

Saint Monica-Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish

www.smstaparishsf.org

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time ~ August 18, 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

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
Chaplain Kaiser Hospital

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, C.S.J.
noconnor@csjla.org

Music Ministry
Alix Jerinic
alixjericin@gmail.com

St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church

3835 Balboa Street
San Francisco, CA 94121



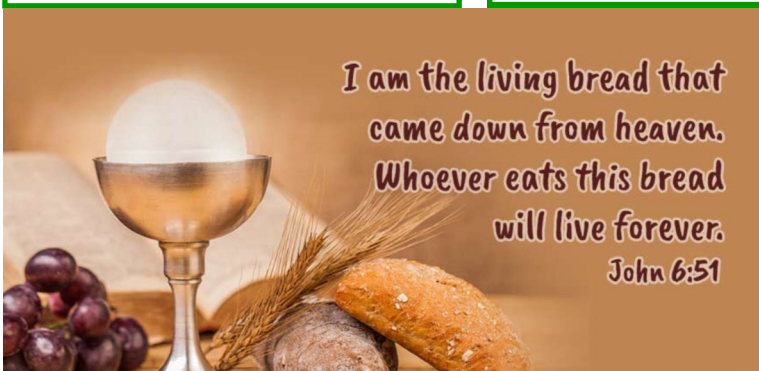
St. Thomas the Apostle Church MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday
9:00 AM

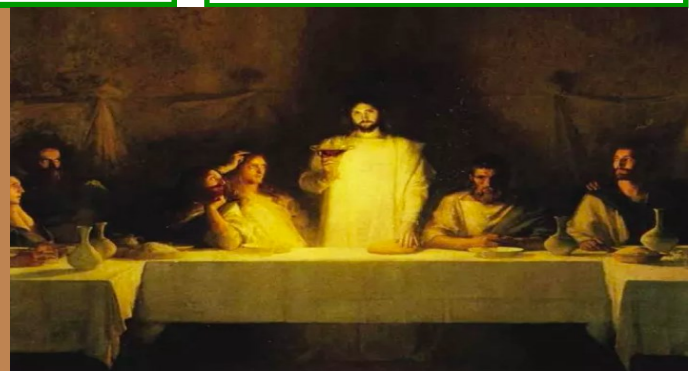
Weekdays
8:30 AM
(Monday, Wednesday, and Friday)

First Saturday
Mass
8:30 AM

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



I am the living bread that
came down from heaven.
Whoever eats this bread
will live forever.
John 6:51





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Dear brothers and sisters,

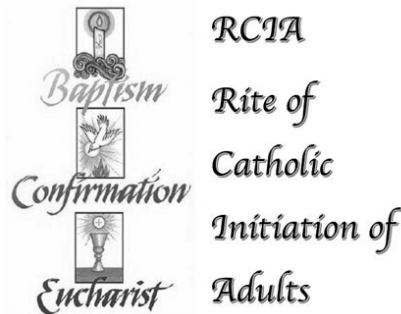
Let us continue to reflect on the Sacraments of Initiation. In my message last week, we learned how Baptism marks the beginning of the Christian Life, how it opens the door to many graces from God. The greatest of these graces is the Eucharist, the food which gives us strength to walk along our spiritual journey.

The Eucharist is truly more than a grace, more than a blessing. It is the reception of God into one's heart, body, and soul. Throughout the last several weeks, we have been listening to the Gospel of John, chapter six, that has as its focus, the Eucharist. This message today is timely for us, who are reflecting on so great a mystery.

I find that one of the most helpful ways to understand the Sacrament of the Eucharist is to consider its various titles, the names which have been given to teach us the depth of its truth. Here are a few: 1) The True Presence – Not a mere symbol of Christ but His very body, blood, soul, and divinity, truly present to us, 2) The Bread of Life – Just as our bodies need food to give them physical strength to live in this world, the Eucharist gives us the spiritual strength to live for Heaven, 3) Holy Communion – When we receive this gift, we are meant to enter into a holy communion with God, a sacred union with the Lord, God in us, and we in Him, and 4) The Medicine of Immortality – this is my favorite title for the Eucharist. Here we see how just as medicines heal our bodies from illness, the Eucharist is the medicine to heal us from the greatest of illnesses, death. Through its reception, we have eternal life.

