

Saint Monica-Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish

www.smstaparishsf.org

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time ~ February 15, 2026

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

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

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



EYE has NOT
seen, nor
Ear Heard,
NEITHER HAVE ENTERED INTO THE
Heart of Man,
the things which
God has **PREPARED**
for them that
Love HIM.
1 CORINTHIANS 2:9



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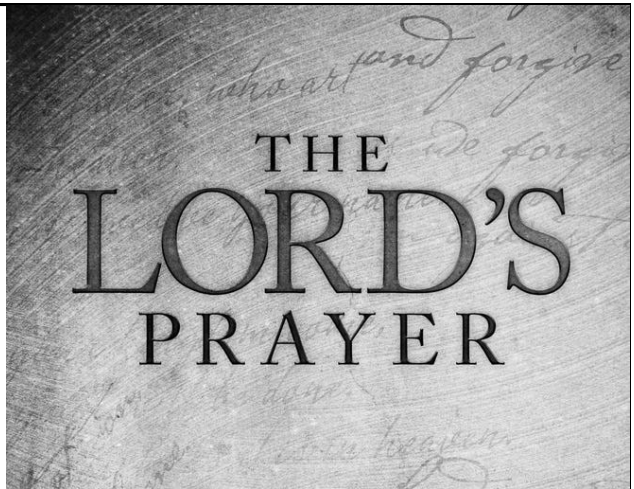
Dear brothers and sisters,

Today, we reach the final petitions of the Our Father prayer in which we ask, "lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil." This is a prayer asking for both God's guidance and protection along the journey of our lives. It is the acknowledgement that God is powerful to help save us from evil.

To ask the Lord to lead us not into temptation recognizes that we can be tempted to turn aside from God's paths. We can go astray when we either do not know God's ways or when we choose to disobey him in our weakness. Our prayer then should first lead us to learn what God has commanded, to learn the difference between virtue and vice, between the path that leads to life or death. We will need his grace to accomplish his command, and so we pray for his grace to avoid evil and do good.

In the midst of this broken world of ours, we must resist darkness with God's help. When we pray that he delivers us from evil, we are asking not so much to be taken out of the world, but that the world and its present darkness be taken out of us. God has the power to deliver us from it, cleansing our souls to set us on the path of righteousness. May the will of Our Heavenly Father be done for us, in us, and through us!

Fr. Ben



*He pours light into our minds, arouses our desire and gives us strength...
As the soul is the life of the body, so the Holy Spirit is the life of our
souls. ~ St. Peter Damian (Feast Day: February 21st)*

**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>



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ASH WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18TH



St. Monica

8:30 AM (Mass with Ashes)

5:30 PM (Mass with Ashes)

St. Thomas the Apostle

8:30 AM (Mass with Ashes)



LENTEN FAST AND ABSTINENCE

As in the past, the following regulations are in place for abstaining and fasting during Lent:



• **ABSTINENCE:** Everyone 14 years of age and older is bound to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, the Fridays of Lent, and Good Friday.

• **FAST:** Everyone 18 years of age and older but under the age of 60 is also bound to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

On these two days the law of fast allows only one full meal a day, but does not prohibit taking some food during the day, so long as this does not constitute another full meal. Drinking liquids during the day is permitted. When health or ability to work would be seriously affected, the law does not oblige. In the spirit of penance, the faithful should not lightly excuse themselves from this obligation.

PARISH LENTEN SCHEDULE

St. Monica Church

Fridays - Stations of the Cross - 9:00 AM (following our 8:30 AM Mass)

St. Thomas the Apostle Church

Fridays - Confessions at 5:30 PM

Stations of the Cross at 6:00 PM followed by our Lenten Soup Supper

If you'd like to sign up to bring soup or bread to one or more of the Lenten Friday Suppers, please contact Fr. Ben or the Parish Office.

All are welcome - we hope to see you there!

ST. MONICA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE MEMORIAL WALLS

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



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GOSPEL REFLECTION

Today's readings challenge us to reflect on the true state of our hearts as it relates to stewardship. Do we think of stewardship as something we take care of once a year, simply a matter of ticking off boxes on a commitment card or do we choose to embrace it as a spirituality and a way of life that allows us to grow in conformity to Christ every day?

Our first reading, from the Book of Sirach, teaches that our God has given us the freedom to make this choice, "Before man are life and death, good and evil, whichever he chooses shall be given him."

The concept of stewardship helps us live out this fundamental choice to put God first. Stewardship is not meant to be a mere external exercise that we participate in on an occasional basis. It is meant to be embraced as a way of life. A life that involves a continuous conversion of heart.

