November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

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
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PASTOR'S LETTER



Living Face to Face with God

Fr. Javier Olivera Ravasi

San Francisco, November 29, 2026.
First Sunday of Advent.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Today we begin Advent and, with it, a new liturgical year. The Church, like a good Mother, wakes us up with a word that the Lord repeats again and again in today's Gospel: "Watch!"

Jesus tells us the story of a man who goes on a journey. He leaves his house in the care of his servants, gives each one his work, and orders the gatekeeper to stay awake. For they do not know when the master of the house will return: in the evening, at midnight, at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find us sleeping.





That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

1. Living face to face with God means knowing that He sees us

The one who lives face to face with God knows that everything he does, he does in His presence: at Mass, yes, but also at work, at home, with his phone in his hand, when no one is watching. The Lord said it clearly: your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you (Mt 6:4).

In today's Psalm we ask the Lord to show us His face, so that we may be saved. A Christian is someone who lives seeking the face of God.

That is why, in this Holy Mass, as you can see, the priest and you are all facing the same direction: toward Him, to whom the Holy Sacrifice is offered. The priest is not turning his back on you; we are all walking together, as one people on pilgrimage, looking toward the Lord who comes.

But what matters most, dear brothers and sisters, is not only where we look during Mass, but where we look in life. Because one can pray facing God and then live facing men.

2. The great enemy: human respect

And what makes us live facing men? What the saints called "human respect": the fear of what others will say.

It is that fear of looking bad, of seeming old-fashioned, fanatical, or "too Catholic," that leads us to keep silent when we should speak, or to stop doing good so as not to draw attention.

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Saint Paul put it bluntly: if I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ (Gal 1:10). And the Lord Himself warned that whoever is ashamed of Him before this generation, of that one He too will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father (Mk 8:38).

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- A good confession before Christmas.
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Today Saint Paul reminded us that God is faithful, and that He has called us into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord (1 Cor 1:9). God is faithful… The question is whether we will be faithful to Him, even when it costs us.

On the day the Master of the house returns, He will not ask us what others said about us, but what we did with Him.

Let us ask for this grace from the Blessed Virgin Mary, who lived face to face with God better than anyone, who said "Behold the handmaid of the Lord" without caring what others might think: may she help us, this Advent, to wait for her Son wide awake, without fear of what people will say, and with our eyes fixed on Him. Amen.

Fr. Javier Olivera Ravasi, SE
Parochial Administrator
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Sunday Gospel: *Mk. 13:33-37*

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Semper Virgo

A Marian Pilgrimage to Guadalupe 2031

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Begins **Dec. 12, 2026**, Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Sign up free: **sempervirgo.org**

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Prepare ye the way of the Lord!

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"The confession of evil works is the beginning of good works."
— St. Augustine

Do not let Christmas find your soul unready.

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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

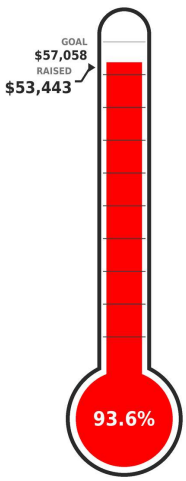
Give online, set up **recurring giving**, or remember the parish in your **will or estate**. Thank you!

Scan to give online ►

Archdiocese Annual Appeal

PARISH GOAL	RAISED SO FAR	STILL NEEDED
$57,058	$53,443	$3,615

Help us reach our goal! Only 5 weeks left this year.



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

Archdiocesan Annual Appeal 2026 Goal: $6,450,000

Star of the Sea & Stella Maris Academy

4420 Geary Blvd SF CA 94118

St Nicholas

CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE

Handmade Gifts! Made by 14 artisans.

DECEMBER 2026

AUDITORIUM

Friday 4, 2pm-7pm
Saturday 5, 9am-6pm
Sunday 6, 9am-2pm



Enjoy Hot Chocolate & Pastries While You Shop!



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ST. MONICA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH

Christmas Poinsettias



Please use this envelope
Use este sobre

As we prepare to celebrate the **Birth of Our Lord**, we wish to adorn the altars of St. Monica and St. Thomas the Apostle with **poinsettias for Christmas**.

To cover their cost, we kindly ask for your help through a **special collection this Sunday**.

Every gift, large or small, helps make our churches beautiful for the Christ Child.

Poinsettia Collection this Sunday

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

The Advent Wreath

The evergreen circle stands for the eternity of God, who has no beginning and no end. The **three violet candles** stand for penance and watchful prayer; the **rose candle**, lit on Gaudete Sunday, for the joy of Christ's nearness. Light one more candle each week as Christmas draws near.

Prayer for the First Week

Stir up Thy power, we beseech Thee, O Lord, and come: that from the threatening dangers of our sins we may deserve to be rescued by Thy protection, and to be saved by Thy deliverance. Who livest and reignest for ever and ever. Amen.

Sunday Collection

Collection	St. Monica	St. Thomas
Sunday (English)	$1,531.00	$1,137.00
Vietnamese	—	$514.00

ST. MONICA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH

Procession in Honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Procesión en honor a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe





DECEMBER · DICIEMBRE
13
SUNDAY · DOMINGO
12:00 NOON
MEDIODÍA

St. Monica Church
470 24th Ave., San Francisco

Between the 11 AM and 1 PM Masses
Entre las Misas de 11 AM y 1 PM

You are invited!

Join us as we walk in procession around **St. Monica Church** to honor **Our Lady of Guadalupe**, Mother of the Americas. Bring your family and flowers!

¡Están invitados!

Acompáñenos en procesión alrededor de la **iglesia Santa Mónica** para honrar a **Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe**, Madre de las Américas. ¡Traiga a su familia y flores!

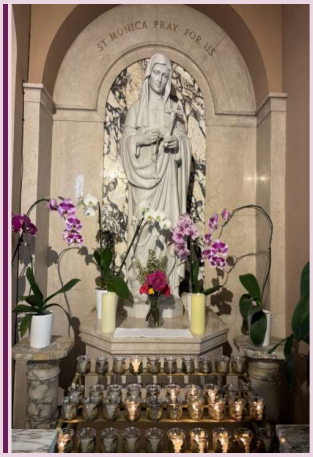
"¿No estoy yo aquí, que soy tu madre?"
¡Viva la Virgen de Guadalupe!

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 help make sandwiches each month, and to those who shop for supplies and deliver to the shelter the next day! Sandwich making is the **3rd Wednesday of every month.**

Next: Wed., Dec. 16 · 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**.

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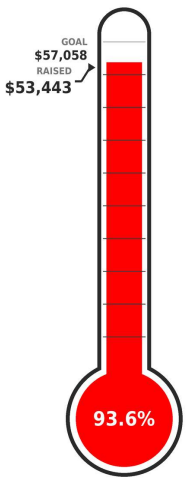

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The Advent Wreath

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Sunday Collection

Collection	St. Monica	St. Thomas
Sunday (English)	$1,531.00	$1,137.00
Vietnamese	—	$514.00

ST. MONICA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH

Procession in Honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Procesión en honor a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe





DECEMBER · DICIEMBRE
13
SUNDAY · DOMINGO
12:00 NOON
MEDIODÍA

St. Monica Church
470 24th Ave., San Francisco

Between the 11 AM and 1 PM Masses
Entre las Misas de 11 AM y 1 PM

You are invited!

Join us as we walk in procession around **St. Monica Church** to honor **Our Lady of Guadalupe**, Mother of the Americas. Bring your family and flowers!

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"¿No estoy yo aquí, que soy tu madre?"
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LIGHT A CANDLE • PRAY • HELP OUR CHURCH

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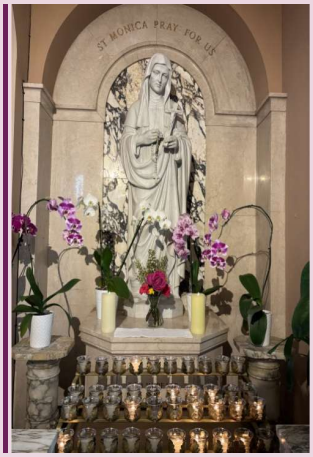

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November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

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Parish

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PASTOR'S LETTER



Living Face to Face with God

Fr. Javier Olivera Ravasi

San Francisco, November 29, 2026.
First Sunday of Advent.

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That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

1. Living face to face with God means knowing that He sees us

The one who lives face to face with God knows that everything he does, he does in His presence: at Mass, yes, but also at work, at home, with his phone in his hand, when no one is watching. The Lord said it clearly: your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you (Mt 6:4).

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But what matters most, dear brothers and sisters, is not only where we look during Mass, but where we look in life. Because one can pray facing God and then live facing men.

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And what makes us live facing men? What the saints called "human respect": the fear of what others will say.

It is that fear of looking bad, of seeming old-fashioned, fanatical, or "too Catholic," that leads us to keep silent when we should speak, or to stop doing good so as not to draw attention.

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Let us ask for this grace from the Blessed Virgin Mary, who lived face to face with God better than anyone, who said "Behold the handmaid of the Lord" without caring what others might think: may she help us, this Advent, to wait for her Son wide awake, without fear of what people will say, and with our eyes fixed on Him. Amen.

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Parochial Administrator
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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

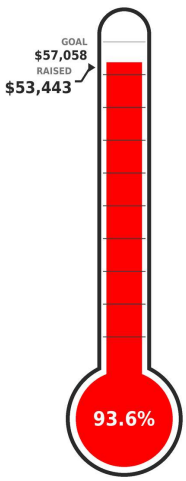
Give online, set up **recurring giving**, or remember the parish in your **will or estate**. Thank you!

Scan to give online ►

Archdiocese Annual Appeal

PARISH GOAL	RAISED SO FAR	STILL NEEDED
$57,058	$53,443	$3,615

Help us reach our goal! Only 5 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.

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

Archdiocesan Annual Appeal 2026 Goal: $6,450,000

Star of the Sea & Stella Maris Academy

4420 Geary Blvd SF CA 94118

St Nicholas

CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE

Handmade Gifts! Made by 14 artisans.

DECEMBER 2026

AUDITORIUM

Friday 4, 2pm-7pm
Saturday 5, 9am-6pm
Sunday 6, 9am-2pm



Enjoy Hot Chocolate & Pastries While You Shop!



November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

ST. MONICA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH

Christmas Poinsettias



Please use this envelope
Use este sobre

As we prepare to celebrate the **Birth of Our Lord**, we wish to adorn the altars of St. Monica and St. Thomas the Apostle with **poinsettias for Christmas**.

To cover their cost, we kindly ask for your help through a **special collection this Sunday**.

Every gift, large or small, helps make our churches beautiful for the Christ Child.

Poinsettia Collection this Sunday

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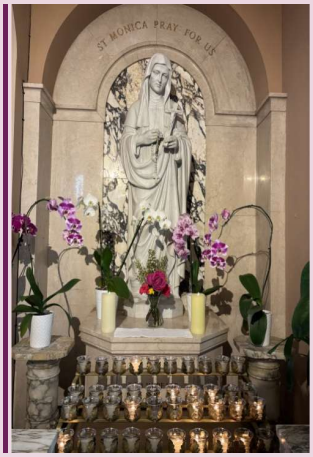

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Scan to sign up

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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

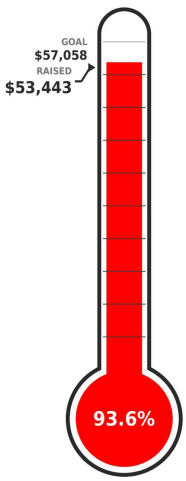
Give online, set up **recurring giving**, or remember the parish in your **will or estate**. Thank you!

Scan to give online ►

Archdiocese Annual Appeal

PARISH GOAL	RAISED SO FAR	STILL NEEDED
$57,058	$53,443	$3,615

Help us reach our goal! Only 5 weeks left this year.



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St Nicholas

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November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

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To cover their cost, we kindly ask for your help through a **special collection this Sunday**.

Every gift, large or small, helps make our churches beautiful for the Christ Child.

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

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The evergreen circle stands for the eternity of God, who has no beginning and no end. The **three violet candles** stand for penance and watchful prayer; the **rose candle**, lit on Gaudete Sunday, for the joy of Christ's nearness. Light one more candle each week as Christmas draws near.

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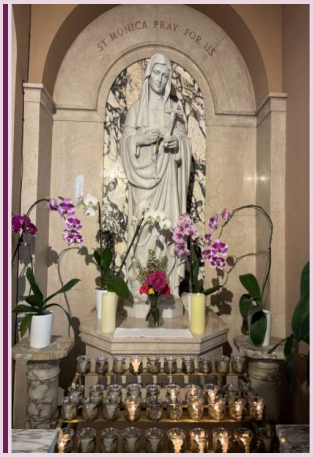

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Saint Thomas the Apostle
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That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

1. Living face to face with God means knowing that He sees us

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On the day the Master of the house returns, He will not ask us what others said about us, but what we did with Him.

Let us ask for this grace from the Blessed Virgin Mary, who lived face to face with God better than anyone, who said "Behold the handmaid of the Lord" without caring what others might think: may she help us, this Advent, to wait for her Son wide awake, without fear of what people will say, and with our eyes fixed on Him. Amen.

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

Sunday Gospel: *Mk. 13:33-37*

Jesus said to his disciples: "Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come. It is like a man traveling abroad. He leaves home and places his servants in charge, each with his own work, and orders the gatekeeper to be on the watch. Watch, therefore; you do not know when the lord of the house is coming, whether in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to all: 'Watch!'"

Our Lord gives no date because He wants us ready at every hour. The servant who is "sleeping" is the soul in mortal sin. To the world he may look perfectly well, but in the eyes of God his soul is dead. As the month of the Holy Souls comes to a close, we are reminded that death comes when no man expects it, and whatever state it finds us in is the state we keep for all eternity. That is why Holy Mother Church gives us Advent as a season of penance. Do not wait for a more convenient time. Let us each prepare as well as we can by making a good Confession during this holy season, so that whenever the Master comes, He may find us awake.

Semper Virgo

A Marian Pilgrimage to Guadalupe 2031

Cardinal Burke invites the faithful to a **daily Marian devotion** preparing for the 500th anniversary of Our Lady of Guadalupe in 2031. Each morning, receive a short meditation on the Mother of God.

Begins **Dec. 12, 2026**, Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Sign up free: **sempervirgo.org**

Liturgical Calendar	
Sun 11/29	First Sunday of Advent
Mon 11/30	St. Andrew, Apostle
Tues 12/1	Advent Weekday
Wed 12/2	Advent Weekday
Thurs 12/3	St. Francis Xavier
Fri 12/4	Advent Weekday · St. John Damascene
Sat 12/5	Advent Weekday

Make a Good Confession

Prepare ye the way of the Lord!

Confessions at St. Monica
Mon–Fri: before and after Mass
Saturday: 4:20 PM · Sunday: after Mass

Why go to Confession? Mortal sin robs the soul of sanctifying grace. In His mercy Christ gave His Church the Sacrament of Penance to restore it. The Fathers of the Church call it "the second plank [of salvation] after the shipwreck which is the loss of grace." *(CCC 1446)*

Even our daily faults are worth confessing. Holy Mother Church strongly recommends it, for regular Confession "helps us form our conscience, fight against evil tendencies, let ourselves be healed by Christ and progress in the life of the Spirit." *(CCC 1458)*

"The confession of evil works is the beginning of good works."
— St. Augustine

Do not let Christmas find your soul unready.

Mass Intentions

	St. Monica		St. Thomas the Apostle	
Sunday 11/29	11:00am 1:00pm	Betty & Morelia Bermejo † Gilda Maria Mangana † Int. for the Parishioners	9:30am	Adelaida Maximo Iglesias †
Monday 11/30	8:00am	Ann Yan Lam-Lau	8:30am	Robert Anselmo Han †
Tuesday 12/01	8:00am	Rene Revel †		No Mass
Wednesday 12/02	8:00am	Mercedes Yazdini, Birthday	8:30am	Veronico Flores Fabular †
Thursday 12/03	8:00am	Lucio Aguirre †		No Mass
Friday 12/04	8:00am	Francisco Matturano-Gomez †	8:30am	Int. of the People of the Parish
Saturday 12/05	5:00pm	Santiago & Enelia Pacheco †	8:30am	Int. of the People of the Parish

Support Your Parish

PRAY · GATHER · BELONG · GIVE

PRAY · FRIDAY ADORATION

Adorers Needed

Fridays 9am – 5pm · Our Lord is waiting for you!



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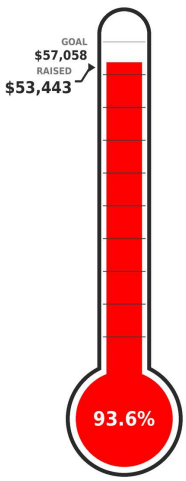

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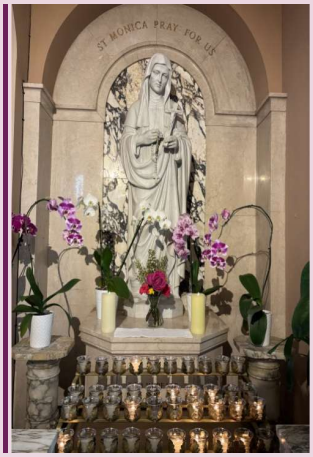

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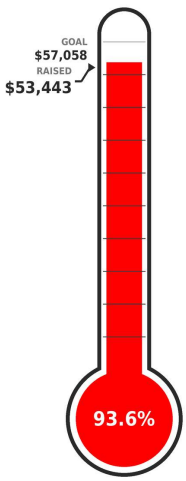

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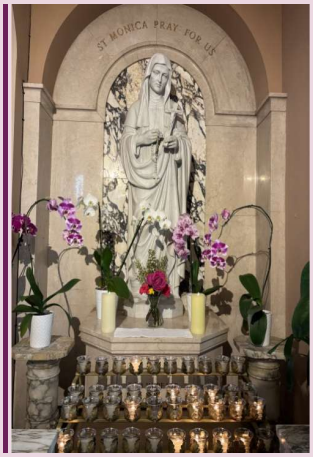

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PASTOR'S LETTER



Living Face to Face with God

Fr. Javier Olivera Ravasi

San Francisco, November 29, 2026.
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Dear brothers and sisters,

Today we begin Advent and, with it, a new liturgical year. The Church, like a good Mother, wakes us up with a word that the Lord repeats again and again in today's Gospel: "Watch!"

Jesus tells us the story of a man who goes on a journey. He leaves his house in the care of his servants, gives each one his work, and orders the gatekeeper to stay awake. For they do not know when the master of the house will return: in the evening, at midnight, at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find us sleeping.





That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

1. Living face to face with God means knowing that He sees us

The one who lives face to face with God knows that everything he does, he does in His presence: at Mass, yes, but also at work, at home, with his phone in his hand, when no one is watching. The Lord said it clearly: your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you (Mt 6:4).

In today's Psalm we ask the Lord to show us His face, so that we may be saved. A Christian is someone who lives seeking the face of God.

That is why, in this Holy Mass, as you can see, the priest and you are all facing the same direction: toward Him, to whom the Holy Sacrifice is offered. The priest is not turning his back on you; we are all walking together, as one people on pilgrimage, looking toward the Lord who comes.

But what matters most, dear brothers and sisters, is not only where we look during Mass, but where we look in life. Because one can pray facing God and then live facing men.

2. The great enemy: human respect

And what makes us live facing men? What the saints called "human respect": the fear of what others will say.

It is that fear of looking bad, of seeming old-fashioned, fanatical, or "too Catholic," that leads us to keep silent when we should speak, or to stop doing good so as not to draw attention.

Let us take some simple examples:

- The one who does not make the Sign of the Cross before eating in a restaurant, out of embarrassment.
- The one who hears jokes about the Church at work or at school and says nothing.
- The father who does not pray with his children so as not to seem "excessive."
- The young person who never mentions going to Mass on Sundays, so as not to be the odd one out.
- Or the one who keeps quiet about the truth on life, family, or marriage, because "you can't say that anymore."

And so, little by little, one ends up living face to face with men and with one's back turned to God.

Saint Paul put it bluntly: if I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ (Gal 1:10). And the Lord Himself warned that whoever is ashamed of Him before this generation, of that one He too will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father (Mk 8:38).

Notice: "when He comes." Advent again.

Human respect is, in the end, a way of falling asleep: it is like the gatekeeper who, instead of watching the door through which his master will come, spends the whole night worrying about what the neighbors think.

3. How can we live face to face with God this Advent?

The Cristero martyrs of Mexico had no human respect. Saint José Sánchez del Río, only fourteen years old, chose to die crying out

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"¡Viva Cristo Rey!" rather than deny his faith to please his executioners. He lived, and he died, face to face with God.

Thanks be to God, we are not asked for that much. But we are asked for a few concrete things this Advent:

- An examination of conscience every night, asking ourselves: today, did I live facing God, or facing others?
- A good confession before Christmas.
- One small act of Christian courage each week: making the Sign of the Cross in public, praying before meals, defending the Church when she is attacked, inviting someone to Mass.

No one becomes brave all at once; courage, too, must be trained.

✠ ✠ ✠

Today Saint Paul reminded us that God is faithful, and that He has called us into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord (1 Cor 1:9). God is faithful… The question is whether we will be faithful to Him, even when it costs us.

On the day the Master of the house returns, He will not ask us what others said about us, but what we did with Him.

Let us ask for this grace from the Blessed Virgin Mary, who lived face to face with God better than anyone, who said "Behold the handmaid of the Lord" without caring what others might think: may she help us, this Advent, to wait for her Son wide awake, without fear of what people will say, and with our eyes fixed on Him. Amen.

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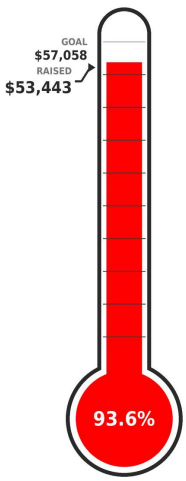

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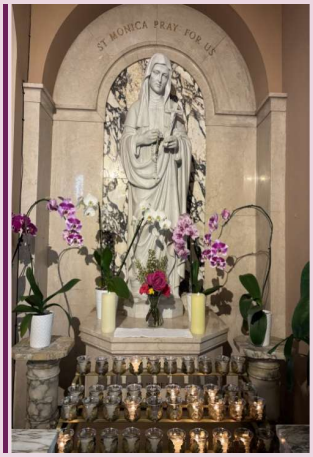

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Sign up free: **sempervirgo.org**

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PRAY · FRIDAY ADORATION

Adorers Needed

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Scan to sign up

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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

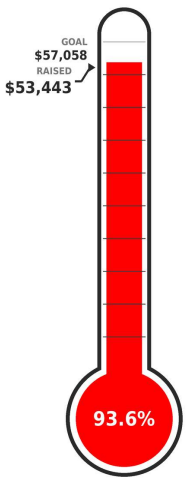
Give online, set up **recurring giving**, or remember the parish in your **will or estate**. Thank you!

Scan to give online ►

Archdiocese Annual Appeal

PARISH GOAL	RAISED SO FAR	STILL NEEDED
$57,058	$53,443	$3,615

Help us reach our goal! Only 5 weeks left this year.



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Archdiocesan Annual Appeal 2026 Goal: $6,450,000

Star of the Sea & Stella Maris Academy

4420 Geary Blvd SF CA 94118

St Nicholas

CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE

Handmade Gifts! Made by 14 artisans.

DECEMBER 2026

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Friday 4, 2pm-7pm
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Enjoy Hot Chocolate & Pastries While You Shop!



November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

ST. MONICA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH

Christmas Poinsettias



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Use este sobre

As we prepare to celebrate the **Birth of Our Lord**, we wish to adorn the altars of St. Monica and St. Thomas the Apostle with **poinsettias for Christmas**.

To cover their cost, we kindly ask for your help through a **special collection this Sunday**.

Every gift, large or small, helps make our churches beautiful for the Christ Child.

Poinsettia Collection this Sunday

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

The Advent Wreath

The evergreen circle stands for the eternity of God, who has no beginning and no end. The **three violet candles** stand for penance and watchful prayer; the **rose candle**, lit on Gaudete Sunday, for the joy of Christ's nearness. Light one more candle each week as Christmas draws near.

Prayer for the First Week

Stir up Thy power, we beseech Thee, O Lord, and come: that from the threatening dangers of our sins we may deserve to be rescued by Thy protection, and to be saved by Thy deliverance. Who livest and reignest for ever and ever. Amen.

Sunday Collection

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Sunday (English)	$1,531.00	$1,137.00
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Procession in Honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Procesión en honor a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe





DECEMBER · DICIEMBRE
13
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12:00 NOON
MEDIODÍA

St. Monica Church
470 24th Ave., San Francisco

Between the 11 AM and 1 PM Masses
Entre las Misas de 11 AM y 1 PM

You are invited!

Join us as we walk in procession around **St. Monica Church** to honor **Our Lady of Guadalupe**, Mother of the Americas. Bring your family and flowers!

¡Están invitados!

Acompáñenos en procesión alrededor de la **iglesia Santa Mónica** para honrar a **Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe**, Madre de las Américas. ¡Traiga a su familia y flores!

"¿No estoy yo aquí, que soy tu madre?"
¡Viva la Virgen de Guadalupe!

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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.

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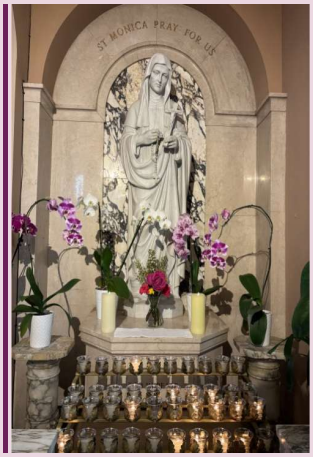

Light a candle today!

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 help make sandwiches each month, and to those who shop for supplies and deliver to the shelter the next day! Sandwich making is the **3rd Wednesday of every month.**

Next: Wed., Dec. 16 · 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**.

November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

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) **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



Living Face to Face with God

Fr. Javier Olivera Ravasi

San Francisco, November 29, 2026.
First Sunday of Advent.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Today we begin Advent and, with it, a new liturgical year. The Church, like a good Mother, wakes us up with a word that the Lord repeats again and again in today's Gospel: "Watch!"

Jesus tells us the story of a man who goes on a journey. He leaves his house in the care of his servants, gives each one his work, and orders the gatekeeper to stay awake. For they do not know when the master of the house will return: in the evening, at midnight, at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find us sleeping.





That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

1. Living face to face with God means knowing that He sees us

The one who lives face to face with God knows that everything he does, he does in His presence: at Mass, yes, but also at work, at home, with his phone in his hand, when no one is watching. The Lord said it clearly: your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you (Mt 6:4).

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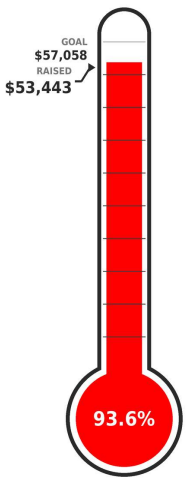

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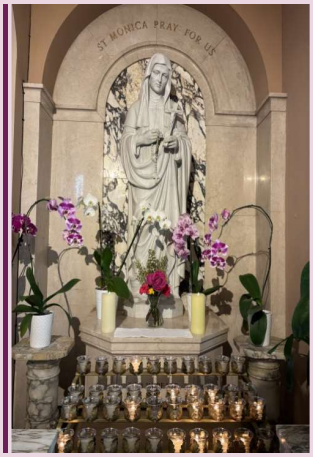

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November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

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Saint Thomas the Apostle
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PASTOR'S LETTER



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First Sunday of Advent.

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That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

1. Living face to face with God means knowing that He sees us

The one who lives face to face with God knows that everything he does, he does in His presence: at Mass, yes, but also at work, at home, with his phone in his hand, when no one is watching. The Lord said it clearly: your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you (Mt 6:4).

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And what makes us live facing men? What the saints called "human respect": the fear of what others will say.

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Parochial Administrator
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Sign up free: **sempervirgo.org**

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PRAY · FRIDAY ADORATION

Adorers Needed

Fridays 9am – 5pm · Our Lord is waiting for you!



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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

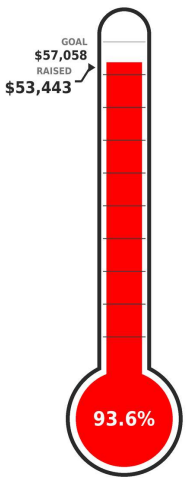
Give online, set up **recurring giving**, or remember the parish in your **will or estate**. Thank you!

Scan to give online ►

Archdiocese Annual Appeal

PARISH GOAL	RAISED SO FAR	STILL NEEDED
$57,058	$53,443	$3,615

Help us reach our goal! Only 5 weeks left this year.



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

Archdiocesan Annual Appeal 2026 Goal: $6,450,000

Star of the Sea & Stella Maris Academy

4420 Geary Blvd SF CA 94118

St Nicholas

CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE

Handmade Gifts! Made by 14 artisans.

DECEMBER 2026

AUDITORIUM

Friday 4, 2pm-7pm
Saturday 5, 9am-6pm
Sunday 6, 9am-2pm



Enjoy Hot Chocolate & Pastries While You Shop!



November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

ST. MONICA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH

Christmas Poinsettias



Please use this envelope
Use este sobre

As we prepare to celebrate the **Birth of Our Lord**, we wish to adorn the altars of St. Monica and St. Thomas the Apostle with **poinsettias for Christmas**.

To cover their cost, we kindly ask for your help through a **special collection this Sunday**.

Every gift, large or small, helps make our churches beautiful for the Christ Child.

Poinsettia Collection this Sunday

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

The Advent Wreath

The evergreen circle stands for the eternity of God, who has no beginning and no end. The **three violet candles** stand for penance and watchful prayer; the **rose candle**, lit on Gaudete Sunday, for the joy of Christ's nearness. Light one more candle each week as Christmas draws near.

Prayer for the First Week

Stir up Thy power, we beseech Thee, O Lord, and come: that from the threatening dangers of our sins we may deserve to be rescued by Thy protection, and to be saved by Thy deliverance. Who livest and reignest for ever and ever. Amen.

Sunday Collection

Collection	St. Monica	St. Thomas
Sunday (English)	$1,531.00	$1,137.00
Vietnamese	—	$514.00

ST. MONICA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH

Procession in Honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Procesión en honor a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe





DECEMBER · DICIEMBRE
13
SUNDAY · DOMINGO
12:00 NOON
MEDIODÍA

St. Monica Church
470 24th Ave., San Francisco

Between the 11 AM and 1 PM Masses
Entre las Misas de 11 AM y 1 PM

You are invited!

Join us as we walk in procession around **St. Monica Church** to honor **Our Lady of Guadalupe**, Mother of the Americas. Bring your family and flowers!

¡Están invitados!

