



Saint Monica Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish

St. Monica Catholic Church

470 24th Ave., San Francisco, CA 94121

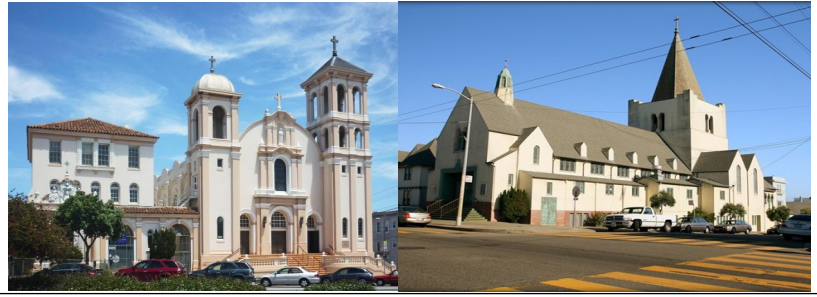
Telephone: (415)751-5275

www.smstaparishsf.org

Office Hours: Mon-Fri 9am-5:30pm

St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church

3835 Balboa St., San Francisco, CA 94121



left the Sacred Host there. Perhaps that person does not understand what the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist means. Perhaps he does not believe in it, or perhaps he simply received very poor catechesis.

I began reading about this and came across a 2019 survey conducted here in the United States. Catholics were asked, essentially, whether they believed that at Mass the bread and wine really become the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. Only **31%** answered according to the teaching of the Church. In other words, **approximately 69% believed that the bread and wine are merely symbols.**

Perhaps the person who left the Host in the **pew hymnal rack** was one of them...

For this reason, we need to teach once again, clearly and simply, what the Catholic Church has always taught about the Real Presence of Christ in the Most Holy Sacrament.

What happens at the consecration?

The Church teaches that at the words of consecration, the entire substance of the bread is changed into the Body of Jesus Christ, and the entire substance of the wine is changed into His Blood.

This marvelous change is called by a special word: **Transubstantiation.**

The appearances remain the same. What we see still looks like bread; it tastes like bread; it has the color, weight, and other sensible qualities of bread. But its substance is no longer bread. **It is Jesus Christ!**

The Catechism puts it with admirable simplicity: after the consecration, under the appearances of bread and wine, there are no longer bread and wine, but the **Body and Blood of Jesus Christ.** This is not a metaphor. It is not a pious way of speaking. It is not merely a symbol reminding us of Jesus. **It is Jesus.**

And is Jesus Christ entirely present in the Host?

Yes. Jesus Christ is present **whole and entire** under the appearance of bread and whole and entire under the appearance of wine: His **Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity.** And this leads us to something extremely important.

Christ is present not only in an entire consecrated Host, but **whole and entire in every part of the Sacred Host.** This is why the Church has always treated even the smallest particles of the Eucharist with extraordinary care. For example, this is why, after the consecration, the priest traditionally kept his index finger and thumb joined together, lest any particles of the Sacred Host remain upon his fingers.

And the Roman Catechism teaches that Christ is contained whole and entire in every particle of the Sacred Species. This explains the immense reverence with which the Church has traditionally surrounded the Holy Eucharist, and it is for this reason that the most reverent manner of receiving Holy Communion is on the tongue.

And how long does Jesus remain present?

Jesus does not cease to be present when Mass ends. He remains truly present **as long as the Eucharistic species remain.**

That is why we have a tabernacle. **That is why we maintain silence in the church.** That is why a sanctuary lamp burns near it. That is why Catholics genuflect before the Blessed Sacrament. That is why the priest

Clergy

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VA Hospital Chaplain
St. Thomas Apostle Rectory
Rev. Te Van Nguyen
Vietnamese Ministry
UCSF Chaplain
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Ray Moreno
Maintenance
Joe Goebel
Custodian
Andres Montufar
Office Volunteer

Mass Times

St. Monica

Sunday
11:00am
Saturday
5:00pm (Vigil)
Weekdays
Mon-Fri 8:00am
Confessions
Mon-Fri before and after Mass
Saturday 4:20pm
Sunday after Mass

St. Thomas the Apostle

Sunday
7:30am (Vietnamese)
9:00am
Weekdays
Mon, Wed, Fri 8:30am
First Saturday
8:30am
First Saturday Adoration
9:00am - 10:00am

PASTOR'S LETTER



The Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist

A few days ago, something very sad happened here at the parish. This past Monday, after Mass, I found a consecrated Host in one of the **pew hymnal racks**, behind one of the pews.