May our response to this knowledge be a greater longing for the Holy Eucharist. May we look forward to and even long for this food from Heaven. May we see the Mass, the Sacred place where this food comes to us, as a privileged place, the greatest of gifts from God. More than any gift He gives, God gives us Himself. What a treasure this should be to us!

Fr. Ben



Are you, or anyone you know, interested in becoming a Catholic? Are you already Baptized? Would you like to complete the Sacraments of initiation by receiving the Eucharist and being Confirmed in the Catholic Church? Adults (18+) are invited to join our upcoming Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults program here at St. Monica-St. Thomas the Apostle Parish.

An introductory meeting will be held on **Sunday, September 17th at 7:00 PM** at our Parish Office (470 24th Ave).

If you are interested in participating or want more information contact:
Fr. Ben at 415-751-5275 ext. 222 or pastor@smstaparishsf.org



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GOSPEL REFLECTION

Jesus said to the crowd, “Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life...” We can hardly blame the crowd for their shock at this statement - eating the Flesh and drinking the Blood of our Lord should cause us a bit of a shock. Yet, how easy it is to show up at Mass Sunday after Sunday, receiving the Eucharist as simply part of a weekly routine.

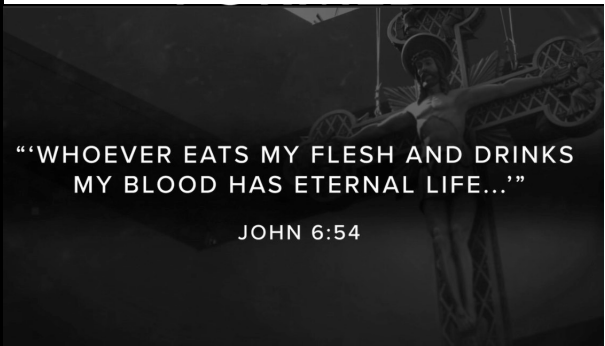
If we really spent time contemplating the gift our Lord is offering us in this Sacrament, we would be awestruck at the love and power in this gift. Through it, our Lord is giving us the very best He has to give - Himself. Not even the greatest theological scholar or the holiest of saints can fully understand this mystery.

Thankfully, we don’t need to be a saint or a scholar to receive this gift. But we should do our best to receive the Eucharist with gratitude and we can look to today’s readings to glean two fundamental principles for becoming better Christian stewards.

The Eucharist is the foundation for a stewardship way of life. Through His gift of the Eucharist, God fills us with His love and strength. This love and strength empower us to live as generous stewards - to be faithful to the ministries we serve in, joyful in material giving, and offer our very best to our families and secular work.

The Eucharist is the ultimate inspiration for a stewardship way of life. When we contemplate this gift of God, we will want to make a joyful return to Him. Mass will become anything but routine and we will live each day as His passionate disciples.

~ Catholic Stewardship Consultants



According to Pope Francis, what are some of the ways we might see Jesus “remaining” in us when we eat His Flesh and drink His Blood?

“In the Body and Blood of Christ, we find His presence, His life given for each of us. He not only gives us help to go forward, but He gives us himself - He makes Himself our travelling companion, He enters into our affairs, He visits us when we are lonely, giving us back a sense of enthusiasm. This *satisfies us*, when the Lord gives meaning to our life, to our darkness, our doubts. But He sees the meaning, and this meaning that the Lord gives satisfies us. This gives us that “more” that we all seek - namely, the *presence* of the Lord! For in the warmth of His presence, our lives change.”

~ Pope Francis, Angelus, June 19, 2021

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Our construction is moving along according to schedule. You will find that we now have access to our parking at St. Monica through 23rd Avenue as we had in the past. At St. Thomas, our parking lot will be more available in the weeks to come. Thank you for your continued patience!

ST. MONICA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE MEMORIAL WALLS

St. Monica-St. Thomas the Apostle Parish offers parishioners an opportunity to remember your friends and loved ones in a memorial space in the vestibule of each Church. For a donation of \$250.00, a brass nameplate will be engraved with the name(s) of your choice with a maximum of 50 letters. If you wish to order a plaque, forms are available in each Church or by calling the parish office at 415-751-5275.



