Saint Monica
Saint Thomas the Apostle
Parish





St. Monica Catholic Church
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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** 8:00am (Vietnamese) 9:30am **Weekdays** Mon, Wed, Fri 8:30am **First Saturday** 8:30am **First Saturday Adoration** 9:00am - 10:00am

PASTOR'S LETTER



Receive Our Lord as if It Were the First and Last Time

Fr. Javier Olivera Ravasi

The miracle of the multiplication of the loaves was not only a sign of Christ's compassion for a hungry crowd. It also prepared the way for a greater gift.

The people had followed Our Lord for days. They listened to His words and forgot even to eat. He fed their souls with the truth, and then He also fed their bodies. He took a few loaves, blessed them, and gave the people more than enough.

But Christ wanted His disciples to understand that He had come to give them something greater than ordinary bread. Later He would say: "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger" (John 6:35). He was speaking of the Eucharist, the Bread of Angels, His own Body and Blood.

The Eucharist is not merely a symbol or a reminder of Jesus. It is Jesus Himself, truly present under the appearances of bread and wine. At the words of consecration, Christ becomes present: Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity. That is why the lamp burning beside the tabernacle matters. It tells us that the Lord is here.

And if He is truly here, then we cannot enter a church as if it were an ordinary room. We genuflect. We keep silence. We approach the altar with reverence. Our bodies, too, express what we believe. A genuflection, a moment of recollection, and careful reception of Communion are not empty gestures when they come from faith. They are ways of honoring the Lord who has come to meet us.

But reverence is not only external. We must also prepare our souls. Saint Paul warns us not to receive the Body and Blood of the Lord unworthily (cf. 1 Corinthians 11:27–29). If we are conscious of grave sin, we should first seek the sacrament of Confession. We do not approach the Eucharist casually, as if receiving Our Lord were no different from accepting an ordinary piece of food.

At the same time, we should not come to Communion without gratitude. Christ gives Himself to us because He wants to nourish us, strengthen us, heal us, and make us holy. We should ask Him for these graces. We should not receive Him mechanically, with our minds already on the next task or the next conversation.

Before Mass, we can prepare by arriving early, quieting our thoughts, and asking the Lord to help us receive Him well. After Communion, we should remain with Him in thanksgiving. We can tell Him what we need, but we can also simply stay with Him for a few moments. He has come to us. Let us not hurry away as though nothing extraordinary had happened.

Then, when Mass is over, we carry the fruit of the Eucharist into our daily life. The Christ whom we adore in the tabernacle is the Christ who sends us to love our families, forgive those who have hurt us, serve those in need, and resist sin. We cannot receive the Lord and then act as though His presence makes no difference.

Let us ask ourselves: Do I prepare for Communion? Do I receive Our Lord with faith and reverence? Do I give thanks afterward? Do I allow the Eucharist to change the way I treat the people God has placed in my life?

November 8th, 2026: Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Let us make a firm and holy resolution: to receive each Communion as if it were the first, the only, and the last of our lives. The Lord has given us this gift so that we may belong more completely to Him and one day reach eternal life.

May the Most Holy Virgin Mary teach us to receive her Son with faith, love, and a pure heart. And may every Communion draw us closer to the Lord who gives Himself to us.

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. 25:1-13

Father reminds us this week that the lamp next to the tabernacle tells us Jesus is here. In today's Gospel, the groom is Jesus, and we are the ones waiting for Him. The wise bridesmaids kept their lamps burning so they would be ready when He came. Every Mass, He comes to us. Let's be ready for Him. Get to church a few minutes early, quiet down, and stay a moment after Communion to say thank you.

In the parable, the groom is delayed and all ten bridesmaids fall asleep. At midnight comes the cry: "Behold, the bridegroom!" The five who brought extra oil go in with him to the wedding feast; the others run off to buy more, and the door is shut.

That oil is a living faith that no one can lend us at the last minute. We keep it burning by prayer, the sacraments, and works of charity. "Stay awake," Jesus says, "for you know neither the day nor the hour."



Month of the Holy Souls

All Souls' Envelopes: it's not too late! Write the names of your departed loved ones on the envelope (at the church entrances) and return it in the collection basket or at the Rectory. Names are placed on the altar and remembered at our Masses throughout November.

Love is stronger than death. Our prayers truly help our loved ones on their way to Heaven, and they in turn pray for us. As the Catechism says, "our prayer for them is capable not only of helping them, but also of making their intercession for us effective." *(CCC 958)*

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

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 11/8	11:00am	Int. of the People of the Parish	9:30am	Int. of Agnes Tung (healing)
Monday 11/9	8:00am	Patricia Grangoff †	8:30am	Int. of the People of the Parish
Tuesday 11/10	8:00am	Int. of Gloria Ray (healing)		No Mass
Wednesday 11/11	8:00am	Martin Novak †	8:30am	Ints. of Donald & Matthew Louie (birthdays)
Thursday 11/12	8:00am	Int. of Karlina & Daniel Beringer (healing)		No Mass
Friday 11/13	8:00am	Cynthia Gaver †	8:30am	Victor & Lupe Sotelo †
Saturday 11/14	5:00pm	Parishioners		No Mass

Liturgical Calendar	
Sun 11/8	32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Mon 11/9	Dedication of the Lateran Basilica
Tues 11/10	St. Leo the Great, Pope & Doctor
Wed 11/11	St. Martin of Tours, Bishop
Thurs 11/12	St. Josaphat, Bishop & Martyr
Fri 11/13	St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, Virgin
Sat 11/14	Weekday · BVM on Saturday

Catechism Corner

Is Christ truly present in the Eucharist?
"The body and blood, together with the soul and divinity, of our Lord Jesus Christ and, therefore, the whole Christ is truly, really, and substantially contained." *(CCC 1374)*

How should I prepare to receive Him?
"Bodily demeanor (gestures, clothing) ought to convey the respect, solemnity, and joy of this moment when Christ becomes our guest." *(CCC 1387)*

Support Your Parish

PRAY · GATHER · BELONG · GIVE

PRAY · FRIDAY ADORATION

Adorers Needed

Fridays 9am – 5pm · 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 ►

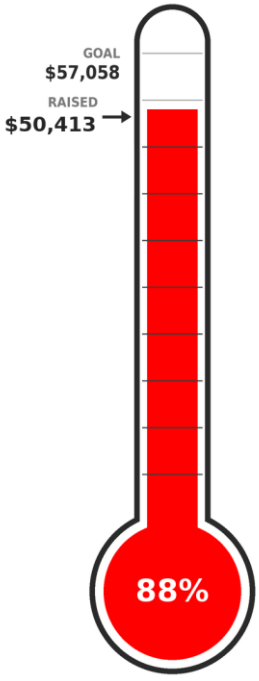
GIVE: Support Your Parish

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	RAISED SO FAR	STILL NEEDED
$57,058	$50,413	$6,645



Help us reach our goal! Only 8 weeks left this year.

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.



First time at a Latin Mass?

All are welcome!

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.

Sunday Collection

Collection	Sunday Collection
St. Monica	
English	$1,895.00
2nd Coll. (St. Patrick Seminary)	$476.00
St. Thomas the Apostle	
English	$1,455.00
Vietnamese	$549.00
2nd Coll. (St. Patrick Seminary)	$377.00

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!*