Acompáñenos en procesión alrededor de la **iglesia Santa Mónica** para honrar a **Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe**, Madre de las Américas. ¡Traiga a su familia y flores!

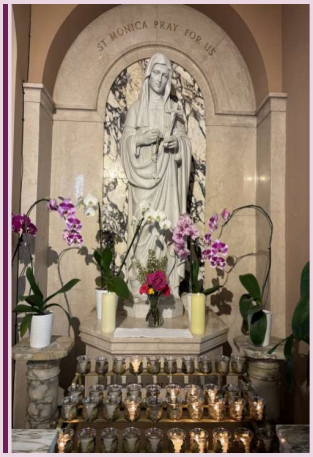
"¿No estoy yo aquí, que soy tu madre?"
¡Viva la Virgen de Guadalupe!

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.



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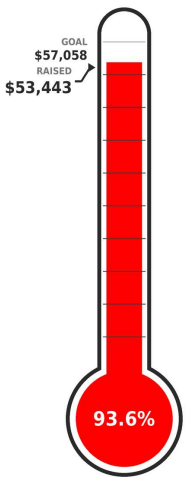

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To learn more about the Archdiocese Annual Appeal, and to donate, please visit https://sfarch.org/aaa/

Archdiocesan Annual Appeal 2026 Goal: $6,450,000

Star of the Sea & Stella Maris Academy

4420 Geary Blvd SF CA 94118

St Nicholas

CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE

Handmade Gifts! Made by 14 artisans.

DECEMBER 2026

AUDITORIUM

Friday 4, 2pm-7pm
Saturday 5, 9am-6pm
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Enjoy Hot Chocolate & Pastries While You Shop!



November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

ST. MONICA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH

Christmas Poinsettias



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Use este sobre

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To cover their cost, we kindly ask for your help through a **special collection this Sunday**.

Every gift, large or small, helps make our churches beautiful for the Christ Child.

Poinsettia Collection this Sunday

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

The Advent Wreath

The evergreen circle stands for the eternity of God, who has no beginning and no end. The **three violet candles** stand for penance and watchful prayer; the **rose candle**, lit on Gaudete Sunday, for the joy of Christ's nearness. Light one more candle each week as Christmas draws near.

Prayer for the First Week

Stir up Thy power, we beseech Thee, O Lord, and come: that from the threatening dangers of our sins we may deserve to be rescued by Thy protection, and to be saved by Thy deliverance. Who livest and reignest for ever and ever. Amen.

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Between the 11 AM and 1 PM Masses
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"¿No estoy yo aquí, que soy tu madre?"
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LIGHT A CANDLE • PRAY • HELP OUR CHURCH

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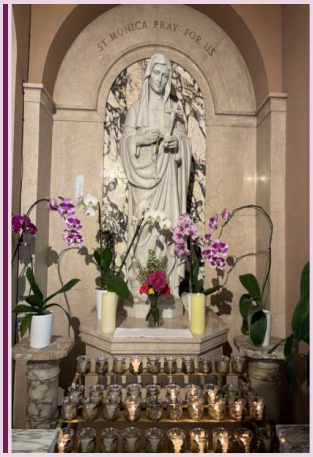

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PASTOR'S LETTER



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Fr. Javier Olivera Ravasi

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That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

1. Living face to face with God means knowing that He sees us

The one who lives face to face with God knows that everything he does, he does in His presence: at Mass, yes, but also at work, at home, with his phone in his hand, when no one is watching. The Lord said it clearly: your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you (Mt 6:4).

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But what matters most, dear brothers and sisters, is not only where we look during Mass, but where we look in life. Because one can pray facing God and then live facing men.

2. The great enemy: human respect

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On the day the Master of the house returns, He will not ask us what others said about us, but what we did with Him.

Let us ask for this grace from the Blessed Virgin Mary, who lived face to face with God better than anyone, who said "Behold the handmaid of the Lord" without caring what others might think: may she help us, this Advent, to wait for her Son wide awake, without fear of what people will say, and with our eyes fixed on Him. Amen.

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Parochial Administrator
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"The confession of evil works is the beginning of good works."
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Do not let Christmas find your soul unready.

Mass Intentions

	St. Monica		St. Thomas the Apostle	
Sunday 11/29	11:00am 1:00pm	Betty & Morelia Bermejo † Gilda Maria Mangana † Int. for the Parishioners	9:30am	Adelaida Maximo Iglesias †
Monday 11/30	8:00am	Ann Yan Lam-Lau	8:30am	Robert Anselmo Han †
Tuesday 12/01	8:00am	Rene Revel †		No Mass
Wednesday 12/02	8:00am	Mercedes Yazdini, Birthday	8:30am	Veronico Flores Fabular †
Thursday 12/03	8:00am	Lucio Aguirre †		No Mass
Friday 12/04	8:00am	Francisco Matturano-Gomez †	8:30am	Int. of the People of the Parish
Saturday 12/05	5:00pm	Santiago & Enelia Pacheco †	8:30am	Int. of the People of the Parish

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

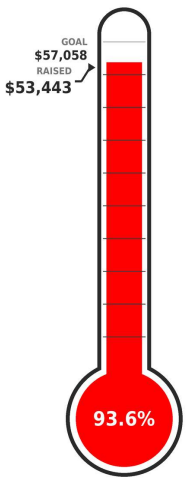
Give online, set up **recurring giving**, or remember the parish in your **will or estate**. Thank you!

Scan to give online ►

Archdiocese Annual Appeal

PARISH GOAL	RAISED SO FAR	STILL NEEDED
$57,058	$53,443	$3,615

Help us reach our goal! Only 5 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.

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13
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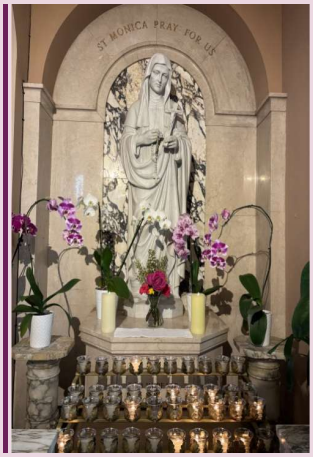

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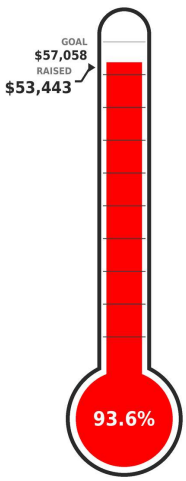

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November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

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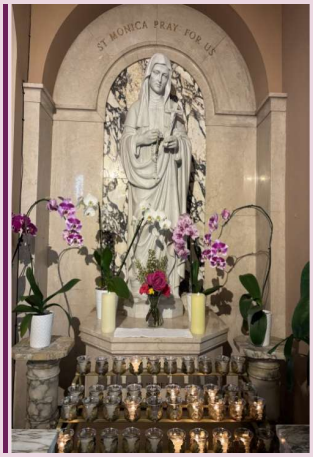

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But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

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But what matters most, dear brothers and sisters, is not only where we look during Mass, but where we look in life. Because one can pray facing God and then live facing men.

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✠ ✠ ✠

Today Saint Paul reminded us that God is faithful, and that He has called us into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord (1 Cor 1:9). God is faithful… The question is whether we will be faithful to Him, even when it costs us.

On the day the Master of the house returns, He will not ask us what others said about us, but what we did with Him.

Let us ask for this grace from the Blessed Virgin Mary, who lived face to face with God better than anyone, who said "Behold the handmaid of the Lord" without caring what others might think: may she help us, this Advent, to wait for her Son wide awake, without fear of what people will say, and with our eyes fixed on Him. Amen.

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

Sunday Gospel: *Mk. 13:33-37*

Jesus said to his disciples: "Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come. It is like a man traveling abroad. He leaves home and places his servants in charge, each with his own work, and orders the gatekeeper to be on the watch. Watch, therefore; you do not know when the lord of the house is coming, whether in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to all: 'Watch!'"

Our Lord gives no date because He wants us ready at every hour. The servant who is "sleeping" is the soul in mortal sin. To the world he may look perfectly well, but in the eyes of God his soul is dead. As the month of the Holy Souls comes to a close, we are reminded that death comes when no man expects it, and whatever state it finds us in is the state we keep for all eternity. That is why Holy Mother Church gives us Advent as a season of penance. Do not wait for a more convenient time. Let us each prepare as well as we can by making a good Confession during this holy season, so that whenever the Master comes, He may find us awake.

Semper Virgo

A Marian Pilgrimage to Guadalupe 2031

Cardinal Burke invites the faithful to a **daily Marian devotion** preparing for the 500th anniversary of Our Lady of Guadalupe in 2031. Each morning, receive a short meditation on the Mother of God.

Begins **Dec. 12, 2026**, Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Sign up free: **sempervirgo.org**

Liturgical Calendar	
Sun 11/29	First Sunday of Advent
Mon 11/30	St. Andrew, Apostle
Tues 12/1	Advent Weekday
Wed 12/2	Advent Weekday
Thurs 12/3	St. Francis Xavier
Fri 12/4	Advent Weekday · St. John Damascene
Sat 12/5	Advent Weekday

Make a Good Confession

Prepare ye the way of the Lord!

Confessions at St. Monica
Mon–Fri: before and after Mass
Saturday: 4:20 PM · Sunday: after Mass

Why go to Confession? Mortal sin robs the soul of sanctifying grace. In His mercy Christ gave His Church the Sacrament of Penance to restore it. The Fathers of the Church call it "the second plank [of salvation] after the shipwreck which is the loss of grace." *(CCC 1446)*

Even our daily faults are worth confessing. Holy Mother Church strongly recommends it, for regular Confession "helps us form our conscience, fight against evil tendencies, let ourselves be healed by Christ and progress in the life of the Spirit." *(CCC 1458)*

"The confession of evil works is the beginning of good works."
— St. Augustine

Do not let Christmas find your soul unready.

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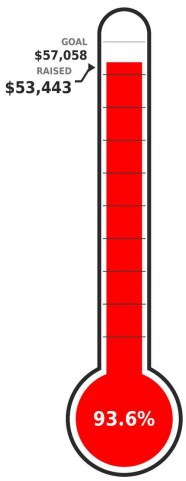

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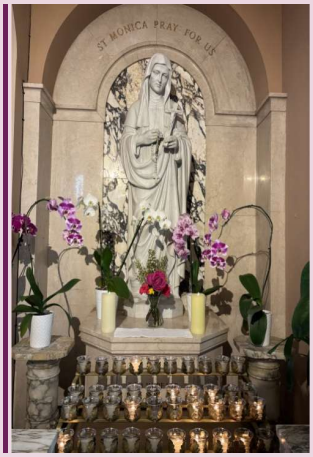

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It takes two minutes!

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Archdiocese Annual Appeal

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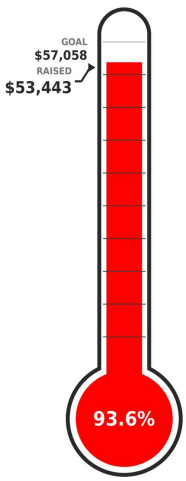

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November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

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The evergreen circle stands for the eternity of God, who has no beginning and no end. The **three violet candles** stand for penance and watchful prayer; the **rose candle**, lit on Gaudete Sunday, for the joy of Christ's nearness. Light one more candle each week as Christmas draws near.

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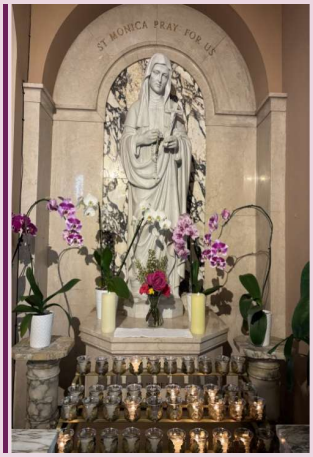

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PASTOR'S LETTER



Living Face to Face with God

Fr. Javier Olivera Ravasi

San Francisco, November 29, 2026.
First Sunday of Advent.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Today we begin Advent and, with it, a new liturgical year. The Church, like a good Mother, wakes us up with a word that the Lord repeats again and again in today's Gospel: "Watch!"

Jesus tells us the story of a man who goes on a journey. He leaves his house in the care of his servants, gives each one his work, and orders the gatekeeper to stay awake. For they do not know when the master of the house will return: in the evening, at midnight, at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find us sleeping.





That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

1. Living face to face with God means knowing that He sees us

The one who lives face to face with God knows that everything he does, he does in His presence: at Mass, yes, but also at work, at home, with his phone in his hand, when no one is watching. The Lord said it clearly: your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you (Mt 6:4).

In today's Psalm we ask the Lord to show us His face, so that we may be saved. A Christian is someone who lives seeking the face of God.

That is why, in this Holy Mass, as you can see, the priest and you are all facing the same direction: toward Him, to whom the Holy Sacrifice is offered. The priest is not turning his back on you; we are all walking together, as one people on pilgrimage, looking toward the Lord who comes.

But what matters most, dear brothers and sisters, is not only where we look during Mass, but where we look in life. Because one can pray facing God and then live facing men.

2. The great enemy: human respect

And what makes us live facing men? What the saints called "human respect": the fear of what others will say.

It is that fear of looking bad, of seeming old-fashioned, fanatical, or "too Catholic," that leads us to keep silent when we should speak, or to stop doing good so as not to draw attention.

Let us take some simple examples:

- The one who does not make the Sign of the Cross before eating in a restaurant, out of embarrassment.
- The one who hears jokes about the Church at work or at school and says nothing.
- The father who does not pray with his children so as not to seem "excessive."
- The young person who never mentions going to Mass on Sundays, so as not to be the odd one out.
- Or the one who keeps quiet about the truth on life, family, or marriage, because "you can't say that anymore."

And so, little by little, one ends up living face to face with men and with one's back turned to God.

Saint Paul put it bluntly: if I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ (Gal 1:10). And the Lord Himself warned that whoever is ashamed of Him before this generation, of that one He too will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father (Mk 8:38).

Notice: "when He comes." Advent again.

Human respect is, in the end, a way of falling asleep: it is like the gatekeeper who, instead of watching the door through which his master will come, spends the whole night worrying about what the neighbors think.

3. How can we live face to face with God this Advent?

The Cristero martyrs of Mexico had no human respect. Saint José Sánchez del Río, only fourteen years old, chose to die crying out

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"¡Viva Cristo Rey!" rather than deny his faith to please his executioners. He lived, and he died, face to face with God.

Thanks be to God, we are not asked for that much. But we are asked for a few concrete things this Advent:

- An examination of conscience every night, asking ourselves: today, did I live facing God, or facing others?
- A good confession before Christmas.
- One small act of Christian courage each week: making the Sign of the Cross in public, praying before meals, defending the Church when she is attacked, inviting someone to Mass.

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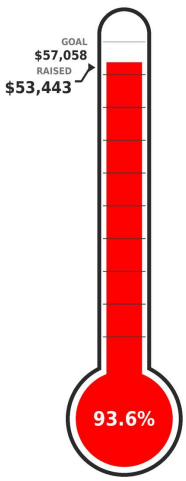

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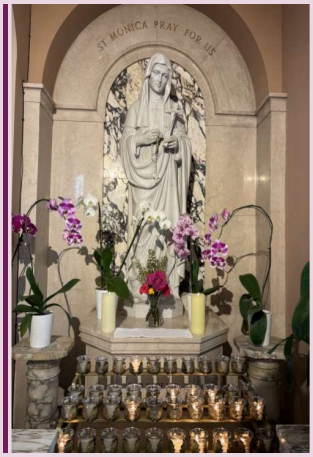

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That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

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Let us ask for this grace from the Blessed Virgin Mary, who lived face to face with God better than anyone, who said "Behold the handmaid of the Lord" without caring what others might think: may she help us, this Advent, to wait for her Son wide awake, without fear of what people will say, and with our eyes fixed on Him. Amen.

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Sign up free: **sempervirgo.org**

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PRAY · FRIDAY ADORATION

Adorers Needed

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A **plenary indulgence** is granted for at least a half hour of Adoration, under the usual conditions.

Scan to sign up

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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

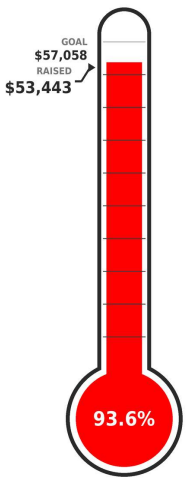
Give online, set up **recurring giving**, or remember the parish in your **will or estate**. Thank you!

Scan to give online ►

Archdiocese Annual Appeal

PARISH GOAL	RAISED SO FAR	STILL NEEDED
$57,058	$53,443	$3,615

Help us reach our goal! Only 5 weeks left this year.



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Archdiocesan Annual Appeal 2026 Goal: $6,450,000

Star of the Sea & Stella Maris Academy

4420 Geary Blvd SF CA 94118

St Nicholas

CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE

Handmade Gifts! Made by 14 artisans.

DECEMBER 2026

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Friday 4, 2pm-7pm
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Enjoy Hot Chocolate & Pastries While You Shop!



November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

ST. MONICA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH

Christmas Poinsettias



Please use this envelope
Use este sobre

As we prepare to celebrate the **Birth of Our Lord**, we wish to adorn the altars of St. Monica and St. Thomas the Apostle with **poinsettias for Christmas**.

To cover their cost, we kindly ask for your help through a **special collection this Sunday**.

Every gift, large or small, helps make our churches beautiful for the Christ Child.

Poinsettia Collection this Sunday

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

The Advent Wreath

The evergreen circle stands for the eternity of God, who has no beginning and no end. The **three violet candles** stand for penance and watchful prayer; the **rose candle**, lit on Gaudete Sunday, for the joy of Christ's nearness. Light one more candle each week as Christmas draws near.

Prayer for the First Week

Stir up Thy power, we beseech Thee, O Lord, and come: that from the threatening dangers of our sins we may deserve to be rescued by Thy protection, and to be saved by Thy deliverance. Who livest and reignest for ever and ever. Amen.

Sunday Collection

Collection	St. Monica	St. Thomas
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Procession in Honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Procesión en honor a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe





DECEMBER · DICIEMBRE
13
SUNDAY · DOMINGO
12:00 NOON
MEDIODÍA

St. Monica Church
470 24th Ave., San Francisco

Between the 11 AM and 1 PM Masses
Entre las Misas de 11 AM y 1 PM

You are invited!

Join us as we walk in procession around **St. Monica Church** to honor **Our Lady of Guadalupe**, Mother of the Americas. Bring your family and flowers!

¡Están invitados!

Acompáñenos en procesión alrededor de la **iglesia Santa Mónica** para honrar a **Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe**, Madre de las Américas. ¡Traiga a su familia y flores!

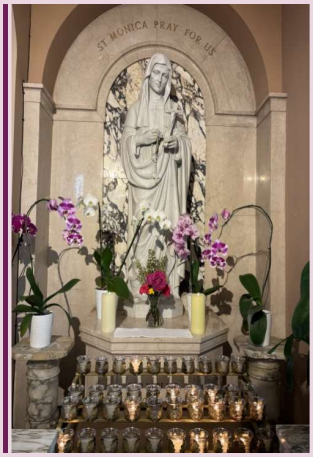
"¿No estoy yo aquí, que soy tu madre?"
¡Viva la Virgen de Guadalupe!

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 help make sandwiches each month, and to those who shop for supplies and deliver to the shelter the next day! Sandwich making is the **3rd Wednesday of every month.**

Next: Wed., Dec. 16 · 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**.

November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

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
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PASTOR'S LETTER



Living Face to Face with God

Fr. Javier Olivera Ravasi

San Francisco, November 29, 2026.
First Sunday of Advent.

Dear brothers and sisters,

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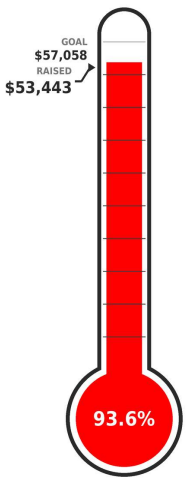

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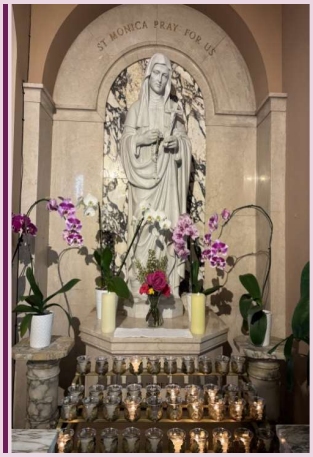
St. Monica Shrine

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!*

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Thank you to all who help make sandwiches each month, and to those who shop for supplies and deliver to the shelter the next day! Sandwich making is the **3rd Wednesday of every month.**

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November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

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Saint Thomas the Apostle
Parish

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PASTOR'S LETTER



Living Face to Face with God

Fr. Javier Olivera Ravasi

San Francisco, November 29, 2026.
First Sunday of Advent.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Today we begin Advent and, with it, a new liturgical year. The Church, like a good Mother, wakes us up with a word that the Lord repeats again and again in today's Gospel: "Watch!"

Jesus tells us the story of a man who goes on a journey. He leaves his house in the care of his servants, gives each one his work, and orders the gatekeeper to stay awake. For they do not know when the master of the house will return: in the evening, at midnight, at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find us sleeping.





That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

1. Living face to face with God means knowing that He sees us

The one who lives face to face with God knows that everything he does, he does in His presence: at Mass, yes, but also at work, at home, with his phone in his hand, when no one is watching. The Lord said it clearly: your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you (Mt 6:4).

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That is why, in this Holy Mass, as you can see, the priest and you are all facing the same direction: toward Him, to whom the Holy Sacrifice is offered. The priest is not turning his back on you; we are all walking together, as one people on pilgrimage, looking toward the Lord who comes.

But what matters most, dear brothers and sisters, is not only where we look during Mass, but where we look in life. Because one can pray facing God and then live facing men.

2. The great enemy: human respect

And what makes us live facing men? What the saints called "human respect": the fear of what others will say.

It is that fear of looking bad, of seeming old-fashioned, fanatical, or "too Catholic," that leads us to keep silent when we should speak, or to stop doing good so as not to draw attention.

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Let us ask for this grace from the Blessed Virgin Mary, who lived face to face with God better than anyone, who said "Behold the handmaid of the Lord" without caring what others might think: may she help us, this Advent, to wait for her Son wide awake, without fear of what people will say, and with our eyes fixed on Him. Amen.

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Parochial Administrator
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Sunday Gospel: *Mk. 13:33-37*

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Begins **Dec. 12, 2026**, Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Sign up free: **sempervirgo.org**

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Make a Good Confession

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"The confession of evil works is the beginning of good works."
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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

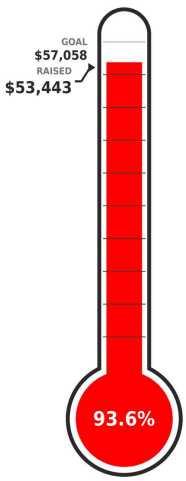
Give online, set up **recurring giving**, or remember the parish in your **will or estate**. Thank you!

Scan to give online ►

Archdiocese Annual Appeal

PARISH GOAL	RAISED SO FAR	STILL NEEDED
$57,058	$53,443	$3,615

Help us reach our goal! Only 5 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.

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

Archdiocesan Annual Appeal 2026 Goal: $6,450,000

Star of the Sea & Stella Maris Academy

4420 Geary Blvd SF CA 94118

St Nicholas

CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE

Handmade Gifts! Made by 14 artisans.

DECEMBER 2026

AUDITORIUM

Friday 4, 2pm-7pm
Saturday 5, 9am-6pm
Sunday 6, 9am-2pm



Enjoy Hot Chocolate & Pastries While You Shop!



November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

ST. MONICA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH

Christmas Poinsettias



Please use this envelope
Use este sobre

As we prepare to celebrate the **Birth of Our Lord**, we wish to adorn the altars of St. Monica and St. Thomas the Apostle with **poinsettias for Christmas**.

To cover their cost, we kindly ask for your help through a **special collection this Sunday**.

Every gift, large or small, helps make our churches beautiful for the Christ Child.

Poinsettia Collection this Sunday

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

The Advent Wreath

The evergreen circle stands for the eternity of God, who has no beginning and no end. The **three violet candles** stand for penance and watchful prayer; the **rose candle**, lit on Gaudete Sunday, for the joy of Christ's nearness. Light one more candle each week as Christmas draws near.

Prayer for the First Week

Stir up Thy power, we beseech Thee, O Lord, and come: that from the threatening dangers of our sins we may deserve to be rescued by Thy protection, and to be saved by Thy deliverance. Who livest and reignest for ever and ever. Amen.

Sunday Collection

Collection	St. Monica	St. Thomas
Sunday (English)	$1,531.00	$1,137.00
Vietnamese	—	$514.00

ST. MONICA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH

Procession in Honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Procesión en honor a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe





DECEMBER · DICIEMBRE
13
SUNDAY · DOMINGO
12:00 NOON
MEDIODÍA

St. Monica Church
470 24th Ave., San Francisco

Between the 11 AM and 1 PM Masses
Entre las Misas de 11 AM y 1 PM

You are invited!

Join us as we walk in procession around **St. Monica Church** to honor **Our Lady of Guadalupe**, Mother of the Americas. Bring your family and flowers!

¡Están invitados!

Acompáñenos en procesión alrededor de la **iglesia Santa Mónica** para honrar a **Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe**, Madre de las Américas. ¡Traiga a su familia y flores!

"¿No estoy yo aquí, que soy tu madre?"
¡Viva la Virgen de Guadalupe!

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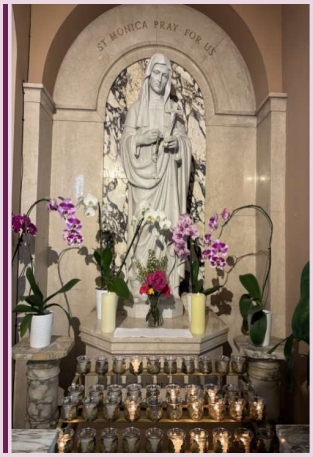

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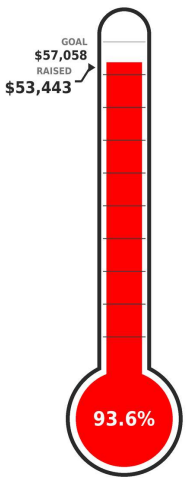

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St Nicholas

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DECEMBER 2026

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November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

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Every gift, large or small, helps make our churches beautiful for the Christ Child.

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The evergreen circle stands for the eternity of God, who has no beginning and no end. The **three violet candles** stand for penance and watchful prayer; the **rose candle**, lit on Gaudete Sunday, for the joy of Christ's nearness. Light one more candle each week as Christmas draws near.

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Between the 11 AM and 1 PM Masses
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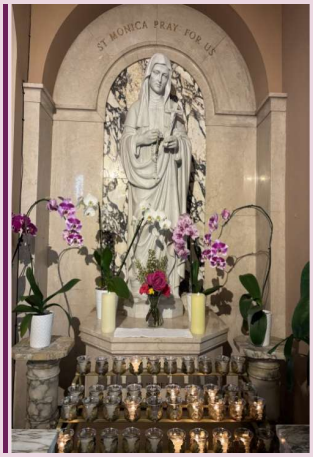

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Saint Thomas the Apostle
Parish

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www.smstaparishsf.org
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That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

1. Living face to face with God means knowing that He sees us

The one who lives face to face with God knows that everything he does, he does in His presence: at Mass, yes, but also at work, at home, with his phone in his hand, when no one is watching. The Lord said it clearly: your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you (Mt 6:4).

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But what matters most, dear brothers and sisters, is not only where we look during Mass, but where we look in life. Because one can pray facing God and then live facing men.

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On the day the Master of the house returns, He will not ask us what others said about us, but what we did with Him.

Let us ask for this grace from the Blessed Virgin Mary, who lived face to face with God better than anyone, who said "Behold the handmaid of the Lord" without caring what others might think: may she help us, this Advent, to wait for her Son wide awake, without fear of what people will say, and with our eyes fixed on Him. Amen.

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Parochial Administrator
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Make a Good Confession

Prepare ye the way of the Lord!

Confessions at St. Monica
Mon–Fri: before and after Mass
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Why go to Confession? Mortal sin robs the soul of sanctifying grace. In His mercy Christ gave His Church the Sacrament of Penance to restore it. The Fathers of the Church call it "the second plank [of salvation] after the shipwreck which is the loss of grace." *(CCC 1446)*

Even our daily faults are worth confessing. Holy Mother Church strongly recommends it, for regular Confession "helps us form our conscience, fight against evil tendencies, let ourselves be healed by Christ and progress in the life of the Spirit." *(CCC 1458)*

"The confession of evil works is the beginning of good works."
— St. Augustine

Do not let Christmas find your soul unready.

Mass Intentions

	St. Monica		St. Thomas the Apostle	
Sunday 11/29	11:00am 1:00pm	Betty & Morelia Bermejo † Gilda Maria Mangana † Int. for the Parishioners	9:30am	Adelaida Maximo Iglesias †
Monday 11/30	8:00am	Ann Yan Lam-Lau	8:30am	Robert Anselmo Han †
Tuesday 12/01	8:00am	Rene Revel †		No Mass
Wednesday 12/02	8:00am	Mercedes Yazdini, Birthday	8:30am	Veronico Flores Fabular †
Thursday 12/03	8:00am	Lucio Aguirre †		No Mass
Friday 12/04	8:00am	Francisco Matturano-Gomez †	8:30am	Int. of the People of the Parish
Saturday 12/05	5:00pm	Santiago & Enelia Pacheco †	8:30am	Int. of the People of the Parish

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

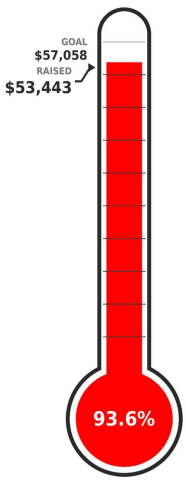
Give online, set up **recurring giving**, or remember the parish in your **will or estate**. Thank you!

Scan to give online ►

Archdiocese Annual Appeal

PARISH GOAL	RAISED SO FAR	STILL NEEDED
$57,058	$53,443	$3,615

Help us reach our goal! Only 5 weeks left this year.



