

Saint Monica-Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish

www.smstaparishsf.org

Second Sunday of Advent ~ December 7, 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



Advent Prayer

GOD OUR FATHER
HELP US KEEP WATCH
AND STRENGTHEN OUR FAITH
AS WE WAIT FOR THE COMING
OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST.
WAKE US UP
AND FIND US READY
TO SERVE AND PRAISE HIM.
AMEN.





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Dear brothers and sisters,
On this second Sunday of Advent, we are to consider how the coming of Jesus into our lives brings us peace. It was at the birth of Christ that the angels announced what we proclaim in the Gloria *"Peace to people of good will."* Peace to those who long for God's presence in our world. Peace is a great gift. When we have it, we are at rest, we are content. We can have the peace of Christ whether we are rich or poor, in good times and in bad. His peace comes to us because we know that he is with us, and that no one can take him from us. We are to rest in Christ and find our peace in him. He tells us *"My peace I give to you."* This Advent, may we take time to recall how near Jesus is to those of us, who believe. How blessed we are to have the Prince of Peace himself breaking into our world, into our very hearts to dwell with us always. Glory to God in the Highest!

Fr. Ben

THE SECOND SUNDAY
IN ADVENT:

PEACE



OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE EVENT

A special pot luck fiesta with music and treats will be served to celebrate and honor **Our Lady of Guadalupe** following the 9:00 AM Mass at St. Thomas the Apostle Church **Sunday, December 14th.**

To volunteer contact: Carole Touye at carole.touye@gmail.com.



"May the feast of our Mother help us to make our whole life a "yes" to God, a "yes" made of adoration of him and of daily gestures of love and service."

—Pope Francis, December 8, 2019

**SOLEMNITY OF THE
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION ON
MONDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2025
A HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION**

MASS TIMES
ST. MONICA
8:30 AM AND 5:30 PM

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE
8:30 AM



**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.
Thank you for your generosity.



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CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Simbang Gabi

Thursday, December 16

6 PM - Mass and Reception - St. Monica

Christmas Eve Masses

5:00 PM – St. Monica - English

7:30 PM - Christmas Caroling

8:00 PM - St. Thomas the Apostle - English

Christmas Day

8:00 AM - St. Monica - Vietnamese

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

11:00 AM – St. Monica - English

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

CANDLE OF Peace



The second candle, also purple, represents peace. It is called the "Bethlehem Candle" as a reminder of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem.

"Do not let your heart be troubled, and let nothing upset you. Is it not I, your Mother, who is here? Are you not under my protection?"

Our Lady of Guadalupe—Feast Day December 12th

GOSPEL REFLECTION

The readings for the Second Week of Advent offer both encouragement and challenge as we reflect and prepare for the two "comings" of Christ — His coming as a baby on the great feast of Christmas, and the anticipation of His second coming at the end of time.

Our First Reading, from Baruch, is a wonderful reminder that God has triumphed over sin and death and that we — His faithful disciples — will live in the light of His glory one day. Until He comes again, we must remain faithful to Him as true disciples and good stewards of all the gifts He has given us. While it can be tempting to give in to the materialism and calls for self-indulgence that surround us, (ironically more than ever at this time of year), this reading calls us back to the spiritual reality that this life is passing and that we are made for eternal life with God. We are called to prepare for eternal life by the way that we use our time, our talents, and our treasure now.

The Gospel reading from Luke shows us how personal and detailed is God's love for humanity as He prepared the way for Christ's coming among us. We are told the precise time, place, and person, John the Baptist, He appointed to announce the arrival of our Savior. John tells us how to celebrate to the fullest this first "coming", on the feast of Christmas, and how to prepare for the second coming - through repentance.

Let's turn away from any bad habits or sin that may have crept into our lives and turn our hearts and minds back to Christ this Advent. This is what the stewardship way of life is all about - moving closer in relationship with Christ and imitation of Him, ready to celebrate His birth, with eyes fixed on eternal life with Him.

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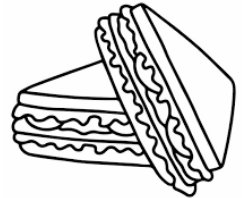


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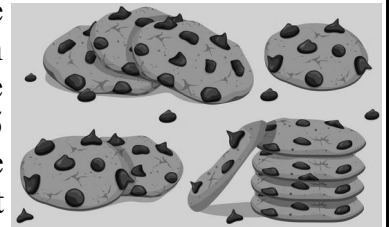
ADVENT GIVING TREE ACTIVITIES

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 Sandwiches – Today, December 7th, after both the 9:00 AM Mass at St. Thomas the Apostle and the 11:00 AM Mass at St. Monica in Small Hall, please join us in making sandwiches that the clinic staff will distribute to hungry clinic clients. Our goal is to make 300 peanut butter sandwiches between the two churches that weekend.



#2 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 Sunday, December 22nd** so that they can be distributed on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.



#3 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) by **Sunday, 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!

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 TO JOIN!



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Mass Intentions

St. Monica				St. Thomas the Apostle			
Mon.	12/08	8:30 AM 5:30 PM	Parishioners Parishioners	Mon.	12/08	8:30 AM	Parishioners
Tue.	12/09	8:30 AM	Kay Kleinen, Birthday	Tue.	12/09		No Mass
Wed.	12/10	8:30 AM	Eleanor Louis †	Wed.	12/10	8:30 AM	Eleanor Louis †
Thu.	12/11	8:30 AM	Elizabeth Rosado †	Thu.	12/11		No Mass
Fri.	12/12	8:30 AM	Elizabeth Rosado †	Fri.	12/12	8:30 AM	Arthur Calma, †
Sat.	12/13	8:30 AM	Milt Reiterman †	Sat.	12/13	8:30 AM	
		5:00 PM	Gloria Parker †				
Sun.	12/14	11:00 AM	Bernard J.C. Smith †	Sun.	12/14	9:00 AM	Gloria Parker †

THANK YOU	ST. MONICA	ST. THOMAS	
November 23, 2025	ENGLISH	VIETNAMESE	THE APOSTLE
1ST COLLECTION	\$1,677.00	\$455.00	\$1,164.00



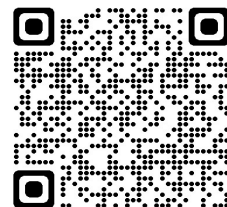
Retirement Fund for Religious Next Week

You can help. "Religious are blessed to serve," says Dominican Father Bertrand Ebben, age 90. Please donate to the Retirement Fund for Religious next week. Your gift will provide essential care for nearly 25,000 senior sisters, brothers and religious order priests who have dedicated their lives to serving others. Let us show our gratitude to these selfless individuals by giving generously.

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