

# *Saint Monica-Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish*

*www.smstaparishsf.org*

**Feast of the Exultation of the Holy Cross ~ September 14, 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

### 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. Kristopher 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

## **The Exaltation of the Holy Cross**



For God did not send his Son into the world to  
condemn the world, but that the world might be  
saved through him. John 3:17



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Dear brothers and sisters,

Today we dive into our series on the Ten Commandments with the first commandment "I, the Lord, am your God. You shall not have any other gods besides me." This is the most perfect way for God to begin teaching his ways, as it sets the foundation for us to obey him. As he tells us: he must be our God, our Lord, and no one or nothing else should take his place in our lives.

There will always be such a temptation: to make someone else, some thing, some desire, or to make ourselves the god we serve. This is called idolatry. When we make something or someone less than God into our everything, we have created a little image, a little idol, that the almighty God is replaced with.

Jesus teaches us that we are to "love the Lord with all our heart our mind our soul and our strength." When we do this, we allow God to be our God. We choose the Lord to be the Lord of our lives. This is not easy to do! It requires us to turn our focus away from ourselves and our own wants and to allow God to guide us to what is best for us. This decision should make sense to us, it is reasonable, even wise, since God knows everything. He knows what we truly need. The first thing we need is to trust in him!

This week let us make a decision to place God first in our lives. If we've never made such a determination before, then this might be the best decision we've ever made! It can open up the door for a new, deeper relationship with God. He is waiting for such people who heed his first commandment, let us be such people.

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>



## Feast of the Exultation of the Holy Cross ~ September 14, 2025



### GOSPEL REFLECTION

One of the aspects of our stewardship should be a desire to understand and appreciate the significance of many of the celebrations, feasts, and solemnities we as Catholics observe and experience. Today's Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross celebrates three historical events: the finding of the True Cross by St. Helena; the construction and dedication of churches by Helena's son the Emperor Constantine on the site of Mt. Calvary where Christ was crucified; and the return of the Cross to Jerusalem by the Emperor Heraclius II.

As Catholics, we need to remember the Cross every time we make the Sign of the Cross. We make that sign often and almost always at the beginning and the end of our prayers. However, that sign in itself is a prayer. Sometimes we do it automatically without really considering its meaning and importance. Rather than a hurried sign, we should make the Sign of the Cross with reverence, respect, and the constant reflection of how vital the Cross is to our salvation. Stewardship invites us to practice our faith with this deference and appreciation to the Lord, truly in the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

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**Thank you** to all our parishioners who have supported the St. Monica-St. Thomas the Apostle Conference of the St. Vincent de Paul Society through our recent fifth Sunday collection in August.

**Thank you,** Maria McDevitt who coordinates our St. Vincent de Paul Society chapter and those of you who helped out with our sandwich making on the 3rd Wednesday of every month. Your generosity is appreciated.

### **BAY AREA ROSARY RALLY IN HONOR OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI AND THE JUBILEE YEAR OF HOPE ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2025**

The 2025 Bay Area Rally will be held on the solemnity of St. Francis of Assisi in the Jubilee Year of Hope. This year's Rosary Rally will include a Jubilee Pilgrimage Walk from St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church (SF) to the Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption.

#### **Schedule:**

**7:00 a.m.** Gather for the Jubilee Pilgrimage Walk at St. Anthony of Padua (SF)

**7:15 am.** Procession begins to the Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption Cathedral

**9:15 a.m.** Talks on St. Francis and the Blessed Mother

Fr. Bobby Barbato, OFM. Cap (English)

Fr. Alberto Villafan, OFM (Spanish)

*\*Confessions available*

**10:00 a.m.** Mass with Archbishop Salvatore J. Cordileone

**11:30 a.m.** Eucharistic Procession and recitation of the holy Rosary

**12:00 p.m.** Benediction

*Due to safety concerns, no banners are permitted in the processions; however, religious images and statues are allowed.*



