

Saint Monica-Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish

www.smstaparishsf.org

Fourth Sunday of Advent ~ December 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
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Rev. Mr. Kristopher Compagno
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Parish Staff
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Music Ministry
Alix Jerinic
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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





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Dear brothers and sisters,

In this final week of Advent, our theme is Love. We are to recall the love that God shows us in sending his Son into the world to save us. Love is more than a feeling, it is a force that leads us to act. It is one thing to say we love someone, it is another to do good for them out of love.



There can be no love without sacrifice. It is only when we give of ourselves for another that we can say we have shown them love. Parents know this, as they give of themselves each day for their children. Why do they do it? Love. It is the same with God. He comes to us to give himself for us. We see this at Christmas, as Jesus leaves behind the glory of heaven to enter into our world. This was not easy, it would lead to his suffering and even death. Yet God did this out of the abundance of love for us.

As we prepare for his arrival, let our hearts be open to God's love. Let us see in Jesus the proof that God has not forgotten us, the proof that he cares for us with a love beyond all telling, a love that is born in our world and in our hearts.

Fr. Ben



POINSETTIA DONATIONS FOR
ST. MONICA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CHURCHES
 We appreciate any donations of potted poinsettia plants to add to our
 Christmas decorations in our Churches. Poinsettia plants can be dropped off on
December 24th or Christmas Day .
Thank you for your generosity!

Prayer and Blessing of a Nativity Scene

*God of every nation and people,
 from the very beginning of creation
 you have made manifest your love:
 when our need for a Savior was great
 you sent your Son to be born of the Virgin
 Mary. To our lives he brings joy and
 peace, justice, mercy, and love.*

*Lord,
 bless all who look upon this manger;
 may it remind us of the humble birth of
 Jesus, and raise our thoughts to Him,
 who is God-with-us and Savior of all,
 and who lives and reigns forever and ever.
 Amen.*

**BEHOLD, THE
 VIRGIN SHALL
 CONCEIVE AND
 BEAR A SON,
 AND THEY
 SHALL NAME
 HIM EMMANUEL**



Matthew 1:23



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CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve

5:00 PM – St. Monica

7:30 PM - St. Thomas - Christmas Caroling

8:00 PM - St. Thomas the Apostle

8:00 PM - St. Monica - Vietnamese

Christmas Day

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

11:00 AM – St. Monica - English

WITH GRATITUDE

A special Thank You to all who gave of their time, talent, and treasure to make our Guadalupe and Simbang Gabi events possible this year.

Your good work for the Lord brings us joy. It allows us to gather as one family of God, to worship him, and to enjoy the fellowship we have as brothers and sisters. May the Lord reward you and bless you for all that you have done for us!

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



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ADVENT GIVING 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 today Sunday, December 21nd** so that they can be distributed on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

#2 Giving Trees – We are collecting 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) by **Sunday, December 24th**.

If you were 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!**

GOSPEL REFLECTION

Today on the 4th Sunday of Advent, the readings get more specific about Christmas. Let's begin with the Gospel's story of Joseph.

Matthew's version of the Christmas story is tied very closely to the evangelist's central focus of presenting to his Jewish-Christian community that Jesus is the fulfillment of the Law. It begins with a very detailed genealogy that traces the family line of Abraham through several generations, through David, and all the way to Joseph, husband of Mary. And in today's passage, we see that same Joseph confronted with the impossible and embarrassing pregnancy of the woman with whom he is betrothed.

The angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus because he will save his people from their sins."

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord said through the prophet: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means "God is with us."

In today's First Reading from Isaiah, we have the very passage quoted by Matthew, almost word for word. In this passage, we are dropped right in the middle of a complicated storyline. Ahaz, king of Judah and descendant of David, had already turned against the Lord by forming an alliance with Assyria, an enemy of Israel, against the counsel of his advisor Isaiah. There would indeed be a future king, Hezekiah, born of a young, unmarried woman. Hezekiah, mentioned in Matthew's genealogy, would ensure the continuation of the royal line of David. The Catholic Church teaches a transcendent fulfillment of this Isaiah passage in the birth of Jesus Christ, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, who was betrothed to Joseph of the royal line of David.

The role of the Holy Spirit is also affirmed in the Second reading from Saint Paul's Letter to the Romans. The Holy Spirit helps explain the impossibility of a virgin birth and the miracle of God become human. It is Joseph's openness to the Holy Spirit that allows him to put aside his fear and accept Mary as his wife. Inspired by the Spirit, Joseph comes to realize that in his own impossible circumstances, "God is with him." That's Good News. God is with us! ©2025 OCP



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Mass Intentions

St. Monica				St. Thomas the Apostle			
Mon.	12/22	8:30 AM	Frances "Sunny" Freitas †	Mon.	12/22	8:30 AM	Arthur Calma †
Tue.	12/23	8:30 AM	William Nanry, Jr. †	Tue.	12/23		No Mass
Wed.	12/24	8:30 AM 5:00 PM	Parishioners Parishioners	Wed.	12/24	8:30 AM 8:00 PM	Frank Madero † Parishioners
Thu.	12/25	11:00 AM	Parishioners	Thu.	12/25	9:00 AM	Parishioners
Fri.	12/26	8:30 AM	Parishioners	Fri.	12/26	8:30 AM	Jim Mandarano †
Sat.	12/27	8:30 AM 5:00 PM	Maurice Revel † Parishioners	Sat.	12/27		No Mass
Sun.	12/28	11:00 AM	Peter and Alice Kerley †	Sun.	12/28	9:00 AM	Fiona Mitsuoka †

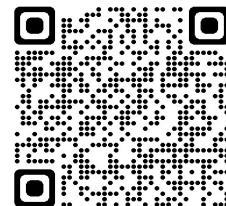
THANK YOU December 14th, 2025	ST. MONICA ENGLISH	VIETNAMESE	ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE
1ST COLLECTION	\$1,839.00	\$443.00	\$2,119.00
2ND COLLECTION - RETIREMENT FOR RELIGIOUS	\$888.00	\$221.00	\$501.00



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!



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