

Saint Monica-Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish

www.smstaparishsf.org

Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time ~ August 24, 2025

St. Monica Catholic Church

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

Office Hours:
Monday - Thursday
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

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

Rev. Mr. Xristopher Compagno
dcnxristopher@gmail.com

Parish Staff

Administrative Assistant
Jessica Montgomery
parishoffice@smstaparishsf.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

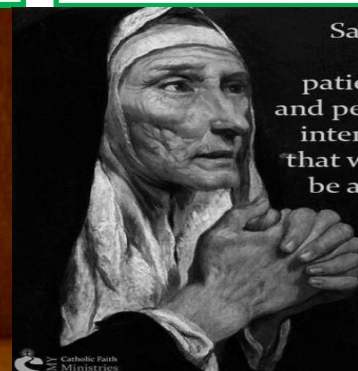
Sunday
9:00 AM

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

First Saturday
Mass
8:30 AM

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

Someone asked him,
"Lord, will only a few people
be saved?"
He answered them,
Strive to enter through
the narrow gate,
for many, I tell you,
will attempt to enter
but will not be
strong enough.



Saint Monica,
model of
patience, prayer
and perseverance,
intercede for us,
that we, too, may
be awakened to
the sacred,
and trust
in God's
perfect
timing.
Amen.



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Dear brothers and sisters,

Our faith is one of new beginnings. When we think of God, we can reflect on how he created us ex nihilo, from nothing. He created us out of nothing yet brought us into being because of the love that he has for each one of us. Our life on this earth is the beginning itself, the genesis that we should be forever grateful to God. Have you ever just stopped and prayerfully thanked God that he made you and that you exist?

The Lord is even more generous than that, because He gives us new beginnings each and every day. Each day, we can start anew and leave behind the troubles of yesterday. We can decide to start again, to live in love, thanksgiving, and be at peace with others. The scriptures boldly proclaim that “*God’s mercy is new every morning*” Lam 3:22-23. Have you ever started a new year determined to make a change?

We also find new beginnings whenever we go to the Sacrament of Reconciliation. In this wonderful gift, Jesus powerfully washes away our sins, giving us a fresh start. This holy Sacrament heals us and makes our souls as new as they were at our Baptism. Through it, we discover how good God is, since we do not deserve his forgiveness, yet he desires to give it to us. Have you ever come out of confession and recognized that your sins are gone, and your soul has been made clean?

And lastly of all, there is a new beginning waiting for us at the end of this life. We have the promise of a new, eternal life in Heaven. No longer will there be tears, sorrow, or death, but all will be made new. St. Paul says that we will be changed as dramatically as a seed is compared to a tree. It will be the greatest new beginning of all. Have you ever spent time contemplating the New Heaven and New Earth that God is preparing for us?

My dear friends, let us decide to start anew, let us begin again!

Fr. Ben

***Welcome to all who worship with our parish family,
whether long time residents or newly arrived in the parish.***

***If you are not registered, please fill out this form and put it in the collection basket or
mail it to the Rectory.***

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

☐ New Parishioner ☐ New Address ☐ New Phone Number ☐ Remove from List

☐ Send Sunday Envelopes

☐ St. Monica ☐ St. Thomas the Apostle

You may register online at: <https://www.osvhub.com/smstaparishsf/directory/register>



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GOSPEL REFLECTION

Today's readings show us that it is not enough to be Christ's disciples in name only. To be a real disciple, we must live for Christ every day and in every aspect of life. This kind of life takes strength and discipline.

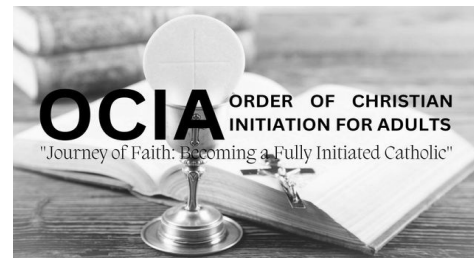
Intentionally and consistently offering the Lord the best of our Time, Talent, and Treasure through a stewardship way of life is a form of spiritual discipline. These spiritual disciplines teach us, to become ever more aware of God's constant provision for us and they keep us on the narrow path towards the Kingdom of Heaven. The more we embrace this way of life, the more we can be "trained" by the Lord in the ways of true discipleship. Though difficult, these disciplines become a source of spiritual strength.

Our Lord Himself speaks of the difficult path to the Kingdom of Heaven in today's Gospel passage from Luke. He is asked, "Lord, will only a few be saved?" Jesus responds, "Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I tell you, will attempt to enter but will not be strong enough." Showing up for Mass on Sunday while living as if Christ is an afterthought the rest of the week does not make us disciples. What's more, this approach to our faith is an unjust and unloving response to our good God who has given us all that we have and are.

