

Saint Monica-Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish

www.smstaparishsf.org

Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time/Catechetical Sunday ~ September 21, 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



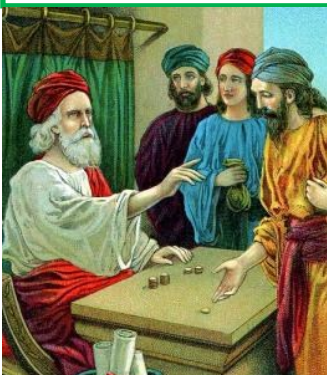
St. Thomas the Apostle Church MASS SCHEDULE

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



“No one can
serve two masters....
You cannot serve both
God and money.”
- Luke 16:13

“Always be ready to give an
explanation...for a reason for
your **hope**.” (1 Pet 3:15)





Dear brothers and sisters,

Today, we reflect on the Second Commandment, “you shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.” This commandment calls us to use our words rightly, to honor God through all that we say. When the words we speak are dignified, upright, and true, then we give glory to the Lord, the one who made us. Jesus is, after all, rightly called “The Word of God.”

Reverencing God with our words can be accomplished in various ways. We can use our voice to thank God, to praise him, to sing to him. We can proclaim his goodness to others when we speak about God and his teachings. We also honor God when we use our words to speak the truth. If we make promises to others, we are to keep our word.

We are to avoid using our words vainly. This could be using God’s name as a swear word, exclamation, or a response to being surprised or shocked. We should not use our words to speak poorly of anything holy: the Church, the sacraments, the saints, or anything belonging to our faith.

May we keep the Second Commandment by making good use of our voice. It is a gift from God to be able to speak. May we lift our voice on high to proclaim God’s marvelous deeds, bringing great honor to the One who deserves all praise.

Fr. Ben

“YOU SHALL NOT TAKE THE
NAME OF THE LORD YOUR GOD
IN VAIN, FOR THE LORD WILL
NOT HOLD HIM GUILTLESS WHO
TAKES HIS NAME IN VAIN.
EXODUS 20:7

***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>



Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time/Catechetical Sunday ~ September 21, 2025

GOSPEL REFLECTION

After today's readings, we can't say we have not been warned about the dangers of mixed-up priorities. God's Word is so very clear today on the necessity of putting Him first in all areas of our lives. We see this in the First Reading from Amos. The Lord has harsh words for those who would take advantage of the poor and whose priorities are not aligned with God's.

In the Second Reading from St. Paul's letter to Timothy, Paul gives us the antidote to the self-centeredness condemned in our First Reading. The antidote is to imitate Christ, "who gave Himself as a ransom for all." Rather than thinking of Himself and how to "get ahead," Christ gave Himself away, completely, for our sake. That is how we are to live.

In our Gospel passage from Luke, the Lord shows us how to bridge the gap between worldly thinking and priorities, and eternal thinking and priorities. Jesus tells the parable of the corrupt but clever steward who is about to be fired when the master discovers the steward has been squandering his property. Realizing his imminent unemployed status, the clever steward reaches out to the various debtors of his master to wheel and deal with them, making friends who would look out for him when he became jobless.

What if we put that kind of effort into our own tasks as good stewards of all God's gifts to us? Into our ministries, into the ways we could make more time for prayer as individuals, as couples, as families, and as a parish? What if we got as creative as the "bad steward" in the use of our finances so that we could give more generously to the poor and the advancement of God's kingdom on the earth? That's our lesson and our challenge.

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Catechetical Sunday is an annual Catholic observance on the third Sunday in September that recognizes and commissions catechists (those who teach the Catholic faith) and reminds all Catholics of their shared responsibility to pass on the faith.

The theme for 2025 is "Always be ready to give an explanation...for a reason for your hope" (1 Pet 3:15). The theme encourages us to be prepared to share the basis of our faith, the Lord, and the hope he provides. In the same manner, St. Peter encouraged the believers of his time. As Scripture reminds us, the sharing should be done with gentleness and respect.

