November 1st, 2026: All Saints' Day

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. Xristopher Compagno** DcnXristopher@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) 9:30am **Weekdays** Mon, Wed, Fri 8:30am **First Saturday** 8:30am **First Saturday Adoration** 9:00am - 10:00am

PASTOR'S LETTER



Do Not Be Afraid to Return to Confession

Fr. Javier Olivera Ravasi

The Lord never tires of calling the sinner back to Himself. The question is whether we are willing to return.

Some people delay confession because they feel ashamed. Others think they must first feel a perfect sorrow for their sins. Still others say: "I will go when I have corrected myself." But the sacrament of Penance was not given to people who are already perfect. It was given to sinners who need the mercy of God. Contrition means sorrow for sin and the resolve to turn away from it. It can be perfect when we are sorry because we have offended God, who is infinitely good and worthy of our love. It can also be imperfect when we begin by recognizing the ugliness of sin or fearing its consequences. This imperfect sorrow is not hypocrisy. It is already a movement toward God, and it can prepare us to receive His forgiveness in confession.

We do not need to wait until we feel an extraordinary emotion. We must come honestly, with a real desire to leave sin behind and return to God. The Church teaches that the sacrament of Penance does not depend on our ability to produce perfect feelings. God is the one who forgives. The priest is the minister through whom Christ gives absolution.

Our Lord gave His Apostles the authority to forgive sins. He did not leave us alone with our guilt, asking us to guess whether we had been forgiven. He gave us a sacrament: a visible sign of His mercy and a sure means of reconciliation. When the priest absolves us, it is Christ who acts.

A good confession asks for honesty and preparation. We examine our conscience and ask God to show us where we have sinned. We are sorry for those sins. We make a firm resolution not to sin again. We confess our sins sincerely, without hiding what we know we must confess. And we accept the penance given by the priest.

This resolution does not mean that we can guarantee we will never fall again. It means that, at this moment, we truly reject sin and intend to avoid it. If we fall later, we must get up again and return to God. The Christian life is not a claim that we never need mercy; it is the humble decision to keep seeking it.

Sometimes a person avoids confession because he fears what the priest will think. But the priest is there to serve the soul, not to humiliate it. The sins we confess are not news to God. He already knows them, and He waits for us to bring them into the light so that He may heal us.

When confession is not immediately available, we should ask God for forgiveness with all our heart and make an act of perfect contrition, with the intention of going to confession as soon as we are able. But we should not use this as an excuse to put off the sacrament. Our Lord has given us this gift for a reason. When we can approach it, we should do so.

Perhaps we have been away from confession for years. Perhaps we do not know where to begin. We can start

simply: pray, examine our conscience, and speak plainly to the priest. We do not need a beautiful speech. We need sincerity and the desire to return.

The prodigal son did not remain far away until he had repaired his whole life. He rose and went back to his father. And the father, seeing him from a distance, ran to meet him (cf. Luke 15:20).

So let us not postpone our return. Let us not let shame keep us from mercy. Let us make a good confession, receive absolution with gratitude, and begin again with the help of God's grace.

May the Most Holy Virgin Mary obtain for us a humble and contrite heart, and the courage to return to her Son whenever we have strayed.

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

Latest from Archbishop Salvatore J. Cordileone

Stay informed with the latest **homilies, articles, videos, letters, and statements** from Archbishop Salvatore J. Cordileone.

Sunday Gospel: Mt. 5:1-12a

"Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God." Every heart can be cleansed. The saints we honor today did not earn Heaven by never falling. They earned it by rising again. Each confession is a step up the mountain of the Beatitudes. Let us not fear the climb, for at the summit we shall see God.



All Souls' Day

Monday, November 2

All Souls' Envelopes: write the names of your departed loved ones on the envelope (mailed to you or at the church entrances) and return it in the collection basket or at the Rectory. Names will be placed on the altar and remembered at our Masses throughout November.

Light a candle for your loved ones at the St. Monica Shrine all through November.

We pray for those from our parish who have died in the past year:

Phyllis Cardinale
Mark Dercole
Angelique Fong
Lourdes Gomez-Leikas
Christina Harada
Carole Louise Harrison
Rose Marie Rosales Jao
Ruth McKeever
Rev. Jerome Murphy
Eusebio Salapare
Richard Thomas
Geraldine Webb

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.

