

Saint Monica-Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish

www.smstaparishsf.org

Third Sunday of Advent ~ December 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

Deacon
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



*Those whom the LORD has ransomed will return
and enter Zion singing,
crowned with everlasting joy;
they will meet with joy and gladness,
sorrow and mourning will flee.*

*Advent is a time to Praise! God is among us asking us to let His
love grow in our hearts in preparation for His coming at
Christmas.*

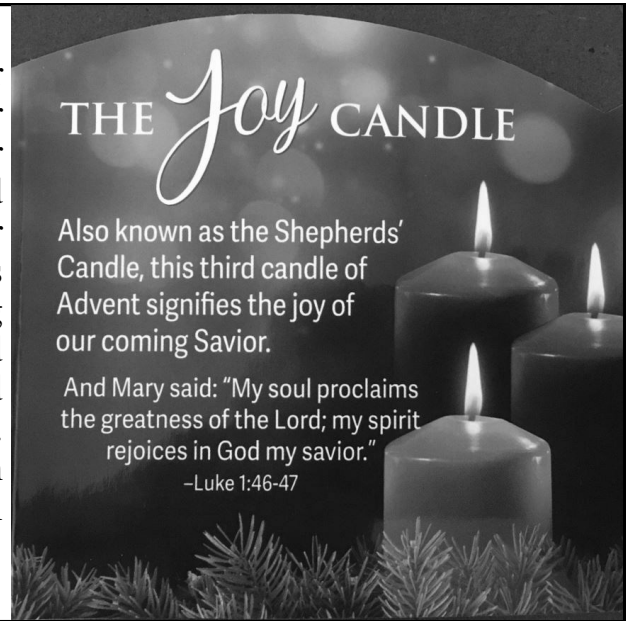


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Dear brothers and sisters,
As we enter into this Third Week of Advent, our theme is Joy. It is joy because we recognize how near the Lord is to us. We discover this nearness whenever we pray and whenever we reach out to God. We find that he is there, waiting for us. He is ready to enter into our lives, if only we turn our lives to him. This is what Christmas presents to us. That God was willing to come very close, to be with us. Let our hearts find joy in this. He has shown us such a compassion and love, one that is not distant but very close and real. This is reason to rejoice, sing his praise, and with trust, reach out our hands to God. If we do, he will surely embrace us, and our joy will be complete.

Fr. Ben



GOSPEL REFLECTION

Life can leave us feeling dark and desolate. Sandy was just twenty-eight when her husband, Rob, died, leaving her to raise their two young children. She was without paid employment. Rob went to work one morning and never returned home. Sandy, though, had faith and trusted that somehow God would help her through, even though most days brought deafening, piercing loneliness. She persevered, and the darkness gave way to light. Remarking one day to a friend hesitant to commit to a relationship, Sandy shared her wisdom. Even if she knew the outcome would be the same, she would marry Rob again. She assured her friend that she would even do this if eight years could only be eight minutes. We are being led by God and God transforms the darkness into light.

"Be strong, fear not!" Those are easy words to say. Putting them into practice is the challenge. When our paths are dark and life's roads become treacherous, we can easily complain about life's unfinished nature. When will the pain go away? Will the loneliness ever cease? Will I experience happiness again? As the farmer needs to exercise patience with the soil, we need to do the same with our lives. We have to wait for the early and late rains to come, properly tend to our gardens, and ensure that the rich nutrients of God's merciful and tender presence continue to enrich us. God is not done. God has only just begun his work in us.

We cannot allow life to hold us captive. The systems, agendas, protocols, regulations, expectations, and unfinished business can distract us from what it means to be God's child. Life can leave us feeling cheated, negative, and parched. All times and seasons of our spiritual and liturgical lives lead us to three virtues: faith, hope and love. Stop complaining about what is wrong and look to what God can make right! Joy that flows from the Baptist's message: in Jesus, the one mightier than he, are found healing, reconciliation, and freedom. Christ will save us from life's distortions, illusions, and disappointments. Do you believe this? ©LPi



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CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Simbang Gabi

Tuesday, December 16

6 PM - Mass and Reception - St. Monica

Christmas Eve

5:00 PM – St. Monica

7:30 PM - St. Thomas - Christmas Caroling

8:00 PM - St. Thomas the Apostle

Christmas Day

8:00 AM - St. Monica - Vietnamese

9:00 AM - St. Thomas the Apostle - English

11:00 AM – St. Monica - English

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12-07-2012

I WANT TO GET GOD SOMETHING AWESOME FOR CHRISTMAS THIS YEAR, BUT WHAT DO YOU GET THE GUY WHO MADE EVERYTHING?

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS

Our bulletin is provided by Mission Publication at no charge to our Parish. It is completely supported by our advertisers. Please frequent the businesses advertised in the back of our bulletin, and let them know you saw their ad in our bulletin.

If you would like to place an ad in the back of our bulletin, please call Mission Publication at 1-888-253-4358.

Thank you for your support.

