November 15th, 2026: Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

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 1:00pm (Spanish Latin Mass) **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



The Parable of the Talents and Christian Perfection

Fr. Javier Olivera Ravasi

In the Parable of the Talents, Our Lord Jesus Christ teaches us something essential: God has given each of us many gifts, and one day we will have to give Him an account of what we have done with them.

At the time of Christ, a talent was not an ordinary coin. It represented an enormous amount of money, approximately twenty years of wages for an ordinary worker. So even the servant who received only one talent had been entrusted with a great fortune.

But what matters in this parable is not how much each servant received, but what he did with it. The first two servants put their talents to work and made them grow. The third servant, however, was afraid. He buried his talent and returned it to his master without having done anything with it.

And here we find the first lesson: God has given us our gifts not simply to keep them, but to make them bear fruit.

Someone might say, "But Father, I don't have any special talents. I'm not particularly intelligent, I can't preach, and I'm not wealthy." But that is simply not true. God has given every one of us gifts, both natural and supernatural, that we are called to use.

First of all, through sanctifying grace, God has made us His adopted children and heirs of Heaven. Just think about that: children of God! And along with this extraordinary supernatural gift, He has given us many natural talents. Some people can teach, others can organize, others can comfort those who suffer, and others have the wonderful ability to listen to someone in need.

This reminds me of a saint whose feast day we celebrated just two days ago, on November 13: Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini, better known as Mother Cabrini, the patron saint of immigrants.

Mother Cabrini was born in Italy in 1850. From a young age, she dreamed of becoming a missionary in China. But Pope Leo XIII told her to go not to the East, but to the West, where thousands of Italian immigrants were living in terrible conditions, especially here in the United States.

In 1889, she arrived in New York with six other sisters. But things were much more difficult than she had expected. They had almost no money, no house prepared for them, and no clear way to begin their mission. To make matters worse, the Archbishop of New York, Michael Corrigan, suggested that she return to Italy.

Imagine that! She had crossed the ocean, leaving everything behind, only to be told that she should go home. Many people would have given up.

But Mother Cabrini did not give up. With great respect and courage, she explained that she had come at the request of the Holy See and that she intended to remain. Eventually, the archbishop helped her find a place to stay.

And what happened? Over the following years, Mother Cabrini founded schools, hospitals, orphanages, and religious houses in different countries. That woman who had arrived in New York with almost nothing accomplished an extraordinary work for God. She understood that talents are not given to us so that we can bury them.

But there is another lesson in today's parable. God does not call us to mediocrity. He calls us to holiness. Our Lord tells us: "You, therefore, must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect" (Matthew 5:48).

One of the greatest dangers in our spiritual lives is being satisfied with doing the bare minimum. We pray just enough, fulfill our duties without much enthusiasm, and think that as long as we avoid serious sins, we are doing fine. But Christ has not called us merely to avoid Hell. He has called us to become saints.

Saint Thérèse of Lisieux once explained that even picking up a pin from the floor out of love for God could help save a soul. Something so small, and yet so valuable in the eyes of God! Holiness does not always require extraordinary actions. It requires extraordinary love, even in the ordinary duties of everyday life.

And here we find another danger: sometimes we confuse humility with fear. We say that we are not capable, that others could do things better, or that we do not have enough talent. But true humility does not mean denying the gifts God has given us. It means recognizing that they come from Him and using them for His glory.

Now let us return to the third servant. What exactly was his sin? He did not steal the money. He did not waste it. He simply buried it. And when his master asked him why, he answered, "I was afraid."

How many times could we say the same thing? I was afraid to defend the truth. I was afraid to get involved. I was afraid of losing my comfort. I was afraid of what other people might think.

November 15th, 2026: Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Perhaps God has given you the gift of faith, but you have neglected to pass it on to your children. Perhaps He has given you the ability to defend the truth, but you remain silent out of fear. Or perhaps God has been asking you for years to abandon a particular sin, to forgive someone, or to change your life, and you keep telling Him that you will do it tomorrow.

But the end of the parable is frightening. The unfaithful servant did not simply receive a warning. Our Lord says: "Cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness; there men will weep and gnash their teeth" (Matthew 25:30).

One day, each of us will stand before the judgment of God. And we will have to answer not only for the evil we have committed, but also for the good we have failed to do through our own fault.

Yet we must remember that the One who will judge us is the same Jesus Christ who died for us on the Cross. He gave us everything, even His own life. How could we refuse to give Him our efforts, our time, and our talents?

So, my dear brothers and sisters, let us ask ourselves one question today: If I had to stand before Jesus Christ tonight, what would I say to Him? Would I be able to show Him the fruits of the talents He entrusted to me? Or would I have to admit that I buried them beneath my comfort, my laziness, or my fear?

Let us ask the Blessed Virgin Mary to help us make good use of every gift God has given us, so that one day we may hear those blessed words:

"Well done, good and faithful servant. Enter into the joy of your master."

Amen.

