



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 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

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



How to Distinguish a Mortal Sin from a Venial Sin?

Fr. Javier Olivera Ravasi

This is a typical question. We will try to be as pedagogical as possible, but first, let's define some terms.

A sin is "any voluntary act against the Law of God" (as we learned in the Catechism when we were children).

For a sin to be mortal, it must kill or remove God's grace from the soul, and three conditions must all be present:

1. Grave matter
2. Full knowledge (knowing that it is a sin and that it is grave)
3. Full consent (freely choosing to do it)

If any one of these is missing, the sin is not mortal, but venial, and therefore forgivable with an act of contrition and hatred for the sin out of love for God.

What is "grave matter"?

It means the act is seriously evil by its nature, not just a minor imperfection. It is something that separates us from God because we preferred a creature over the Creator.

Examples of grave matter: sacrilege, heresy, apostasy, impurity (sins against the Sixth Commandment), hatred (not mere irritation), lies causing serious harm, stealing significant sums, knowingly missing Sunday Mass, consuming alcohol or drugs to the point of losing reason, etc.

Examples of light matter: small impatience, slightly harsh words that do not cause serious harm, minor lies, fleeting bad thoughts immediately rejected.

If someone is unsure whether the matter is grave, then it probably isn't or the person lacks the knowledge needed to discern it.

Full Knowledge

For a sin to be mortal, it's not enough to do something wrong: one must know it is a grave sin. This excludes:

- Invincible ignorance (not knowing and unable to know it was grave)
- Sincere lack of knowledge (not deliberate ignorance)
- Confusion, fear, or emotional disturbance

Example: If someone did not know an action was gravely sinful, then it was not a mortal sin due to lack of knowledge.

Full Consent

Even if the matter is grave and one knows it is wrong, the person must freely choose to do it, without being forced or overwhelmed by factors that reduce consent.

Factors that diminish consent include: fear, sudden passions, strong temptation, anxiety, illness, addiction, sleepiness, or ingrained habits not fully overcome.

A common saying: "When the sin surprises you more than you surprise it, full consent is lacking."

Questions to Ask Yourself if in Doubt

1. Is the act objectively grave? If no → venial sin.
2. Did I clearly know it was grave? If no → not mortal.
3. Did I freely choose it? If no → probably venial.

Practical Examples

Case A – Sudden anger: someone lashes out with an angry word. Grave matter? Usually no (unless it severely humiliates). Knowledge? Yes. Consent? Partial (sudden passion). → **Venial sin**

Case B – Missing Mass without reason: "I won't go today because I don't want to." Matter: grave. Knowledge: yes. Consent: yes, free. → **Mortal sin**

October 11th, 2026: Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Case C – Brief sexual temptation: a fleeting image or thought appears, but you do not consent fully. Matter: only grave if fully consented. Knowledge: yes. Consent: not full. → **Venial or no sin**

Case D – Lie without harm: telling a small lie to avoid trouble. Matter: light. Knowledge: yes. Consent: yes. → **Venial**

Conclusion

A sin is mortal only if you can honestly say: *"I knew it was grave and yet freely chose to do it."*

Classic spiritual advice: moralists often recommend that if the soul doubts whether a sin is mortal, it probably isn't. Mortal sin requires full, conscious deliberation.

This does not mean venial sins should be ignored; they must be hated wholeheartedly to reach Heaven. As an old Spanish rhyme says (adapted with rhyme in English):

*"God is watching every day,
Keep in mind as you pray,
Life will end, we cannot say,
When the hour will come our way."*

Fr. Javier Olivera Ravasi

Latest from Archbishop Salvatore J. Cordileone

Stay informed with the latest **homilies, articles, videos, letters, and statements** from Archbishop Salvatore J. Cordileone. **Visit our parish website to read and watch the latest updates from the Archdiocese of San Francisco.**



KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Fr. Joseph Illo



Fr. Mikhael Mihic



Fr. Gerardo Vázquez



Fr. Javier Olivera Ravasi



Fr. Vincent Woo

COME
PRAY
ADORE



Eight Days of
Eucharistic Adoration,
the Holy Rosary,
Holy Mass, Confession
Spiritual Conferences,
Candlelight Procession
in Honor of Our Lord
in the Most Blessed
Sacrament

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



BROTHERSINPRAYER.COM
STARPARISH.COM

October 15

FEAST OF ST. TERESA
OF ÁVILA

Latin Sung Mass
6 PM

CRISTO REY

Help Us Keep Our Church Open on Saturdays!

Our parish is seeking volunteers to help keep **Saint Monica Church open every Saturday from 9:00 a.m. until the 5:00 p.m. Mass.**

This simple but meaningful ministry requires only your presence in the church and a watchful eye while you spend time in prayer and help keep our church open for those who wish to come in, pray, light a candle, or spend a few quiet moments with Our Lord.