You cannot imagine the sorrow this caused me. A priest is a guardian of the Holy Eucharist, and for those of us who strive to celebrate Mass reverently and to adore Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, **something like this hurts. It hurts deeply.**

I called the Bishop and asked him what I should do. Evidently, someone had received Holy Communion in the hand and then

carefully purifies the sacred vessels after Communion. And that is why a consecrated Host can never be treated as an ordinary object.

The Host I found in the pew was not something that *had been* Jesus during Mass. **It was Jesus Christ!**

The same Lord born of the Virgin Mary in Bethlehem; the same Lord who preached in Galilee; the same Lord who suffered and died upon the Cross; the same Lord who rose from the dead and ascended into Heaven. Sacramentally present, but **really present**.

How, then, should we receive Holy Communion?

If we truly believe this, our exterior actions should reflect our interior faith.

We should approach Holy Communion in the state of grace, with recollection, humility, faith, and reverence. We should never approach casually, as though we were receiving ordinary food.

As Pope St. Paul VI teaches, receiving Holy Communion on the tongue “ensures, more effectively, that Holy Communion is distributed with the proper respect, decorum and dignity” (*Memoriale Domini*).

That is why I want to repeat what I told you when I first arrived at the parish: I ask you, I urge you, whenever possible, please receive Holy Communion on the tongue. It is not only a matter of taking greater care of the Blessed Sacrament, but also of preventing painful situations like this from happening again.

But beyond the question of **how** we receive, we must first recover **what we believe**.

At every Mass, when the priest raises the Sacred Host, let us look toward Our Lord with the eyes of faith and repeat the words of St. Thomas the Apostle:

“My Lord and my God.”

Because that is precisely Who is before us.

Blessed and praised every moment be the Most Holy and Most Divine Sacrament.

Fr. Javier Olivera Ravasi, S.E.

Parroquia Santa Mónica

Misa Latina para Hispanos Padre Javier Olivera Ravasi

Geary Blvd 5920
San Francisco, CA 94121

DOMINGO
20 DE
SEPTIEMBRE,
3PM



Misa tradicional,
única! en Latin con
lecturas y sermón
en Español.



Hospitalidad
después de la Misa.

Misa Latina para hispanos en
San Francisco

Comunidad de WhatsApp



P. Javier Olivera Ravasi

MISA LATINA-ESPAÑOL



Parroquia Santa Mónica:
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San Francisco, CA 94121



¡Cada cual lleve su comida
para compartir después de la Misa!



Sunday Gospel reading: Matthew 18:21-35

Then Peter came up and said to him, “Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven.

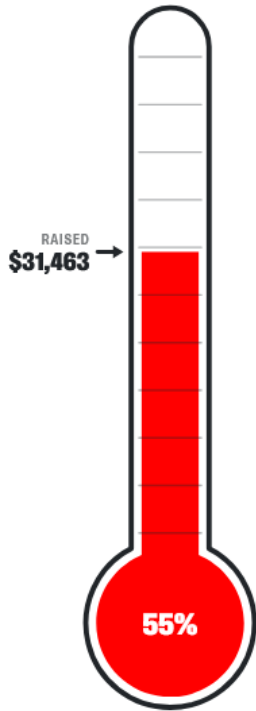
“Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. When he began the reckoning, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents; and as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, ‘Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ And out of pity for him the lord of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. But that same servant, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ So his fellow servant fell down and besought him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ He refused and went and put him in prison till he should pay the debt. When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you besought me; and should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?’ And in anger his lord delivered him to the jailers, till he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”





Archdiocese Annual Appeal

Parish Goal: \$57,058



Clergy Support — 35%

Funds priest formation, retreats, sabbaticals, and retirement needs, plus the Office of Vocations, which supports discernment for the priesthood, diaconate, and religious life.

Parish Ministry & Schools — 25%

Supports Catholic schools, Faith Formation and Youth Ministry (catechesis, sacramental prep, OCIA), the Office of Worship, and Marriage & Family Life programs.

Social Ministry — 23%

Funds hospital and prison chaplains, the Office of Human Life and Dignity, Restorative Justice, Ethnic Ministries, and the Tribunal.

Universal Church & Communications — 17%

Supports the Holy See, USCCB, California Catholic Conference, and the Archdiocese's communications, including *Catholic San Francisco* magazine.