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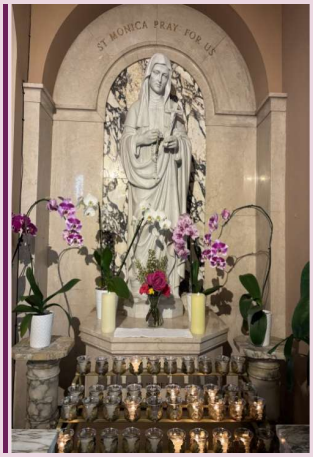

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PARISH GOAL	RAISED SO FAR	STILL NEEDED
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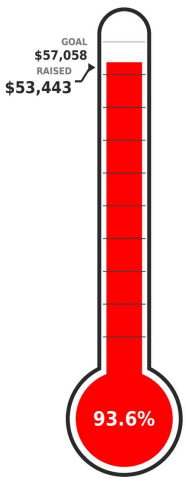

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November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

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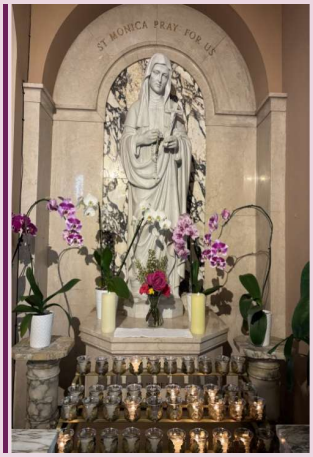

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That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

1. Living face to face with God means knowing that He sees us

The one who lives face to face with God knows that everything he does, he does in His presence: at Mass, yes, but also at work, at home, with his phone in his hand, when no one is watching. The Lord said it clearly: your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you (Mt 6:4).

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But what matters most, dear brothers and sisters, is not only where we look during Mass, but where we look in life. Because one can pray facing God and then live facing men.

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And what makes us live facing men? What the saints called "human respect": the fear of what others will say.

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"¡Viva Cristo Rey!" rather than deny his faith to please his executioners. He lived, and he died, face to face with God.

Thanks be to God, we are not asked for that much. But we are asked for a few concrete things this Advent:

- An examination of conscience every night, asking ourselves: today, did I live facing God, or facing others?
- A good confession before Christmas.
- One small act of Christian courage each week: making the Sign of the Cross in public, praying before meals, defending the Church when she is attacked, inviting someone to Mass.

No one becomes brave all at once; courage, too, must be trained.

✠ ✠ ✠

Today Saint Paul reminded us that God is faithful, and that He has called us into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord (1 Cor 1:9). God is faithful… The question is whether we will be faithful to Him, even when it costs us.

On the day the Master of the house returns, He will not ask us what others said about us, but what we did with Him.

Let us ask for this grace from the Blessed Virgin Mary, who lived face to face with God better than anyone, who said "Behold the handmaid of the Lord" without caring what others might think: may she help us, this Advent, to wait for her Son wide awake, without fear of what people will say, and with our eyes fixed on Him. Amen.

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

Sunday Gospel: *Mk. 13:33-37*

Jesus said to his disciples: "Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come. It is like a man traveling abroad. He leaves home and places his servants in charge, each with his own work, and orders the gatekeeper to be on the watch. Watch, therefore; you do not know when the lord of the house is coming, whether in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to all: 'Watch!'"

Our Lord gives no date because He wants us ready at every hour. The servant who is "sleeping" is the soul in mortal sin. To the world he may look perfectly well, but in the eyes of God his soul is dead. As the month of the Holy Souls comes to a close, we are reminded that death comes when no man expects it, and whatever state it finds us in is the state we keep for all eternity. That is why Holy Mother Church gives us Advent as a season of penance. Do not wait for a more convenient time. Let us each prepare as well as we can by making a good Confession during this holy season, so that whenever the Master comes, He may find us awake.

Semper Virgo

A Marian Pilgrimage to Guadalupe 2031

Cardinal Burke invites the faithful to a **daily Marian devotion** preparing for the 500th anniversary of Our Lady of Guadalupe in 2031. Each morning, receive a short meditation on the Mother of God.

Begins **Dec. 12, 2026**, Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Sign up free: **sempervirgo.org**

Liturgical Calendar	
Sun 11/29	First Sunday of Advent
Mon 11/30	St. Andrew, Apostle
Tues 12/1	Advent Weekday
Wed 12/2	Advent Weekday
Thurs 12/3	St. Francis Xavier
Fri 12/4	Advent Weekday · St. John Damascene
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Make a Good Confession

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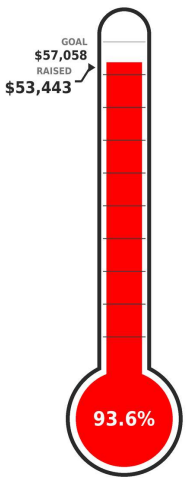

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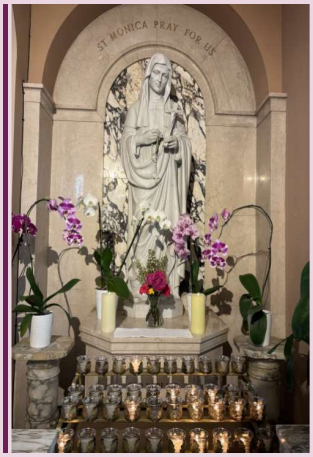

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Let us ask for this grace from the Blessed Virgin Mary, who lived face to face with God better than anyone, who said "Behold the handmaid of the Lord" without caring what others might think: may she help us, this Advent, to wait for her Son wide awake, without fear of what people will say, and with our eyes fixed on Him. Amen.

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Parochial Administrator
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Sign up free: **sempervirgo.org**

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

All are welcome!

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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!

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Archdiocese Annual Appeal

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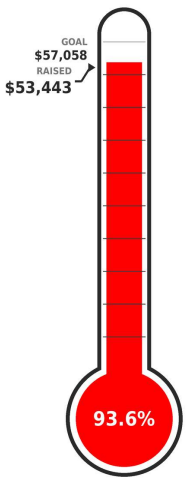
$57,058	$53,443	$3,615

Help us reach our goal! Only 5 weeks left this year.



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Star of the Sea & Stella Maris Academy

4420 Geary Blvd SF CA 94118

St Nicholas

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Handmade Gifts! Made by 14 artisans.

DECEMBER 2026

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Enjoy Hot Chocolate & Pastries While You Shop!



November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

ST. MONICA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH

Christmas Poinsettias



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Use este sobre

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To cover their cost, we kindly ask for your help through a **special collection this Sunday**.

Every gift, large or small, helps make our churches beautiful for the Christ Child.

Poinsettia Collection this Sunday

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

The Advent Wreath

The evergreen circle stands for the eternity of God, who has no beginning and no end. The **three violet candles** stand for penance and watchful prayer; the **rose candle**, lit on Gaudete Sunday, for the joy of Christ's nearness. Light one more candle each week as Christmas draws near.

Prayer for the First Week

Stir up Thy power, we beseech Thee, O Lord, and come: that from the threatening dangers of our sins we may deserve to be rescued by Thy protection, and to be saved by Thy deliverance. Who livest and reignest for ever and ever. Amen.

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Procesión en honor a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe





DECEMBER · DICIEMBRE
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St. Monica Church
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Between the 11 AM and 1 PM Masses
Entre las Misas de 11 AM y 1 PM

You are invited!

Join us as we walk in procession around **St. Monica Church** to honor **Our Lady of Guadalupe**, Mother of the Americas. Bring your family and flowers!

¡Están invitados!

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"¿No estoy yo aquí, que soy tu madre?"
¡Viva la Virgen de Guadalupe!

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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.

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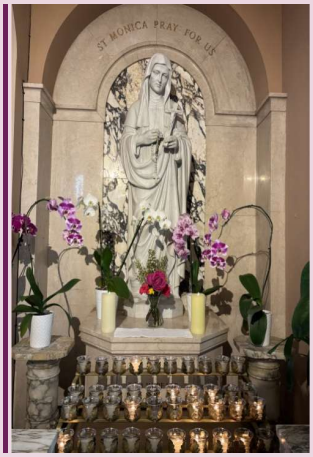

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Every candle is a prayer; every offering is a gift.
Your generous contribution for each candle helps maintain our entire church: its lights, its doors, and every sacred space where we gather as one family of faith.

Thank you, and God bless you!

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Thank you to all who help make sandwiches each month, and to those who shop for supplies and deliver to the shelter the next day! Sandwich making is the **3rd Wednesday of every month.**

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PASTOR'S LETTER



Living Face to Face with God

Fr. Javier Olivera Ravasi

San Francisco, November 29, 2026.
First Sunday of Advent.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Today we begin Advent and, with it, a new liturgical year. The Church, like a good Mother, wakes us up with a word that the Lord repeats again and again in today's Gospel: "Watch!"

Jesus tells us the story of a man who goes on a journey. He leaves his house in the care of his servants, gives each one his work, and orders the gatekeeper to stay awake. For they do not know when the master of the house will return: in the evening, at midnight, at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find us sleeping.





That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

1. Living face to face with God means knowing that He sees us

The one who lives face to face with God knows that everything he does, he does in His presence: at Mass, yes, but also at work, at home, with his phone in his hand, when no one is watching. The Lord said it clearly: your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you (Mt 6:4).

In today's Psalm we ask the Lord to show us His face, so that we may be saved. A Christian is someone who lives seeking the face of God.

That is why, in this Holy Mass, as you can see, the priest and you are all facing the same direction: toward Him, to whom the Holy Sacrifice is offered. The priest is not turning his back on you; we are all walking together, as one people on pilgrimage, looking toward the Lord who comes.

But what matters most, dear brothers and sisters, is not only where we look during Mass, but where we look in life. Because one can pray facing God and then live facing men.

2. The great enemy: human respect

And what makes us live facing men? What the saints called "human respect": the fear of what others will say.

It is that fear of looking bad, of seeming old-fashioned, fanatical, or "too Catholic," that leads us to keep silent when we should speak, or to stop doing good so as not to draw attention.

Let us take some simple examples:

- The one who does not make the Sign of the Cross before eating in a restaurant, out of embarrassment.
- The one who hears jokes about the Church at work or at school and says nothing.
- The father who does not pray with his children so as not to seem "excessive."
- The young person who never mentions going to Mass on Sundays, so as not to be the odd one out.
- Or the one who keeps quiet about the truth on life, family, or marriage, because "you can't say that anymore."

And so, little by little, one ends up living face to face with men and with one's back turned to God.

Saint Paul put it bluntly: if I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ (Gal 1:10). And the Lord Himself warned that whoever is ashamed of Him before this generation, of that one He too will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father (Mk 8:38).

Notice: "when He comes." Advent again.

Human respect is, in the end, a way of falling asleep: it is like the gatekeeper who, instead of watching the door through which his master will come, spends the whole night worrying about what the neighbors think.

3. How can we live face to face with God this Advent?

The Cristero martyrs of Mexico had no human respect. Saint José Sánchez del Río, only fourteen years old, chose to die crying out

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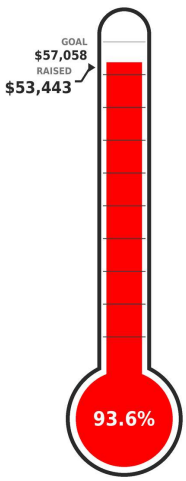

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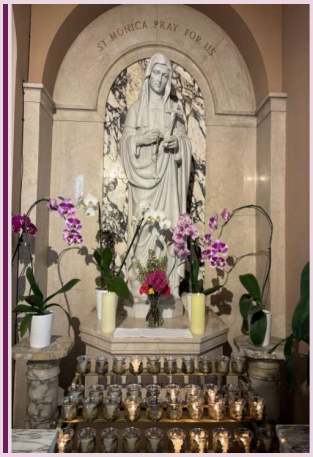

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PASTOR'S LETTER



Living Face to Face with God

Fr. Javier Olivera Ravasi

San Francisco, November 29, 2026.
First Sunday of Advent.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Today we begin Advent and, with it, a new liturgical year. The Church, like a good Mother, wakes us up with a word that the Lord repeats again and again in today's Gospel: "Watch!"

Jesus tells us the story of a man who goes on a journey. He leaves his house in the care of his servants, gives each one his work, and orders the gatekeeper to stay awake. For they do not know when the master of the house will return: in the evening, at midnight, at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find us sleeping.





That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

1. Living face to face with God means knowing that He sees us

The one who lives face to face with God knows that everything he does, he does in His presence: at Mass, yes, but also at work, at home, with his phone in his hand, when no one is watching. The Lord said it clearly: your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you (Mt 6:4).

In today's Psalm we ask the Lord to show us His face, so that we may be saved. A Christian is someone who lives seeking the face of God.

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But what matters most, dear brothers and sisters, is not only where we look during Mass, but where we look in life. Because one can pray facing God and then live facing men.

2. The great enemy: human respect

And what makes us live facing men? What the saints called "human respect": the fear of what others will say.

It is that fear of looking bad, of seeming old-fashioned, fanatical, or "too Catholic," that leads us to keep silent when we should speak, or to stop doing good so as not to draw attention.

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On the day the Master of the house returns, He will not ask us what others said about us, but what we did with Him.

Let us ask for this grace from the Blessed Virgin Mary, who lived face to face with God better than anyone, who said "Behold the handmaid of the Lord" without caring what others might think: may she help us, this Advent, to wait for her Son wide awake, without fear of what people will say, and with our eyes fixed on Him. Amen.

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Sign up free: **sempervirgo.org**

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PRAY · FRIDAY ADORATION

Adorers Needed

Fridays 9am – 5pm · Our Lord is waiting for you!



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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

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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

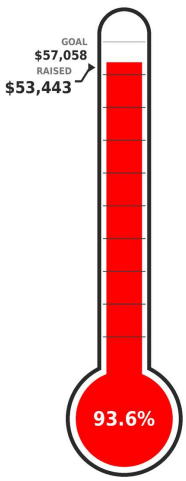
Give online, set up **recurring giving**, or remember the parish in your **will or estate**. Thank you!

Scan to give online ►

Archdiocese Annual Appeal

PARISH GOAL	RAISED SO FAR	STILL NEEDED
$57,058	$53,443	$3,615

Help us reach our goal! Only 5 weeks left this year.



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Archdiocesan Annual Appeal 2026 Goal: $6,450,000

Star of the Sea & Stella Maris Academy

4420 Geary Blvd SF CA 94118

St Nicholas

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DECEMBER 2026

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Friday 4, 2pm-7pm
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Enjoy Hot Chocolate & Pastries While You Shop!



November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

ST. MONICA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH

Christmas Poinsettias



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Use este sobre

As we prepare to celebrate the **Birth of Our Lord**, we wish to adorn the altars of St. Monica and St. Thomas the Apostle with **poinsettias for Christmas**.

To cover their cost, we kindly ask for your help through a **special collection this Sunday**.

Every gift, large or small, helps make our churches beautiful for the Christ Child.

Poinsettia Collection this Sunday

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

The Advent Wreath

The evergreen circle stands for the eternity of God, who has no beginning and no end. The **three violet candles** stand for penance and watchful prayer; the **rose candle**, lit on Gaudete Sunday, for the joy of Christ's nearness. Light one more candle each week as Christmas draws near.

Prayer for the First Week

Stir up Thy power, we beseech Thee, O Lord, and come: that from the threatening dangers of our sins we may deserve to be rescued by Thy protection, and to be saved by Thy deliverance. Who livest and reignest for ever and ever. Amen.

Sunday Collection

Collection	St. Monica	St. Thomas
Sunday (English)	$1,531.00	$1,137.00
Vietnamese	—	$514.00

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Procession in Honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Procesión en honor a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe





DECEMBER · DICIEMBRE
13
SUNDAY · DOMINGO
12:00 NOON
MEDIODÍA

St. Monica Church
470 24th Ave., San Francisco

Between the 11 AM and 1 PM Masses
Entre las Misas de 11 AM y 1 PM

You are invited!

Join us as we walk in procession around **St. Monica Church** to honor **Our Lady of Guadalupe**, Mother of the Americas. Bring your family and flowers!

¡Están invitados!

Acompáñenos en procesión alrededor de la **iglesia Santa Mónica** para honrar a **Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe**, Madre de las Américas. ¡Traiga a su familia y flores!

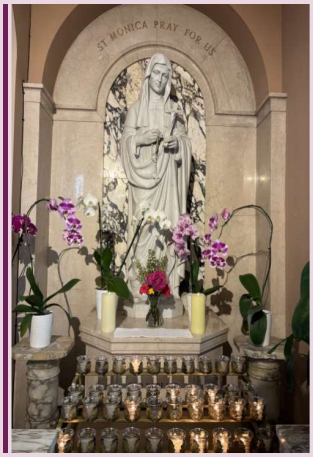
"¿No estoy yo aquí, que soy tu madre?"
¡Viva la Virgen de Guadalupe!

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 help make sandwiches each month, and to those who shop for supplies and deliver to the shelter the next day! Sandwich making is the **3rd Wednesday of every month.**

Next: Wed., Dec. 16 · 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**.

November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

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

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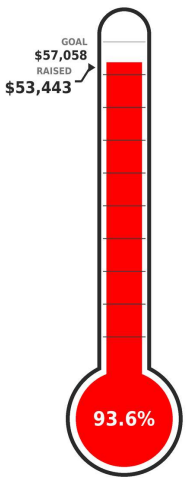

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Entre las Misas de 11 AM y 1 PM

You are invited!

Join us as we walk in procession around **St. Monica Church** to honor **Our Lady of Guadalupe**, Mother of the Americas. Bring your family and flowers!

¡Están invitados!

Acompáñenos en procesión alrededor de la **iglesia Santa Mónica** para honrar a **Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe**, Madre de las Américas. ¡Traiga a su familia y flores!

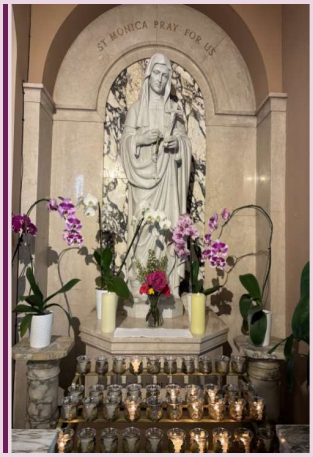
"¿No estoy yo aquí, que soy tu madre?"
¡Viva la Virgen de Guadalupe!

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.



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November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

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Saint Thomas the Apostle
Parish

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Clergy	Staff
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PASTOR'S LETTER



Living Face to Face with God

Fr. Javier Olivera Ravasi

San Francisco, November 29, 2026.
First Sunday of Advent.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Today we begin Advent and, with it, a new liturgical year. The Church, like a good Mother, wakes us up with a word that the Lord repeats again and again in today's Gospel: "Watch!"

Jesus tells us the story of a man who goes on a journey. He leaves his house in the care of his servants, gives each one his work, and orders the gatekeeper to stay awake. For they do not know when the master of the house will return: in the evening, at midnight, at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find us sleeping.





That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

1. Living face to face with God means knowing that He sees us

The one who lives face to face with God knows that everything he does, he does in His presence: at Mass, yes, but also at work, at home, with his phone in his hand, when no one is watching. The Lord said it clearly: your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you (Mt 6:4).

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But what matters most, dear brothers and sisters, is not only where we look during Mass, but where we look in life. Because one can pray facing God and then live facing men.

2. The great enemy: human respect

And what makes us live facing men? What the saints called "human respect": the fear of what others will say.

It is that fear of looking bad, of seeming old-fashioned, fanatical, or "too Catholic," that leads us to keep silent when we should speak, or to stop doing good so as not to draw attention.

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Let us ask for this grace from the Blessed Virgin Mary, who lived face to face with God better than anyone, who said "Behold the handmaid of the Lord" without caring what others might think: may she help us, this Advent, to wait for her Son wide awake, without fear of what people will say, and with our eyes fixed on Him. Amen.

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Parochial Administrator
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Sunday Gospel: *Mk. 13:33-37*

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Sign up free: **sempervirgo.org**

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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

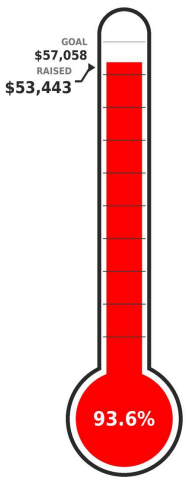
Give online, set up **recurring giving**, or remember the parish in your **will or estate**. Thank you!

Scan to give online ►

Archdiocese Annual Appeal

PARISH GOAL	RAISED SO FAR	STILL NEEDED
$57,058	$53,443	$3,615

Help us reach our goal! Only 5 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.

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

Archdiocesan Annual Appeal 2026 Goal: $6,450,000

Star of the Sea & Stella Maris Academy

4420 Geary Blvd SF CA 94118

St Nicholas

CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE

Handmade Gifts! Made by 14 artisans.

DECEMBER 2026

AUDITORIUM

Friday 4, 2pm-7pm
Saturday 5, 9am-6pm
Sunday 6, 9am-2pm



Enjoy Hot Chocolate & Pastries While You Shop!



November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

ST. MONICA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH

Christmas Poinsettias



Please use this envelope
Use este sobre

As we prepare to celebrate the **Birth of Our Lord**, we wish to adorn the altars of St. Monica and St. Thomas the Apostle with **poinsettias for Christmas**.

To cover their cost, we kindly ask for your help through a **special collection this Sunday**.

Every gift, large or small, helps make our churches beautiful for the Christ Child.

Poinsettia Collection this Sunday

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

The Advent Wreath

The evergreen circle stands for the eternity of God, who has no beginning and no end. The **three violet candles** stand for penance and watchful prayer; the **rose candle**, lit on Gaudete Sunday, for the joy of Christ's nearness. Light one more candle each week as Christmas draws near.

Prayer for the First Week

Stir up Thy power, we beseech Thee, O Lord, and come: that from the threatening dangers of our sins we may deserve to be rescued by Thy protection, and to be saved by Thy deliverance. Who livest and reignest for ever and ever. Amen.

Sunday Collection

Collection	St. Monica	St. Thomas
Sunday (English)	$1,531.00	$1,137.00
Vietnamese	—	$514.00

ST. MONICA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH

Procession in Honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Procesión en honor a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe





DECEMBER · DICIEMBRE
13
SUNDAY · DOMINGO
12:00 NOON
MEDIODÍA

St. Monica Church
470 24th Ave., San Francisco

Between the 11 AM and 1 PM Masses
Entre las Misas de 11 AM y 1 PM

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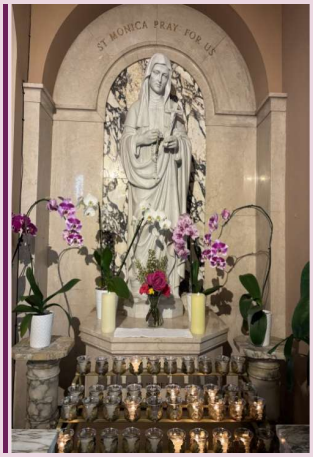

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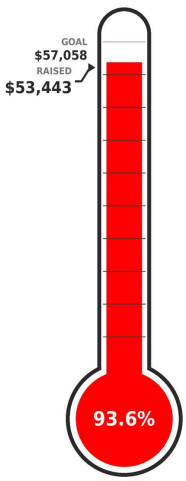

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St Nicholas

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November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

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Every gift, large or small, helps make our churches beautiful for the Christ Child.

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The evergreen circle stands for the eternity of God, who has no beginning and no end. The **three violet candles** stand for penance and watchful prayer; the **rose candle**, lit on Gaudete Sunday, for the joy of Christ's nearness. Light one more candle each week as Christmas draws near.

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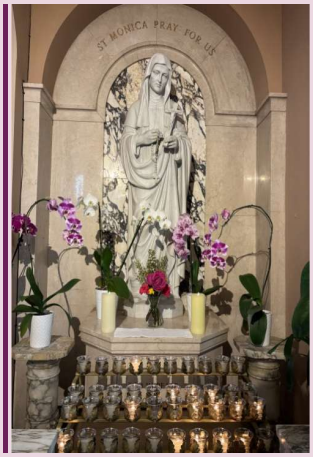

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Saint Thomas the Apostle
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PASTOR'S LETTER



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That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

1. Living face to face with God means knowing that He sees us

The one who lives face to face with God knows that everything he does, he does in His presence: at Mass, yes, but also at work, at home, with his phone in his hand, when no one is watching. The Lord said it clearly: your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you (Mt 6:4).

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Let us ask for this grace from the Blessed Virgin Mary, who lived face to face with God better than anyone, who said "Behold the handmaid of the Lord" without caring what others might think: may she help us, this Advent, to wait for her Son wide awake, without fear of what people will say, and with our eyes fixed on Him. Amen.

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Our Lord gives no date because He wants us ready at every hour. The servant who is "sleeping" is the soul in mortal sin. To the world he may look perfectly well, but in the eyes of God his soul is dead. As the month of the Holy Souls comes to a close, we are reminded that death comes when no man expects it, and whatever state it finds us in is the state we keep for all eternity. That is why Holy Mother Church gives us Advent as a season of penance. Do not wait for a more convenient time. Let us each prepare as well as we can by making a good Confession during this holy season, so that whenever the Master comes, He may find us awake.

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Sign up free: **sempervirgo.org**

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Tues 12/1	Advent Weekday
Wed 12/2	Advent Weekday
Thurs 12/3	St. Francis Xavier
Fri 12/4	Advent Weekday · St. John Damascene
Sat 12/5	Advent Weekday

Make a Good Confession

Prepare ye the way of the Lord!

Confessions at St. Monica
Mon–Fri: before and after Mass
Saturday: 4:20 PM · Sunday: after Mass

Why go to Confession? Mortal sin robs the soul of sanctifying grace. In His mercy Christ gave His Church the Sacrament of Penance to restore it. The Fathers of the Church call it "the second plank [of salvation] after the shipwreck which is the loss of grace." *(CCC 1446)*

Even our daily faults are worth confessing. Holy Mother Church strongly recommends it, for regular Confession "helps us form our conscience, fight against evil tendencies, let ourselves be healed by Christ and progress in the life of the Spirit." *(CCC 1458)*

"The confession of evil works is the beginning of good works."
— St. Augustine

Do not let Christmas find your soul unready.

Mass Intentions

	St. Monica		St. Thomas the Apostle	
Sunday 11/29	11:00am 1:00pm	Betty & Morelia Bermejo † Gilda Maria Mangana † Int. for the Parishioners	9:30am	Adelaida Maximo Iglesias †
Monday 11/30	8:00am	Ann Yan Lam-Lau	8:30am	Robert Anselmo Han †
Tuesday 12/01	8:00am	Rene Revel †		No Mass
Wednesday 12/02	8:00am	Mercedes Yazdini, Birthday	8:30am	Veronico Flores Fabular †
Thursday 12/03	8:00am	Lucio Aguirre †		No Mass
Friday 12/04	8:00am	Francisco Matturano-Gomez †	8:30am	Int. of the People of the Parish
Saturday 12/05	5:00pm	Santiago & Enelia Pacheco †	8:30am	Int. of the People of the Parish

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

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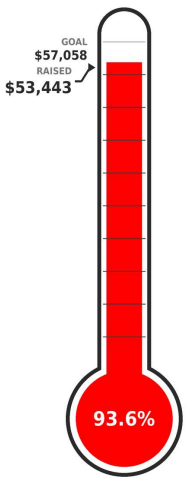

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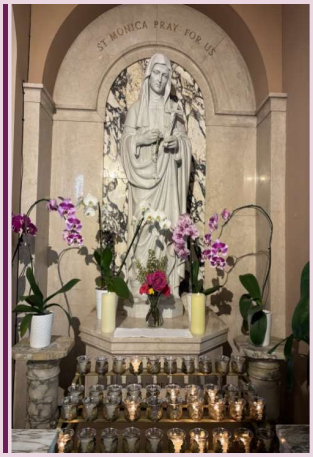

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Tues 12/1	Advent Weekday
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It takes two minutes!

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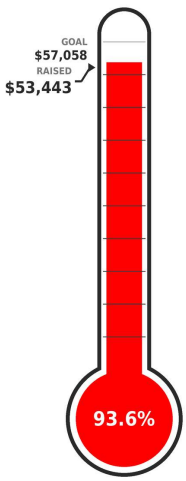
Archdiocese Annual Appeal

PARISH GOAL	RAISED SO FAR	STILL NEEDED
$57,058	$53,443	$3,615

Help us reach our goal! Only 5 weeks left this year.



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November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

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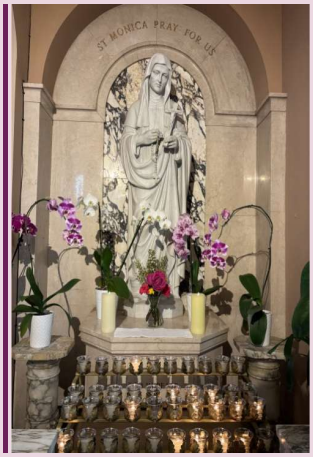

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Clergy	Staff
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PASTOR'S LETTER



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Fr. Javier Olivera Ravasi

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Jesus tells us the story of a man who goes on a journey. He leaves his house in the care of his servants, gives each one his work, and orders the gatekeeper to stay awake. For they do not know when the master of the house will return: in the evening, at midnight, at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find us sleeping.





That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

1. Living face to face with God means knowing that He sees us

The one who lives face to face with God knows that everything he does, he does in His presence: at Mass, yes, but also at work, at home, with his phone in his hand, when no one is watching. The Lord said it clearly: your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you (Mt 6:4).

In today's Psalm we ask the Lord to show us His face, so that we may be saved. A Christian is someone who lives seeking the face of God.

That is why, in this Holy Mass, as you can see, the priest and you are all facing the same direction: toward Him, to whom the Holy Sacrifice is offered. The priest is not turning his back on you; we are all walking together, as one people on pilgrimage, looking toward the Lord who comes.

But what matters most, dear brothers and sisters, is not only where we look during Mass, but where we look in life. Because one can pray facing God and then live facing men.

2. The great enemy: human respect

And what makes us live facing men? What the saints called "human respect": the fear of what others will say.

It is that fear of looking bad, of seeming old-fashioned, fanatical, or "too Catholic," that leads us to keep silent when we should speak, or to stop doing good so as not to draw attention.

Let us take some simple examples:

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And so, little by little, one ends up living face to face with men and with one's back turned to God.

Saint Paul put it bluntly: if I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ (Gal 1:10). And the Lord Himself warned that whoever is ashamed of Him before this generation, of that one He too will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father (Mk 8:38).

Notice: "when He comes." Advent again.

Human respect is, in the end, a way of falling asleep: it is like the gatekeeper who, instead of watching the door through which his master will come, spends the whole night worrying about what the neighbors think.

3. How can we live face to face with God this Advent?

The Cristero martyrs of Mexico had no human respect. Saint José Sánchez del Río, only fourteen years old, chose to die crying out

November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

"¡Viva Cristo Rey!" rather than deny his faith to please his executioners. He lived, and he died, face to face with God.

Thanks be to God, we are not asked for that much. But we are asked for a few concrete things this Advent:

- An examination of conscience every night, asking ourselves: today, did I live facing God, or facing others?
- A good confession before Christmas.
- One small act of Christian courage each week: making the Sign of the Cross in public, praying before meals, defending the Church when she is attacked, inviting someone to Mass.

No one becomes brave all at once; courage, too, must be trained.