Your time and presence are a beautiful way to serve God and our parish community. Please consider giving a few hours of your Saturday to help keep the doors of our church open.

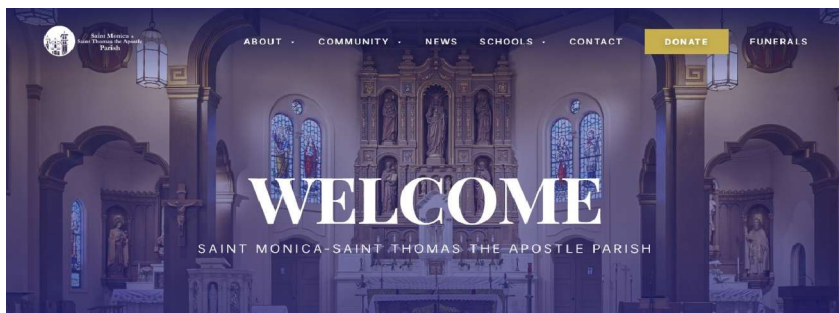
To volunteer, please contact the Parish Office.

Visit Our Newly Renewed Parish Website!

Our parish website has been **renewed and updated!** Visit us online to find the latest information about **Mass times, parish events, ministries, announcements, and more.**

Stay connected with the life of our parish and discover all that is happening at **Saint Monica – Saint Thomas Apostle Parish.**

Visit our new website today!



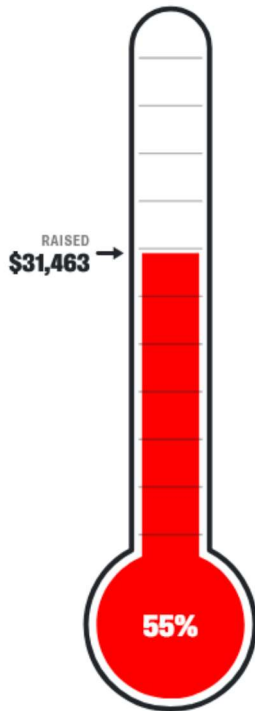
Sunday Gospel: Mt. 22:1-14

Many are invited, but few are chosen. Our Lord warns that being called is not the same as being saved. The guest had accepted the invitation; he was inside the hall, yet he was cast into the exterior darkness. So the Church has always taught that faith without sanctifying grace and good works does not justify. The white garment given at Baptism must be kept spotless, and if it is soiled by mortal sin, it must be washed again in the Sacrament of Penance. Let no one presume upon the invitation. The world offers a thousand reasons to stay away. Christ offers one reason to come: He is waiting.



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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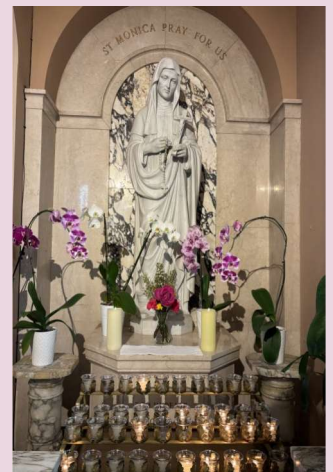
St. Monica Shrine

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.



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 10/11	28th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Mon 10/12	Monday 28th Week in Ord. Time
Tues 10/13	Tuesday 28th Week in Ord. Time
Wed 10/14	St. Callistus I, Pope & Martyr
Thurs 10/15	St. Teresa of Jesus, Virgin & Doctor
Fri 10/16	St. Margaret Mary Alacoque
Sat 10/17	St. Ignatius of Antioch, Bp. & 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?"* 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	\$2,027
St. Monica School	\$510
St. Thomas the Apostle	
English	\$1,366
Vietnamese	\$469
St. Monica School	\$457

Mass Intentions

	St. Monica		St. Thomas the Apostle	
Sunday 10/11	11:00am	Int. of Josephine, Maura Rosaleen and †Maria	9:00am	† Susan Mables
Monday 10/12	8:00am	† Cecilia Cillo	8:30am	† Sharon Montgomery birthday
Tuesday 10/13	8:00am	† Yacsely Mendoza		No Mass
Wednesday 10/14	8:00am	† Anita Luz Perez Int. of Gaudencio Orallo Bday.	8:30am	Int. of Ramsey Raher birthday
Thursday 10/15	8:00am	Int. of Pedro Mendoza		No Mass
Friday 10/16	8:00am	† Jim Mandarano	8:30am	Int. of Lai Sang
Saturday 10/17	5:00pm	† Teresita Ruiz † Eduardo Mendes		No Mass