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### **PRIESTS' RETIREMENT SECOND COLLECTION AND LUNCHEON**

There are two opportunities to help support the retired priests of our Archdiocese. First, there will be a Second Collection next weekend, **September 20th and 21st**. Second, the St. John Vianney Luncheon for the Priests' Retirement Fund will take place on **Friday, October 3rd**. For tickets and information, please visit <https://www.sfarch.org/prflunch/>. Honorees are Rev. Fabio Medina and Rev. Msgr. Steven Otellini. Archdiocesan priests receive Social Security, but, because of the modest amount they earn during their years of ministry, their monthly benefits are significantly smaller than what many lay people receive. This is compounded by the fact that, like the general population, our priests are living longer, and facing similar healthcare needs and rising healthcare costs. Please assist the retired priests by donating to the Priests' Retirement Collection next weekend and/or by attending the luncheon on October 3rd. These men have dedicated their lives to serving others, and it is now our turn to care for them.

**Thank you for your generosity.**

### **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](mailto:pastor@smstaparishsf.org)

**Religious Education  
Registration**



### **ST. MONICA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE MEMORIAL WALLS**

St. Monica-St. Thomas the Apostle Parish offers parishioners an opportunity to remember 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.

### **WE INVITE ALL OUR PARISHIONERS TO SPEND TIME IN FELLOWSHIP**

**ST. MONICA CHURCH - FRIENDSHIP SUNDAY** will be held on the 1st 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](mailto:perrigan2000@yahoo.com).

**ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CHURCH - SOCIAL SUNDAY** will be held on the 2nd Sunday of every month in the church's vestibule after the 9:00 AM Mass. To volunteer, please e-mail Christine Aguerre at: [chriscrk6@gmail.com](mailto:chriscrk6@gmail.com)



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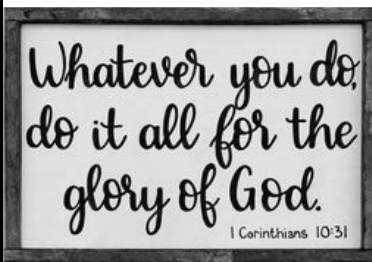
## Mass Intentions

St. Monica			
Mon.	09/15	8:30 AM	Martin Novak †
Tue.	09/16	8:30 AM	Florencia Martinez †
Wed.	09/17	8:30 AM	Steven Rahe †
Thu.	09/18	8:30 AM	Violeta Goebel †
Fri.	09/19	8:30 AM	Maria Collier, Living
Sat.	09/20	8:30 AM	Tomas Bermejo, Jr. †
		5:00 PM	Parishioners
Sun.	09/21	11:00 AM	Hale T. Concon †, Birthday

St. Thomas the Apostle			
Mon.	09/15	8:30 AM	Jean Sho Tung, Birthday
Tue.	09/16		No Mass
Wed.	09/17	8:30 AM	Ode Touye †
Thu.	09/18		No Mass
Fri.	09/19	8:30 AM	Teresa & John Vasquez †
Sat.	09/20	8:30 AM	No Mass
Sun.	09/21	9:00 AM	Leonard Kuplinski, Birthday

THANK YOU	ST. MONICA		
September 7, 2025	ENGLISH	VIETNAMESE	ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE
1ST COLLECTION	\$3,297.00	\$427.00	\$1,794.00
2ND COLLECTION: MILITARY SERVICE	\$927.00	\$223.00	\$449.00
AUGUST ONLINE DONATIONS	\$1,924.00		

### 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.

- ♦ **Hospital Chaplaincy** - a patient at a hospital in our Archdiocese was suffering from a serious illness that caused depression, anger, and even violence towards hospital staff. He asked to see a Catholic Priest. The caregivers asked the Priest to bless them for their safety and with the virtue of patience. The visit helped heal the patient spiritually and emotionally; it enhanced the relationship with the caregivers and thus the healing process as well.

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

**We have reached 74% of our goal. Donations received: \$34,457.00.**

**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.



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