Archdiocesan Annual Appeal 2026 Goal: \$6,450,000

To learn more about the Archdiocese Annual Appeal, and to donate, please visit <https://sfarch.org/aaa/>

Square Dancing

The San Francisco Caper Cutters meet every Monday at 7:00pm in the large hall. All are welcome, no experience needed. Just come for fun exercise and good company.

Enter through the opening in the chain-link fence on the left side of the parking lot, then down a few stairs to the dance space.

Legatus San Francisco Leadership Summit

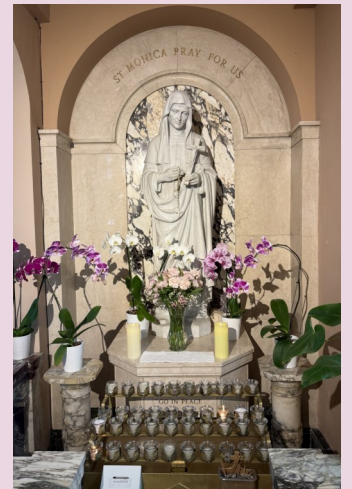
September 23, 5 pm-9 pm  **Legatus**

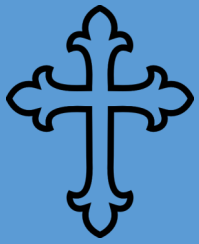
Join us at the historic Mission Dolores for an evening of faith, fellowship, and Catholic leadership. The evening begins with Rosary and Mass, followed by a reception, dinner, and a Catholic leaders panel. All are welcome. Cost is \$95. You can register through [Eventbrite Legatus Leadership Summit](#) or contact Mayra Brown at MBrown@Legatus.org

St. Monica Shrine

Come visit the shrine dedicated to the patroness of our church, newly adorned with flowers and a prayer candle rack. Light a candle for any prayer intentions, especially for those who have strayed from the Faith.

Sancta Monica
Ora pro nobis!





Children's Catechism Classes
Registration is open for classes preparing children for **First Holy Communion and Confirmation**. Classes begin **Sunday, September 20, 2026**. We encourage all parents of catechism-age children to register soon. To register or for more information, contact Terry at (415) 465-2133.



Order of Christian Initiation for Adults

Interested in becoming Catholic, or completing the sacraments of initiation? The OCIA program prepares adults for entry into the Church. Email pastor@smstaparishsf.org for more information.

Liturgical Calendar

Sun 09/13	24th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Mon 09/14	Triumph of the Holy Cross
Tues 09/15	Our Lady of Sorrows
Wed 09/16	St. Cornelius, pope and martyr
Thurs 09/17	St. Hildegard of Bingen, Virgin
Fri 09/18	Friday in Ordinary Time
Sat 09/19	St. Januarius, bishop and martyr

New to the Parish?

Sign up to be an official parishioner and for Friday Adoration



Adorers Needed

For Friday Adoration

Every Friday from 9:00am to 5:00pm



Our Lord is waiting for you!

What is Adoration? What is a Holy Hour?

Adoration is a Catholic devotional practice of spending time in the presence of Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. It is a practice that finds its seeds in the earliest days of the Church. To spend a Holy Hour with Him is to fulfill His request to St. Peter in Gethsemane: "What? Could you not watch one hour with me?" (Mt 26:40). A plenary indulgence is granted when you go to Adoration for at least a half hour (and you are detached from sin, go to Confession, receive the Eucharist and pray for the intentions of our Holy Father the Pope).

Sunday Collection

Collection	Sunday Collection
St. Monica	
English	\$2,026
St. Thomas the Apostle	
English	\$1,326
Vietnamese	\$488

Mass Intentions

	St. Monica		St. Thomas the Apostle	
Sunday 09/13	11:00am	† Oliver O'Sullivan	9:00am	Jean Sho Tung
Monday 09/14	8:00am	† Florencia Martinez	8:30am	Justin Gonsalves
Tuesday 09/15	8:00am	† George Lau		No Mass
Wednesday 09/16	8:00am	† Martin Novak	8:30am	Amelia Panes
Thursday 09/17	8:00am	† Adam Sowa		No Mass
Friday 09/18	8:00am	† Harold + Helen Grangoff	8:30am	† Antony Thomas
Saturday 09/19	5:00pm	† Norma Licudan		No Mass