



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



Clergy	Staff
Rev. Javier O. Ravasi, Parochial Administrator pastor@smstaparishsf.org In Residence: Rev. Paulinus Iwuji, SMMM, Ph.D. VA Hospital Chaplain St. Thomas Apostle Rectory Rev. Te Van Nguyen Vietnamese Ministry UCSF Chaplain St. Thomas Apostle Rectory Deacons: Rev. Mr. Kristopher Compagno DcnKristopher@gmail.com	Santiago Ron Parish Manager santiago@smstaparishsf.org Jessica Montgomery Administrative Assistant parishoffice@smstaparishsf.org Ray Moreno Maintenance Joe Goebel Custodian Andres Montufar Office Volunteer

Mass Times

St. Monica	St. Thomas the Apostle
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	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 Urgency of Conversion and Confession

"Which of the two did his father's will?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Amen, I say to you, tax

collectors and prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God before you," says today's Gospel (Mt 21:31).

And yes... today's Gospel is about conversion.

I remember that when I was a child, my maternal grandmother used to say:

"Death, judgment, hell, and glory — keep, Christian, in your memory."

And she was right. For whoever always keeps their end in mind will rarely postpone their conversion for another day.

Sacred Scripture itself says: *"Remember your last end and you shall never sin"* (Sirach 7:40).

Today, the Lord calls us to a conversion of heart — to not leave for tomorrow our return to Him.

Simply because we do not know if there will be a "tomorrow."

We know by faith that at the very moment our soul leaves this mortal body, we will be judged: *"some to eternal life and others to eternal death,"* as the Gospel says.

That's why the time of mercy is **now**, while we are alive. The dead can no longer merit for themselves.

But... what is conversion?

It is turning back to God. It is leaving behind our worldly life, our sins, our attachment to earthly things. It is letting go of that vice, that bad habit that enslaves us, that disordered affection that keeps us from growing spiritually.

That thing we say we'll leave behind in every confession.

And that can happen to all of us.

In the life of Saint Augustine, we read how — once he had come to know God — he realized he had to change his life. Yet he said to the Lord: *"Wait, Lord, just a little longer; wait a bit more. Then I will leave the world, then I will leave my sin."*

This is the attitude of those who want to follow God but do not take the necessary steps to leave behind their sinful life.

But first of all: who has guaranteed us that there **will** be a tomorrow?

As Saint Gregory says: *"God, who promised forgiveness to the repentant sinner; never promised him tomorrow."*

That's why the book of Sirach says: *"Delay not your conversion to the Lord, and do not postpone it from day to day; for suddenly His wrath will come, and in the time of vengeance He will destroy you."* (Sirach 5:7)

But even if we knew we had twenty or thirty more years to live, would it be logical to postpone conversion until tomorrow?

Certainly not. Because, in these matters, it is like weeds or bad plants: the more time you let them grow, the harder they are to root out.

That's why we must make the most of the present time, as Saint Paul tells us: *"Make good use of time, for the days are evil."* (Ephesians 5:16)

How many Catholics say, *"I'll correct myself when I'm older,"* or *"Once I get through this phase of my life, I'll begin my conversion"*?

September 27, 2026: Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

That's why Seneca rightly said that whoever waits for old age to become good is like a runner who jogs lazily through the race, hoping to sprint at the end when he has no strength left.

"We are far from being faithful to God," says Saint Gregory, "if we wait until old age to do penance."

Thus, the book of Sirach rightly says: *"Never cease to do good at any time, for the reward of God endures forever."*

And so, the rhyme says:

**Death, judgment, hell, and glory —
Keep, Christian, in your memory.**

Therefore, let us make firm and sincere resolutions for conversion.

Let us not put off until tomorrow the battle against our predominant fault.

Let us do penance for our sins and take our spiritual life seriously. The past is in the mercy of God, and the future is in His providence; but the **present** is in our hands. And if we are faithful to His grace, He will act.

For, as the Lord said to the prophet Ezekiel: *"I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that they turn from their ways and live."* (Ezekiel 33:11)

Let us confess our sins sincerely, hate sin, and seek holiness without postponing our conversion until another day.

And remember: **I am available every single day to hear confessions, without an appointment... and it's free!**

Let us ask God to grant us this grace through the intercession of **the Most Holy Virgin Mary.**

Fr. Javier Olivera Ravasi, SE
St. Monica-St. Thomas the Apostle Parish

Catholic Homeschooling Co-op



By the grace of God, Saint Monica Parish has begun a Catholic homeschooling co-op to bring families together and support parents in educating their children in the Faith.

Free of charge, the initiative seeks only the glory of God and the salvation of souls.