Thank you to our catechists: Rev. Ben Rosado, Rev. Mr. Xristopher Compagno, Rev. Mr. Dana Perrigan, Br. Henry Bischoff MIC, Jacob McDougall, Teresa Lai, Agnes Tung, and to all those who lead those into the faith.

"The word of God nourishes both evangelizers and those who are being evangelized so that each one may continue to grow in his or her Christian

Prayer for Catechists

Loving Father, we pray today for our catechists. We thank you for their gift of ministry in your Church.

Grant them your wisdom that they may grow in the understanding and teaching of your Word. Grant them also your love that they may be fruitful heralds of your Word and lead others to love you.

Pour forth your Holy Spirit upon them to grant them wisdom about what is important; knowledge of the truths of faith; understanding of their meaning; right judgement about how to apply them in life; courage to persevere even in the face of adversity; reverence before all that is sacred and holy; and that loving zeal which leads others to a transforming encounter with your Son.

We pray this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

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* We pray for the repose of the soul of *
* **Lucio Aguirre** *
* and offer our sympathy to his family and friends. *
* Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let the *
* perpetual light shine upon him. May his soul *
* and the souls of all the faithful departed, through *
* the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen. *

**Believe,
for with God
All things are
possible**

Matthew 19:26



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 today** and secondly, 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

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

Every Thursday until to April 4, 2026, OCIA classes will be held from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm in the 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.



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.
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



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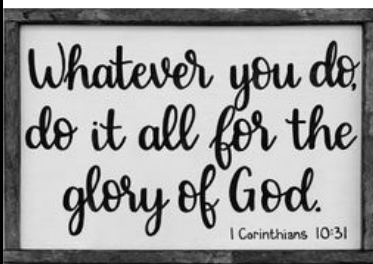
Mass Intentions

| St. Monica | | | |
|------------|-------|----------|--------------------------------------|
| Mon. | 09/22 | 8:30 AM | Rod Montgomery † |
| Tue. | 09/23 | 8:30 AM | Josie, Maura, Rosaleen, & Maria † |
| Wed. | 09/24 | 8:30 AM | Elzbieta Kalek † |
| Thu. | 09/25 | 8:30 AM | Francis Thomas Carroll † |
| Fri. | 09/26 | 8:30 AM | Parishioners |
| Sat. | 09/27 | 8:30 AM | Deceased on the Memorial Wall † |
| | | 5:00 PM | Rosa & Albert Capurro † |
| Sun. | 09/28 | 11:00 AM | Gary Gorgen & Jim & Kristine Silva † |

| St. Thomas the Apostle | | | |
|------------------------|-------|---------|------------------------------------|
| Mon. | 09/22 | 8:30 AM | Kelsey M., Healing & David Touye † |
| Tue. | 09/23 | | No Mass |
| Wed. | 09/24 | 8:30 AM | Leonard Kuplinski, Birthday |
| Thu. | 09/25 | | No Mass |
| Fri. | 09/26 | 8:30 AM | Deceased on the Memorial Wall † |
| Sat. | 09/27 | 8:30 AM | No Mass |
| Sun. | 09/28 | 9:00 AM | Parishioners |

| THANK YOU | ST. MONICA | ST. THOMAS | |
|----------------------|------------|------------|-------------|
| September 14, 2025 | ENGLISH | VIETNAMESE | THE APOSTLE |
| 1ST COLLECTION | \$1,828.00 | \$471.00 | \$1,827.00 |
| 2ND COLLECTION: GAZA | \$617.00 | \$335.00 | \$471.00 |

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.

- ♦ Several products of our **Faith Formation** program are now involved in the Church in a variety of ways, including as youth group leaders, Confirmation catechists, as a Choir conductor, a Deacon, and as DREs. In addition, many others serve in active ministerial roles – e.g., as altar servers, Eucharistic ministers, readers, hospitality ministers, etc. Someone noted that their experience in Faith Formation was what propelled them into later active involvement in the Church.

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

We have reached 74% of our goal. Donations received: \$34,477.00.

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.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

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