

# Saint Monica-Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish

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

Second Sunday of Easter / Divine Mercy Sunday ~ April 7, 2024

## St. Monica Catholic Church

470 24th Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94121  
Tel: 415-751-5275 Fax: 415-751-0440

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

10:00 AM Divine Liturgy at  
Our Lady of Fatima Byzantine

Weekdays  
8:30 AM (Monday-Saturday)

Rosary  
8:00 AM (Monday-Saturday)

Confession  
4:00 PM - 4:40 PM Saturday

## Administrator

Rev. David Schunk

## In Residence

St. Monica Rectory  
Rev. Paulinus Iwuji, SMMM  
Catholic Chaplain VA Hospital

## St. Thomas the Apostle Rectory

Rev. Te Van Nguyen  
Vietnamese Ministry  
Catholic Chaplain for UCSF

Fr. Andrew Spyrow  
Vicar for Clergy

## Deacons

Rev. Mr. Dana Perrigan  
[perrigan2000@yahoo.com](mailto:perrigan2000@yahoo.com)  
Mr. Kristopher Compagno  
Permanent Deacon Candidate

## Parish Staff

Office Manager  
Jessica Montgomery  
[parishoffice@stmonicasf.org](mailto:parishoffice@stmonicasf.org)

Director of Religious Education  
Sr. Noreen O'Connor, C.S.J.  
[noconnor@csjla.org](mailto:noconnor@csjla.org)

Music Ministry  
Alix Jerinic  
[alixjeric@gmail.com](mailto:alixjeric@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

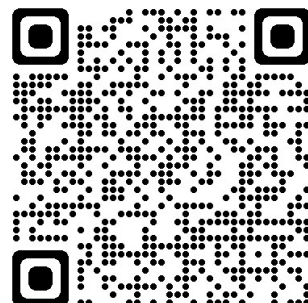
Weekdays  
8:30 AM  
(Monday, Wednesday, and Friday)

First Saturday  
Mass  
8:30 AM

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



Donate  
online to  
St. Monica-  
St. Thomas  
the Apostle  
Parish





## Second Sunday of Easter / Divine Mercy Sunday ~ April 7, 2024



Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Today, we come to the end of our Easter Octave. Octave comes from the word eight and so refers to the period of the eight days of Easter, inclusive of Easter Sunday. Like at Christmas time, the Easter celebration is not just important for one day's celebration, but something to keep celebrating for eight days. This of course goes against cultural norms as in some places, the summer and 4th of July gear is already making an appearance!

This past week our school students had a break from school but like all good things, it now comes to an end. Some of our eighth graders, however, got to make an exciting trip to our nation's capital of Washington, DC. I am looking forward to hearing about the highlights of their trip with their opportunity to see our government and the places that mark our nation's history in-person. Who knows, maybe some of them will be checking out their future offices in and around the Capitol!

Finally, by now you have likely seen the various notes about Sister Noreen's Jubilee celebration coming up later this month. The deadline to reserve a spot at the luncheon is this week and I hope many of our parishioners will be able to join us for what will be an incredible celebration to mark an incredible life of service to God and neighbor. You may either register on-line or drop off the registration card at the parish office.

Father Schunk

### Reflections on the Mass and Sacred Liturgy

The Blessing and Sprinkling of Holy Water at Mass during the Easter Season The Roman Missal provides that on Sundays the blessing and sprinkling of holy water may take the place of the usual Penitential Act at the beginning of Mass. This is done in remembrance of our baptism. When this is used, it comes immediately after the greeting and the priest blesses the water before he sprinkles it.

The Rite for the Blessing and Sprinkling of Water is especially recommended for Easter Time. The priest begins by inviting the people to ask God to bless the water which will be sprinkled on them as a reminder of their baptism and also that they may remain faithful to the Spirit which they have received.

In the blessing of water for the Easter season, the priest speaks of the wonderful work of our creation and the even greater work of our redemption in Christ. He recalls that God made water the instrument of his mercy. Then in a clear reference to the exodus of the children of Israel from Egypt through the Red Sea, he speaks of how, through water, God freed his people from slavery. Also, in reference to the forty years that Israel spent in the desert, the priest notes that through water from the rock, the Lord quenched the thirst of his people in the desert. Then in recalling Christ's baptism in the Jordan, the priest refers to the fact that Christ, by his own baptism, made the very waters of baptism holy. Finally, the priest prays that the water that is blessed may be a memorial of the baptism which those in the congregation have received and that they may also share the joy of those who were baptized that year at the Easter Vigil.

