

Saint Monica-Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish

www.smstaparishsf.org

Palm Sunday ~ March 29, 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





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Dear brothers and sisters,

With this weekend being Palm Sunday, we have now entered into Holy Week, the most sacred time in our Church's liturgical year, the most Sacred time in the Life of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is sacred because he is about to do the holiest of things for us. Jesus is about to give himself completely for us. This will happen in the following ways:

Today, he has come to Jerusalem, the holy city, the city of David. It is here that Jesus will enter into his passion. Although he will at first experience welcome at his entrance, this will soon turn into a time of sorrow.

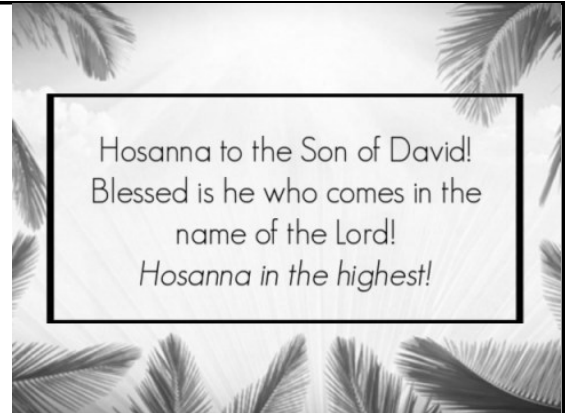
On Holy Thursday, the Lord will offer himself at the Last Supper. He will become the wheat that is crushed, the bread that will give us his life. He will become the Eucharist that gives us eternal life.

On Good Friday, he will enter into the depths of his passion: mockery, torture, and his death upon the cross. He will do this willingly, out of his love for us. His desire to give his life for us will urge him onward for our sake.

And finally, Jesus will enter into the mystery of death itself. He will experience death and the grave. All of this so that death might be destroyed for us. All of this, that his life might be given for us.

Let us then enter into this Holy Week with great awe and thanksgiving. God is about to save us.

Fr. Ben



Hosanna to the Son of David!
Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord!
Hosanna in the highest!

GOSPEL REFLECTION



We begin this Holy Week with the reading of the Lord's Passion from the Gospel of Matthew. It is fitting that during this week we intensely focus our minds and hearts on the steps of our Savior as He laid down His very life for us. But let us also examine the seemingly small acts of stewardship

some who encountered Jesus during this most eventful week.

One occurred when Jesus gave instructions about the room where He would celebrate the Passover. Jesus said, "Go into the city to a certain man and tell him..." "In your house I shall celebrate the Passover with my disciples." While we do not know this man's name, we do know he agreed to this request. He shared the material gift of his home and the gift of hospitality. Because of his good stewardship, his own home became the site of the institution of the Eucharist!

There was also Simon the Cyrenian, who offered the gift of his physical strength, helping the Lord to carry His Cross. Consider, too, the actions of Joseph of Arimathea. He generously shared a material gift of the tomb that was his, and he gave the gift of service to our Lord by giving Him a proper burial. Then there were the "two Marys" who gave Jesus the gift of their time. Keeping watch in tender vigil after His death, they "remained sitting there, facing the tomb."

Each of these were simple acts of good stewardship, yet God used them in mighty ways. God invites each of us, too, to cooperate with Him in small ways through the sharing of our time, talent, and material gifts. Small gifts can become mighty deeds when placed in God's service.

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EASTER & HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

St. Monica

Palm Sunday, March 29th

5:00 PM (Saturday)

8:00 AM (Vietnamese)

11:00 AM

Holy Thursday Mass, April 2nd

7:00 PM

Good Friday, April 3rd

2:00 PM - Seven Last Words

3:00 PM - Good Friday Liturgy

4:00 PM - Confessions

Holy Saturday Vigil, April 4th

8:00 PM

Easter Sunday, April 5th

11:00 AM

1:00 PM (Vietnamese)

St. Thomas the Apostle

Palm Sunday

9:00 AM

Holy Thursday,
Good Friday, and
Holy Saturday will be
held at St. Monica
Church.

Easter Sunday

9:00 AM

* There are no morning 8:30 AM Masses during the Triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday).

HELP OUR CHURCHES BLOOM FOR EASTER!