Jesus does not want us to merely go through the motions of faith. He wants much more from us and for us. He wants to know us deeply and for us to get to know Him so that we become His holy disciples. This is not a burden; it is a privilege. But it does take discipline, the discipline of a stewardship way of life. ©Catholic Stewardship Consultants

2025 - 2026 OCIA (ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS)

Every Thursdays from September 11, 2025 to April 4, 2026, OCIA classes will be held from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm, Parish Rectory. Do you want to be baptized? Are you a baptized Catholic who has never been confirmed? Are you considering becoming a Catholic? If you are already a Baptized, Confirmed Catholic, are you ready to explore your faith anew by sponsoring someone you know who is interested in becoming Catholic? If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, or know someone who would, then OCIA (formerly known as RCIA) is for you. For additional information or to register contact Deacon Xristopher at dcnxristopher@gmail.com.



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 schools begin on **Sunday, September 21, 2025**. This is a blessed opportunity for your child to grow in his/her faith and prepare for the Sacraments. We are grateful that you are considering this class for your child. Classes will be held every Sunday morning at St. Thomas the Apostle Church, beginning with Mass at 9:00 am, followed by class instruction until 11:00 am.

Registration forms are available in both of our Churches and on our website.

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

Fr. Ben Rosado at 470 24th Ave, San Francisco, CA 94121

For additional information: email Fr. Ben at pastor@smstaparishsf.org

Religious Education Registration





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August 27: Feast of Saint Monica

Years of dedicated prayers by St. Monica led to the conversion of her husband, mother-in-law, and son, St. Augustine

FEAST DAY OF ST. MONICA - MASSES AND BLESSING

We invite you to join us on **Wednesday, August 27th**, at St. Monica Church, where we will have our regularly scheduled 8:30 AM Mass. Each person attending Mass will be blessed with a relic of St. Monica.

We will be celebrating St. Monica's feast day in a special way on the weekend of **August 30-31** at all of our masses. Please join us as well for a potluck lunch at 12pm in our St. Monica Hall. We thank you for your prayers, presence, and anything you would like to share with our Parish Community. We hope to see you then!

Nothing is far from God. ~ Saint Monica

DEDICATED TO MOTHERHOOD

After her husband's premature death, St. Monica dedicated her life to raising her children. As a single mother of three, she persevered in the face of many difficulties. Her greatest desire was for her children to follow Christ. Although, later in life, he was known as a fervent man of God, St. Augustine did not easily come to see God's truth. As a child, he proved to be quite difficult, causing Monica much grief, and as a young adult he remained uninterested in Christianity. But St. Monica never stopped praying for his eternal soul, in spite of the circumstances. On one particular occasion, when she was discussing the matter with a priest, he urged her to remain steadfast in her prayers, stating that it was "not possible that the son of so many tears should perish."

Augustine himself was to say his mother gave birth to him twice; the second time required a lengthy spiritual travail of prayers and tears, but it was crowned at last with the joy of seeing him not only embrace the faith and receive Baptism, but also dedicate himself without reserve to the service of Christ. ~ *The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, D.C.*

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL COLLECTION & VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Thank you to all those who helped with sandwich making on Wednesday, July 16th. 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 20th 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 next weekend, August 30th & 31st.
Thank you for your generosity.

SVDP online donation QR code:





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Mass Intentions

St. Monica			
Mon.	08/25	8:30 AM	Simon Lee †
Tue.	08/26	8:30 AM	Richard Atwood †
Wed.	08/27	8:30 AM	Sarah & Joe Rahe †
Thu.	08/28	8:30 AM	Manuela & Jorge Mangana †
Fri.	08/29	8:30 AM	Rosario Ramos Sabularce †
Sat.	08/30	8:30 AM	Ching Lau †
		5:00 PM	Mel Cook †
Sun.	08/31	11:00 AM	Kay Kleinen Good Health

St. Thomas the Apostle			
Mon.	08/25	8:30 AM	Parishioners
Tue.	08/26		No Mass
Wed.	08/27	8:30 AM	Parishioners
Thu.	08/28		No Mass
Fri.	08/29	8:30 AM	Parishioners
Sat.	08/30	8:30 AM	No Mass
Sun.	08/31	9:00 AM	Parishioners

THANK YOU	ST. MONICA		
August 17, 2025	ENGLISH	VIETNAMESE	ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE
1ST COLLECTION	\$2,399.00	\$454.00	\$1,137.00

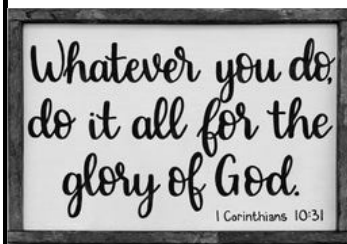
Pray as though everything depended on God.

Work as though everything depended on you.

~ Saint Augustine (Feast Day - August 28th)



2025 ARCHDIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL



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 **Teacher Incentive Grants**. One teacher notes, "The Incentive grant has helped me become a more responsive educator. It's helped me assess my students' needs and respond to them more effectively by providing a nurturing environment where they can continue to learn and grow as a whole person. It has made a tremendous impact on my life and the life of my students."

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

We have reached 71% of our goal. Donations received: \$33,032.00.

Donate online: <https://sfarchdiocese.org/aaa/> or by using the QR Code

Donate by mail: Fill out the form located on the tables in the Church and mail the form with your donation to the Archdiocese.