The sprinkling during the Easter Season has customarily been accompanied by the chant which begins with the words of Ezechiel 47:1 : Vidi aquam egredientem de templo, a latere dextro, alleluia. Et omnes ad quos peruenit aqua ista, salvi facti sunt. Et dicent: alleluia, alleluia (I saw water flowing from the right side of the temple, alleluia. And all to whom this water came were saved. And they will say: alleluia, alleluia). This chant begins a passage which further on speaks of other images of abundant life and healing, images that someone familiar with this passage recalls almost automatically: the water becomes a great river; it makes the salt waters fresh; wherever the river flows, every living creature that can multiply will live; along the banks of the river trees of every kind will grow; they will bear fruit every month; their fruit will serve as food and their leaves for medicine.

Source: Rev. Kurt Belsole, OSB, Saint Vincent Archabbey, Latrobe, PA  
[www.liftupyourhearts.church](http://www.liftupyourhearts.church)



Second Sunday of Easter / Divine Mercy Sunday ~ April 7, 2024



With gratitude to God  
**St. Monica – St. Thomas the Apostle  
 Parish Community**  
 Request the honor of your presence  
 to celebrate  
**The 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Religious Life**  
 of  
**Sr. Noreen O’Connor, CSJ**  
 on  
**Sunday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024**  
**Jubilee Mass at 11:00 am at Saint Monica Church**

Jubilee Lunch and Program at 12:30 pm in the Parish Hall, Geary Blvd & 23<sup>rd</sup> Ave  
 RSVP by April 10, 2024  
 Info: [SrNoreenJubilee@gmail.com](mailto:SrNoreenJubilee@gmail.com)



<https://stmonica.schoolauction.net/srnoreen2024>

**Jubilee Lunch RSVP**

**Sr. Noreen O’Connor’s Platinum Jubilee**  
Celebrating the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Religious Life

I wish to attend.

Please reserve \_\_\_\_ Jubilee Lunch tickets; suggested donation is \$25.00 per person.

I cannot attend but wish to make a tax deductible donation \$\_\_\_\_\_

Guest Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

A check, made payable to **St. Monica Church**, should be received by April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

Kindly enter “Jubilee” on the memo line.

Mail to: Jubilee, St. Monica Church, 470 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94121

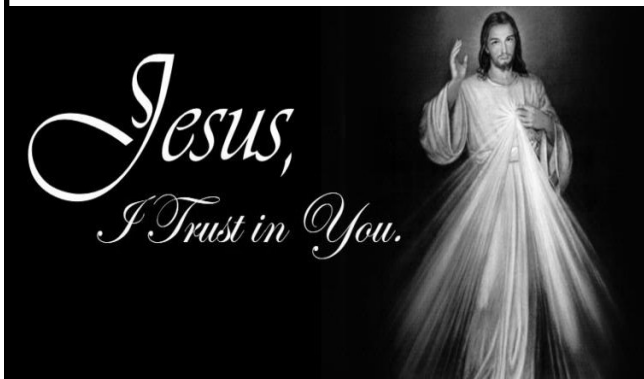


**Second Sunday of Easter / Divine Mercy Sunday ~ April 7, 2024**

**In His Presence  
The Eucharistic Revival at St. Monica – St. Thomas the Apostle  
Focus for April – Being in God’s Presence in Joy**

Last month, our focus of reflection had a more somber tone as we reflected on being in God’s presence in our suffering and pain. In the season of Lent, this may have been an appropriate time for that focus. Now that we enter the Easter season, we should look to the opposite, in how we see ourselves in the Lord’s presence in joy. In a way, it is ironic because we find Easter joy in the empty tomb, the place where the Lord is not. Setting that ironic detail aside, I offer to us a particular example of being in the Lord’s presence in joy and one involving new life, literally. I propose us to reflect on the newborn baby. It is just fascinating that when a baby is born, we can just sit there and watch him or her do nothing but breath and perhaps scrunch up their face. For me and I suspect most of you, it is an experience that fills us with wonder and joy. Here is new life, here is a miracle where before there was nothing but now a new human person. And this person came into existence because God allowed it to be so. In this moment when there is so much joy, we are In His Presence as we behold his life-sustaining work. Now a child is just one example. There are other situations and things that can cause us joy. Entering our churches at Easter and seeing the beautiful decorations or gathering with family and friends may cause us joy. These blessings are reminders to us of the constant work of God in our lives and how he is entering our presence with his grace. May all the joys of the Easter season allow you to recognize the closeness and presence of the One who is the source of all joy.