✠ ✠ ✠

Today Saint Paul reminded us that God is faithful, and that He has called us into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord (1 Cor 1:9). God is faithful… The question is whether we will be faithful to Him, even when it costs us.

On the day the Master of the house returns, He will not ask us what others said about us, but what we did with Him.

Let us ask for this grace from the Blessed Virgin Mary, who lived face to face with God better than anyone, who said "Behold the handmaid of the Lord" without caring what others might think: may she help us, this Advent, to wait for her Son wide awake, without fear of what people will say, and with our eyes fixed on Him. Amen.

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

Sunday Gospel: *Mk. 13:33-37*

Jesus said to his disciples: "Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come. It is like a man traveling abroad. He leaves home and places his servants in charge, each with his own work, and orders the gatekeeper to be on the watch. Watch, therefore; you do not know when the lord of the house is coming, whether in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to all: 'Watch!'"

Our Lord gives no date because He wants us ready at every hour. The servant who is "sleeping" is the soul in mortal sin. To the world he may look perfectly well, but in the eyes of God his soul is dead. As the month of the Holy Souls comes to a close, we are reminded that death comes when no man expects it, and whatever state it finds us in is the state we keep for all eternity. That is why Holy Mother Church gives us Advent as a season of penance. Do not wait for a more convenient time. Let us each prepare as well as we can by making a good Confession during this holy season, so that whenever the Master comes, He may find us awake.

Semper Virgo

A Marian Pilgrimage to Guadalupe 2031

Cardinal Burke invites the faithful to a **daily Marian devotion** preparing for the 500th anniversary of Our Lady of Guadalupe in 2031. Each morning, receive a short meditation on the Mother of God.

Begins **Dec. 12, 2026**, Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Sign up free: **sempervirgo.org**

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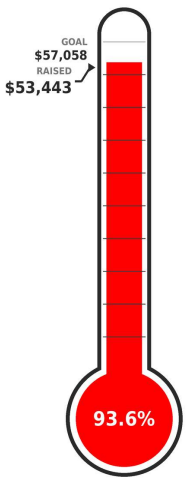

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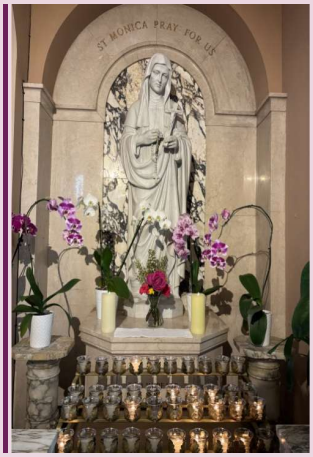

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Sign up free: **sempervirgo.org**

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It takes two minutes!

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Archdiocese Annual Appeal

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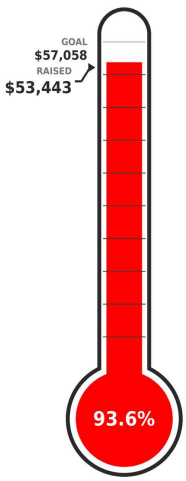
Help us reach our goal! Only 5 weeks left this year.



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Star of the Sea & Stella Maris Academy

4420 Geary Blvd SF CA 94118

St Nicholas

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Handmade Gifts! Made by 14 artisans.

DECEMBER 2026

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November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

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Christmas Poinsettias



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To cover their cost, we kindly ask for your help through a **special collection this Sunday**.

Every gift, large or small, helps make our churches beautiful for the Christ Child.

Poinsettia Collection this Sunday

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

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The evergreen circle stands for the eternity of God, who has no beginning and no end. The **three violet candles** stand for penance and watchful prayer; the **rose candle**, lit on Gaudete Sunday, for the joy of Christ's nearness. Light one more candle each week as Christmas draws near.

Prayer for the First Week

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Between the 11 AM and 1 PM Masses
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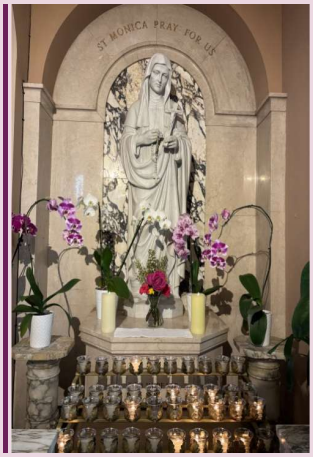

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Saint Thomas the Apostle
Parish

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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
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PASTOR'S LETTER



Living Face to Face with God

Fr. Javier Olivera Ravasi

San Francisco, November 29, 2026.
First Sunday of Advent.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Today we begin Advent and, with it, a new liturgical year. The Church, like a good Mother, wakes us up with a word that the Lord repeats again and again in today's Gospel: "Watch!"

Jesus tells us the story of a man who goes on a journey. He leaves his house in the care of his servants, gives each one his work, and orders the gatekeeper to stay awake. For they do not know when the master of the house will return: in the evening, at midnight, at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find us sleeping.





That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

1. Living face to face with God means knowing that He sees us

The one who lives face to face with God knows that everything he does, he does in His presence: at Mass, yes, but also at work, at home, with his phone in his hand, when no one is watching. The Lord said it clearly: your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you (Mt 6:4).

In today's Psalm we ask the Lord to show us His face, so that we may be saved. A Christian is someone who lives seeking the face of God.

That is why, in this Holy Mass, as you can see, the priest and you are all facing the same direction: toward Him, to whom the Holy Sacrifice is offered. The priest is not turning his back on you; we are all walking together, as one people on pilgrimage, looking toward the Lord who comes.

But what matters most, dear brothers and sisters, is not only where we look during Mass, but where we look in life. Because one can pray facing God and then live facing men.

2. The great enemy: human respect

And what makes us live facing men? What the saints called "human respect": the fear of what others will say.

It is that fear of looking bad, of seeming old-fashioned, fanatical, or "too Catholic," that leads us to keep silent when we should speak, or to stop doing good so as not to draw attention.

Let us take some simple examples:

- The one who does not make the Sign of the Cross before eating in a restaurant, out of embarrassment.
- The one who hears jokes about the Church at work or at school and says nothing.
- The father who does not pray with his children so as not to seem "excessive."
- The young person who never mentions going to Mass on Sundays, so as not to be the odd one out.
- Or the one who keeps quiet about the truth on life, family, or marriage, because "you can't say that anymore."

And so, little by little, one ends up living face to face with men and with one's back turned to God.

Saint Paul put it bluntly: if I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ (Gal 1:10). And the Lord Himself warned that whoever is ashamed of Him before this generation, of that one He too will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father (Mk 8:38).

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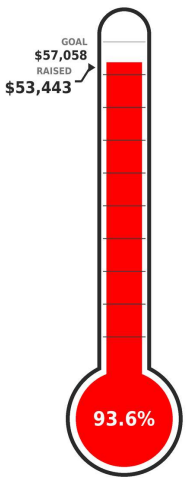

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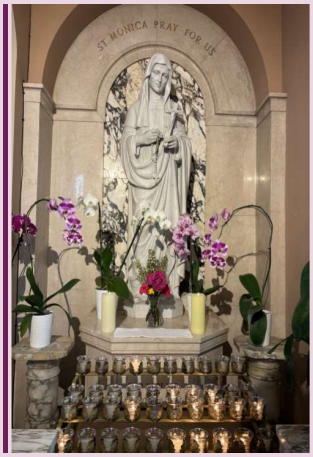

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3835 Balboa St., San Francisco, CA 94121

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

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St. Monica	St. Thomas the Apostle
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PASTOR'S LETTER



Living Face to Face with God

Fr. Javier Olivera Ravasi

San Francisco, November 29, 2026.
First Sunday of Advent.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Today we begin Advent and, with it, a new liturgical year. The Church, like a good Mother, wakes us up with a word that the Lord repeats again and again in today's Gospel: "Watch!"

Jesus tells us the story of a man who goes on a journey. He leaves his house in the care of his servants, gives each one his work, and orders the gatekeeper to stay awake. For they do not know when the master of the house will return: in the evening, at midnight, at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find us sleeping.





That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

1. Living face to face with God means knowing that He sees us

The one who lives face to face with God knows that everything he does, he does in His presence: at Mass, yes, but also at work, at home, with his phone in his hand, when no one is watching. The Lord said it clearly: your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you (Mt 6:4).

In today's Psalm we ask the Lord to show us His face, so that we may be saved. A Christian is someone who lives seeking the face of God.

That is why, in this Holy Mass, as you can see, the priest and you are all facing the same direction: toward Him, to whom the Holy Sacrifice is offered. The priest is not turning his back on you; we are all walking together, as one people on pilgrimage, looking toward the Lord who comes.

But what matters most, dear brothers and sisters, is not only where we look during Mass, but where we look in life. Because one can pray facing God and then live facing men.

2. The great enemy: human respect

And what makes us live facing men? What the saints called "human respect": the fear of what others will say.

It is that fear of looking bad, of seeming old-fashioned, fanatical, or "too Catholic," that leads us to keep silent when we should speak, or to stop doing good so as not to draw attention.

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Saint Paul put it bluntly: if I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ (Gal 1:10). And the Lord Himself warned that whoever is ashamed of Him before this generation, of that one He too will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father (Mk 8:38).

Notice: "when He comes." Advent again.

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Today Saint Paul reminded us that God is faithful, and that He has called us into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord (1 Cor 1:9). God is faithful… The question is whether we will be faithful to Him, even when it costs us.

On the day the Master of the house returns, He will not ask us what others said about us, but what we did with Him.

Let us ask for this grace from the Blessed Virgin Mary, who lived face to face with God better than anyone, who said "Behold the handmaid of the Lord" without caring what others might think: may she help us, this Advent, to wait for her Son wide awake, without fear of what people will say, and with our eyes fixed on Him. Amen.

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Parochial Administrator
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Sunday Gospel: *Mk. 13:33-37*

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Begins **Dec. 12, 2026**, Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Sign up free: **sempervirgo.org**

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"The confession of evil works is the beginning of good works."
— St. Augustine

Do not let Christmas find your soul unready.

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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

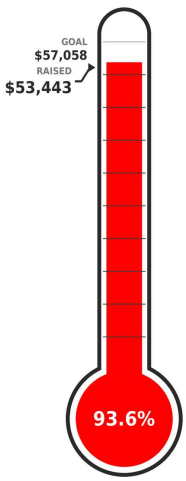
Give online, set up **recurring giving**, or remember the parish in your **will or estate**. Thank you!

Scan to give online ►

Archdiocese Annual Appeal

PARISH GOAL	RAISED SO FAR	STILL NEEDED
$57,058	$53,443	$3,615

Help us reach our goal! Only 5 weeks left this year.



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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/

Archdiocesan Annual Appeal 2026 Goal: $6,450,000

Star of the Sea & Stella Maris Academy

4420 Geary Blvd SF CA 94118

St Nicholas

CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE

Handmade Gifts! Made by 14 artisans.

DECEMBER 2026

AUDITORIUM

Friday 4, 2pm-7pm
Saturday 5, 9am-6pm
Sunday 6, 9am-2pm



Enjoy Hot Chocolate & Pastries While You Shop!



November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

ST. MONICA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH

Christmas Poinsettias



Please use this envelope
Use este sobre

As we prepare to celebrate the **Birth of Our Lord**, we wish to adorn the altars of St. Monica and St. Thomas the Apostle with **poinsettias for Christmas**.

To cover their cost, we kindly ask for your help through a **special collection this Sunday**.

Every gift, large or small, helps make our churches beautiful for the Christ Child.

Poinsettia Collection this Sunday

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

The Advent Wreath

The evergreen circle stands for the eternity of God, who has no beginning and no end. The **three violet candles** stand for penance and watchful prayer; the **rose candle**, lit on Gaudete Sunday, for the joy of Christ's nearness. Light one more candle each week as Christmas draws near.

Prayer for the First Week

Stir up Thy power, we beseech Thee, O Lord, and come: that from the threatening dangers of our sins we may deserve to be rescued by Thy protection, and to be saved by Thy deliverance. Who livest and reignest for ever and ever. Amen.

Sunday Collection

Collection	St. Monica	St. Thomas
Sunday (English)	$1,531.00	$1,137.00
Vietnamese	—	$514.00

ST. MONICA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH

Procession in Honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Procesión en honor a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe





DECEMBER · DICIEMBRE
13
SUNDAY · DOMINGO
12:00 NOON
MEDIODÍA

St. Monica Church
470 24th Ave., San Francisco

Between the 11 AM and 1 PM Masses
Entre las Misas de 11 AM y 1 PM

You are invited!

Join us as we walk in procession around **St. Monica Church** to honor **Our Lady of Guadalupe**, Mother of the Americas. Bring your family and flowers!

¡Están invitados!

Acompáñenos en procesión alrededor de la **iglesia Santa Mónica** para honrar a **Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe**, Madre de las Américas. ¡Traiga a su familia y flores!

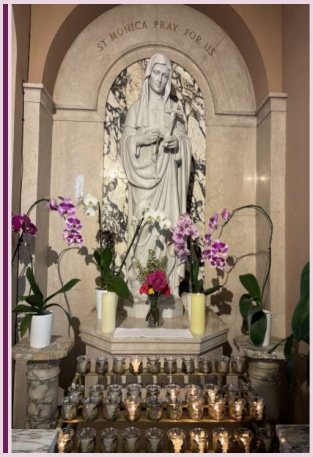
"¿No estoy yo aquí, que soy tu madre?"
¡Viva la Virgen de Guadalupe!

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 help make sandwiches each month, and to those who shop for supplies and deliver to the shelter the next day! Sandwich making is the **3rd Wednesday of every month.**

Next: Wed., Dec. 16 · 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**.

November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

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
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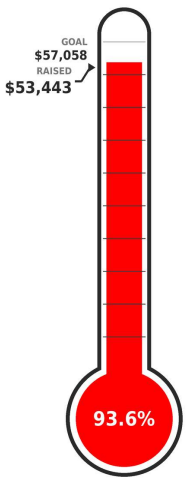

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Sunday Collection

Collection	St. Monica	St. Thomas
Sunday (English)	$1,531.00	$1,137.00
Vietnamese	—	$514.00

ST. MONICA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH

Procession in Honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Procesión en honor a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe





DECEMBER · DICIEMBRE
13
SUNDAY · DOMINGO
12:00 NOON
MEDIODÍA

St. Monica Church
470 24th Ave., San Francisco

Between the 11 AM and 1 PM Masses
Entre las Misas de 11 AM y 1 PM

You are invited!

Join us as we walk in procession around **St. Monica Church** to honor **Our Lady of Guadalupe**, Mother of the Americas. Bring your family and flowers!

¡Están invitados!

Acompáñenos en procesión alrededor de la **iglesia Santa Mónica** para honrar a **Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe**, Madre de las Américas. ¡Traiga a su familia y flores!

"¿No estoy yo aquí, que soy tu madre?"
¡Viva la Virgen de Guadalupe!

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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.

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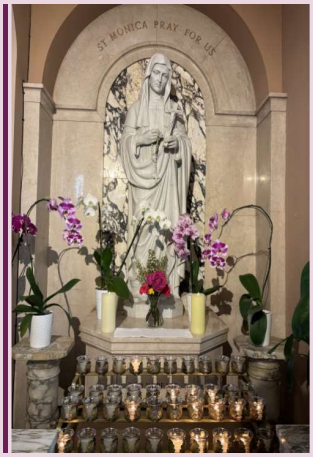

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November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

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Parish

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PASTOR'S LETTER



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San Francisco, November 29, 2026.
First Sunday of Advent.

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That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

1. Living face to face with God means knowing that He sees us

The one who lives face to face with God knows that everything he does, he does in His presence: at Mass, yes, but also at work, at home, with his phone in his hand, when no one is watching. The Lord said it clearly: your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you (Mt 6:4).

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But what matters most, dear brothers and sisters, is not only where we look during Mass, but where we look in life. Because one can pray facing God and then live facing men.

2. The great enemy: human respect

And what makes us live facing men? What the saints called "human respect": the fear of what others will say.

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Let us ask for this grace from the Blessed Virgin Mary, who lived face to face with God better than anyone, who said "Behold the handmaid of the Lord" without caring what others might think: may she help us, this Advent, to wait for her Son wide awake, without fear of what people will say, and with our eyes fixed on Him. Amen.

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Parochial Administrator
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PRAY · GATHER · BELONG · GIVE

PRAY · FRIDAY ADORATION

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Fridays 9am – 5pm · Our Lord is waiting for you!



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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?"*

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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

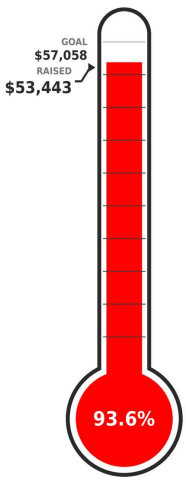
Give online, set up **recurring giving**, or remember the parish in your **will or estate**. Thank you!

Scan to give online ►

Archdiocese Annual Appeal

PARISH GOAL	RAISED SO FAR	STILL NEEDED
$57,058	$53,443	$3,615

Help us reach our goal! Only 5 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.

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

Archdiocesan Annual Appeal 2026 Goal: $6,450,000

Star of the Sea & Stella Maris Academy

4420 Geary Blvd SF CA 94118

St Nicholas

CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE

Handmade Gifts! Made by 14 artisans.

DECEMBER 2026

AUDITORIUM

Friday 4, 2pm-7pm
Saturday 5, 9am-6pm
Sunday 6, 9am-2pm



Enjoy Hot Chocolate & Pastries While You Shop!



November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

ST. MONICA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH

Christmas Poinsettias



Please use this envelope
Use este sobre

As we prepare to celebrate the **Birth of Our Lord**, we wish to adorn the altars of St. Monica and St. Thomas the Apostle with **poinsettias for Christmas**.

To cover their cost, we kindly ask for your help through a **special collection this Sunday**.

Every gift, large or small, helps make our churches beautiful for the Christ Child.

Poinsettia Collection this Sunday

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

The Advent Wreath

The evergreen circle stands for the eternity of God, who has no beginning and no end. The **three violet candles** stand for penance and watchful prayer; the **rose candle**, lit on Gaudete Sunday, for the joy of Christ's nearness. Light one more candle each week as Christmas draws near.

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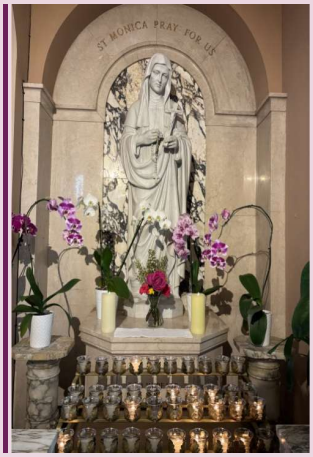

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GATHER · SUNDAY HOSPITALITY





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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

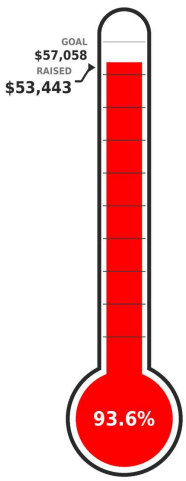
Give online, set up **recurring giving**, or remember the parish in your **will or estate**. Thank you!

Scan to give online ►

Archdiocese Annual Appeal

PARISH GOAL	RAISED SO FAR	STILL NEEDED
$57,058	$53,443	$3,615

Help us reach our goal! Only 5 weeks left this year.



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November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

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To cover their cost, we kindly ask for your help through a **special collection this Sunday**.

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The evergreen circle stands for the eternity of God, who has no beginning and no end. The **three violet candles** stand for penance and watchful prayer; the **rose candle**, lit on Gaudete Sunday, for the joy of Christ's nearness. Light one more candle each week as Christmas draws near.

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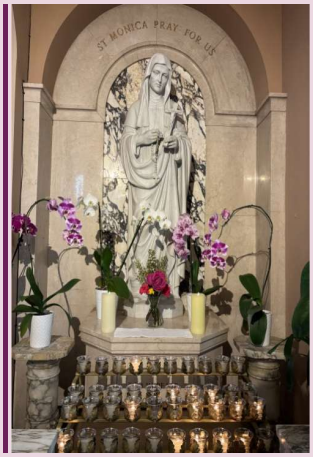

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That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

1. Living face to face with God means knowing that He sees us

The one who lives face to face with God knows that everything he does, he does in His presence: at Mass, yes, but also at work, at home, with his phone in his hand, when no one is watching. The Lord said it clearly: your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you (Mt 6:4).

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On the day the Master of the house returns, He will not ask us what others said about us, but what we did with Him.

Let us ask for this grace from the Blessed Virgin Mary, who lived face to face with God better than anyone, who said "Behold the handmaid of the Lord" without caring what others might think: may she help us, this Advent, to wait for her Son wide awake, without fear of what people will say, and with our eyes fixed on Him. Amen.

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

Sunday Gospel: *Mk. 13:33-37*

Jesus said to his disciples: "Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come. It is like a man traveling abroad. He leaves home and places his servants in charge, each with his own work, and orders the gatekeeper to be on the watch. Watch, therefore; you do not know when the lord of the house is coming, whether in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to all: 'Watch!'"

Our Lord gives no date because He wants us ready at every hour. The servant who is "sleeping" is the soul in mortal sin. To the world he may look perfectly well, but in the eyes of God his soul is dead. As the month of the Holy Souls comes to a close, we are reminded that death comes when no man expects it, and whatever state it finds us in is the state we keep for all eternity. That is why Holy Mother Church gives us Advent as a season of penance. Do not wait for a more convenient time. Let us each prepare as well as we can by making a good Confession during this holy season, so that whenever the Master comes, He may find us awake.

Semper Virgo

A Marian Pilgrimage to Guadalupe 2031

Cardinal Burke invites the faithful to a **daily Marian devotion** preparing for the 500th anniversary of Our Lady of Guadalupe in 2031. Each morning, receive a short meditation on the Mother of God.

Begins **Dec. 12, 2026**, Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Sign up free: **sempervirgo.org**

Liturgical Calendar	
Sun 11/29	First Sunday of Advent
Mon 11/30	St. Andrew, Apostle
Tues 12/1	Advent Weekday
Wed 12/2	Advent Weekday
Thurs 12/3	St. Francis Xavier
Fri 12/4	Advent Weekday · St. John Damascene
Sat 12/5	Advent Weekday

Make a Good Confession

Prepare ye the way of the Lord!

Confessions at St. Monica
Mon–Fri: before and after Mass
Saturday: 4:20 PM · Sunday: after Mass

Why go to Confession? Mortal sin robs the soul of sanctifying grace. In His mercy Christ gave His Church the Sacrament of Penance to restore it. The Fathers of the Church call it "the second plank [of salvation] after the shipwreck which is the loss of grace." *(CCC 1446)*

Even our daily faults are worth confessing. Holy Mother Church strongly recommends it, for regular Confession "helps us form our conscience, fight against evil tendencies, let ourselves be healed by Christ and progress in the life of the Spirit." *(CCC 1458)*

"The confession of evil works is the beginning of good works."
— St. Augustine

Do not let Christmas find your soul unready.

Mass Intentions

	St. Monica		St. Thomas the Apostle	
Sunday 11/29	11:00am 1:00pm	Betty & Morelia Bermejo † Gilda Maria Mangana † Int. for the Parishioners	9:30am	Adelaida Maximo Iglesias †
Monday 11/30	8:00am	Ann Yan Lam-Lau	8:30am	Robert Anselmo Han †
Tuesday 12/01	8:00am	Rene Revel †		No Mass
Wednesday 12/02	8:00am	Mercedes Yazdini, Birthday	8:30am	Veronico Flores Fabular †
Thursday 12/03	8:00am	Lucio Aguirre †		No Mass
Friday 12/04	8:00am	Francisco Matturano-Gomez †	8:30am	Int. of the People of the Parish
Saturday 12/05	5:00pm	Santiago & Enelia Pacheco †	8:30am	Int. of the People of the Parish

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

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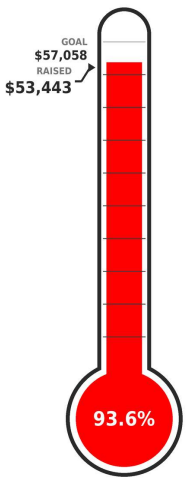

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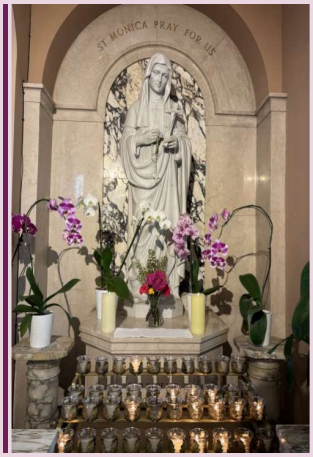

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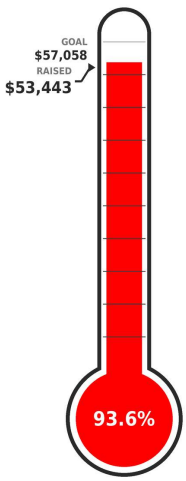

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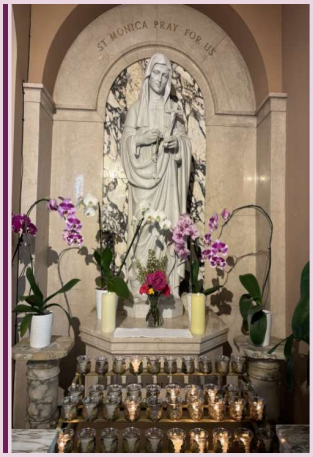

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PASTOR'S LETTER



Living Face to Face with God

Fr. Javier Olivera Ravasi

San Francisco, November 29, 2026.
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Dear brothers and sisters,

Today we begin Advent and, with it, a new liturgical year. The Church, like a good Mother, wakes us up with a word that the Lord repeats again and again in today's Gospel: "Watch!"

Jesus tells us the story of a man who goes on a journey. He leaves his house in the care of his servants, gives each one his work, and orders the gatekeeper to stay awake. For they do not know when the master of the house will return: in the evening, at midnight, at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find us sleeping.





That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

1. Living face to face with God means knowing that He sees us

The one who lives face to face with God knows that everything he does, he does in His presence: at Mass, yes, but also at work, at home, with his phone in his hand, when no one is watching. The Lord said it clearly: your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you (Mt 6:4).

In today's Psalm we ask the Lord to show us His face, so that we may be saved. A Christian is someone who lives seeking the face of God.

That is why, in this Holy Mass, as you can see, the priest and you are all facing the same direction: toward Him, to whom the Holy Sacrifice is offered. The priest is not turning his back on you; we are all walking together, as one people on pilgrimage, looking toward the Lord who comes.

But what matters most, dear brothers and sisters, is not only where we look during Mass, but where we look in life. Because one can pray facing God and then live facing men.

2. The great enemy: human respect

And what makes us live facing men? What the saints called "human respect": the fear of what others will say.

It is that fear of looking bad, of seeming old-fashioned, fanatical, or "too Catholic," that leads us to keep silent when we should speak, or to stop doing good so as not to draw attention.

Let us take some simple examples:

- The one who does not make the Sign of the Cross before eating in a restaurant, out of embarrassment.
- The one who hears jokes about the Church at work or at school and says nothing.
- The father who does not pray with his children so as not to seem "excessive."
- The young person who never mentions going to Mass on Sundays, so as not to be the odd one out.
- Or the one who keeps quiet about the truth on life, family, or marriage, because "you can't say that anymore."

And so, little by little, one ends up living face to face with men and with one's back turned to God.

Saint Paul put it bluntly: if I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ (Gal 1:10). And the Lord Himself warned that whoever is ashamed of Him before this generation, of that one He too will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father (Mk 8:38).

Notice: "when He comes." Advent again.

Human respect is, in the end, a way of falling asleep: it is like the gatekeeper who, instead of watching the door through which his master will come, spends the whole night worrying about what the neighbors think.

3. How can we live face to face with God this Advent?

The Cristero martyrs of Mexico had no human respect. Saint José Sánchez del Río, only fourteen years old, chose to die crying out

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"¡Viva Cristo Rey!" rather than deny his faith to please his executioners. He lived, and he died, face to face with God.

Thanks be to God, we are not asked for that much. But we are asked for a few concrete things this Advent:

- An examination of conscience every night, asking ourselves: today, did I live facing God, or facing others?
- A good confession before Christmas.
- One small act of Christian courage each week: making the Sign of the Cross in public, praying before meals, defending the Church when she is attacked, inviting someone to Mass.

No one becomes brave all at once; courage, too, must be trained.

✠ ✠ ✠

Today Saint Paul reminded us that God is faithful, and that He has called us into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord (1 Cor 1:9). God is faithful… The question is whether we will be faithful to Him, even when it costs us.

On the day the Master of the house returns, He will not ask us what others said about us, but what we did with Him.

Let us ask for this grace from the Blessed Virgin Mary, who lived face to face with God better than anyone, who said "Behold the handmaid of the Lord" without caring what others might think: may she help us, this Advent, to wait for her Son wide awake, without fear of what people will say, and with our eyes fixed on Him. Amen.

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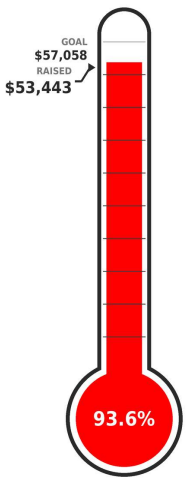

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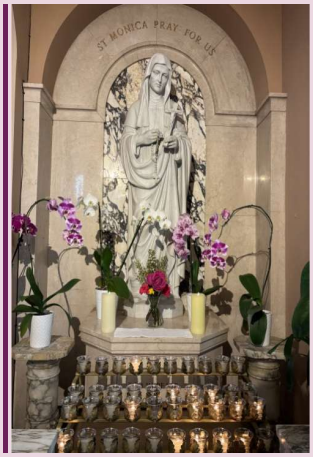

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Registering helps us know and serve your family.
It takes two minutes!

Scan to join our parish ►

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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
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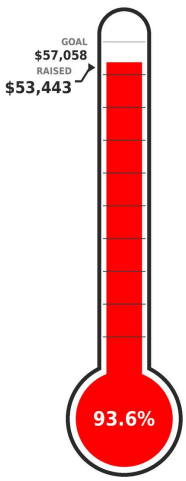
Help us reach our goal! Only 5 weeks left this year.



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November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

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To cover their cost, we kindly ask for your help through a **special collection this Sunday**.

Every gift, large or small, helps make our churches beautiful for the Christ Child.

Poinsettia Collection this Sunday

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

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The evergreen circle stands for the eternity of God, who has no beginning and no end. The **three violet candles** stand for penance and watchful prayer; the **rose candle**, lit on Gaudete Sunday, for the joy of Christ's nearness. Light one more candle each week as Christmas draws near.

Prayer for the First Week

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Between the 11 AM and 1 PM Masses
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You are invited!