Mass Intentions

	St. Monica		St. Thomas the Apostle	
Sunday 11/1	11:00am	Int. of the People of the Parish	9:30am	Int. of the People of the Parish
Monday 11/2	8:00am	All Souls	8:30am	All Souls
Tuesday 11/3	8:00am	+ Lidia Quintana-Diaz		No Mass
Wednesday 11/4	8:00am	+ Eusebio & Neonita Salapare	8:30am	Int. of Richel Garner
Thursday 11/5	8:00am	+ Rod & Sharon Montgomery		No Mass
Friday 11/6	8:00am	+ Vicente & Lupita Bermejo	8:30am	Int. of St. Thomas Preschool Families
Saturday 11/7	5:00pm	Int. of Pilar Reyes	8:30am	Int. of St. Monica School Families

Liturgical Calendar	
Sun 11/1	ALL SAINTS · Solemnity
Mon 11/2	All Souls' Day
Tues 11/3	31st Wk. OT · St. Martin de Porres
Wed 11/4	St. Charles Borromeo, Bishop
Thurs 11/5	Thursday 31st Week in Ord. Time
Fri 11/6	First Friday · 31st Wk. in Ord. Time
Sat 11/7	First Saturday · BVM on Saturday

Catechism Corner

How often should I go to Confession?

"After having attained the age of discretion, each of the faithful is bound by an obligation faithfully to confess serious sins at least once a year." *(CCC 1457)*

Why do I need to confess to a priest?

"Since Christ entrusted to his apostles the ministry of reconciliation, bishops who are their successors, and priests, the bishops' collaborators, continue to exercise this ministry." *(CCC 1461)*

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Support Your Parish

PRAY · GATHER · BELONG · GIVE

PRAY · FRIDAY ADORATION

Adorers Needed

Every Friday, 9:00am – 5:00pm · Our Lord is waiting for



What is Adoration? What is a Holy Hour?

Adoration is spending time in the presence of Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. 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 for at least a half hour of Adoration, under the usual conditions.

Scan to sign up

GATHER · SUNDAY HOSPITALITY





Join us for **coffee, donuts and fellowship** after Mass — **every Sunday at St. Monica** and the **second Sunday of each month at St. Thomas the Apostle**.

Bring someone new! A friend, a neighbor, a returning Catholic, or someone curious about the Faith.

All are welcome!

BELONG: Join Our Parish

Registering helps us know and serve your family.
It takes two minutes!

Scan to join our parish ►

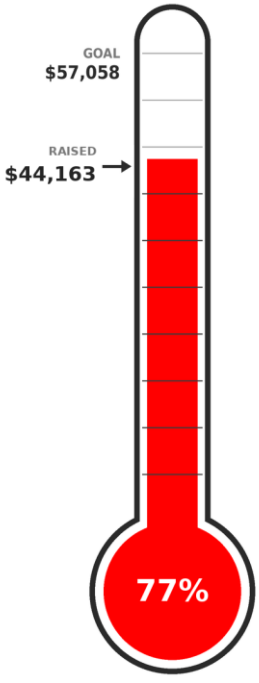
GIVE: Support Your Parish

Give online, set up **recurring giving**, or remember the parish in your **will or estate**.
Thank you!

Scan to give online ►

Archdiocese Annual Appeal

PARISH GOAL	RAISED SO FAR	STILL NEEDED
$57,058	$44,163	$12,895



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/

St. Vincent de Paul Society

Volunteer Opportunity: Sandwich Making

Thank you to all who helped make sandwiches on Oct. 21, and a special thank you to those who shopped for supplies and delivered to the shelter the next day! Sandwich making is now the **3rd Wednesday of every month.**

Next: Wed., Nov. 18 · 7:00 PM
St. Monica Parish Hall

Questions? Contact Maria McDevitt at (415) 515-6945 or **megmared@comcast.net**. Thank you also for your generosity to the SVdP second collection every fifth Sunday; the next is **November 29**.

Relics of St. Francis at the Cathedral



For the Jubilee Year of St. Francis and the 250th anniversary of Misión San Francisco de Asís, relics of St. Francis and St. Clare, with medieval masterpieces shown in the U.S. for the first time, are on display at the Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption.

You are invited! Come pray before the relics of our city's patron saint at 1111 Gough Street, October 16 – November 28. Visiting hours at sfarch.org.

OCIA

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.

Square Dancing

San Francisco Caper Cutters Square dance group meets every Monday night at 7:00pm at St. Monica's large hall. Come for fun exercise, meet new people, and learn how to square dance!

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

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 all that is happening at **Saint Monica – Saint Thomas Apostle Parish.**

Visit our new website today!



Sunday Collection

Collection	Sunday Collection
St. Monica	
English	$1,979
St. Thomas the Apostle	
English	$906
Vietnamese	$471

St. Monica Shrine

LIGHT A CANDLE • PRAY • HELP OUR CHURCH

Come visit the shrine dedicated to **St. Monica**, patroness of our church, adorned with flowers and a prayer candle rack.

Light a candle for your intentions: for your family, for the sick, for the souls of the faithful departed, and especially for those who have strayed from the Faith. St. Monica prayed for years for her son Augustine, and her tears became a saint.



Light a candle today!

Every candle is a prayer; every offering is a gift.

Your generous contribution for each candle helps maintain our entire church: its lights, its doors, and every sacred space where we gather as one family of faith.

Thank you, and God bless you!

Sancta Monica, *ora pro nobis!*