**Divine Mercy Sunday** is celebrated on the Second Sunday of Easter. This year, it takes place on



April 7th. It is a significant time for reflection on the Christian faith. As Pope John Paul II stated, “It is a time where we are blessed with divine mercy as it reaches us through the heart of Christ crucified.” Divine Mercy Sunday, focuses on the gifts that flowed from Christ’s death, burial, and resurrection - His mercy and love that were so freely given to humanity after such a betrayal. Divine Mercy Sunday concludes the Easter celebrations and welcomes the ultimate gift that Christ gave after His crucifixion.

**DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY**

On this Second Sunday of Easter, we celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday. We celebrate this feast today since God’s mercy was shared with us through the resurrection of Jesus. To put it simply, today, we are celebrating Jesus’ merciful love for us and how we can partake in it.

No matter where we are on our journey as a disciple of Christ, we are all in need of God’s merciful love. There are countless times throughout our day when we miss the mark. For instance, we might fail to respond in kind to our spouse or kids, fall into gossip in our workday, or even forget to think positively of others. These shortcomings call us to humble ourselves and receive the unwavering mercy of God.

Jesus is Mercy itself. He was born into time to save us from sin. And to ensure His Mercy was always available to us, He gave us the Sacrament of Reconciliation. In our Gospel, Jesus encounters the apostles after the resurrection and says, “Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained.” Jesus gave us the gift of this sacrament because He wants to help us reach eternal life. He knows we cannot do it without His merciful love, and a resolve to do better and to follow Him more faithfully.

Today, may we recall the precious gift God has given to us through His Son — Mercy itself. May we never forget that, with a contrite heart and a resolution to do better, God is always willing to forgive.

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# Mass Intentions

St. Monica				St. Thomas the Apostle			
Mon.	04/08	8:30 AM	Jack Hanley †	Mon.	04/08	8:30 AM	Jeffrey Alan Peters †
Tue.	04/09	8:30 AM	Shirley Tesch †	Tue.	04/09		No Mass
Wed.	04/10	8:30 AM	Politeo Family, Living & Deceased	Wed.	04/10	8:30 AM	Msgr. John Coleman †
Thu.	04/11	8:30 AM	Msgr. John Coleman †	Thu.	04/11		No Mass
Fri.	04/12	8:30 AM	Isaac Zimmern †	Fri.	04/12	8:30 AM	Kathleen Hayes †
Sat.	04/13	8:30 AM	Floyd Brown & Victoria Elter, Living	Sat.	04/13		No Mass
		5:00 PM	Michael Brandon Mannix †				
Sun.	04/14	11:00 AM	Simon K. Lee †	Sun.	04/14	9:00 AM	Parishioners

THANK YOU	ST. MONICA	ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE
March 31, 2024		
IST COLLECTION - EASTER	\$8,486.00	\$3,350.00
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL COLLECTION	\$1,155.00	\$552.00
VIETNAMESE COLLECTION	\$761.00	
HOLY LAND COLLECTION	\$1,150.00	\$200.00
MARCH ONLINE DONATIONS		\$927.00

## Archdiocesan Annual Appeal (AAA) Update

Dear Friends, Thank you to all the households who have contributed to the AAA. With our most recent update from the Archdiocese, we are at approximately 68% of our monetary goal. As I stated when we kicked off the Appeal, our goal is to have 100% **participation** from all the households of our parish. We have been including in our bulletin the past several weeks stories of some of the ministries that are benefited by the Appeal so you may get a sense of the ways your contributions support various ministries in the Archdiocese. If you have not yet made a contribution, you may pick up a brochure or one of the white envelopes at the doors of the churches which includes my letter about the AAA. Thank you all for your continued support.

*Love your neighbor  
as yourself.*

Matthew 22:39