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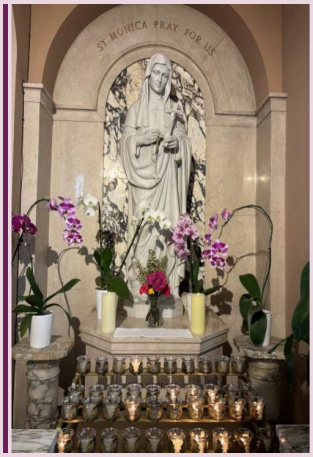

Light a candle today!

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 help make sandwiches each month, and to those who shop for supplies and deliver to the shelter the next day! Sandwich making is the **3rd Wednesday of every month.**

Next: Wed., Dec. 16 · 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**.

November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

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
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PASTOR'S LETTER



Living Face to Face with God

Fr. Javier Olivera Ravasi

San Francisco, November 29, 2026.
First Sunday of Advent.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Today we begin Advent and, with it, a new liturgical year. The Church, like a good Mother, wakes us up with a word that the Lord repeats again and again in today's Gospel: "Watch!"

Jesus tells us the story of a man who goes on a journey. He leaves his house in the care of his servants, gives each one his work, and orders the gatekeeper to stay awake. For they do not know when the master of the house will return: in the evening, at midnight, at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find us sleeping.





That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

1. Living face to face with God means knowing that He sees us

The one who lives face to face with God knows that everything he does, he does in His presence: at Mass, yes, but also at work, at home, with his phone in his hand, when no one is watching. The Lord said it clearly: your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you (Mt 6:4).

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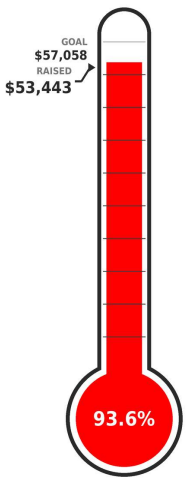

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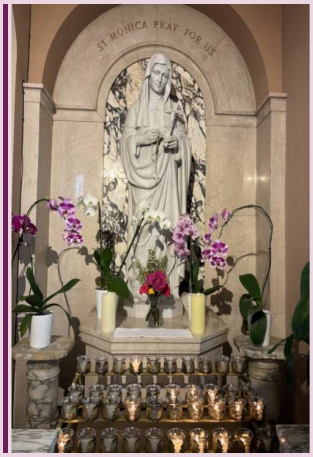

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PASTOR'S LETTER



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First Sunday of Advent.

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That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

1. Living face to face with God means knowing that He sees us

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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

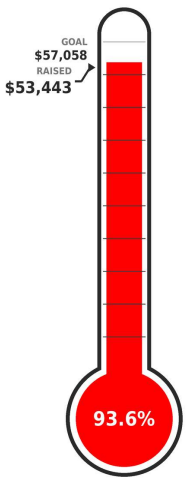
Give online, set up **recurring giving**, or remember the parish in your **will or estate**. Thank you!

Scan to give online ►

Archdiocese Annual Appeal

PARISH GOAL	RAISED SO FAR	STILL NEEDED
$57,058	$53,443	$3,615

Help us reach our goal! Only 5 weeks left this year.



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

Archdiocesan Annual Appeal 2026 Goal: $6,450,000

Star of the Sea & Stella Maris Academy

4420 Geary Blvd SF CA 94118

St Nicholas

CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE

Handmade Gifts! Made by 14 artisans.

DECEMBER 2026

AUDITORIUM

Friday 4, 2pm-7pm
Saturday 5, 9am-6pm
Sunday 6, 9am-2pm



Enjoy Hot Chocolate & Pastries While You Shop!



November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

ST. MONICA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH

Christmas Poinsettias



Please use this envelope
Use este sobre

As we prepare to celebrate the **Birth of Our Lord**, we wish to adorn the altars of St. Monica and St. Thomas the Apostle with **poinsettias for Christmas**.

To cover their cost, we kindly ask for your help through a **special collection this Sunday**.

Every gift, large or small, helps make our churches beautiful for the Christ Child.

Poinsettia Collection this Sunday

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

The Advent Wreath

The evergreen circle stands for the eternity of God, who has no beginning and no end. The **three violet candles** stand for penance and watchful prayer; the **rose candle**, lit on Gaudete Sunday, for the joy of Christ's nearness. Light one more candle each week as Christmas draws near.

Prayer for the First Week

Stir up Thy power, we beseech Thee, O Lord, and come: that from the threatening dangers of our sins we may deserve to be rescued by Thy protection, and to be saved by Thy deliverance. Who livest and reignest for ever and ever. Amen.

Sunday Collection

Collection	St. Monica	St. Thomas
Sunday (English)	$1,531.00	$1,137.00
Vietnamese	—	$514.00

ST. MONICA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH

Procession in Honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Procesión en honor a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe





DECEMBER · DICIEMBRE
13
SUNDAY · DOMINGO
12:00 NOON
MEDIODÍA

St. Monica Church
470 24th Ave., San Francisco

Between the 11 AM and 1 PM Masses
Entre las Misas de 11 AM y 1 PM

You are invited!

Join us as we walk in procession around **St. Monica Church** to honor **Our Lady of Guadalupe**, Mother of the Americas. Bring your family and flowers!

¡Están invitados!

Acompáñenos en procesión alrededor de la **iglesia Santa Mónica** para honrar a **Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe**, Madre de las Américas. ¡Traiga a su familia y flores!

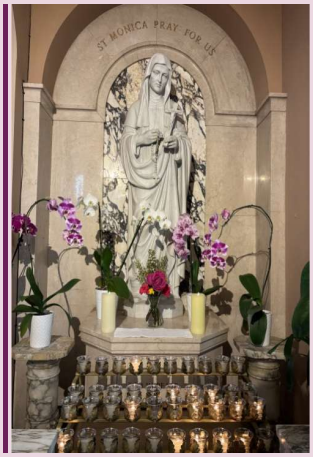
"¿No estoy yo aquí, que soy tu madre?"
¡Viva la Virgen de Guadalupe!

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.



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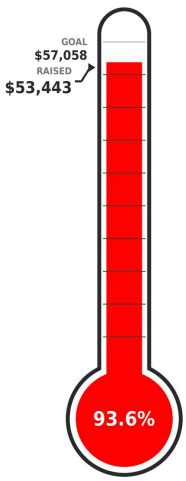

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To learn more about the Archdiocese Annual Appeal, and to donate, please visit https://sfarch.org/aaa/

Archdiocesan Annual Appeal 2026 Goal: $6,450,000

Star of the Sea & Stella Maris Academy

4420 Geary Blvd SF CA 94118

St Nicholas

CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE

Handmade Gifts! Made by 14 artisans.

DECEMBER 2026

AUDITORIUM

Friday 4, 2pm-7pm
Saturday 5, 9am-6pm
Sunday 6, 9am-2pm



Enjoy Hot Chocolate & Pastries While You Shop!



November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

ST. MONICA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH

Christmas Poinsettias



Please use this envelope
Use este sobre

As we prepare to celebrate the **Birth of Our Lord**, we wish to adorn the altars of St. Monica and St. Thomas the Apostle with **poinsettias for Christmas**.

To cover their cost, we kindly ask for your help through a **special collection this Sunday**.

Every gift, large or small, helps make our churches beautiful for the Christ Child.

Poinsettia Collection this Sunday

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

The Advent Wreath

The evergreen circle stands for the eternity of God, who has no beginning and no end. The **three violet candles** stand for penance and watchful prayer; the **rose candle**, lit on Gaudete Sunday, for the joy of Christ's nearness. Light one more candle each week as Christmas draws near.

Prayer for the First Week

Stir up Thy power, we beseech Thee, O Lord, and come: that from the threatening dangers of our sins we may deserve to be rescued by Thy protection, and to be saved by Thy deliverance. Who livest and reignest for ever and ever. Amen.

Sunday Collection

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Procession in Honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Procesión en honor a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe





DECEMBER · DICIEMBRE
13
SUNDAY · DOMINGO
12:00 NOON
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St. Monica Church
470 24th Ave., San Francisco

Between the 11 AM and 1 PM Masses
Entre las Misas de 11 AM y 1 PM

You are invited!

Join us as we walk in procession around **St. Monica Church** to honor **Our Lady of Guadalupe**, Mother of the Americas. Bring your family and flowers!

¡Están invitados!

Acompáñenos en procesión alrededor de la **iglesia Santa Mónica** para honrar a **Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe**, Madre de las Américas. ¡Traiga a su familia y flores!

"¿No estoy yo aquí, que soy tu madre?"
¡Viva la Virgen de Guadalupe!

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.

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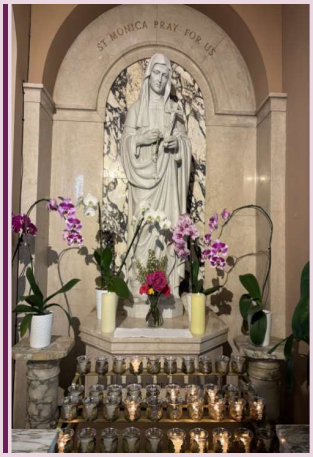

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Saint Thomas the Apostle
Parish

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www.smstaparishsf.org
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Clergy	Staff
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PASTOR'S LETTER



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That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

1. Living face to face with God means knowing that He sees us

The one who lives face to face with God knows that everything he does, he does in His presence: at Mass, yes, but also at work, at home, with his phone in his hand, when no one is watching. The Lord said it clearly: your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you (Mt 6:4).

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But what matters most, dear brothers and sisters, is not only where we look during Mass, but where we look in life. Because one can pray facing God and then live facing men.

2. The great enemy: human respect

And what makes us live facing men? What the saints called "human respect": the fear of what others will say.

It is that fear of looking bad, of seeming old-fashioned, fanatical, or "too Catholic," that leads us to keep silent when we should speak, or to stop doing good so as not to draw attention.

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Saint Paul put it bluntly: if I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ (Gal 1:10). And the Lord Himself warned that whoever is ashamed of Him before this generation, of that one He too will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father (Mk 8:38).

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On the day the Master of the house returns, He will not ask us what others said about us, but what we did with Him.

Let us ask for this grace from the Blessed Virgin Mary, who lived face to face with God better than anyone, who said "Behold the handmaid of the Lord" without caring what others might think: may she help us, this Advent, to wait for her Son wide awake, without fear of what people will say, and with our eyes fixed on Him. Amen.

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Parochial Administrator
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Sunday Gospel: *Mk. 13:33-37*

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Our Lord gives no date because He wants us ready at every hour. The servant who is "sleeping" is the soul in mortal sin. To the world he may look perfectly well, but in the eyes of God his soul is dead. As the month of the Holy Souls comes to a close, we are reminded that death comes when no man expects it, and whatever state it finds us in is the state we keep for all eternity. That is why Holy Mother Church gives us Advent as a season of penance. Do not wait for a more convenient time. Let us each prepare as well as we can by making a good Confession during this holy season, so that whenever the Master comes, He may find us awake.

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"The confession of evil works is the beginning of good works."
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Do not let Christmas find your soul unready.

Mass Intentions

	St. Monica		St. Thomas the Apostle	
Sunday 11/29	11:00am 1:00pm	Betty & Morelia Bermejo † Gilda Maria Mangana † Int. for the Parishioners	9:30am	Adelaida Maximo Iglesias †
Monday 11/30	8:00am	Ann Yan Lam-Lau	8:30am	Robert Anselmo Han †
Tuesday 12/01	8:00am	Rene Revel †		No Mass
Wednesday 12/02	8:00am	Mercedes Yazdini, Birthday	8:30am	Veronico Flores Fabular †
Thursday 12/03	8:00am	Lucio Aguirre †		No Mass
Friday 12/04	8:00am	Francisco Matturano-Gomez †	8:30am	Int. of the People of the Parish
Saturday 12/05	5:00pm	Santiago & Enelia Pacheco †	8:30am	Int. of the People of the Parish

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

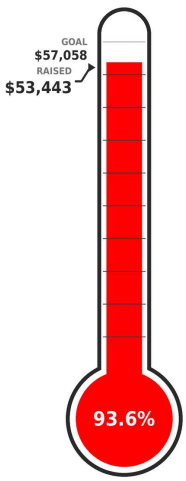
Give online, set up **recurring giving**, or remember the parish in your **will or estate**. Thank you!

Scan to give online ►

Archdiocese Annual Appeal

PARISH GOAL	RAISED SO FAR	STILL NEEDED
$57,058	$53,443	$3,615

Help us reach our goal! Only 5 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.

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13
SUNDAY · DOMINGO
12:00 NOON
MEDIODÍA

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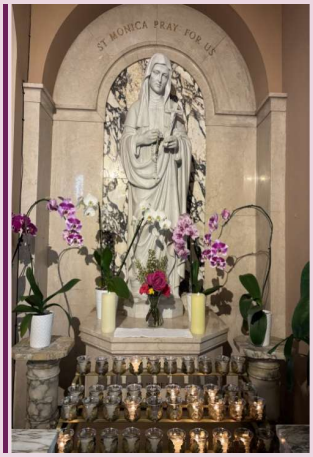

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PRAY · GATHER · BELONG · GIVE

PRAY · FRIDAY ADORATION

Adorers Needed

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It takes two minutes!

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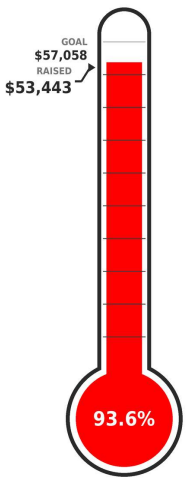
Archdiocese Annual Appeal

PARISH GOAL	RAISED SO FAR	STILL NEEDED
$57,058	$53,443	$3,615

Help us reach our goal! Only 5 weeks left this year.



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November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

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Use este sobre

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To cover their cost, we kindly ask for your help through a **special collection this Sunday**.

Every gift, large or small, helps make our churches beautiful for the Christ Child.

Poinsettia Collection this Sunday

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The evergreen circle stands for the eternity of God, who has no beginning and no end. The **three violet candles** stand for penance and watchful prayer; the **rose candle**, lit on Gaudete Sunday, for the joy of Christ's nearness. Light one more candle each week as Christmas draws near.

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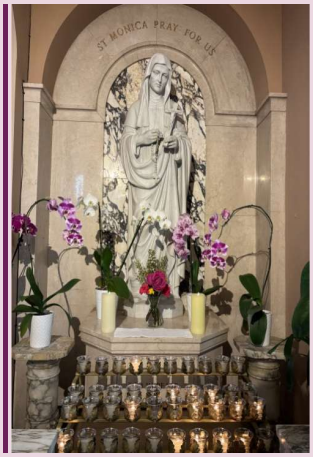

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Saint Thomas the Apostle
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Clergy	Staff
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PASTOR'S LETTER



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That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

1. Living face to face with God means knowing that He sees us

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But what matters most, dear brothers and sisters, is not only where we look during Mass, but where we look in life. Because one can pray facing God and then live facing men.

2. The great enemy: human respect

And what makes us live facing men? What the saints called "human respect": the fear of what others will say.

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✠ ✠ ✠

Today Saint Paul reminded us that God is faithful, and that He has called us into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord (1 Cor 1:9). God is faithful… The question is whether we will be faithful to Him, even when it costs us.

On the day the Master of the house returns, He will not ask us what others said about us, but what we did with Him.

Let us ask for this grace from the Blessed Virgin Mary, who lived face to face with God better than anyone, who said "Behold the handmaid of the Lord" without caring what others might think: may she help us, this Advent, to wait for her Son wide awake, without fear of what people will say, and with our eyes fixed on Him. Amen.

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

Sunday Gospel: *Mk. 13:33-37*

Jesus said to his disciples: "Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come. It is like a man traveling abroad. He leaves home and places his servants in charge, each with his own work, and orders the gatekeeper to be on the watch. Watch, therefore; you do not know when the lord of the house is coming, whether in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to all: 'Watch!'"

Our Lord gives no date because He wants us ready at every hour. The servant who is "sleeping" is the soul in mortal sin. To the world he may look perfectly well, but in the eyes of God his soul is dead. As the month of the Holy Souls comes to a close, we are reminded that death comes when no man expects it, and whatever state it finds us in is the state we keep for all eternity. That is why Holy Mother Church gives us Advent as a season of penance. Do not wait for a more convenient time. Let us each prepare as well as we can by making a good Confession during this holy season, so that whenever the Master comes, He may find us awake.

Semper Virgo

A Marian Pilgrimage to Guadalupe 2031

Cardinal Burke invites the faithful to a **daily Marian devotion** preparing for the 500th anniversary of Our Lady of Guadalupe in 2031. Each morning, receive a short meditation on the Mother of God.

Begins **Dec. 12, 2026**, Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Sign up free: **sempervirgo.org**

Liturgical Calendar	
Sun 11/29	First Sunday of Advent
Mon 11/30	St. Andrew, Apostle
Tues 12/1	Advent Weekday
Wed 12/2	Advent Weekday
Thurs 12/3	St. Francis Xavier
Fri 12/4	Advent Weekday · St. John Damascene
Sat 12/5	Advent Weekday

Make a Good Confession

Prepare ye the way of the Lord!

Confessions at St. Monica
Mon–Fri: before and after Mass
Saturday: 4:20 PM · Sunday: after Mass

Why go to Confession? Mortal sin robs the soul of sanctifying grace. In His mercy Christ gave His Church the Sacrament of Penance to restore it. The Fathers of the Church call it "the second plank [of salvation] after the shipwreck which is the loss of grace." *(CCC 1446)*

Even our daily faults are worth confessing. Holy Mother Church strongly recommends it, for regular Confession "helps us form our conscience, fight against evil tendencies, let ourselves be healed by Christ and progress in the life of the Spirit." *(CCC 1458)*

"The confession of evil works is the beginning of good works."
— St. Augustine

Do not let Christmas find your soul unready.

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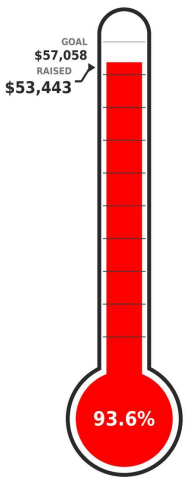

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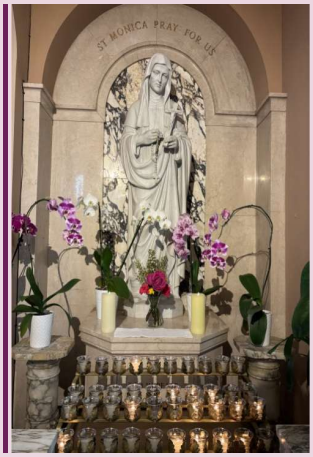

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Parochial Administrator
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Sign up free: **sempervirgo.org**

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

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

Scan to join our parish ►

GIVE: Support Your Parish

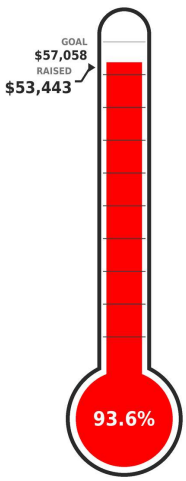
Give online, set up **recurring giving**, or remember the parish in your **will or estate**. Thank you!

Scan to give online ►

Archdiocese Annual Appeal

PARISH GOAL	RAISED SO FAR	STILL NEEDED
$57,058	$53,443	$3,615

Help us reach our goal! Only 5 weeks left this year.



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4420 Geary Blvd SF CA 94118

St Nicholas

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DECEMBER 2026

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Enjoy Hot Chocolate & Pastries While You Shop!



November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

ST. MONICA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH

Christmas Poinsettias



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Use este sobre

As we prepare to celebrate the **Birth of Our Lord**, we wish to adorn the altars of St. Monica and St. Thomas the Apostle with **poinsettias for Christmas**.

To cover their cost, we kindly ask for your help through a **special collection this Sunday**.

Every gift, large or small, helps make our churches beautiful for the Christ Child.

Poinsettia Collection this Sunday

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

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The evergreen circle stands for the eternity of God, who has no beginning and no end. The **three violet candles** stand for penance and watchful prayer; the **rose candle**, lit on Gaudete Sunday, for the joy of Christ's nearness. Light one more candle each week as Christmas draws near.

Prayer for the First Week

Stir up Thy power, we beseech Thee, O Lord, and come: that from the threatening dangers of our sins we may deserve to be rescued by Thy protection, and to be saved by Thy deliverance. Who livest and reignest for ever and ever. Amen.

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You are invited!

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"¿No estoy yo aquí, que soy tu madre?"
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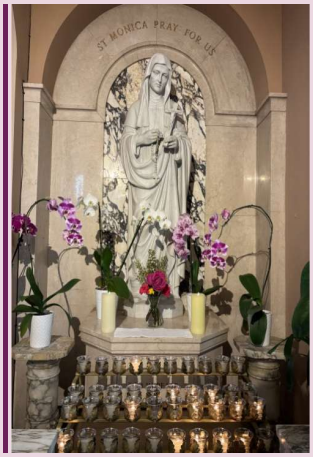

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PASTOR'S LETTER



Living Face to Face with God

Fr. Javier Olivera Ravasi

San Francisco, November 29, 2026.
First Sunday of Advent.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Today we begin Advent and, with it, a new liturgical year. The Church, like a good Mother, wakes us up with a word that the Lord repeats again and again in today's Gospel: "Watch!"

Jesus tells us the story of a man who goes on a journey. He leaves his house in the care of his servants, gives each one his work, and orders the gatekeeper to stay awake. For they do not know when the master of the house will return: in the evening, at midnight, at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find us sleeping.





That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

1. Living face to face with God means knowing that He sees us

The one who lives face to face with God knows that everything he does, he does in His presence: at Mass, yes, but also at work, at home, with his phone in his hand, when no one is watching. The Lord said it clearly: your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you (Mt 6:4).

In today's Psalm we ask the Lord to show us His face, so that we may be saved. A Christian is someone who lives seeking the face of God.

That is why, in this Holy Mass, as you can see, the priest and you are all facing the same direction: toward Him, to whom the Holy Sacrifice is offered. The priest is not turning his back on you; we are all walking together, as one people on pilgrimage, looking toward the Lord who comes.

But what matters most, dear brothers and sisters, is not only where we look during Mass, but where we look in life. Because one can pray facing God and then live facing men.

2. The great enemy: human respect

And what makes us live facing men? What the saints called "human respect": the fear of what others will say.

It is that fear of looking bad, of seeming old-fashioned, fanatical, or "too Catholic," that leads us to keep silent when we should speak, or to stop doing good so as not to draw attention.

Let us take some simple examples:

- The one who does not make the Sign of the Cross before eating in a restaurant, out of embarrassment.
- The one who hears jokes about the Church at work or at school and says nothing.
- The father who does not pray with his children so as not to seem "excessive."
- The young person who never mentions going to Mass on Sundays, so as not to be the odd one out.
- Or the one who keeps quiet about the truth on life, family, or marriage, because "you can't say that anymore."

And so, little by little, one ends up living face to face with men and with one's back turned to God.

Saint Paul put it bluntly: if I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ (Gal 1:10). And the Lord Himself warned that whoever is ashamed of Him before this generation, of that one He too will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father (Mk 8:38).

Notice: "when He comes." Advent again.

Human respect is, in the end, a way of falling asleep: it is like the gatekeeper who, instead of watching the door through which his master will come, spends the whole night worrying about what the neighbors think.

3. How can we live face to face with God this Advent?

The Cristero martyrs of Mexico had no human respect. Saint José Sánchez del Río, only fourteen years old, chose to die crying out

November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

"¡Viva Cristo Rey!" rather than deny his faith to please his executioners. He lived, and he died, face to face with God.

Thanks be to God, we are not asked for that much. But we are asked for a few concrete things this Advent:

- An examination of conscience every night, asking ourselves: today, did I live facing God, or facing others?
- A good confession before Christmas.
- One small act of Christian courage each week: making the Sign of the Cross in public, praying before meals, defending the Church when she is attacked, inviting someone to Mass.

No one becomes brave all at once; courage, too, must be trained.

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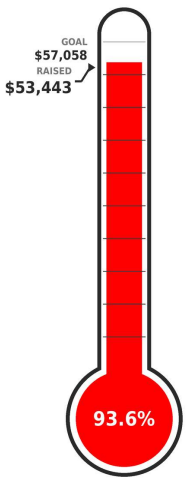

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November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

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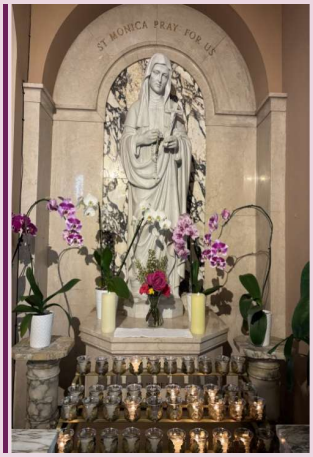

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That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

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The one who lives face to face with God knows that everything he does, he does in His presence: at Mass, yes, but also at work, at home, with his phone in his hand, when no one is watching. The Lord said it clearly: your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you (Mt 6:4).

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Sign up free: **sempervirgo.org**

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PRAY · FRIDAY ADORATION

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

All are welcome!

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

Scan to join our parish ►

GIVE: Support Your Parish

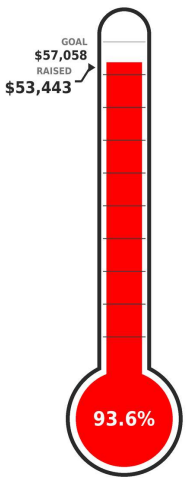
Give online, set up **recurring giving**, or remember the parish in your **will or estate**. Thank you!

Scan to give online ►

Archdiocese Annual Appeal

PARISH GOAL	RAISED SO FAR	STILL NEEDED
$57,058	$53,443	$3,615

Help us reach our goal! Only 5 weeks left this year.



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Star of the Sea & Stella Maris Academy

4420 Geary Blvd SF CA 94118

St Nicholas

CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE

Handmade Gifts! Made by 14 artisans.

DECEMBER 2026

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Enjoy Hot Chocolate & Pastries While You Shop!



November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

ST. MONICA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH

Christmas Poinsettias



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As we prepare to celebrate the **Birth of Our Lord**, we wish to adorn the altars of St. Monica and St. Thomas the Apostle with **poinsettias for Christmas**.

To cover their cost, we kindly ask for your help through a **special collection this Sunday**.

Every gift, large or small, helps make our churches beautiful for the Christ Child.

Poinsettia Collection this Sunday

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

The Advent Wreath

The evergreen circle stands for the eternity of God, who has no beginning and no end. The **three violet candles** stand for penance and watchful prayer; the **rose candle**, lit on Gaudete Sunday, for the joy of Christ's nearness. Light one more candle each week as Christmas draws near.

Prayer for the First Week

Stir up Thy power, we beseech Thee, O Lord, and come: that from the threatening dangers of our sins we may deserve to be rescued by Thy protection, and to be saved by Thy deliverance. Who livest and reignest for ever and ever. Amen.

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13
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12:00 NOON
MEDIODÍA

St. Monica Church
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Between the 11 AM and 1 PM Masses
Entre las Misas de 11 AM y 1 PM

You are invited!

Join us as we walk in procession around **St. Monica Church** to honor **Our Lady of Guadalupe**, Mother of the Americas. Bring your family and flowers!

¡Están invitados!

Acompáñenos en procesión alrededor de la **iglesia Santa Mónica** para honrar a **Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe**, Madre de las Américas. ¡Traiga a su familia y flores!

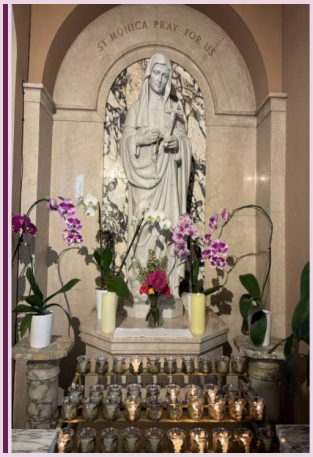
"¿No estoy yo aquí, que soy tu madre?"
¡Viva la Virgen de Guadalupe!

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 help make sandwiches each month, and to those who shop for supplies and deliver to the shelter the next day! Sandwich making is the **3rd Wednesday of every month.**

Next: Wed., Dec. 16 · 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**.

November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

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
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PASTOR'S LETTER



Living Face to Face with God

Fr. Javier Olivera Ravasi

San Francisco, November 29, 2026.
First Sunday of Advent.

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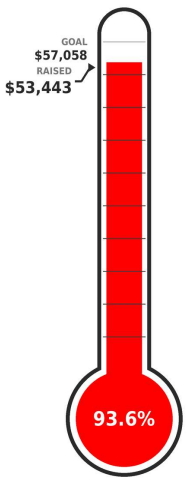

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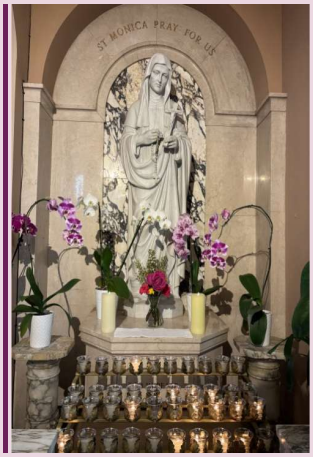
St. Monica Shrine

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

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Thank you to all who help make sandwiches each month, and to those who shop for supplies and deliver to the shelter the next day! Sandwich making is the **3rd Wednesday of every month.**

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St. Monica Parish Hall

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November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

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Saint Thomas the Apostle
Parish

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Telephone: (415)751-5275
www.smstaparishsf.org
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PASTOR'S LETTER



Living Face to Face with God

Fr. Javier Olivera Ravasi

San Francisco, November 29, 2026.
First Sunday of Advent.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Today we begin Advent and, with it, a new liturgical year. The Church, like a good Mother, wakes us up with a word that the Lord repeats again and again in today's Gospel: "Watch!"

Jesus tells us the story of a man who goes on a journey. He leaves his house in the care of his servants, gives each one his work, and orders the gatekeeper to stay awake. For they do not know when the master of the house will return: in the evening, at midnight, at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find us sleeping.





That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

1. Living face to face with God means knowing that He sees us

The one who lives face to face with God knows that everything he does, he does in His presence: at Mass, yes, but also at work, at home, with his phone in his hand, when no one is watching. The Lord said it clearly: your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you (Mt 6:4).

In today's Psalm we ask the Lord to show us His face, so that we may be saved. A Christian is someone who lives seeking the face of God.

That is why, in this Holy Mass, as you can see, the priest and you are all facing the same direction: toward Him, to whom the Holy Sacrifice is offered. The priest is not turning his back on you; we are all walking together, as one people on pilgrimage, looking toward the Lord who comes.

But what matters most, dear brothers and sisters, is not only where we look during Mass, but where we look in life. Because one can pray facing God and then live facing men.

2. The great enemy: human respect

And what makes us live facing men? What the saints called "human respect": the fear of what others will say.