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

Sunday Gospel: *Mt. 25:14-30*

A man going on a journey entrusts his money to three servants: five talents to one, two to another, and one to the third. The first two put the money to work and double it. The third is afraid, so he digs a hole and buries his talent. When the master returns, he praises the two faithful servants and invites them to share his joy. The servant who buried his talent loses even what he had.

The talents are the gifts God gives each of us, above all the grace we received at Baptism. That grace is not meant to sit in the ground. It is meant to grow. When we live in the state of grace and do good for love of God, even our small works please Him and help us toward Heaven. The third servant did nothing wicked. He simply did nothing. So stay close to the sacraments, go to Confession often, and give the Lord your work, your prayer, and your charity.

Latest from Archbishop Salvatore J. Cordileone

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



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 11/15	11:00am	Sean & Frank McKenna †	9:30am	Marina Mabes †
Monday 11/16	8:00am	Juanita Asadon †	8:30am	John Gerbich †
Tuesday 11/17	8:00am	Mary Hanley †		No Mass
Wednesday 11/18	8:00am	Int. of Kathy Ray & Art Beringer	8:30am	Int. of the People of the Parish
Thursday 11/19	8:00am	Simon Lee †		No Mass
Friday 11/20	8:00am	Lucio Aguirre †	8:30am	Int. of Vinod K. John (birthday)
Saturday 11/21	5:00pm	Int. of Natividad Ciprazo		No Mass

Liturgical Calendar	
Sun 11/15	33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Mon 11/16	Weekday · St. Margaret of Scotland
Tues 11/17	St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Religious
Wed 11/18	Weekday · St. Rose P. Duchesne
Thurs 11/19	Weekday
Fri 11/20	Weekday
Sat 11/21	Presentation of the B.V.M.

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 ►

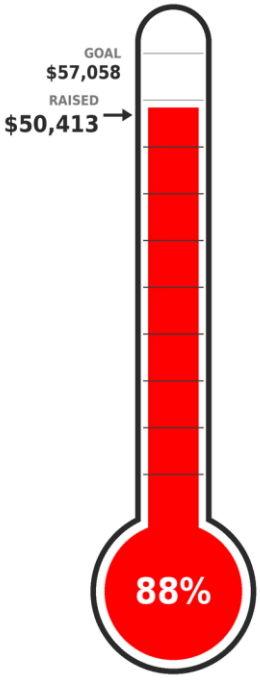
GIVE: Support Your Parish

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 7 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.

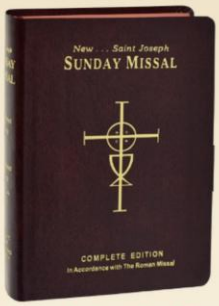
Universal Church & Communications — 17%
Supports the Holy See, USCCB, California Catholic Conference, and the Archdiocese's communications, including *Catholic San Francisco* magazine.

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/

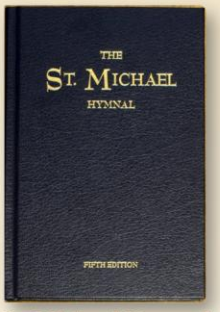
ST. MONICA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH

Important Announcement



St. Joseph Sunday Missal

Third Collection this Sunday



St. Michael Hymnal

In two weeks, we will begin the season of **Advent**, a time of preparation for Christmas.

Our parish needs to purchase books containing the Scripture readings for the liturgical year, as well as hymns for Mass.

Since our parish is currently a little short on funds, I would like to ask for your help through a **third collection this Sunday**.

If each of you could contribute **at least $40**, we would be able to purchase everything we need and provide our parish with enough books so that everyone can follow the readings and hymns throughout the liturgical year.

Fr. Javier Olivera Ravasi, SE

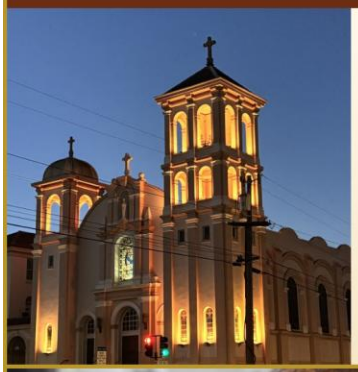
Thank you very much for your generosity, and God bless you!

Sunday Collection

Collection	Sunday Collection
St. Monica	
English	$1,830.00
St. Thomas the Apostle	
English	$879.00
Vietnamese	$457.00

ST. MONICA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH

Thanksgiving Day Mass



NOVEMBER
26
THURSDAY
10:00 AM

St. Monica Church
470 24th Ave.
One Mass for the whole parish



Bring a dish to be blessed!

As is the custom of the Church, bring something from your Thanksgiving table (bread, pie, fruit, wine) and it will be **blessed at Mass**. Come give thanks to God, the Giver of every good gift, in the greatest act of thanksgiving: **the Holy Eucharist**.

"Every event and need can become an offering of thanksgiving."
(Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2638)

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!*

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**.