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**PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION (CCD) FOR
ST. MONICA-ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH**

Religion classes for students in grades K-8 in Catholic, private or public school, begin on **Sunday, September 8, 2024**. The class time is from 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM. The class provides curriculum for each grade level and preparation for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation. The 9:00 AM Mass is included as part of the class as a continuation of the instruction and practice of the Catholic faith. Classes are held at 720 40th Avenue. Registration papers and a class schedule are on the tables in both Churches.

Please put the registration form in the Sunday collection or mail it to:

Sr. Noreen O'Connor at 470 24th Ave, San Francisco, CA 94121
For additional information: Sister Noreen O'Connor at noconnor@csjla.org.

PRESCHOOL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION TEACHER NEEDED

We are looking for a preschool teacher for our Religious Education Program. If you are interested, please contact Sr. Noreen O'Connor at noconnor@csjla.org.

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL
VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY**

Thank you to all those who helped with sandwich making on Wednesday, July 17th. 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, August 21st at 7:00 PM**. We meet in the St. Monica Parish Hall.

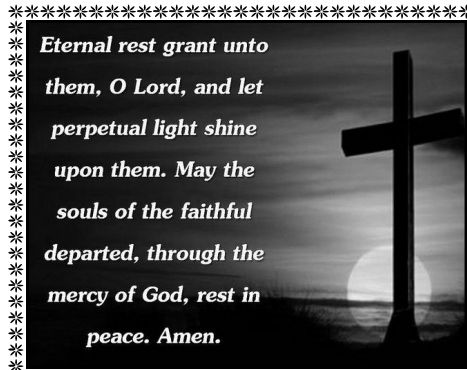
For questions contact: Maria McDevitt at megmared@comcast.net or 415-515-6945.

All are welcome to join us
Monday - Saturday at 8:00 AM
to pray the Rosary
at St. Monica Church.

&

All are welcome to join us
on the First Saturday of every month for
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
from 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM at
St. Thomas the Apostle Church.

“The Rosary is the most beautiful and the most rich in graces of all prayers; it is the prayer that touches most the Heart of the Mother of God...and if you wish peace to reign in your homes, recite the family Rosary.”
~ Saint Pope Pius X (Feast Day - August 21st)



Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

- ◆ A funeral service for **Rita Britto** will be held at St. Thomas the Apostle on Saturday, August 24th at 10:00 AM.
- ◆ A memorial for **Helen Mar** will be held on Saturday, August 24th at 10:00 AM at Woodlawn Cemetery.
- ◆ A celebration of life for **Janet Welsh Andrzejewski** will be held on Saturday, August 24th at Lafayette School (37th Ave & Anza St) from 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM.
- ◆ A private celebration of life for **Katherine Dells Urbiztando** will be held in the Fall.



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Mass Intentions

St. Monica				St. Thomas the Apostle			
Mon.	08/19	8:30 AM	Krzysztof Hajdas †	Mon.	08/19	8:30 AM	Avelina Aglubat †
Tue.	08/20	8:30 AM	Richard Atwood †	Tue.	08/20		No Mass
Wed.	08/21	8:30 AM	Harold & Helen Grangoff †	Wed.	08/21	8:30 AM	Maurice O'Connor †
Thu.	08/22	8:30 AM	Alberto Manantan †	Thu.	08/22		No Mass
Fri.	08/23	8:30 AM	Moyra Moy †	Fri.	08/23	8:30 AM	Maria Fanara †
Sat.	08/24	8:30 AM	Ryszard Sowa †	Sat.	08/24		No Mass
		5:00 PM	Thuc Van Ngo †				
Sun.	08/25	11:00 AM	Parishioners	Sun.	08/25	9:00 AM	Annabell Tung, Birthday

THANK YOU	ST. MONICA	ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE
August 11, 2024		
IST COLLECTION	\$1,652.00	\$1,084.00
VIETNAMESE COLLECTION	\$366.00	

Thank you for your continued support to our Parish.

To donate:
Use your personalized parish offertory envelopes
or scan the QR code to donate online!

ARCHDIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL UPDATE

We are pleased to say that we have reached the monetary goal for the 2024 Archdiocesan Annual Appeal! Thank you, to our generous parishioners and the anonymous donors who have contributed or made pledges to the Archdiocesan Annual Appeal.

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 vestibule of the Church after the 9:00 AM Mass. To volunteer (clean up and refreshment donations) please email Christine Aguerre at: chriscrk6@gmail.com.

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