It is that fear of looking bad, of seeming old-fashioned, fanatical, or "too Catholic," that leads us to keep silent when we should speak, or to stop doing good so as not to draw attention.

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Today Saint Paul reminded us that God is faithful, and that He has called us into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord (1 Cor 1:9). God is faithful… The question is whether we will be faithful to Him, even when it costs us.

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Let us ask for this grace from the Blessed Virgin Mary, who lived face to face with God better than anyone, who said "Behold the handmaid of the Lord" without caring what others might think: may she help us, this Advent, to wait for her Son wide awake, without fear of what people will say, and with our eyes fixed on Him. Amen.

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Parochial Administrator
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Sunday Gospel: *Mk. 13:33-37*

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Begins **Dec. 12, 2026**, Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Sign up free: **sempervirgo.org**

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"The confession of evil works is the beginning of good works."
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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

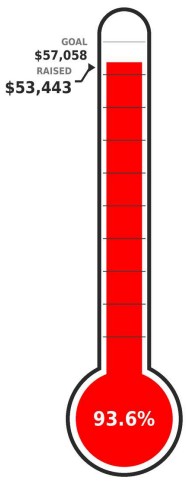
Give online, set up **recurring giving**, or remember the parish in your **will or estate**. Thank you!

Scan to give online ►

Archdiocese Annual Appeal

PARISH GOAL	RAISED SO FAR	STILL NEEDED
$57,058	$53,443	$3,615

Help us reach our goal! Only 5 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.

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

Archdiocesan Annual Appeal 2026 Goal: $6,450,000

Star of the Sea & Stella Maris Academy

4420 Geary Blvd SF CA 94118

St Nicholas

CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE

Handmade Gifts! Made by 14 artisans.

DECEMBER 2026

AUDITORIUM

Friday 4, 2pm-7pm
Saturday 5, 9am-6pm
Sunday 6, 9am-2pm



Enjoy Hot Chocolate & Pastries While You Shop!



November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

ST. MONICA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH

Christmas Poinsettias



Please use this envelope
Use este sobre

As we prepare to celebrate the **Birth of Our Lord**, we wish to adorn the altars of St. Monica and St. Thomas the Apostle with **poinsettias for Christmas**.

To cover their cost, we kindly ask for your help through a **special collection this Sunday**.

Every gift, large or small, helps make our churches beautiful for the Christ Child.

Poinsettia Collection this Sunday

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

The Advent Wreath

The evergreen circle stands for the eternity of God, who has no beginning and no end. The **three violet candles** stand for penance and watchful prayer; the **rose candle**, lit on Gaudete Sunday, for the joy of Christ's nearness. Light one more candle each week as Christmas draws near.

Prayer for the First Week

Stir up Thy power, we beseech Thee, O Lord, and come: that from the threatening dangers of our sins we may deserve to be rescued by Thy protection, and to be saved by Thy deliverance. Who livest and reignest for ever and ever. Amen.

Sunday Collection

Collection	St. Monica	St. Thomas
Sunday (English)	$1,531.00	$1,137.00
Vietnamese	—	$514.00

ST. MONICA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH

Procession in Honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Procesión en honor a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe





DECEMBER · DICIEMBRE
13
SUNDAY · DOMINGO
12:00 NOON
MEDIODÍA

St. Monica Church
470 24th Ave., San Francisco

Between the 11 AM and 1 PM Masses
Entre las Misas de 11 AM y 1 PM

You are invited!

Join us as we walk in procession around **St. Monica Church** to honor **Our Lady of Guadalupe**, Mother of the Americas. Bring your family and flowers!

¡Están invitados!

Acompáñenos en procesión alrededor de la **iglesia Santa Mónica** para honrar a **Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe**, Madre de las Américas. ¡Traiga a su familia y flores!

"¿No estoy yo aquí, que soy tu madre?"
¡Viva la Virgen de Guadalupe!

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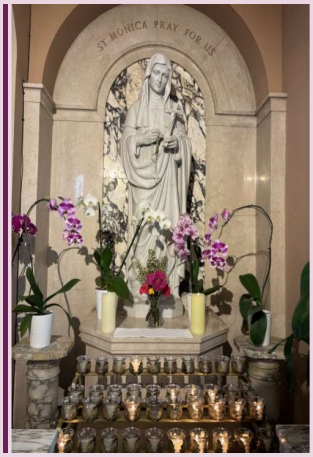

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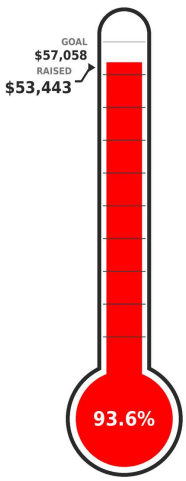

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St Nicholas

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DECEMBER 2026

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November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

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Every gift, large or small, helps make our churches beautiful for the Christ Child.

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The evergreen circle stands for the eternity of God, who has no beginning and no end. The **three violet candles** stand for penance and watchful prayer; the **rose candle**, lit on Gaudete Sunday, for the joy of Christ's nearness. Light one more candle each week as Christmas draws near.

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Between the 11 AM and 1 PM Masses
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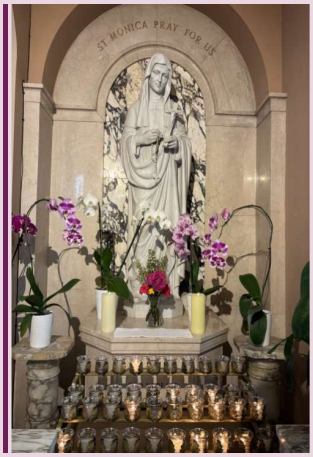

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Saint Thomas the Apostle
Parish

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www.smstaparishsf.org
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That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

1. Living face to face with God means knowing that He sees us

The one who lives face to face with God knows that everything he does, he does in His presence: at Mass, yes, but also at work, at home, with his phone in his hand, when no one is watching. The Lord said it clearly: your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you (Mt 6:4).

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But what matters most, dear brothers and sisters, is not only where we look during Mass, but where we look in life. Because one can pray facing God and then live facing men.

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On the day the Master of the house returns, He will not ask us what others said about us, but what we did with Him.

Let us ask for this grace from the Blessed Virgin Mary, who lived face to face with God better than anyone, who said "Behold the handmaid of the Lord" without caring what others might think: may she help us, this Advent, to wait for her Son wide awake, without fear of what people will say, and with our eyes fixed on Him. Amen.

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Parochial Administrator
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Sunday Gospel: *Mk. 13:33-37*

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Make a Good Confession

Prepare ye the way of the Lord!

Confessions at St. Monica
Mon–Fri: before and after Mass
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Why go to Confession? Mortal sin robs the soul of sanctifying grace. In His mercy Christ gave His Church the Sacrament of Penance to restore it. The Fathers of the Church call it "the second plank [of salvation] after the shipwreck which is the loss of grace." *(CCC 1446)*

Even our daily faults are worth confessing. Holy Mother Church strongly recommends it, for regular Confession "helps us form our conscience, fight against evil tendencies, let ourselves be healed by Christ and progress in the life of the Spirit." *(CCC 1458)*

"The confession of evil works is the beginning of good works."
— St. Augustine

Do not let Christmas find your soul unready.

Mass Intentions

	St. Monica		St. Thomas the Apostle	
Sunday 11/29	11:00am 1:00pm	Betty & Morelia Bermejo † Gilda Maria Mangana † Int. for the Parishioners	9:30am	Adelaida Maximo Iglesias †
Monday 11/30	8:00am	Ann Yan Lam-Lau	8:30am	Robert Anselmo Han †
Tuesday 12/01	8:00am	Rene Revel †		No Mass
Wednesday 12/02	8:00am	Mercedes Yazdini, Birthday	8:30am	Veronico Flores Fabular †
Thursday 12/03	8:00am	Lucio Aguirre †		No Mass
Friday 12/04	8:00am	Francisco Matturano-Gomez †	8:30am	Int. of the People of the Parish
Saturday 12/05	5:00pm	Santiago & Enelia Pacheco †	8:30am	Int. of the People of the Parish

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

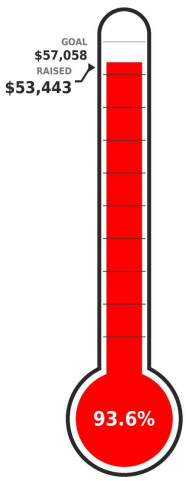
Give online, set up **recurring giving**, or remember the parish in your **will or estate**. Thank you!

Scan to give online ►

Archdiocese Annual Appeal

PARISH GOAL	RAISED SO FAR	STILL NEEDED
$57,058	$53,443	$3,615

Help us reach our goal! Only 5 weeks left this year.



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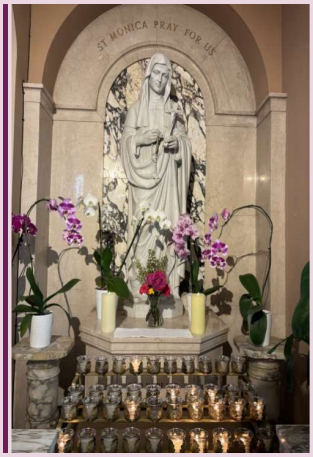

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Registering helps us know and serve your family.
It takes two minutes!

Scan to join our parish ►

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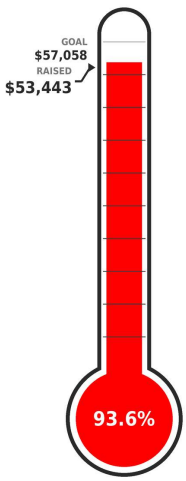
Archdiocese Annual Appeal

PARISH GOAL	RAISED SO FAR	STILL NEEDED
$57,058	$53,443	$3,615

Help us reach our goal! Only 5 weeks left this year.



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St Nicholas

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DECEMBER 2026

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November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

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To cover their cost, we kindly ask for your help through a **special collection this Sunday**.

Every gift, large or small, helps make our churches beautiful for the Christ Child.

Poinsettia Collection this Sunday

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

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The evergreen circle stands for the eternity of God, who has no beginning and no end. The **three violet candles** stand for penance and watchful prayer; the **rose candle**, lit on Gaudete Sunday, for the joy of Christ's nearness. Light one more candle each week as Christmas draws near.

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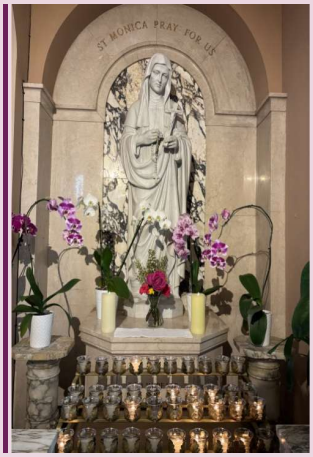

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Clergy	Staff
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PASTOR'S LETTER



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Fr. Javier Olivera Ravasi

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Jesus tells us the story of a man who goes on a journey. He leaves his house in the care of his servants, gives each one his work, and orders the gatekeeper to stay awake. For they do not know when the master of the house will return: in the evening, at midnight, at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find us sleeping.





That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

1. Living face to face with God means knowing that He sees us

The one who lives face to face with God knows that everything he does, he does in His presence: at Mass, yes, but also at work, at home, with his phone in his hand, when no one is watching. The Lord said it clearly: your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you (Mt 6:4).

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But what matters most, dear brothers and sisters, is not only where we look during Mass, but where we look in life. Because one can pray facing God and then live facing men.

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And what makes us live facing men? What the saints called "human respect": the fear of what others will say.

It is that fear of looking bad, of seeming old-fashioned, fanatical, or "too Catholic," that leads us to keep silent when we should speak, or to stop doing good so as not to draw attention.

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And so, little by little, one ends up living face to face with men and with one's back turned to God.

Saint Paul put it bluntly: if I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ (Gal 1:10). And the Lord Himself warned that whoever is ashamed of Him before this generation, of that one He too will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father (Mk 8:38).

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November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

"¡Viva Cristo Rey!" rather than deny his faith to please his executioners. He lived, and he died, face to face with God.

Thanks be to God, we are not asked for that much. But we are asked for a few concrete things this Advent:

- An examination of conscience every night, asking ourselves: today, did I live facing God, or facing others?
- A good confession before Christmas.
- One small act of Christian courage each week: making the Sign of the Cross in public, praying before meals, defending the Church when she is attacked, inviting someone to Mass.

No one becomes brave all at once; courage, too, must be trained.

✠ ✠ ✠

Today Saint Paul reminded us that God is faithful, and that He has called us into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord (1 Cor 1:9). God is faithful… The question is whether we will be faithful to Him, even when it costs us.

On the day the Master of the house returns, He will not ask us what others said about us, but what we did with Him.

Let us ask for this grace from the Blessed Virgin Mary, who lived face to face with God better than anyone, who said "Behold the handmaid of the Lord" without caring what others might think: may she help us, this Advent, to wait for her Son wide awake, without fear of what people will say, and with our eyes fixed on Him. Amen.

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

Sunday Gospel: *Mk. 13:33-37*

Jesus said to his disciples: "Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come. It is like a man traveling abroad. He leaves home and places his servants in charge, each with his own work, and orders the gatekeeper to be on the watch. Watch, therefore; you do not know when the lord of the house is coming, whether in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to all: 'Watch!'"

Our Lord gives no date because He wants us ready at every hour. The servant who is "sleeping" is the soul in mortal sin. To the world he may look perfectly well, but in the eyes of God his soul is dead. As the month of the Holy Souls comes to a close, we are reminded that death comes when no man expects it, and whatever state it finds us in is the state we keep for all eternity. That is why Holy Mother Church gives us Advent as a season of penance. Do not wait for a more convenient time. Let us each prepare as well as we can by making a good Confession during this holy season, so that whenever the Master comes, He may find us awake.

Semper Virgo

A Marian Pilgrimage to Guadalupe 2031

Cardinal Burke invites the faithful to a **daily Marian devotion** preparing for the 500th anniversary of Our Lady of Guadalupe in 2031. Each morning, receive a short meditation on the Mother of God.

Begins **Dec. 12, 2026**, Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Sign up free: **sempervirgo.org**

Liturgical Calendar	
Sun 11/29	First Sunday of Advent
Mon 11/30	St. Andrew, Apostle
Tues 12/1	Advent Weekday
Wed 12/2	Advent Weekday
Thurs 12/3	St. Francis Xavier
Fri 12/4	Advent Weekday · St. John Damascene
Sat 12/5	Advent Weekday

Make a Good Confession

Prepare ye the way of the Lord!

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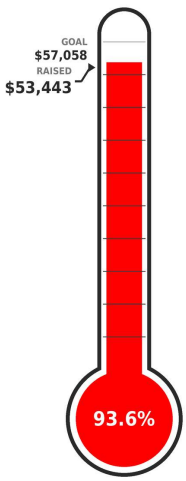

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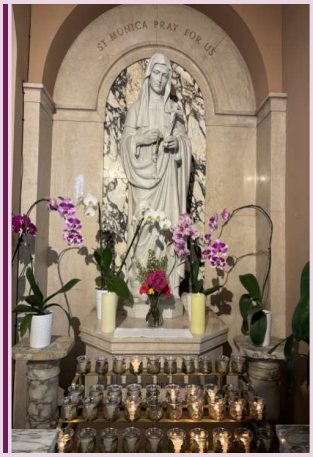

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Sign up free: **sempervirgo.org**

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It takes two minutes!

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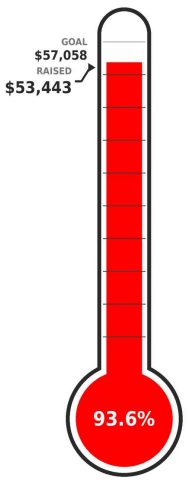
Help us reach our goal! Only 5 weeks left this year.



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November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

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To cover their cost, we kindly ask for your help through a **special collection this Sunday**.

Every gift, large or small, helps make our churches beautiful for the Christ Child.

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The evergreen circle stands for the eternity of God, who has no beginning and no end. The **three violet candles** stand for penance and watchful prayer; the **rose candle**, lit on Gaudete Sunday, for the joy of Christ's nearness. Light one more candle each week as Christmas draws near.

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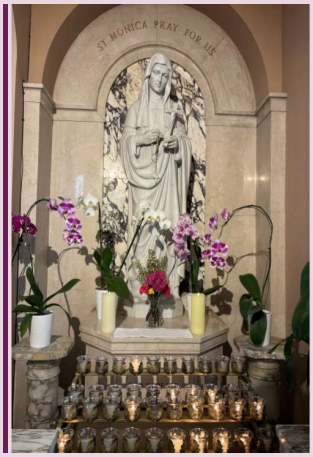

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PASTOR'S LETTER



Living Face to Face with God

Fr. Javier Olivera Ravasi

San Francisco, November 29, 2026.
First Sunday of Advent.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Today we begin Advent and, with it, a new liturgical year. The Church, like a good Mother, wakes us up with a word that the Lord repeats again and again in today's Gospel: "Watch!"

Jesus tells us the story of a man who goes on a journey. He leaves his house in the care of his servants, gives each one his work, and orders the gatekeeper to stay awake. For they do not know when the master of the house will return: in the evening, at midnight, at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find us sleeping.





That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

1. Living face to face with God means knowing that He sees us

The one who lives face to face with God knows that everything he does, he does in His presence: at Mass, yes, but also at work, at home, with his phone in his hand, when no one is watching. The Lord said it clearly: your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you (Mt 6:4).

In today's Psalm we ask the Lord to show us His face, so that we may be saved. A Christian is someone who lives seeking the face of God.

That is why, in this Holy Mass, as you can see, the priest and you are all facing the same direction: toward Him, to whom the Holy Sacrifice is offered. The priest is not turning his back on you; we are all walking together, as one people on pilgrimage, looking toward the Lord who comes.

But what matters most, dear brothers and sisters, is not only where we look during Mass, but where we look in life. Because one can pray facing God and then live facing men.

2. The great enemy: human respect

And what makes us live facing men? What the saints called "human respect": the fear of what others will say.

It is that fear of looking bad, of seeming old-fashioned, fanatical, or "too Catholic," that leads us to keep silent when we should speak, or to stop doing good so as not to draw attention.

Let us take some simple examples:

- The one who does not make the Sign of the Cross before eating in a restaurant, out of embarrassment.
- The one who hears jokes about the Church at work or at school and says nothing.
- The father who does not pray with his children so as not to seem "excessive."
- The young person who never mentions going to Mass on Sundays, so as not to be the odd one out.
- Or the one who keeps quiet about the truth on life, family, or marriage, because "you can't say that anymore."

And so, little by little, one ends up living face to face with men and with one's back turned to God.

Saint Paul put it bluntly: if I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ (Gal 1:10). And the Lord Himself warned that whoever is ashamed of Him before this generation, of that one He too will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father (Mk 8:38).

Notice: "when He comes." Advent again.

Human respect is, in the end, a way of falling asleep: it is like the gatekeeper who, instead of watching the door through which his master will come, spends the whole night worrying about what the neighbors think.

3. How can we live face to face with God this Advent?

The Cristero martyrs of Mexico had no human respect. Saint José Sánchez del Río, only fourteen years old, chose to die crying out

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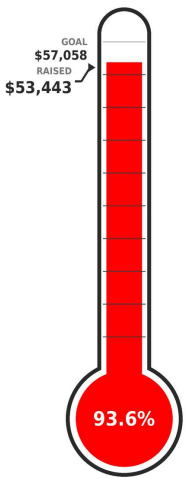

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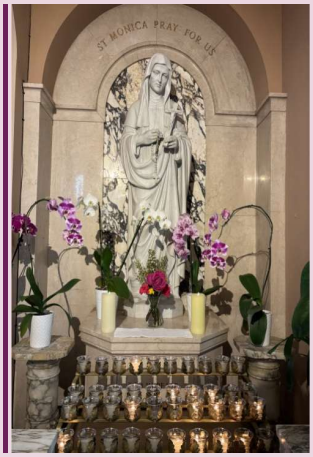

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PASTOR'S LETTER



Living Face to Face with God

Fr. Javier Olivera Ravasi

San Francisco, November 29, 2026.
First Sunday of Advent.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Today we begin Advent and, with it, a new liturgical year. The Church, like a good Mother, wakes us up with a word that the Lord repeats again and again in today's Gospel: "Watch!"

Jesus tells us the story of a man who goes on a journey. He leaves his house in the care of his servants, gives each one his work, and orders the gatekeeper to stay awake. For they do not know when the master of the house will return: in the evening, at midnight, at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find us sleeping.





That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

1. Living face to face with God means knowing that He sees us

The one who lives face to face with God knows that everything he does, he does in His presence: at Mass, yes, but also at work, at home, with his phone in his hand, when no one is watching. The Lord said it clearly: your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you (Mt 6:4).

In today's Psalm we ask the Lord to show us His face, so that we may be saved. A Christian is someone who lives seeking the face of God.

That is why, in this Holy Mass, as you can see, the priest and you are all facing the same direction: toward Him, to whom the Holy Sacrifice is offered. The priest is not turning his back on you; we are all walking together, as one people on pilgrimage, looking toward the Lord who comes.

But what matters most, dear brothers and sisters, is not only where we look during Mass, but where we look in life. Because one can pray facing God and then live facing men.

2. The great enemy: human respect

And what makes us live facing men? What the saints called "human respect": the fear of what others will say.

It is that fear of looking bad, of seeming old-fashioned, fanatical, or "too Catholic," that leads us to keep silent when we should speak, or to stop doing good so as not to draw attention.

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Saint Paul put it bluntly: if I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ (Gal 1:10). And the Lord Himself warned that whoever is ashamed of Him before this generation, of that one He too will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father (Mk 8:38).

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Today Saint Paul reminded us that God is faithful, and that He has called us into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord (1 Cor 1:9). God is faithful… The question is whether we will be faithful to Him, even when it costs us.

On the day the Master of the house returns, He will not ask us what others said about us, but what we did with Him.

Let us ask for this grace from the Blessed Virgin Mary, who lived face to face with God better than anyone, who said "Behold the handmaid of the Lord" without caring what others might think: may she help us, this Advent, to wait for her Son wide awake, without fear of what people will say, and with our eyes fixed on Him. Amen.

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Sunday Gospel: *Mk. 13:33-37*

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Sign up free: **sempervirgo.org**

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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

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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

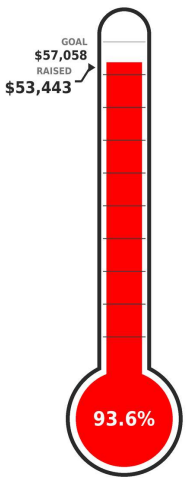
Give online, set up **recurring giving**, or remember the parish in your **will or estate**. Thank you!

Scan to give online ►

Archdiocese Annual Appeal

PARISH GOAL	RAISED SO FAR	STILL NEEDED
$57,058	$53,443	$3,615

Help us reach our goal! Only 5 weeks left this year.



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Archdiocesan Annual Appeal 2026 Goal: $6,450,000

Star of the Sea & Stella Maris Academy

4420 Geary Blvd SF CA 94118

St Nicholas

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Handmade Gifts! Made by 14 artisans.

DECEMBER 2026

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Friday 4, 2pm-7pm
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Enjoy Hot Chocolate & Pastries While You Shop!



November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

ST. MONICA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH

Christmas Poinsettias



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Use este sobre

As we prepare to celebrate the **Birth of Our Lord**, we wish to adorn the altars of St. Monica and St. Thomas the Apostle with **poinsettias for Christmas**.

To cover their cost, we kindly ask for your help through a **special collection this Sunday**.

Every gift, large or small, helps make our churches beautiful for the Christ Child.

Poinsettia Collection this Sunday

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

The Advent Wreath

The evergreen circle stands for the eternity of God, who has no beginning and no end. The **three violet candles** stand for penance and watchful prayer; the **rose candle**, lit on Gaudete Sunday, for the joy of Christ's nearness. Light one more candle each week as Christmas draws near.

Prayer for the First Week

Stir up Thy power, we beseech Thee, O Lord, and come: that from the threatening dangers of our sins we may deserve to be rescued by Thy protection, and to be saved by Thy deliverance. Who livest and reignest for ever and ever. Amen.

Sunday Collection

Collection	St. Monica	St. Thomas
Sunday (English)	$1,531.00	$1,137.00
Vietnamese	—	$514.00

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Procession in Honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Procesión en honor a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe





DECEMBER · DICIEMBRE
13
SUNDAY · DOMINGO
12:00 NOON
MEDIODÍA

St. Monica Church
470 24th Ave., San Francisco

Between the 11 AM and 1 PM Masses
Entre las Misas de 11 AM y 1 PM

You are invited!

Join us as we walk in procession around **St. Monica Church** to honor **Our Lady of Guadalupe**, Mother of the Americas. Bring your family and flowers!

¡Están invitados!

Acompáñenos en procesión alrededor de la **iglesia Santa Mónica** para honrar a **Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe**, Madre de las Américas. ¡Traiga a su familia y flores!

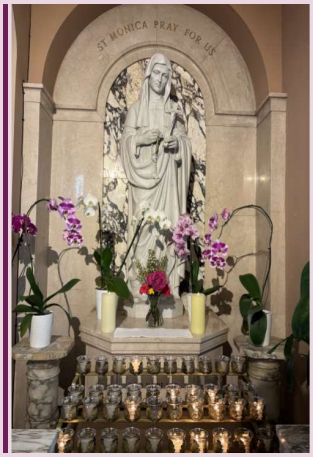
"¿No estoy yo aquí, que soy tu madre?"
¡Viva la Virgen de Guadalupe!

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 help make sandwiches each month, and to those who shop for supplies and deliver to the shelter the next day! Sandwich making is the **3rd Wednesday of every month.**

Next: Wed., Dec. 16 · 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**.

November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

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

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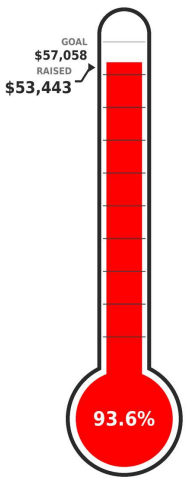

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Entre las Misas de 11 AM y 1 PM

You are invited!

Join us as we walk in procession around **St. Monica Church** to honor **Our Lady of Guadalupe**, Mother of the Americas. Bring your family and flowers!

¡Están invitados!

Acompáñenos en procesión alrededor de la **iglesia Santa Mónica** para honrar a **Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe**, Madre de las Américas. ¡Traiga a su familia y flores!

"¿No estoy yo aquí, que soy tu madre?"
¡Viva la Virgen de Guadalupe!

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.

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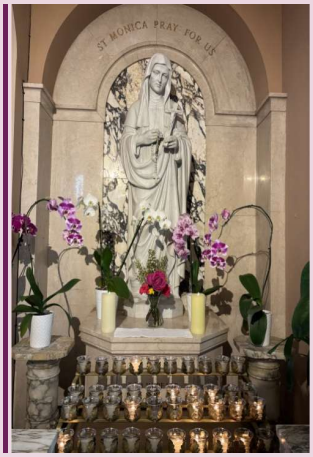

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November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

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Saint Thomas the Apostle
Parish

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Clergy	Staff
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PASTOR'S LETTER



Living Face to Face with God

Fr. Javier Olivera Ravasi

San Francisco, November 29, 2026.
First Sunday of Advent.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Today we begin Advent and, with it, a new liturgical year. The Church, like a good Mother, wakes us up with a word that the Lord repeats again and again in today's Gospel: "Watch!"

Jesus tells us the story of a man who goes on a journey. He leaves his house in the care of his servants, gives each one his work, and orders the gatekeeper to stay awake. For they do not know when the master of the house will return: in the evening, at midnight, at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find us sleeping.





That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

1. Living face to face with God means knowing that He sees us

The one who lives face to face with God knows that everything he does, he does in His presence: at Mass, yes, but also at work, at home, with his phone in his hand, when no one is watching. The Lord said it clearly: your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you (Mt 6:4).

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But what matters most, dear brothers and sisters, is not only where we look during Mass, but where we look in life. Because one can pray facing God and then live facing men.

2. The great enemy: human respect

And what makes us live facing men? What the saints called "human respect": the fear of what others will say.

It is that fear of looking bad, of seeming old-fashioned, fanatical, or "too Catholic," that leads us to keep silent when we should speak, or to stop doing good so as not to draw attention.

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Let us ask for this grace from the Blessed Virgin Mary, who lived face to face with God better than anyone, who said "Behold the handmaid of the Lord" without caring what others might think: may she help us, this Advent, to wait for her Son wide awake, without fear of what people will say, and with our eyes fixed on Him. Amen.

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Parochial Administrator
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Sunday Gospel: *Mk. 13:33-37*

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Sign up free: **sempervirgo.org**

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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

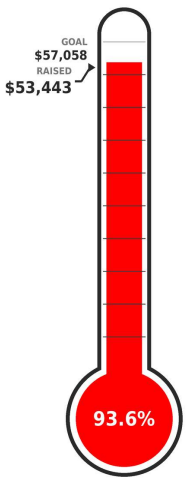
Give online, set up **recurring giving**, or remember the parish in your **will or estate**. Thank you!

Scan to give online ►

Archdiocese Annual Appeal

PARISH GOAL	RAISED SO FAR	STILL NEEDED
$57,058	$53,443	$3,615

Help us reach our goal! Only 5 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.

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

Archdiocesan Annual Appeal 2026 Goal: $6,450,000

Star of the Sea & Stella Maris Academy

4420 Geary Blvd SF CA 94118

St Nicholas

CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE

Handmade Gifts! Made by 14 artisans.

DECEMBER 2026

AUDITORIUM

Friday 4, 2pm-7pm
Saturday 5, 9am-6pm
Sunday 6, 9am-2pm



Enjoy Hot Chocolate & Pastries While You Shop!



November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

ST. MONICA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH

Christmas Poinsettias



Please use this envelope
Use este sobre

As we prepare to celebrate the **Birth of Our Lord**, we wish to adorn the altars of St. Monica and St. Thomas the Apostle with **poinsettias for Christmas**.

To cover their cost, we kindly ask for your help through a **special collection this Sunday**.

Every gift, large or small, helps make our churches beautiful for the Christ Child.

Poinsettia Collection this Sunday

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

The Advent Wreath

The evergreen circle stands for the eternity of God, who has no beginning and no end. The **three violet candles** stand for penance and watchful prayer; the **rose candle**, lit on Gaudete Sunday, for the joy of Christ's nearness. Light one more candle each week as Christmas draws near.

Prayer for the First Week

Stir up Thy power, we beseech Thee, O Lord, and come: that from the threatening dangers of our sins we may deserve to be rescued by Thy protection, and to be saved by Thy deliverance. Who livest and reignest for ever and ever. Amen.