As we approach Easter, we are beginning to accept offerings for the purchase of flowers for Easter for our two churches. You may use the Easter Flower envelope in your envelope packet or by picking up an envelope on one of the tables in church. You may make an offering in honor/memory of a loved one. We will place the envelopes on the altars of our churches during Easter. Please drop off the completed envelope in the regular collection or at the parish office. Additionally, you may also donate online by using the QR code:



Thank you for your
generosity.



What is Palm Sunday and why do we celebrate it?

- *Palm Sunday* is the final Sunday of Lent, the beginning of Holy Week, and commemorates the triumphant arrival of Christ in Jerusalem, days before he was crucified.
- *Palm branches* are widely recognized symbol of peace and victory, hence the preferred use on Palm Sunday.



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MAY GOD SHOWER YOU WITH
BLESSINGS AND LOVE ON

Palm Sunday

and always

Have a blessed day!

*"Jesus did not come to explain
away suffering or remove it.
He came to fill it with
His Presence."*

—Paul Claudel

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 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 Good Friday.

The law of fasting 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.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL COLLECTION & VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Thank you to all those who helped with sandwich making on Wednesday, March 18th. A special thank you to those who volunteered to help with shopping for supplies and delivery to the shelter the next day. Future sandwich making will be on the 3rd Wednesday of every month. The next opportunity will be this **Wednesday, April 15th at 7:00 PM**. We meet in the St. Monica Parish Hall. For questions contact: Maria McDevitt at megmared@comcast.net or 415-515-6945.

**Our next St. Vincent de Paul collection is TODAY.
Thank you for your generosity.**

SVDP online donation QR code:



GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION FOR THE HOLY LAND



Pope Leo has asked parishes to support the Good Friday collection which helps Christians in the Holy Land. Your support helps church ministry, religious education, preservation of sacred shrines, and provides humanitarian aid for refugees in the Holy Land. Become an instrument of peace and join with Catholics around the world in solidarity with the Church in the Holy Land. Thank you for your support.



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Mass Intentions

St. Monica			
Mon.	03/30	8:30 AM	Parishioners
Tue.	03/31	8:30 AM	Lucio Aguirre †
Wed.	04/01	8:30 AM	John & Teresa Vasquez †
Thu.	04/02 Holy Thursday	7:00 PM	For the Poor
Fri.	04/03 Good Friday	2:00 PM 3:00 PM 4:00 PM	Seven Last Words Good Friday Liturgy Confessions
Sat.	04/04 Holy Saturday	8:00 PM	Parishioners
Sun.	04/05 Easter	11:00 AM	Parishioners

St. Thomas the Apostle			
Mon.	03/30	8:30 AM	Fiona Mitsuoka †
Tue.	03/31		No Mass
Wed.	04/01	8:30 AM	Parishioners
Thu.	04/02		No Mass
Fri.	04/03	8:30 AM	No Mass
Sat.	04/04		No Mass
Sun.	04/05 Easter	9:00 AM	Parishioners

THANK YOU	ST. MONICA	ST. THOMAS	
March 22, 2026	ENGLISH	VIETNAMESE	THE APOSTLE
IST COLLECTION	\$1,633.00	\$396.00	\$897.00

2026 ARCHDIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL CALLED TO CARE AND TO SHARE

Those who hope
in the Lord
will renew
their strength.

ISAIAH 40:31

The Annual Appeal is our annual opportunity to join with Catholics throughout our Archdiocese and assist those who depend on us. Your generosity supports social justice ministries, seminarians, and our schools, to name just a few. On behalf of everyone who needs and utilizes our programs and services, I invite you to support this Appeal. It is critical to our mission and ministry as an Archdiocese.

Your gifts to the Appeal support the Archdiocese's Life Giving Wounds ministry. Life Giving Wounds is a retreat ministry that helps heal, restore, and provide peace of mind to adults whose parents divorced when they were children. Through tears, a participant at one of the retreats said, "...my parents' divorce was so traumatic that I didn't even know if I believed in love. It feels good to know I'm not alone in feeling this way." Another commented, "This is probably the best thing the Church has ever done for me and my siblings."

Our Archdiocesan Annual Appeal goal this year is **\$57,058.00**. If you have any questions about AAA or how to make a donation contact Jessica at parishoffice@smstaparishsf.org or 415-751-5275.

On behalf of everyone who needs and depends on the ministries and services of the Archdiocese of San Francisco, I extend my deep gratitude for your support of the Annual Appeal and your commitment to our Catholic faith. Thank you in advance for all you do to support the Church and her mission.

Fr. Ben