**Scan to register
and receive updates**



St. Francis of Assisi – 800th Anniversary



Sunday, October 4, 2026 • St. Mary's Cathedral

Mass 11 AM | Sculpture Dedication 1:30 PM

Blessing of Tim Schmalz's *It Is Finished* sculpture..

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Fr. Joseph Illo



Fr. Mikhael Mihic



Fr. Gerardo Vázquez



Fr. Javier Olivera Ravasi



Fr. Vincent Woo

COME
PRAY
ADORE



**EUCCHARISTIC
ROSARY CONGRESS**

October 7–15, 2026

October 7

**FEAST OF OUR LADY
OF THE ROSARY**

Solemn High Mass
6 PM

STAR OF THE SEA

October 15

**FEAST OF ST. TERESA
OF ÁVILA**

Latin Sung Mass
6 PM

CRISTO REY



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Sunday Gospel: Mt. 20:1-16

The Parable of the workers in the vineyard

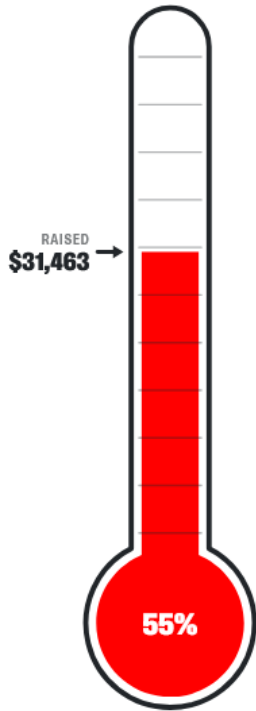
The general idea of the parable is that everyone comes to the vineyard (faith) at different points in their lives. Some people are lifelong disciples of Jesus, and some people convert only toward the end of their lives. In the kingdom of God, both groups are treated the same. By human standards, we perhaps might view this as unjust. Yet Jesus points out that the reward for their long work (heaven) is fair, and the only reason that others receive this same reward is because of the generosity of the owner of the vineyard (God). It is his (God's) to do with as he pleases. So long as we have not been treated unjustly, how could we reasonably complain that God is generous to others?

- Fr. Charles Grondin (Catholic Answers)



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/>



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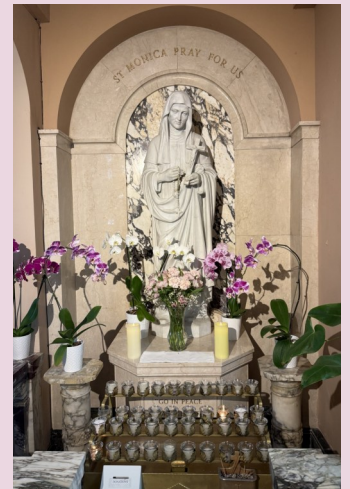
Be a Camel, Apply Today



St. Monica Shrine

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

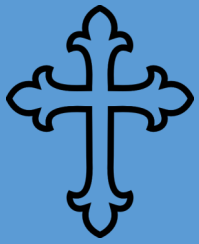
Sancta Monica
Ora pro nobis!



Square Dancing

San Francisco Caper Cutters Square dance group meets every Monday night at 7:00pm at St. Monica's large hall. If you are interested in participating in fun exercise, meeting new people, and learning how to square dance, please join us.

From the parking lot, there will be an opening on the left side of the chain link fence. Go through the opening and down a few stairs to our dance space.



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 09/27	25th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Mon 09/28	St. Wenceslaus
Tues 09/29	Sts. Michael, Gabriel and Raphael
Wed 09/30	St. Jerome, priest and doctor
Thurs 10/01	St. Thérèse of Lisieux, virgin and doctor
Fri 10/02	Guardian Angels
Sat 10/03	Saturday in Ordinary Time

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?" 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). Please fill out an adoration form or scan the QR code to sign up.

Sunday Collection

Collection	Sunday Collection
St. Monica	
English	\$2,973
Latin	\$705
St. Thomas the Apostle	
English	\$941
Vietnamese	\$428

Mass Intentions

	St. Monica		St. Thomas the Apostle	
Sunday 09/27	11:00am	Parishioners	9:00am	† Fiona Mitsuoaka
Monday 09/28	8:00am	† Manuela + Jorge Mangana	8:30am	Fr. Ben Rosado
Tuesday 09/29	8:00am	† Robert		No Mass
Wednesday 09/30	8:00am	† Sharon + Rod Montgomery	8:30am	† Sharon + Rod Montgomery
Thursday 10/01	8:00am	† Richard Atwood		No Mass
Friday 10/02	8:00am	† Margaret Polak	8:30am	† P.C. Supri + Sinu
Saturday 10/03	5:00pm	† Marie-Heanne Arrabit	8:30am (First Sat)	† Ode Touye