



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

PASTOR'S LETTER



Small Sacrifices, Great Love

Fr. Javier Olivera Ravasi

When Our Lady appeared at Fatima, the shepherd children were still very young. Jacinta was nine years old and Francisco was ten when they

died. Yet they had already understood something many adults forget: our life is not meant to be spent only seeking comfort. We are here to love God, to save our souls, and to help others draw near to Him.

The children prayed and made sacrifices for sinners. They gave food to the poor, accepted difficulties without complaint, and offered their small renunciations to God.

Their example should move us. Not because we must imitate every practice they followed, but because they understood the purpose of penance: to love.

What, then, is mortification? It is not hatred of the body, nor a desire to make ourselves suffer for its own sake. It is the effort to bring our disordered appetites under the rule of reason and grace. After the Fall, our passions do not always lead us toward what is good. We know this from experience: we can want what harms us, avoid what would help us, and return again and again to the same fault.

Our Lord calls us to follow Him with determination: *"Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me"* (Matthew 16:24). He does not ask us to hate ourselves. He asks us to become free: free enough to choose what is good, even when it costs us something.

We can begin with small, ordinary sacrifices. We can refrain from speaking about ourselves just to win praise. We can eat what is served without demanding special treatment. We can turn off our phones for a time and give our attention to prayer, our family, or the person in front of us. We can hold back an impatient or unkind reply. We can give alms instead of spending money on something we do not need.

These things may seem small. But they touch the places where pride, vanity, impatience, and selfishness often take root. A Christian who cannot give up a small comfort for the love of God will find it difficult to remain faithful when a larger sacrifice comes.

The point is not to make a long list of penances and then become discouraged when we fail. It is to choose one or two concrete practices that are possible and good for us, and to keep them with love. A father or mother must not neglect the duties of family life in order to seek a private mortification. A person with a health condition must act prudently. Our penances should help us serve God and neighbor more faithfully; they should not become a source of pride or harm.

We can mortify our tongue by refusing to gossip. We can mortify our impatience by accepting a delay without complaint. We can mortify our curiosity by not seeking every bit of news or every private detail about another person. We can mortify our self-love by letting someone else have the better place, or by taking the less pleasant task.

Above all, we should offer these sacrifices for love: for our own conversion, for the conversion of sinners, and for those who are far from God. A small sacrifice united to Christ is no longer just a small inconvenience. It becomes an offering. It becomes a quiet act of charity.

So let us ask ourselves: What do I need to give up in order to become more faithful? What habit has begun to rule me? What small sacrifice can I offer for someone who needs God's grace?

We need not wait for Lent to begin. Every day gives us opportunities to deny ourselves in little things and to say yes to God. Let us choose a practice that is possible, keep it steadily, and offer it with love.

October 25th, 2026: Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

May the Blessed Virgin Mary teach us to do everything Our Lord asks of us. And may we learn to say, as the shepherd children did: *"Jesus, it is for love of You."*

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.



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.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord.

Sts. Simon & Jude

Feast: Wednesday, October 28

Simon the Zealot and Jude Thaddeus preached the Gospel in Persia, where tradition holds they were martyred together. St. Jude is invoked as patron of desperate causes.

Collect of the Feast

Deus, qui nos per beatos Apostolos tuos Simonem et Judam ad agnitionem tui nominis venire tribuisti: da nobis eorum gloriam sempiternam et proficiendo celebrare, et celebrando proficere.

O God, who through Thy blessed Apostles Simon and Jude hast brought us to the knowledge of Thy Name: grant that we may celebrate their eternal glory by advancing in virtue, and advance in virtue by celebrating it.

Sts. Simon and Jude, pray for us.

Sunday Gospel: Mt. 22:34-40

Love of God comes first, and love of neighbor flows from it. Our Lord does not say "love your neighbor more than God," nor "approve whatever your neighbor does." Charity is ordered: we love the sinner and hate the sin. A father who never corrects his son does not love him; he neglects him. To love our neighbor as ourselves is to want him in Heaven, even if for a time he resents the truth we tell him.

Mass Intentions

	St. Monica		St. Thomas the Apostle	
Sunday 10/25	11:00am	† Marie-Jeanne Arrabit	9:30am	† Kathleen Hayes
Monday 10/26	8:00am	† Jim Garvey	8:30am	Int. of Juliana Lam
Tuesday 10/27	8:00am	† Harold & Helen Grangoff		No Mass
Wednesday 10/28	8:00am	† Bonnie Gallegos	8:30am	† Colin McChesney
Thursday 10/29	8:00am	† Jack Hanley		No Mass
Friday 10/30	8:00am	† All Souls in Purgatory	8:30am	† Sharon Montgomery
Saturday 10/31	5:00pm	† Deceased Silva Family members		No Mass

Liturgical Calendar

Sun 10/25	30th Sun. OT · Christ the King (1962)
Mon 10/26	Monday 30th Week in Ord. Time
Tues 10/27	Tuesday 30th Week in Ord. Time
Wed 10/28	Sts. Simon & Jude, Apostles
Thurs 10/29	Thursday 30th Week in Ord. Time
Fri 10/30	Friday 30th Week in Ord. Time
Sat 10/31	BVM on Sat. / All Saints Vigil 5pm

In Loving Memory Ann Yan Lam-Lau



Our beloved long-time parishioner, who entered eternal rest at the age of 104. Please pray for the repose of her soul and for comfort for her family.

Funeral Mass: Wed., Oct. 28, 10:30 AM,
Sts. Peter and Paul Church

Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her.

Support Your Parish

PRAY · GATHER · BELONG · GIVE

PRAY · FRIDAY ADORATION

Adorers Needed

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



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

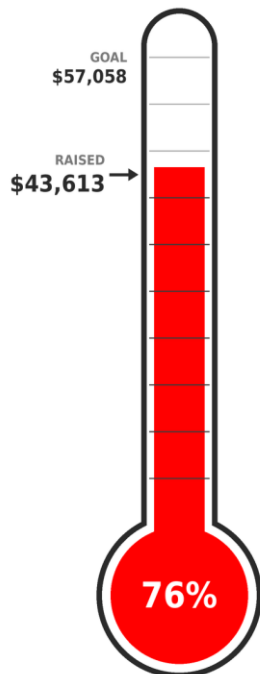
\$57,058

RAISED SO FAR

\$43,613

STILL NEEDED

\$13,445



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.

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

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.

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	\$1,826
World Missions (2nd coll.)	\$437
St. Thomas the Apostle	
English	\$878
Vietnamese	\$426
World Missions (2nd coll.)	\$381

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!



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.



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Be a Camel, Apply Today



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.