



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



Saint Francis of Assisi: The Real Saint versus the Modern Caricature

The figure of Saint Francis of Assisi has undergone, especially in recent centuries, a profound distortion. The medieval saint has often been turned

into a kind of precursor of modern ideologies: a pacifist, environmentalist, vegetarian, revolutionary, enemy of ecclesiastical structures, and advocate of a sort of religious indifferentism. Guido Vignelli, in *San Francesco antimoderno. Il vero volto del Santo di Assisi*, attempts to dismantle this image by returning to the historical sources. The Francis who emerges from them is very different:

austere, demanding, profoundly Catholic, faithful to the Church, and concerned above all with the salvation of souls.

This manipulation is not new. For centuries, humanists, Protestants, and Enlightenment thinkers despised Francis as a fanatic or an unbalanced man. With Romanticism, the opposite process began: Francis was praised, but characteristics foreign to his actual thought were attributed to him. Thus arose the opposition between a supposed "historical Francis," free and rebellious against Rome, and a "Francis of faith," supposedly constructed later by the Church. Benedict XV had already denounced this modernist interpretation in 1921, stating that such a figure could not be identified with the true saint of Assisi.

Saint Francis was not a sentimental "nice guy." He could be gentle, but he also used very strong language when sin was at stake. He preached the fear of God, the reality of judgment and hell, and the necessity of observing the commandments. In his *Second Letter to the Faithful*, he explicitly warns about the eternal destiny of those who die in mortal sin.

Nor was he a pacifist in the modern sense. Franciscan peace did not consist simply in avoiding conflict, but in reconciling man with God. Francis regarded himself as a "soldier of Christ" and a "herald of the great King," and he even used military imagery when speaking of his friars. The text also recalls that the rule of the Third Order contemplated circumstances in which the use of arms could be justified.

He was not opposed to the Crusades. Francis personally wished to take part in the Fifth Crusade, not out of a spirit of adventure, but in order to preach to the Muslims and provide spiritual assistance to Christians. His famous encounter with the Sultan of Egypt cannot simply be interpreted as an example of modern interreligious dialogue: Francis explicitly sought to proclaim Christ and convert those to whom he spoke.

Nor was he an "ecumenist," if by that we mean religious relativism. He opposed heresy and demanded fidelity to the Catholic faith. His *Testament* even prescribed severe measures regarding friars suspected of heresy or schism. Likewise, his attitude toward Muslims was marked by a missionary purpose: to proclaim the Trinity, Christ as Redeemer, and the necessity of Baptism. The first Franciscans sent to Morocco preached in this spirit, and five of them died as martyrs in 1220.

Francis deeply loved nature, but he was not an environmentalist in the contemporary sense. He loved creatures because he saw in them the work and goodness of the Creator. Pius XI emphasized precisely that his love for animals, flowers, and all other created beings sprang from his love for God. Thomas of Celano likewise explains that Francis contemplated in the beauty of creatures a reflection of divine Beauty. The *Canticle of the Creatures*, therefore,

does not divinize nature, but leads us from creation to its Author.

Nor was he a vegetarian. The sources show that he ate meat and encouraged his friars to accept gratefully whatever food they received as alms. He even joyfully declared that at Christmas there should be no abstinence.

Finally, **Saint Francis was not a social revolutionary.** He understood his mission as one of restoring the Church—"rebuild my house"—not rebelling against her. He did not preach class struggle or incite the poor against the rich; rather, he sought harmony among the different social classes and forbade his friars from becoming involved in temporal affairs. For Francis, the decisive issue was not the revolutionary transformation of economic structures, but the conversion of souls and leading them toward God.

This, then, is the true Francis: not a precursor of modern ideologies, but a radically medieval and Catholic saint, in love with Christ, with the Church, and with creation precisely because he contemplated everything in the light of God.

Today, let us entrust ourselves to this saint, the patron of our city, asking for the conversion of all its inhabitants.

Saint Francis, pray for us.

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

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.

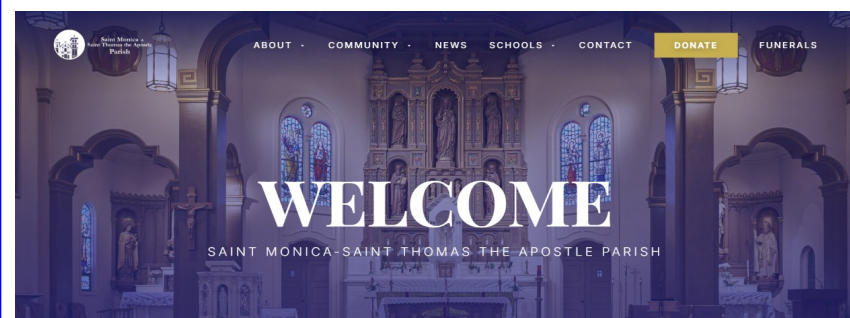
To volunteer, please contact the Parish Office.

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!



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

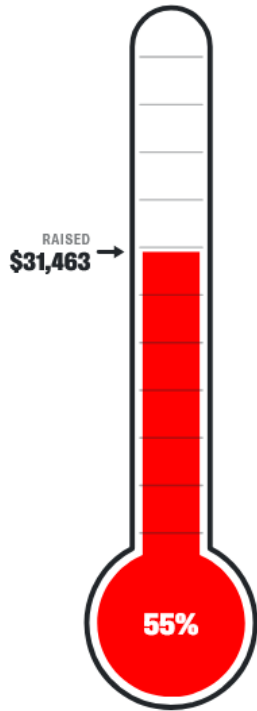
Sunday Gospel: Mt. 21:33-43

The general idea of the parable is a profound warning about spiritual responsibility and stewardship. In this passage, God is the landowner who equips his vineyard (the Kingdom of God) and trusts it to tenants. Instead of offering the fruits of faith, the tenants rebel, rejecting the servants (the prophets) and killing the landowner's Son (Jesus). By human standards, the tenants mistakenly thought they could steal the inheritance. Yet Jesus points out that the stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. God's grace is a gift to be nurtured, not hoarded. If we fail to produce fruits of love and obedience, the privileges of the Kingdom will be given to those who will.



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



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 10/-04	27th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Mon 10/05	St. Faustina Kowalska
Tues 10/06	St. Bruno, priest
Wed 10/07	Our Lady of the Rosary
Thurs 10/08	Thursday 27th Week in Ord. Time
Fri 10/09	St. John Leonardi, priest
Sat 10/10	Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary

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	\$ 1,558
Priest retirement fund	\$494
St. Thomas the Apostle	
English	\$ 1,088
Vietnamese	\$ 540
Priest retirement fund	\$ 576

Mass Intentions

	St. Monica		St. Thomas the Apostle	
Sunday 10/04	11:00am	† Eusebio Salapare	9:00am	† Lawrence Mabes
Monday 10/05	8:00am	† Dorothy Del Prado	8:30am	Int. of Juliana Lam
Tuesday 10/06	8:00am	† Mary Hanley		No Mass
Wednesday 10/07	8:00am	† Jack Hanley	8:30am	† John Gerbich
Thursday 10/08	8:00am	Int. of Pedro Mendoza		No Mass
Friday 10/09	8:00am	† Sharon Montgomery	8:30am	Int. of Blessy K. John
Saturday 10/11	5:00pm	† Sharon Montgomery		No mass