In our Gospel passage from Matthew, Jesus illustrates the difference between an external observance of the law and a true conversion of heart, saying, "You have heard that it was said ... you shall not kill ... But I say to you, whoever is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment." Our Lord is asking us not only for exterior acts, but for a true change of heart. In stewardship terms, that means seeing everything as a gift from Him, to be used for His glory and the good of others.

In the week ahead, let us examine the state of our hearts and ask whether we have allowed stewardship to shape the way we live each day. When we do, we open ourselves to its deeper meaning and its power to change our hearts. The choice is ours.

©Catholic Stewardship Consultants

THE MEANING OF ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday is one of the most popular and important holy days in the liturgical calendar. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, a season of fasting and prayer. It takes place 46 days before Easter Sunday, and is chiefly observed by Catholics.

Ash Wednesday comes from the ancient Jewish tradition of penance and fasting. The practice involves wearing ashes on the head. The ashes symbolize the dust from which God made us. As the priest applies the ashes to a person's forehead, he speaks the words: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." Alternatively, the priest may speak the words, "Repent and believe in the Gospel."

Ashes also symbolize grief, in this case, grief that we have sinned and caused division from God. Writings from the Second-century Church refer to the wearing of ashes as a sign of penance.

Priests administer ashes during Mass, and all are invited to accept the ashes as a visible symbol of penance. The ashes are made from blessed palm branches, taken from the previous year's Palm Sunday Mass.

It is important to remember that Ash Wednesday is a day of penitential prayer and fasting. Some faithful take the rest of the day off work and remain at home. It is generally inappropriate to dine out, to shop, or to go out in public after receiving the ashes. Feasting is highly inappropriate. Small children, the elderly, and the sick are exempt from this observance. It is not required that a person wear the ashes for the rest of the day, and they may be washed off after Mass. However, many people keep the ashes as a reminder until the evening.

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Season of Lent. It is a season of penance, reflection, and fasting, which prepares us for Christ's Resurrection on Easter Sunday, through which we attain redemption. While the ashes symbolize penance and contrition, they are also a reminder that God is gracious and merciful to those who call on Him with repentant hearts. His Divine mercy is of utmost importance during the season of Lent, and the Church calls on us to seek that mercy during the entire Lenten season with reflection, prayer, and penance.

WE INVITE ALL OUR PARISHIONERS TO SPEND TIME IN FELLOWSHIP

ST. MONICA CHURCH - FRIENDSHIP SUNDAY Friendship Sunday will be held on the first Sunday of each month following the 11 a.m. Mass. To volunteer, please e-mail Fr. Ben.

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 a.m. Mass. To volunteer please e-mail Fr. Ben.



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Mass Intentions

St. Monica				St. Thomas the Apostle			
Mon.	02/16	8:30 AM	Vicente Thai Pham	Mon.	02/16	8:30 AM	Parishioners
Tue.	02/17	8:30 AM	Parishioners	Tue.	02/17		No Mass
Wed.	02/18	8:30 AM 5:30 PM Ash Wednesday	Parishioners Parishioners	Wed.	02/18	8:30 AM Ash Wednesday	Parishioners
Thu.	02/19	8:30 AM	Balbomera Flores †	Thu.	02/19		No Mass
Fri.	02/20	8:30 AM	Jim Stringer †	Fri.	02/20	8:30 AM	Parishioners
Sat.	02/21	8:30 AM	Parishioners †	Sat.	02/21	8:30 AM	No Mass
		5:00 PM	Elma Penaranda †				
Sun.	02/22	11:00 AM	Parishioners	Sun.	02/22	9:00 AM	Ann & Sal Morales †

THANK YOU	ST. MONICA	ST. THOMAS	
February 8, 2026	ENGLISH	VIETNAMESE	THE APOSTLE
1ST COLLECTION	\$2,631.00	\$482.00	\$1,613.00

Request a Mass Intention

Mass intentions for 2026 may be offered in honor of loved ones at either St. Monica or St. Thomas the Apostle Churches. For scheduling and additional information, you can either stop by or mail the parish office at 470 24th Ave. SF, CA 94121 or email (parishoffice@smstaparishsf.org). Please list all your Mass intentions and requested dates. You can also call Jessica at 415-751-5275.

BAPTISM INQUIRIES

For baptismal inquiries please contact Jessica Montgomery at (415) 751-5275 or email parishoffice@smstaparishsf.org to sign up and schedule an appointment with Fr. Ben.

All are welcome to join us
Monday - Saturday at 8:00 AM
to pray the Rosary at St. Monica Church.

&
All are welcome to join us
on the First Saturday of every month for
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
from 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM at
St. Thomas the Apostle Church.

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