Sunday Collection

Collection	St. Monica	St. Thomas
Sunday (English)	$1,531.00	$1,137.00
Vietnamese	—	$514.00

ST. MONICA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH

Procession in Honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Procesión en honor a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe





DECEMBER · DICIEMBRE
13
SUNDAY · DOMINGO
12:00 NOON
MEDIODÍA

St. Monica Church
470 24th Ave., San Francisco

Between the 11 AM and 1 PM Masses
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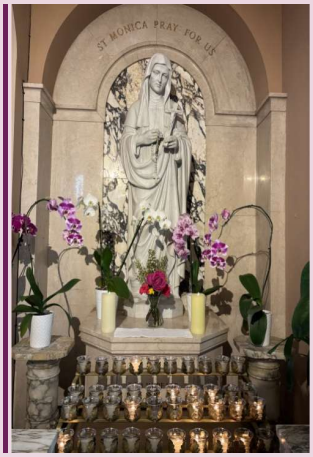

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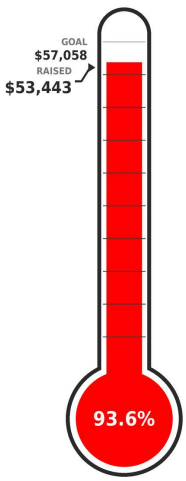
Help us reach our goal! Only 5 weeks left this year.



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4420 Geary Blvd SF CA 94118

St Nicholas

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November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

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To cover their cost, we kindly ask for your help through a **special collection this Sunday**.

Every gift, large or small, helps make our churches beautiful for the Christ Child.

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

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The evergreen circle stands for the eternity of God, who has no beginning and no end. The **three violet candles** stand for penance and watchful prayer; the **rose candle**, lit on Gaudete Sunday, for the joy of Christ's nearness. Light one more candle each week as Christmas draws near.

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Procesión en honor a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe





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13
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St. Monica Church
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Between the 11 AM and 1 PM Masses
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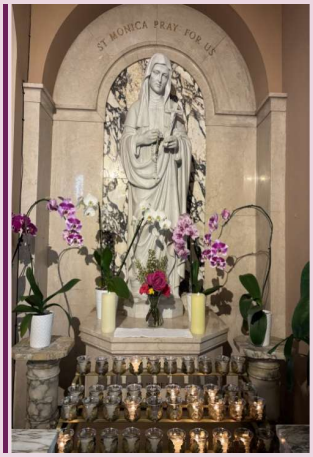

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Saint Thomas the Apostle
Parish

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www.smstaparishsf.org
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PASTOR'S LETTER



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That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

1. Living face to face with God means knowing that He sees us

The one who lives face to face with God knows that everything he does, he does in His presence: at Mass, yes, but also at work, at home, with his phone in his hand, when no one is watching. The Lord said it clearly: your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you (Mt 6:4).

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On the day the Master of the house returns, He will not ask us what others said about us, but what we did with Him.

Let us ask for this grace from the Blessed Virgin Mary, who lived face to face with God better than anyone, who said "Behold the handmaid of the Lord" without caring what others might think: may she help us, this Advent, to wait for her Son wide awake, without fear of what people will say, and with our eyes fixed on Him. Amen.

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Our Lord gives no date because He wants us ready at every hour. The servant who is "sleeping" is the soul in mortal sin. To the world he may look perfectly well, but in the eyes of God his soul is dead. As the month of the Holy Souls comes to a close, we are reminded that death comes when no man expects it, and whatever state it finds us in is the state we keep for all eternity. That is why Holy Mother Church gives us Advent as a season of penance. Do not wait for a more convenient time. Let us each prepare as well as we can by making a good Confession during this holy season, so that whenever the Master comes, He may find us awake.

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Sign up free: **sempervirgo.org**

Liturgical Calendar	
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Tues 12/1	Advent Weekday
Wed 12/2	Advent Weekday
Thurs 12/3	St. Francis Xavier
Fri 12/4	Advent Weekday · St. John Damascene
Sat 12/5	Advent Weekday

Make a Good Confession

Prepare ye the way of the Lord!

Confessions at St. Monica
Mon–Fri: before and after Mass
Saturday: 4:20 PM · Sunday: after Mass

Why go to Confession? Mortal sin robs the soul of sanctifying grace. In His mercy Christ gave His Church the Sacrament of Penance to restore it. The Fathers of the Church call it "the second plank [of salvation] after the shipwreck which is the loss of grace." *(CCC 1446)*

Even our daily faults are worth confessing. Holy Mother Church strongly recommends it, for regular Confession "helps us form our conscience, fight against evil tendencies, let ourselves be healed by Christ and progress in the life of the Spirit." *(CCC 1458)*

"The confession of evil works is the beginning of good works."
— St. Augustine

Do not let Christmas find your soul unready.

Mass Intentions

	St. Monica		St. Thomas the Apostle	
Sunday 11/29	11:00am 1:00pm	Betty & Morelia Bermejo † Gilda Maria Mangana † Int. for the Parishioners	9:30am	Adelaida Maximo Iglesias †
Monday 11/30	8:00am	Ann Yan Lam-Lau	8:30am	Robert Anselmo Han †
Tuesday 12/01	8:00am	Rene Revel †		No Mass
Wednesday 12/02	8:00am	Mercedes Yazdini, Birthday	8:30am	Veronico Flores Fabular †
Thursday 12/03	8:00am	Lucio Aguirre †		No Mass
Friday 12/04	8:00am	Francisco Matturano-Gomez †	8:30am	Int. of the People of the Parish
Saturday 12/05	5:00pm	Santiago & Enelia Pacheco †	8:30am	Int. of the People of the Parish

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

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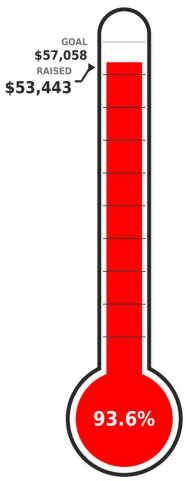

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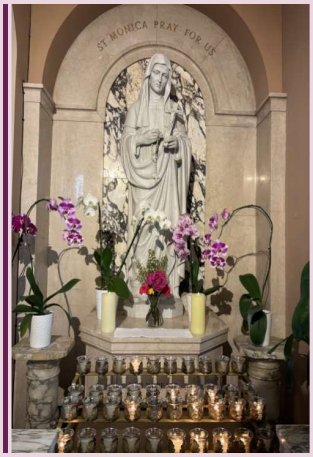

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Tues 12/1	Advent Weekday
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It takes two minutes!

Scan to join our parish ►

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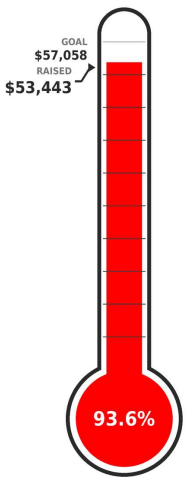
Archdiocese Annual Appeal

PARISH GOAL	RAISED SO FAR	STILL NEEDED
$57,058	$53,443	$3,615

Help us reach our goal! Only 5 weeks left this year.



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November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

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To cover their cost, we kindly ask for your help through a **special collection this Sunday**.

Every gift, large or small, helps make our churches beautiful for the Christ Child.

Poinsettia Collection this Sunday

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The evergreen circle stands for the eternity of God, who has no beginning and no end. The **three violet candles** stand for penance and watchful prayer; the **rose candle**, lit on Gaudete Sunday, for the joy of Christ's nearness. Light one more candle each week as Christmas draws near.

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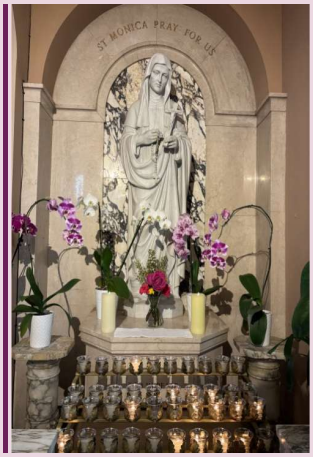

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Clergy	Staff
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PASTOR'S LETTER



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Fr. Javier Olivera Ravasi

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Jesus tells us the story of a man who goes on a journey. He leaves his house in the care of his servants, gives each one his work, and orders the gatekeeper to stay awake. For they do not know when the master of the house will return: in the evening, at midnight, at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find us sleeping.





That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

1. Living face to face with God means knowing that He sees us

The one who lives face to face with God knows that everything he does, he does in His presence: at Mass, yes, but also at work, at home, with his phone in his hand, when no one is watching. The Lord said it clearly: your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you (Mt 6:4).

In today's Psalm we ask the Lord to show us His face, so that we may be saved. A Christian is someone who lives seeking the face of God.

That is why, in this Holy Mass, as you can see, the priest and you are all facing the same direction: toward Him, to whom the Holy Sacrifice is offered. The priest is not turning his back on you; we are all walking together, as one people on pilgrimage, looking toward the Lord who comes.

But what matters most, dear brothers and sisters, is not only where we look during Mass, but where we look in life. Because one can pray facing God and then live facing men.

2. The great enemy: human respect

And what makes us live facing men? What the saints called "human respect": the fear of what others will say.

It is that fear of looking bad, of seeming old-fashioned, fanatical, or "too Catholic," that leads us to keep silent when we should speak, or to stop doing good so as not to draw attention.

Let us take some simple examples:

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And so, little by little, one ends up living face to face with men and with one's back turned to God.

Saint Paul put it bluntly: if I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ (Gal 1:10). And the Lord Himself warned that whoever is ashamed of Him before this generation, of that one He too will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father (Mk 8:38).

Notice: "when He comes." Advent again.

Human respect is, in the end, a way of falling asleep: it is like the gatekeeper who, instead of watching the door through which his master will come, spends the whole night worrying about what the neighbors think.

3. How can we live face to face with God this Advent?

The Cristero martyrs of Mexico had no human respect. Saint José Sánchez del Río, only fourteen years old, chose to die crying out

November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

"¡Viva Cristo Rey!" rather than deny his faith to please his executioners. He lived, and he died, face to face with God.

Thanks be to God, we are not asked for that much. But we are asked for a few concrete things this Advent:

- An examination of conscience every night, asking ourselves: today, did I live facing God, or facing others?
- A good confession before Christmas.
- One small act of Christian courage each week: making the Sign of the Cross in public, praying before meals, defending the Church when she is attacked, inviting someone to Mass.

No one becomes brave all at once; courage, too, must be trained.

✠ ✠ ✠

Today Saint Paul reminded us that God is faithful, and that He has called us into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord (1 Cor 1:9). God is faithful… The question is whether we will be faithful to Him, even when it costs us.

On the day the Master of the house returns, He will not ask us what others said about us, but what we did with Him.

Let us ask for this grace from the Blessed Virgin Mary, who lived face to face with God better than anyone, who said "Behold the handmaid of the Lord" without caring what others might think: may she help us, this Advent, to wait for her Son wide awake, without fear of what people will say, and with our eyes fixed on Him. Amen.

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

Sunday Gospel: *Mk. 13:33-37*

Jesus said to his disciples: "Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come. It is like a man traveling abroad. He leaves home and places his servants in charge, each with his own work, and orders the gatekeeper to be on the watch. Watch, therefore; you do not know when the lord of the house is coming, whether in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to all: 'Watch!'"

Our Lord gives no date because He wants us ready at every hour. The servant who is "sleeping" is the soul in mortal sin. To the world he may look perfectly well, but in the eyes of God his soul is dead. As the month of the Holy Souls comes to a close, we are reminded that death comes when no man expects it, and whatever state it finds us in is the state we keep for all eternity. That is why Holy Mother Church gives us Advent as a season of penance. Do not wait for a more convenient time. Let us each prepare as well as we can by making a good Confession during this holy season, so that whenever the Master comes, He may find us awake.

Semper Virgo

A Marian Pilgrimage to Guadalupe 2031

Cardinal Burke invites the faithful to a **daily Marian devotion** preparing for the 500th anniversary of Our Lady of Guadalupe in 2031. Each morning, receive a short meditation on the Mother of God.

Begins **Dec. 12, 2026**, Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Sign up free: **sempervirgo.org**

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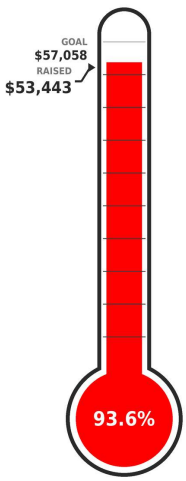

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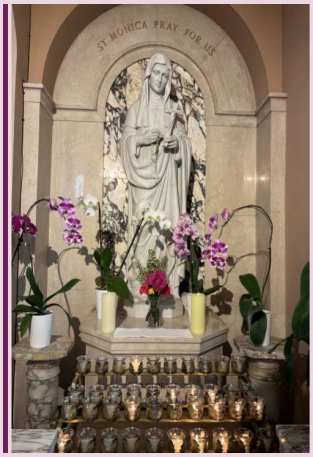

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November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

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Parochial Administrator
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Sign up free: **sempervirgo.org**

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

All are welcome!

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

Scan to join our parish ►

GIVE: Support Your Parish

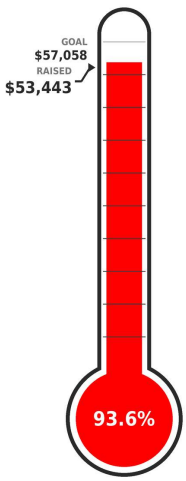
Give online, set up **recurring giving**, or remember the parish in your **will or estate**. Thank you!

Scan to give online ►

Archdiocese Annual Appeal

PARISH GOAL	RAISED SO FAR	STILL NEEDED
$57,058	$53,443	$3,615

Help us reach our goal! Only 5 weeks left this year.



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Star of the Sea & Stella Maris Academy

4420 Geary Blvd SF CA 94118

St Nicholas

CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE

Handmade Gifts! Made by 14 artisans.

DECEMBER 2026

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Enjoy Hot Chocolate & Pastries While You Shop!



November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

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Christmas Poinsettias



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Use este sobre

As we prepare to celebrate the **Birth of Our Lord**, we wish to adorn the altars of St. Monica and St. Thomas the Apostle with **poinsettias for Christmas**.

To cover their cost, we kindly ask for your help through a **special collection this Sunday**.

Every gift, large or small, helps make our churches beautiful for the Christ Child.

Poinsettia Collection this Sunday

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

The Advent Wreath

The evergreen circle stands for the eternity of God, who has no beginning and no end. The **three violet candles** stand for penance and watchful prayer; the **rose candle**, lit on Gaudete Sunday, for the joy of Christ's nearness. Light one more candle each week as Christmas draws near.

Prayer for the First Week

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Procession in Honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Procesión en honor a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe





DECEMBER · DICIEMBRE
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St. Monica Church
470 24th Ave., San Francisco

Between the 11 AM and 1 PM Masses
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You are invited!

Join us as we walk in procession around **St. Monica Church** to honor **Our Lady of Guadalupe**, Mother of the Americas. Bring your family and flowers!

¡Están invitados!

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"¿No estoy yo aquí, que soy tu madre?"
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Come visit the shrine dedicated to **St. Monica**, patroness of our church, adorned with flowers and a prayer candle rack.

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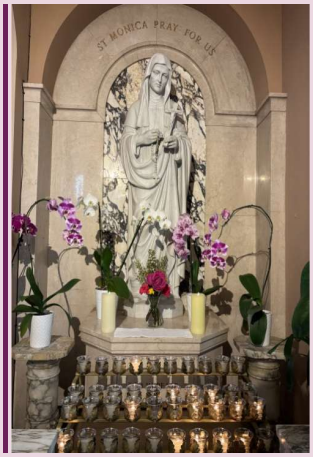

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Thank you, and God bless you!

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November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

Saint Monica
Saint Thomas the Apostle
Parish

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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) **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



Living Face to Face with God

Fr. Javier Olivera Ravasi

San Francisco, November 29, 2026.
First Sunday of Advent.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Today we begin Advent and, with it, a new liturgical year. The Church, like a good Mother, wakes us up with a word that the Lord repeats again and again in today's Gospel: "Watch!"

Jesus tells us the story of a man who goes on a journey. He leaves his house in the care of his servants, gives each one his work, and orders the gatekeeper to stay awake. For they do not know when the master of the house will return: in the evening, at midnight, at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find us sleeping.





That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

1. Living face to face with God means knowing that He sees us

The one who lives face to face with God knows that everything he does, he does in His presence: at Mass, yes, but also at work, at home, with his phone in his hand, when no one is watching. The Lord said it clearly: your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you (Mt 6:4).

In today's Psalm we ask the Lord to show us His face, so that we may be saved. A Christian is someone who lives seeking the face of God.

That is why, in this Holy Mass, as you can see, the priest and you are all facing the same direction: toward Him, to whom the Holy Sacrifice is offered. The priest is not turning his back on you; we are all walking together, as one people on pilgrimage, looking toward the Lord who comes.

But what matters most, dear brothers and sisters, is not only where we look during Mass, but where we look in life. Because one can pray facing God and then live facing men.

2. The great enemy: human respect

And what makes us live facing men? What the saints called "human respect": the fear of what others will say.

It is that fear of looking bad, of seeming old-fashioned, fanatical, or "too Catholic," that leads us to keep silent when we should speak, or to stop doing good so as not to draw attention.

Let us take some simple examples:

- The one who does not make the Sign of the Cross before eating in a restaurant, out of embarrassment.
- The one who hears jokes about the Church at work or at school and says nothing.
- The father who does not pray with his children so as not to seem "excessive."
- The young person who never mentions going to Mass on Sundays, so as not to be the odd one out.
- Or the one who keeps quiet about the truth on life, family, or marriage, because "you can't say that anymore."

And so, little by little, one ends up living face to face with men and with one's back turned to God.

Saint Paul put it bluntly: if I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ (Gal 1:10). And the Lord Himself warned that whoever is ashamed of Him before this generation, of that one He too will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father (Mk 8:38).

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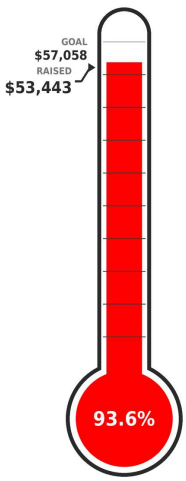

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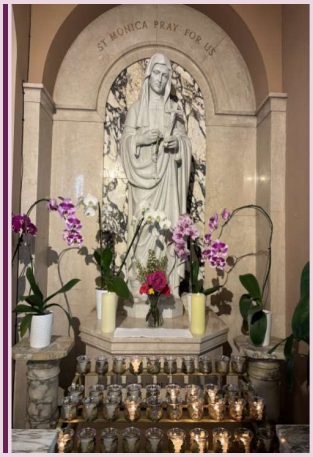

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Clergy	Staff
Rev. Javier O. Ravasi, Parochial Administrator pastor@smstaparishsf.org **In Residence:** **Rev. Paulinus Iwuji, SMMM, Ph.D.** **VA Hospital Chaplain** St. Thomas Apostle Rectory **Rev. Te Van Nguyen** **Vietnamese Ministry** St. Thomas 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

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PASTOR'S LETTER



Living Face to Face with God

Fr. Javier Olivera Ravasi

San Francisco, November 29, 2026.
First Sunday of Advent.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Today we begin Advent and, with it, a new liturgical year. The Church, like a good Mother, wakes us up with a word that the Lord repeats again and again in today's Gospel: "Watch!"

Jesus tells us the story of a man who goes on a journey. He leaves his house in the care of his servants, gives each one his work, and orders the gatekeeper to stay awake. For they do not know when the master of the house will return: in the evening, at midnight, at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find us sleeping.





That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

1. Living face to face with God means knowing that He sees us

The one who lives face to face with God knows that everything he does, he does in His presence: at Mass, yes, but also at work, at home, with his phone in his hand, when no one is watching. The Lord said it clearly: your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you (Mt 6:4).

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That is why, in this Holy Mass, as you can see, the priest and you are all facing the same direction: toward Him, to whom the Holy Sacrifice is offered. The priest is not turning his back on you; we are all walking together, as one people on pilgrimage, looking toward the Lord who comes.

But what matters most, dear brothers and sisters, is not only where we look during Mass, but where we look in life. Because one can pray facing God and then live facing men.

2. The great enemy: human respect

And what makes us live facing men? What the saints called "human respect": the fear of what others will say.

It is that fear of looking bad, of seeming old-fashioned, fanatical, or "too Catholic," that leads us to keep silent when we should speak, or to stop doing good so as not to draw attention.

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Let us ask for this grace from the Blessed Virgin Mary, who lived face to face with God better than anyone, who said "Behold the handmaid of the Lord" without caring what others might think: may she help us, this Advent, to wait for her Son wide awake, without fear of what people will say, and with our eyes fixed on Him. Amen.

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Sunday Gospel: *Mk. 13:33-37*

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Begins **Dec. 12, 2026**, Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Sign up free: **sempervirgo.org**

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PRAY · GATHER · BELONG · GIVE

PRAY · FRIDAY ADORATION

Adorers Needed

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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

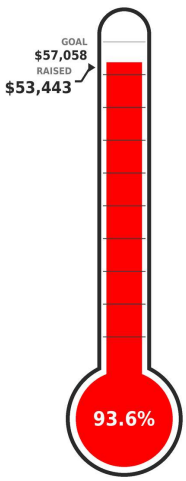
Give online, set up **recurring giving**, or remember the parish in your **will or estate**. Thank you!

Scan to give online ►

Archdiocese Annual Appeal

PARISH GOAL	RAISED SO FAR	STILL NEEDED
$57,058	$53,443	$3,615

Help us reach our goal! Only 5 weeks left this year.



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Archdiocesan Annual Appeal 2026 Goal: $6,450,000

Star of the Sea & Stella Maris Academy

4420 Geary Blvd SF CA 94118

St Nicholas

CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE

Handmade Gifts! Made by 14 artisans.

DECEMBER 2026

AUDITORIUM

Friday 4, 2pm-7pm
Saturday 5, 9am-6pm
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Enjoy Hot Chocolate & Pastries While You Shop!



November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

ST. MONICA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH

Christmas Poinsettias



Please use this envelope
Use este sobre

As we prepare to celebrate the **Birth of Our Lord**, we wish to adorn the altars of St. Monica and St. Thomas the Apostle with **poinsettias for Christmas**.

To cover their cost, we kindly ask for your help through a **special collection this Sunday**.

Every gift, large or small, helps make our churches beautiful for the Christ Child.

Poinsettia Collection this Sunday

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

The Advent Wreath

The evergreen circle stands for the eternity of God, who has no beginning and no end. The **three violet candles** stand for penance and watchful prayer; the **rose candle**, lit on Gaudete Sunday, for the joy of Christ's nearness. Light one more candle each week as Christmas draws near.

Prayer for the First Week

Stir up Thy power, we beseech Thee, O Lord, and come: that from the threatening dangers of our sins we may deserve to be rescued by Thy protection, and to be saved by Thy deliverance. Who livest and reignest for ever and ever. Amen.

Sunday Collection

Collection	St. Monica	St. Thomas
Sunday (English)	$1,531.00	$1,137.00
Vietnamese	—	$514.00

ST. MONICA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH

Procession in Honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Procesión en honor a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe





DECEMBER · DICIEMBRE
13
SUNDAY · DOMINGO
12:00 NOON
MEDIODÍA

St. Monica Church
470 24th Ave., San Francisco

Between the 11 AM and 1 PM Masses
Entre las Misas de 11 AM y 1 PM

You are invited!

Join us as we walk in procession around **St. Monica Church** to honor **Our Lady of Guadalupe**, Mother of the Americas. Bring your family and flowers!

¡Están invitados!

Acompáñenos en procesión alrededor de la **iglesia Santa Mónica** para honrar a **Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe**, Madre de las Américas. ¡Traiga a su familia y flores!

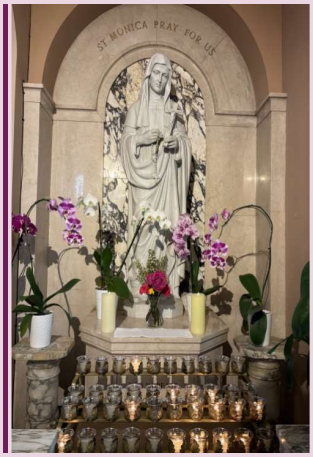
"¿No estoy yo aquí, que soy tu madre?"
¡Viva la Virgen de Guadalupe!

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 help make sandwiches each month, and to those who shop for supplies and deliver to the shelter the next day! Sandwich making is the **3rd Wednesday of every month.**

Next: Wed., Dec. 16 · 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**.

November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

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
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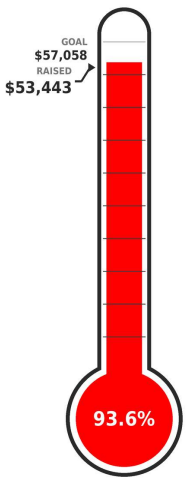

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Stir up Thy power, we beseech Thee, O Lord, and come: that from the threatening dangers of our sins we may deserve to be rescued by Thy protection, and to be saved by Thy deliverance. Who livest and reignest for ever and ever. Amen.

Sunday Collection

Collection	St. Monica	St. Thomas
Sunday (English)	$1,531.00	$1,137.00
Vietnamese	—	$514.00

ST. MONICA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH

Procession in Honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Procesión en honor a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe





DECEMBER · DICIEMBRE
13
SUNDAY · DOMINGO
12:00 NOON
MEDIODÍA

St. Monica Church
470 24th Ave., San Francisco

Between the 11 AM and 1 PM Masses
Entre las Misas de 11 AM y 1 PM

You are invited!

Join us as we walk in procession around **St. Monica Church** to honor **Our Lady of Guadalupe**, Mother of the Americas. Bring your family and flowers!

¡Están invitados!

Acompáñenos en procesión alrededor de la **iglesia Santa Mónica** para honrar a **Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe**, Madre de las Américas. ¡Traiga a su familia y flores!

"¿No estoy yo aquí, que soy tu madre?"
¡Viva la Virgen de Guadalupe!

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LIGHT A CANDLE • PRAY • HELP OUR CHURCH

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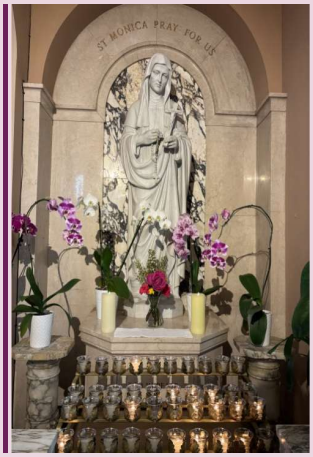

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Every candle is a prayer; every offering is a gift.
Your generous contribution for each candle helps maintain our entire church: its lights, its doors, and every sacred space where we gather as one family of faith.

Thank you, and God bless you!

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November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

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Parish

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PASTOR'S LETTER



Living Face to Face with God

Fr. Javier Olivera Ravasi

San Francisco, November 29, 2026.
First Sunday of Advent.

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Jesus tells us the story of a man who goes on a journey. He leaves his house in the care of his servants, gives each one his work, and orders the gatekeeper to stay awake. For they do not know when the master of the house will return: in the evening, at midnight, at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find us sleeping.





That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

1. Living face to face with God means knowing that He sees us

The one who lives face to face with God knows that everything he does, he does in His presence: at Mass, yes, but also at work, at home, with his phone in his hand, when no one is watching. The Lord said it clearly: your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you (Mt 6:4).

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But what matters most, dear brothers and sisters, is not only where we look during Mass, but where we look in life. Because one can pray facing God and then live facing men.

2. The great enemy: human respect

And what makes us live facing men? What the saints called "human respect": the fear of what others will say.

It is that fear of looking bad, of seeming old-fashioned, fanatical, or "too Catholic," that leads us to keep silent when we should speak, or to stop doing good so as not to draw attention.

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On the day the Master of the house returns, He will not ask us what others said about us, but what we did with Him.

Let us ask for this grace from the Blessed Virgin Mary, who lived face to face with God better than anyone, who said "Behold the handmaid of the Lord" without caring what others might think: may she help us, this Advent, to wait for her Son wide awake, without fear of what people will say, and with our eyes fixed on Him. Amen.

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Parochial Administrator
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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

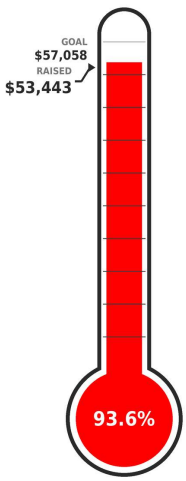
Give online, set up **recurring giving**, or remember the parish in your **will or estate**. Thank you!

Scan to give online ►

Archdiocese Annual Appeal

PARISH GOAL	RAISED SO FAR	STILL NEEDED
$57,058	$53,443	$3,615

Help us reach our goal! Only 5 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.

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

Archdiocesan Annual Appeal 2026 Goal: $6,450,000

Star of the Sea & Stella Maris Academy

4420 Geary Blvd SF CA 94118

St Nicholas

CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE

Handmade Gifts! Made by 14 artisans.

DECEMBER 2026

AUDITORIUM

Friday 4, 2pm-7pm
Saturday 5, 9am-6pm
Sunday 6, 9am-2pm



Enjoy Hot Chocolate & Pastries While You Shop!



November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

ST. MONICA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH

Christmas Poinsettias



Please use this envelope
Use este sobre

As we prepare to celebrate the **Birth of Our Lord**, we wish to adorn the altars of St. Monica and St. Thomas the Apostle with **poinsettias for Christmas**.

To cover their cost, we kindly ask for your help through a **special collection this Sunday**.

Every gift, large or small, helps make our churches beautiful for the Christ Child.

Poinsettia Collection this Sunday

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

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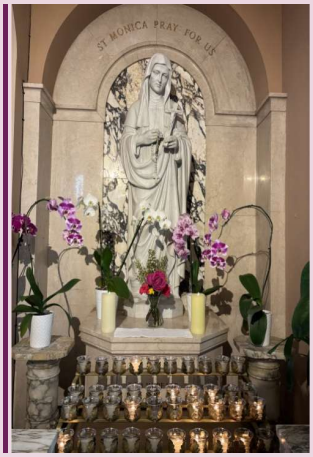

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Bring someone new! A friend, a neighbor, a returning Catholic, or someone curious about the Faith.

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!

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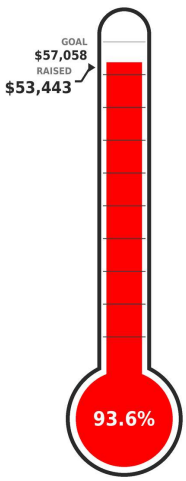
Archdiocese Annual Appeal

PARISH GOAL	RAISED SO FAR	STILL NEEDED
$57,058	$53,443	$3,615

Help us reach our goal! Only 5 weeks left this year.



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November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

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To cover their cost, we kindly ask for your help through a **special collection this Sunday**.

Every gift, large or small, helps make our churches beautiful for the Christ Child.

