 AM



\* There are no morning 8:30 AM Masses during the Triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday).



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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**  
**Friday, April 11th**  
Confessions at 5:30 PM  
Stations of the Cross at 6:00 PM  
 followed by a Lenten Soup Supper

**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 the Easter season. Please drop off the completed envelopes in the regular collection or at the parish office. Thank you for your generosity.

**ST. MONICA SCHOOL TRANSITIONAL KINDERGARTEN**

Greetings Saint Monica Community Members,  
 We are pleased to announce that Saint Monica School is now accepting applications for our Transitional Kindergarten (TK) program for the 2025 - 2026 School Year! Our TK program will be a two-year program for students: attending TK for the first year, and Kindergarten for the second year. We welcome families to consider Saint Monica School as a choice for your child in TK through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Please come and see our school program in action. Contact us for a school day tour: <https://www.stmonicasf.org/admissions/>.

We offer families a quality Catholic Education, a strong academic program, a rich experience for our students, and a safe environment. Applications are available now for our TK Program! All application info and forms can be found on our school website: <https://www.stmonicasf.org/admissions/apply/> Families may also inquire with our school office to receive an application and information packet.

Sincerely,  
 Vincent M. Sweeters  
 Principal  
 415-751-9564  
[sweeters@stmonicasf.org](mailto:sweeters@stmonicasf.org)

**Congratulations to the Respect for Life essay winners, Allison Tom, a 4th grader, who won the grand prize and 1st grader, Evan Chamrerlaksa, both students attend St. Monica School. Congratulations to Anisha Pradhan, a St. Monica School 8th grader, who won 1st place in San Francisco's Middle School Science Fair. Anisha, will be going to compete this month in the California State Science and Engineer Fair. We wish her great success!**

**WAY TO GO BULLDOGS!**



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## *Mass Intentions*

St. Monica				St. Thomas the Apostle			
Mon.	04/07	8:30 AM	Mary Jo Wisneski †	Mon.	04/07	8:30 AM	Fr. James Stump, OFM Cap †
Tue.	04/08	8:30 AM	William John Hatch †	Tue.	04/08		No Mass
Wed.	04/09	8:30 AM	Bruno Foronda, Jr. †	Wed.	04/09	8:30 AM	Eliamma Paul †
Thu.	04/10	8:30 AM	Ching Lau †	Thu.	04/10		No Mass
Fri.	04/11	8:30 AM	Ludwika Novak †	Fri.	04/11	8:30 AM	Fr. John Sakowski †
Sat.	04/12	8:30 AM	Lou Barberini †	Sat.	04/12	8:30 AM	No Mass
		5:00 PM	Carina & Albert Rocamora †				
Sun.	04/13	11:00 AM	Parishioners	Sun.	04/13	9:00 AM	Parishioners

THANK YOU	ST. MONICA		
March 30, 2024	ENGLISH	VIETNAMESE	ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE
IST COLLECTION	\$1,223.00	\$311.00	\$1,389.00
CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICE	\$1,849.00	\$234.00	\$433.00
SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL	\$810.00	\$220.00	\$200.00
MARCH ONLINE DONATIONS		\$1,838.00	

**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 on **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.

**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.

- Through **Tuition Assistance**, your generosity has enabled a young lady to attend both a Catholic elementary school and high school. Her family cherishes the faith-based education, which provides structure, guidance, and direction...and her father says that without support through the Annual Appeal, she would not have been able to do so.

**Our 2025 Archdiocesan Annual Appeal Goal is \$46,186.00.**  
**We have reached 42% of our goal.**  
**Donate online: <https://sfarchdiocese.org/aaa/>**  
**Thank you for your generosity!**