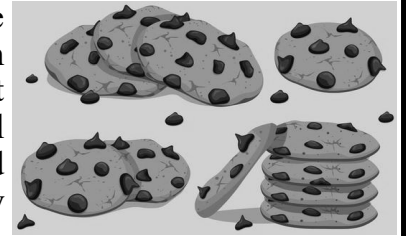


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ADVENT GIVING TREE ACTIVITIES

In looking for a charitable parish project for the season of Advent, our Parish Council decided once again this year, to offer support to the Opiate Treatment Outpatient Program (OTOP) Methadone Clinic at SF General Hospital. OTOP provides detoxification assistance to clients in conjunction with medical and psychiatric services. Since many of their clients are the homeless and poor, our projects will help to provide the clinic staff with items they will be able to distribute to clients as they come in for treatment. We will have three opportunities to do this:

#1 Cookies for Christmas – We will have the opportunity to provide baked or store bought cookies for the staff to distribute to clients at San Francisco General Hospital. We ask that parishioners donate store bought or home made cookies, packaged individually in packets for 4-5 (small cookies) and 2-3 large/medium cookies. The cookies should be dropped off at Church **no later than Next Sunday, December 21nd** so that they can be distributed on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.



#2 Giving Trees – We will once again be establishing our Advent Giving Trees at both Churches. We will collect new adult gloves, beanies, and blankets (e.g. fleece) which the staff at the clinic will be able to distribute to their clients as they come in for treatment during the colder months of the year. Please take an ornament from the tree that lists the needed item and return the item to either church (unwrapped) **December 24th.**



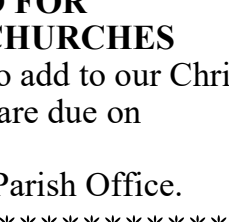
If you are able to participate in the projects, your generosity will provide warmth, nourishment, and the sweetness of the season to those in our community who need it most. Let's make this Advent season a time of giving and compassion. **Thank you for your support!**



**POINSETTIA DONATIONS ARE NEEDED FOR
ST. MONICA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CHURCHES**

We would appreciate a donation of potted poinsettia plants to add to our Christmas decorations in our Churches. Poinsettia plants are due on
Wednesday, December 24th.

Please bring your donated poinsettia to the Church or Parish Office.



2025 SIMBANG GABI MASS SCHEDULE

Monday, December 15th	St. Mary's Cathedral	7:30 AM
Tuesday, December 16th	St. Monica	6:00 PM
Wednesday, December 17th	St. Agnes	12 Noon
Thursday, December 18th	Star of the Sea	6:00 PM
Friday, December 19th	Most Holy Redeemer	8:00 AM
Saturday, December 20th	St. Ignatius	5:00 PM
Sunday, December 21st	St. Benedict	10:00 AM
Monday, December 22nd	Star of the Sea	6:00 PM
Tuesday, December 23rd	Most Holy Redeemer	8:00 AM

**FOLLOWING THE MASS AT ST. MONICA WE WILL HAVE A
RECEPTION IN OUR SMALL HALL. ALL ARE WELCOME!**





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Mass Intentions

St. Monica				St. Thomas the Apostle			
Mon.	12/15	8:30 AM	Bermejo & Mangana Families †	Mon.	12/15	8:30 AM	Carmen Evangelista †
Tue.	12/16	8:30 AM	Mary Hanley†	Tue.	12/16		No Mass
Wed.	12/17	8:30 AM	Elizabeth Rosado †	Wed.	12/17	8:30 AM	Jim Mandarano †
Thu.	12/18	8:30 AM	Parishioners†	Thu.	12/18		No Mass
Fri.	12/19	8:30 AM	Fr. David Knight †	Fri.	12/19	8:30 AM	Fred Bautista †
Sat.	12/20	8:30 AM	Wayne Mrk Wong †	Sat.	12/20		No Mass
		5:00 PM	Parishioners				
Sun.	12/21	11:00 AM	Sr. Teresa Kerley †	Sun.	12/21	9:00 AM	Howard Tung, Birthday

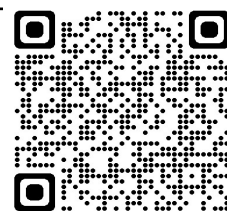
THANK YOU	ST. MONICA	ST. THOMAS	
November 30, 2025	ENGLISH	VIETNAMESE	THE APOSTLE
1ST COLLECTION	\$1,907.00	\$394.00	\$1,503.00
2ND COLLECTION - ST. VINCENT DE PAUL	\$659.00	\$227.00	\$504.00
NOVEMBER ONLINE DONATIONS	\$1,997.00		



Thank you for your continued support to our Parish.

To donate:

Use your personalized parish offertory envelopes



Have you considered Saint Monica – Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish in you year-end financial planning?

Did you know you can make a charitable donation to the Parish from you IRA and reduce your taxable income if you are age 70.5 or older? Current tax law allows for gifts up to \$108k per individual to be gifted to an qualified charity and reduce your tax burden from the distribution.

Additionally, with stock market gains over the past several years, you can gift highly appreciated securities which offers a tax advantage by allowing you to bypass capital gains tax and potentially receive a charitable income tax deduction for the fair market value of the asset.

If you ready to make a gift to support the Parish, or would you like to learn more about gifting options and potential tax benefits, please reach out to Father Ben.

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