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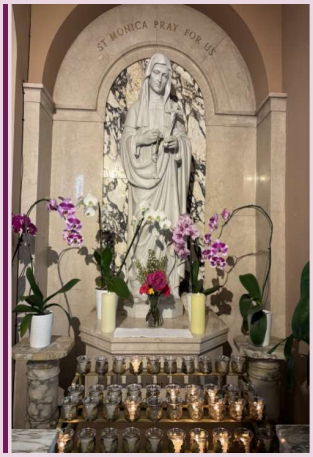

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Saint Thomas the Apostle
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PASTOR'S LETTER



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That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

1. Living face to face with God means knowing that He sees us

The one who lives face to face with God knows that everything he does, he does in His presence: at Mass, yes, but also at work, at home, with his phone in his hand, when no one is watching. The Lord said it clearly: your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you (Mt 6:4).

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On the day the Master of the house returns, He will not ask us what others said about us, but what we did with Him.

Let us ask for this grace from the Blessed Virgin Mary, who lived face to face with God better than anyone, who said "Behold the handmaid of the Lord" without caring what others might think: may she help us, this Advent, to wait for her Son wide awake, without fear of what people will say, and with our eyes fixed on Him. Amen.

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

Sunday Gospel: *Mk. 13:33-37*

Jesus said to his disciples: "Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come. It is like a man traveling abroad. He leaves home and places his servants in charge, each with his own work, and orders the gatekeeper to be on the watch. Watch, therefore; you do not know when the lord of the house is coming, whether in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to all: 'Watch!'"

Our Lord gives no date because He wants us ready at every hour. The servant who is "sleeping" is the soul in mortal sin. To the world he may look perfectly well, but in the eyes of God his soul is dead. As the month of the Holy Souls comes to a close, we are reminded that death comes when no man expects it, and whatever state it finds us in is the state we keep for all eternity. That is why Holy Mother Church gives us Advent as a season of penance. Do not wait for a more convenient time. Let us each prepare as well as we can by making a good Confession during this holy season, so that whenever the Master comes, He may find us awake.

Semper Virgo

A Marian Pilgrimage to Guadalupe 2031

Cardinal Burke invites the faithful to a **daily Marian devotion** preparing for the 500th anniversary of Our Lady of Guadalupe in 2031. Each morning, receive a short meditation on the Mother of God.

Begins **Dec. 12, 2026**, Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Sign up free: **sempervirgo.org**

Liturgical Calendar	
Sun 11/29	First Sunday of Advent
Mon 11/30	St. Andrew, Apostle
Tues 12/1	Advent Weekday
Wed 12/2	Advent Weekday
Thurs 12/3	St. Francis Xavier
Fri 12/4	Advent Weekday · St. John Damascene
Sat 12/5	Advent Weekday

Make a Good Confession

Prepare ye the way of the Lord!

Confessions at St. Monica
Mon–Fri: before and after Mass
Saturday: 4:20 PM · Sunday: after Mass

Why go to Confession? Mortal sin robs the soul of sanctifying grace. In His mercy Christ gave His Church the Sacrament of Penance to restore it. The Fathers of the Church call it "the second plank [of salvation] after the shipwreck which is the loss of grace." *(CCC 1446)*

Even our daily faults are worth confessing. Holy Mother Church strongly recommends it, for regular Confession "helps us form our conscience, fight against evil tendencies, let ourselves be healed by Christ and progress in the life of the Spirit." *(CCC 1458)*

"The confession of evil works is the beginning of good works."
— St. Augustine

Do not let Christmas find your soul unready.

Mass Intentions

	St. Monica		St. Thomas the Apostle	
Sunday 11/29	11:00am 1:00pm	Betty & Morelia Bermejo † Gilda Maria Mangana † Int. for the Parishioners	9:30am	Adelaida Maximo Iglesias †
Monday 11/30	8:00am	Ann Yan Lam-Lau	8:30am	Robert Anselmo Han †
Tuesday 12/01	8:00am	Rene Revel †		No Mass
Wednesday 12/02	8:00am	Mercedes Yazdini, Birthday	8:30am	Veronico Flores Fabular †
Thursday 12/03	8:00am	Lucio Aguirre †		No Mass
Friday 12/04	8:00am	Francisco Matturano-Gomez †	8:30am	Int. of the People of the Parish
Saturday 12/05	5:00pm	Santiago & Enelia Pacheco †	8:30am	Int. of the People of the Parish

Support Your Parish

PRAY · GATHER · BELONG · GIVE

PRAY · FRIDAY ADORATION

Adorers Needed

Fridays 9am – 5pm · Our Lord is waiting for you!



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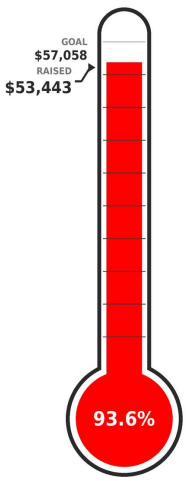

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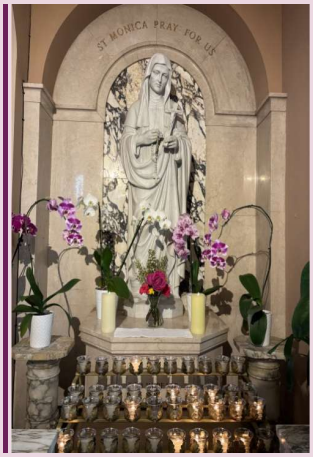

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St. Monica–St. Thomas the Apostle Parish

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Jesus said to his disciples: "Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come. It is like a man traveling abroad. He leaves home and places his servants in charge, each with his own work, and orders the gatekeeper to be on the watch. Watch, therefore; you do not know when the lord of the house is coming, whether in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to all: 'Watch!'"

Our Lord gives no date because He wants us ready at every hour. The servant who is "sleeping" is the soul in mortal sin. To the world he may look perfectly well, but in the eyes of God his soul is dead. As the month of the Holy Souls comes to a close, we are reminded that death comes when no man expects it, and whatever state it finds us in is the state we keep for all eternity. That is why Holy Mother Church gives us Advent as a season of penance. Do not wait for a more convenient time. Let us each prepare as well as we can by making a good Confession during this holy season, so that whenever the Master comes, He may find us awake.

Semper Virgo

A Marian Pilgrimage to Guadalupe 2031

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Sign up free: **sempervirgo.org**

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"The confession of evil works is the beginning of good works."
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Bring someone new! A friend, a neighbor, a returning Catholic, or someone curious about the Faith.

All are welcome!

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

Scan to join our parish ►

GIVE: Support Your Parish

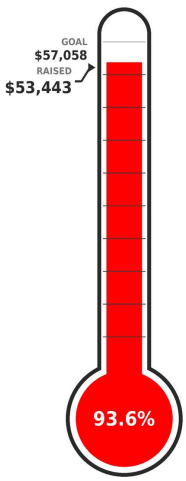
Give online, set up **recurring giving**, or remember the parish in your **will or estate**. Thank you!

Scan to give online ►

Archdiocese Annual Appeal

PARISH GOAL	RAISED SO FAR	STILL NEEDED
$57,058	$53,443	$3,615

Help us reach our goal! Only 5 weeks left this year.



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4420 Geary Blvd SF CA 94118

St Nicholas

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Handmade Gifts! Made by 14 artisans.

DECEMBER 2026

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Enjoy Hot Chocolate & Pastries While You Shop!



November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

ST. MONICA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH

Christmas Poinsettias



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Use este sobre

As we prepare to celebrate the **Birth of Our Lord**, we wish to adorn the altars of St. Monica and St. Thomas the Apostle with **poinsettias for Christmas**.

To cover their cost, we kindly ask for your help through a **special collection this Sunday**.

Every gift, large or small, helps make our churches beautiful for the Christ Child.

Poinsettia Collection this Sunday

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

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The evergreen circle stands for the eternity of God, who has no beginning and no end. The **three violet candles** stand for penance and watchful prayer; the **rose candle**, lit on Gaudete Sunday, for the joy of Christ's nearness. Light one more candle each week as Christmas draws near.

Prayer for the First Week

Stir up Thy power, we beseech Thee, O Lord, and come: that from the threatening dangers of our sins we may deserve to be rescued by Thy protection, and to be saved by Thy deliverance. Who livest and reignest for ever and ever. Amen.

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Procesión en honor a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe





DECEMBER · DICIEMBRE
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St. Monica Church
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Entre las Misas de 11 AM y 1 PM

You are invited!

Join us as we walk in procession around **St. Monica Church** to honor **Our Lady of Guadalupe**, Mother of the Americas. Bring your family and flowers!

¡Están invitados!

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LIGHT A CANDLE • PRAY • HELP OUR CHURCH

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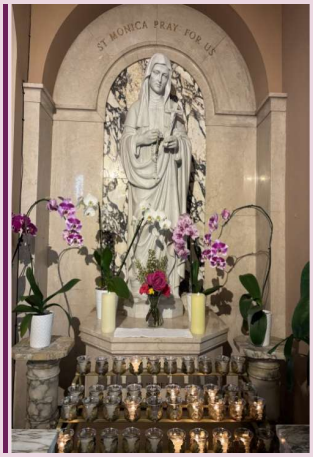

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Every candle is a prayer; every offering is a gift.
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Office Hours: Mon-Fri 9am-5:30pm
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Clergy	Staff
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PASTOR'S LETTER



Living Face to Face with God

Fr. Javier Olivera Ravasi

San Francisco, November 29, 2026.
First Sunday of Advent.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Today we begin Advent and, with it, a new liturgical year. The Church, like a good Mother, wakes us up with a word that the Lord repeats again and again in today's Gospel: "Watch!"

Jesus tells us the story of a man who goes on a journey. He leaves his house in the care of his servants, gives each one his work, and orders the gatekeeper to stay awake. For they do not know when the master of the house will return: in the evening, at midnight, at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find us sleeping.





That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

1. Living face to face with God means knowing that He sees us

The one who lives face to face with God knows that everything he does, he does in His presence: at Mass, yes, but also at work, at home, with his phone in his hand, when no one is watching. The Lord said it clearly: your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you (Mt 6:4).

In today's Psalm we ask the Lord to show us His face, so that we may be saved. A Christian is someone who lives seeking the face of God.

That is why, in this Holy Mass, as you can see, the priest and you are all facing the same direction: toward Him, to whom the Holy Sacrifice is offered. The priest is not turning his back on you; we are all walking together, as one people on pilgrimage, looking toward the Lord who comes.

But what matters most, dear brothers and sisters, is not only where we look during Mass, but where we look in life. Because one can pray facing God and then live facing men.

2. The great enemy: human respect

And what makes us live facing men? What the saints called "human respect": the fear of what others will say.

It is that fear of looking bad, of seeming old-fashioned, fanatical, or "too Catholic," that leads us to keep silent when we should speak, or to stop doing good so as not to draw attention.

Let us take some simple examples:

- The one who does not make the Sign of the Cross before eating in a restaurant, out of embarrassment.
- The one who hears jokes about the Church at work or at school and says nothing.
- The father who does not pray with his children so as not to seem "excessive."
- The young person who never mentions going to Mass on Sundays, so as not to be the odd one out.
- Or the one who keeps quiet about the truth on life, family, or marriage, because "you can't say that anymore."

And so, little by little, one ends up living face to face with men and with one's back turned to God.

Saint Paul put it bluntly: if I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ (Gal 1:10). And the Lord Himself warned that whoever is ashamed of Him before this generation, of that one He too will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father (Mk 8:38).

Notice: "when He comes." Advent again.

Human respect is, in the end, a way of falling asleep: it is like the gatekeeper who, instead of watching the door through which his master will come, spends the whole night worrying about what the neighbors think.

3. How can we live face to face with God this Advent?

The Cristero martyrs of Mexico had no human respect. Saint José Sánchez del Río, only fourteen years old, chose to die crying out

November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

"¡Viva Cristo Rey!" rather than deny his faith to please his executioners. He lived, and he died, face to face with God.

Thanks be to God, we are not asked for that much. But we are asked for a few concrete things this Advent:

- An examination of conscience every night, asking ourselves: today, did I live facing God, or facing others?
- A good confession before Christmas.
- One small act of Christian courage each week: making the Sign of the Cross in public, praying before meals, defending the Church when she is attacked, inviting someone to Mass.

No one becomes brave all at once; courage, too, must be trained.

✠ ✠ ✠

Today Saint Paul reminded us that God is faithful, and that He has called us into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord (1 Cor 1:9). God is faithful… The question is whether we will be faithful to Him, even when it costs us.

On the day the Master of the house returns, He will not ask us what others said about us, but what we did with Him.

Let us ask for this grace from the Blessed Virgin Mary, who lived face to face with God better than anyone, who said "Behold the handmaid of the Lord" without caring what others might think: may she help us, this Advent, to wait for her Son wide awake, without fear of what people will say, and with our eyes fixed on Him. Amen.

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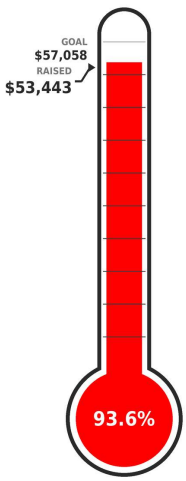

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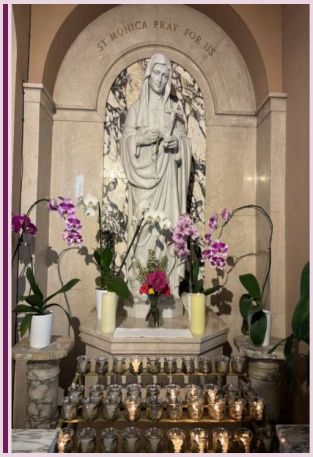

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Sign up free: **sempervirgo.org**

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PRAY · FRIDAY ADORATION

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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

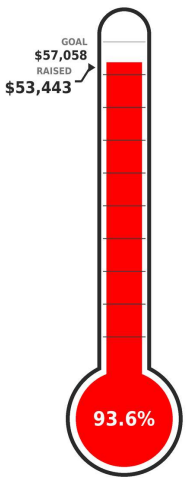
Give online, set up **recurring giving**, or remember the parish in your **will or estate**. Thank you!

Scan to give online ►

Archdiocese Annual Appeal

PARISH GOAL	RAISED SO FAR	STILL NEEDED
$57,058	$53,443	$3,615

Help us reach our goal! Only 5 weeks left this year.



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Star of the Sea & Stella Maris Academy

4420 Geary Blvd SF CA 94118

St Nicholas

CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE

Handmade Gifts! Made by 14 artisans.

DECEMBER 2026

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Enjoy Hot Chocolate & Pastries While You Shop!



November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

ST. MONICA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH

Christmas Poinsettias



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Use este sobre

As we prepare to celebrate the **Birth of Our Lord**, we wish to adorn the altars of St. Monica and St. Thomas the Apostle with **poinsettias for Christmas**.

To cover their cost, we kindly ask for your help through a **special collection this Sunday**.

Every gift, large or small, helps make our churches beautiful for the Christ Child.

Poinsettia Collection this Sunday

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

The Advent Wreath

The evergreen circle stands for the eternity of God, who has no beginning and no end. The **three violet candles** stand for penance and watchful prayer; the **rose candle**, lit on Gaudete Sunday, for the joy of Christ's nearness. Light one more candle each week as Christmas draws near.

Prayer for the First Week

Stir up Thy power, we beseech Thee, O Lord, and come: that from the threatening dangers of our sins we may deserve to be rescued by Thy protection, and to be saved by Thy deliverance. Who livest and reignest for ever and ever. Amen.

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Procession in Honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Procesión en honor a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe





DECEMBER · DICIEMBRE
13
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12:00 NOON
MEDIODÍA

St. Monica Church
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Between the 11 AM and 1 PM Masses
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You are invited!

Join us as we walk in procession around **St. Monica Church** to honor **Our Lady of Guadalupe**, Mother of the Americas. Bring your family and flowers!

¡Están invitados!

Acompáñenos en procesión alrededor de la **iglesia Santa Mónica** para honrar a **Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe**, Madre de las Américas. ¡Traiga a su familia y flores!

"¿No estoy yo aquí, que soy tu madre?"
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LIGHT A CANDLE • PRAY • HELP OUR CHURCH

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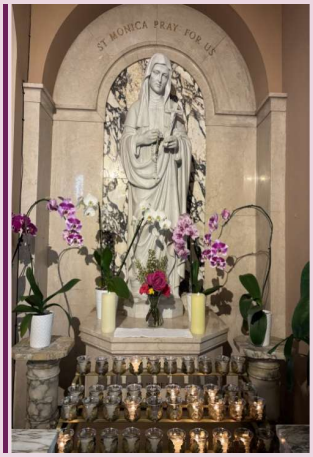

Light a candle today!

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 help make sandwiches each month, and to those who shop for supplies and deliver to the shelter the next day! Sandwich making is the **3rd Wednesday of every month.**

Next: Wed., Dec. 16 · 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**.

November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

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) **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



Living Face to Face with God

Fr. Javier Olivera Ravasi

San Francisco, November 29, 2026.
First Sunday of Advent.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Today we begin Advent and, with it, a new liturgical year. The Church, like a good Mother, wakes us up with a word that the Lord repeats again and again in today's Gospel: "Watch!"

Jesus tells us the story of a man who goes on a journey. He leaves his house in the care of his servants, gives each one his work, and orders the gatekeeper to stay awake. For they do not know when the master of the house will return: in the evening, at midnight, at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find us sleeping.





That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

1. Living face to face with God means knowing that He sees us

The one who lives face to face with God knows that everything he does, he does in His presence: at Mass, yes, but also at work, at home, with his phone in his hand, when no one is watching. The Lord said it clearly: your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you (Mt 6:4).

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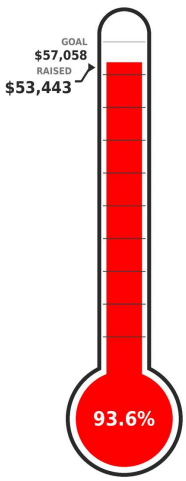

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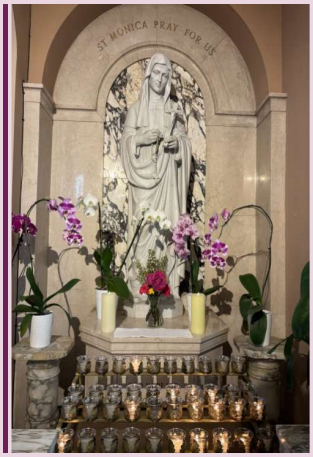

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Thank you, and God bless you!

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November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

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Saint Thomas the Apostle
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PASTOR'S LETTER



Living Face to Face with God

Fr. Javier Olivera Ravasi

San Francisco, November 29, 2026.
First Sunday of Advent.

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That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

1. Living face to face with God means knowing that He sees us

The one who lives face to face with God knows that everything he does, he does in His presence: at Mass, yes, but also at work, at home, with his phone in his hand, when no one is watching. The Lord said it clearly: your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you (Mt 6:4).

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And what makes us live facing men? What the saints called "human respect": the fear of what others will say.

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Let us ask for this grace from the Blessed Virgin Mary, who lived face to face with God better than anyone, who said "Behold the handmaid of the Lord" without caring what others might think: may she help us, this Advent, to wait for her Son wide awake, without fear of what people will say, and with our eyes fixed on Him. Amen.

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Parochial Administrator
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Sign up free: **sempervirgo.org**

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Adorers Needed

Fridays 9am – 5pm · Our Lord is waiting for you!



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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

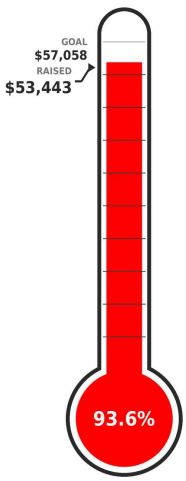
Give online, set up **recurring giving**, or remember the parish in your **will or estate**. Thank you!

Scan to give online ►

Archdiocese Annual Appeal

PARISH GOAL	RAISED SO FAR	STILL NEEDED
$57,058	$53,443	$3,615

Help us reach our goal! Only 5 weeks left this year.



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

Archdiocesan Annual Appeal 2026 Goal: $6,450,000

Star of the Sea & Stella Maris Academy

4420 Geary Blvd SF CA 94118

St Nicholas

CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE

Handmade Gifts! Made by 14 artisans.

DECEMBER 2026

AUDITORIUM

Friday 4, 2pm-7pm
Saturday 5, 9am-6pm
Sunday 6, 9am-2pm



Enjoy Hot Chocolate & Pastries While You Shop!



November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

ST. MONICA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH

Christmas Poinsettias



Please use this envelope
Use este sobre

As we prepare to celebrate the **Birth of Our Lord**, we wish to adorn the altars of St. Monica and St. Thomas the Apostle with **poinsettias for Christmas**.

To cover their cost, we kindly ask for your help through a **special collection this Sunday**.

Every gift, large or small, helps make our churches beautiful for the Christ Child.

Poinsettia Collection this Sunday

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

The Advent Wreath

The evergreen circle stands for the eternity of God, who has no beginning and no end. The **three violet candles** stand for penance and watchful prayer; the **rose candle**, lit on Gaudete Sunday, for the joy of Christ's nearness. Light one more candle each week as Christmas draws near.

Prayer for the First Week

Stir up Thy power, we beseech Thee, O Lord, and come: that from the threatening dangers of our sins we may deserve to be rescued by Thy protection, and to be saved by Thy deliverance. Who livest and reignest for ever and ever. Amen.

Sunday Collection

Collection	St. Monica	St. Thomas
Sunday (English)	$1,531.00	$1,137.00
Vietnamese	—	$514.00

ST. MONICA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH

Procession in Honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Procesión en honor a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe





DECEMBER · DICIEMBRE
13
SUNDAY · DOMINGO
12:00 NOON
MEDIODÍA

St. Monica Church
470 24th Ave., San Francisco

Between the 11 AM and 1 PM Masses
Entre las Misas de 11 AM y 1 PM

You are invited!

Join us as we walk in procession around **St. Monica Church** to honor **Our Lady of Guadalupe**, Mother of the Americas. Bring your family and flowers!

¡Están invitados!

Acompáñenos en procesión alrededor de la **iglesia Santa Mónica** para honrar a **Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe**, Madre de las Américas. ¡Traiga a su familia y flores!

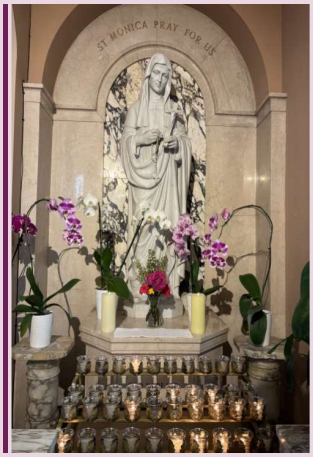
"¿No estoy yo aquí, que soy tu madre?"
¡Viva la Virgen de Guadalupe!

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.



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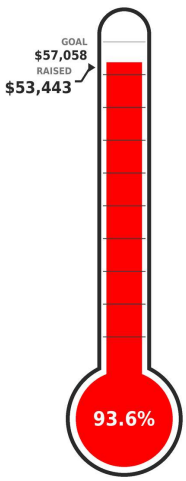

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To learn more about the Archdiocese Annual Appeal, and to donate, please visit https://sfarch.org/aaa/

Archdiocesan Annual Appeal 2026 Goal: $6,450,000

Star of the Sea & Stella Maris Academy

4420 Geary Blvd SF CA 94118

St Nicholas

CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE

Handmade Gifts! Made by 14 artisans.

DECEMBER 2026

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Enjoy Hot Chocolate & Pastries While You Shop!



November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

ST. MONICA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH

Christmas Poinsettias



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To cover their cost, we kindly ask for your help through a **special collection this Sunday**.

Every gift, large or small, helps make our churches beautiful for the Christ Child.

Poinsettia Collection this Sunday

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

The Advent Wreath

The evergreen circle stands for the eternity of God, who has no beginning and no end. The **three violet candles** stand for penance and watchful prayer; the **rose candle**, lit on Gaudete Sunday, for the joy of Christ's nearness. Light one more candle each week as Christmas draws near.

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Between the 11 AM and 1 PM Masses
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"¿No estoy yo aquí, que soy tu madre?"
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LIGHT A CANDLE • PRAY • HELP OUR CHURCH

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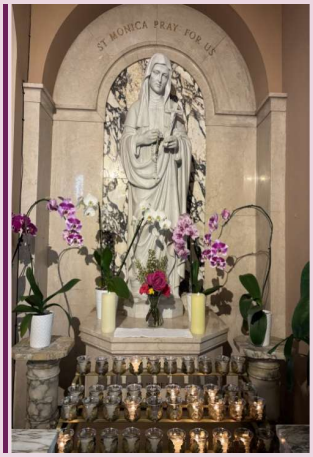

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PASTOR'S LETTER



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That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

1. Living face to face with God means knowing that He sees us

The one who lives face to face with God knows that everything he does, he does in His presence: at Mass, yes, but also at work, at home, with his phone in his hand, when no one is watching. The Lord said it clearly: your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you (Mt 6:4).

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Do not let Christmas find your soul unready.

Mass Intentions

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Monday 11/30	8:00am	Ann Yan Lam-Lau	8:30am	Robert Anselmo Han †
Tuesday 12/01	8:00am	Rene Revel †		No Mass
Wednesday 12/02	8:00am	Mercedes Yazdini, Birthday	8:30am	Veronico Flores Fabular †
Thursday 12/03	8:00am	Lucio Aguirre †		No Mass
Friday 12/04	8:00am	Francisco Matturano-Gomez †	8:30am	Int. of the People of the Parish
Saturday 12/05	5:00pm	Santiago & Enelia Pacheco †	8:30am	Int. of the People of the Parish

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

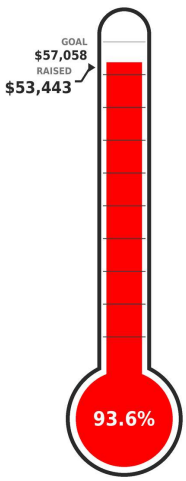
Give online, set up **recurring giving**, or remember the parish in your **will or estate**. Thank you!

Scan to give online ►

Archdiocese Annual Appeal

PARISH GOAL	RAISED SO FAR	STILL NEEDED
$57,058	$53,443	$3,615

Help us reach our goal! Only 5 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.

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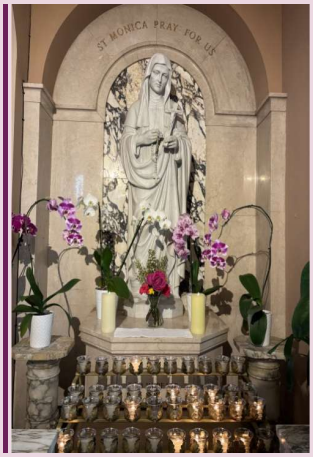

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Support Your Parish

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PRAY · FRIDAY ADORATION

Adorers Needed

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It takes two minutes!

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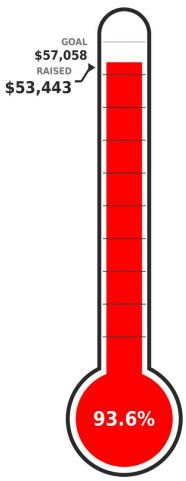
Archdiocese Annual Appeal

PARISH GOAL	RAISED SO FAR	STILL NEEDED
$57,058	$53,443	$3,615

Help us reach our goal! Only 5 weeks left this year.



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St Nicholas

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November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

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Use este sobre

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To cover their cost, we kindly ask for your help through a **special collection this Sunday**.

Every gift, large or small, helps make our churches beautiful for the Christ Child.

Poinsettia Collection this Sunday

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

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The evergreen circle stands for the eternity of God, who has no beginning and no end. The **three violet candles** stand for penance and watchful prayer; the **rose candle**, lit on Gaudete Sunday, for the joy of Christ's nearness. Light one more candle each week as Christmas draws near.

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Stir up Thy power, we beseech Thee, O Lord, and come: that from the threatening dangers of our sins we may deserve to be rescued by Thy protection, and to be saved by Thy deliverance. Who livest and reignest for ever and ever. Amen.

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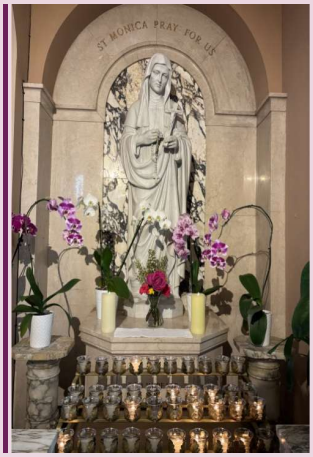

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Clergy	Staff
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PASTOR'S LETTER



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Fr. Javier Olivera Ravasi

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That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

1. Living face to face with God means knowing that He sees us

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But what matters most, dear brothers and sisters, is not only where we look during Mass, but where we look in life. Because one can pray facing God and then live facing men.

2. The great enemy: human respect

And what makes us live facing men? What the saints called "human respect": the fear of what others will say.

It is that fear of looking bad, of seeming old-fashioned, fanatical, or "too Catholic," that leads us to keep silent when we should speak, or to stop doing good so as not to draw attention.

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✠ ✠ ✠

Today Saint Paul reminded us that God is faithful, and that He has called us into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord (1 Cor 1:9). God is faithful… The question is whether we will be faithful to Him, even when it costs us.

On the day the Master of the house returns, He will not ask us what others said about us, but what we did with Him.

Let us ask for this grace from the Blessed Virgin Mary, who lived face to face with God better than anyone, who said "Behold the handmaid of the Lord" without caring what others might think: may she help us, this Advent, to wait for her Son wide awake, without fear of what people will say, and with our eyes fixed on Him. Amen.

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

Sunday Gospel: *Mk. 13:33-37*

Jesus said to his disciples: "Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come. It is like a man traveling abroad. He leaves home and places his servants in charge, each with his own work, and orders the gatekeeper to be on the watch. Watch, therefore; you do not know when the lord of the house is coming, whether in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to all: 'Watch!'"

Our Lord gives no date because He wants us ready at every hour. The servant who is "sleeping" is the soul in mortal sin. To the world he may look perfectly well, but in the eyes of God his soul is dead. As the month of the Holy Souls comes to a close, we are reminded that death comes when no man expects it, and whatever state it finds us in is the state we keep for all eternity. That is why Holy Mother Church gives us Advent as a season of penance. Do not wait for a more convenient time. Let us each prepare as well as we can by making a good Confession during this holy season, so that whenever the Master comes, He may find us awake.

Semper Virgo

A Marian Pilgrimage to Guadalupe 2031

Cardinal Burke invites the faithful to a **daily Marian devotion** preparing for the 500th anniversary of Our Lady of Guadalupe in 2031. Each morning, receive a short meditation on the Mother of God.

Begins **Dec. 12, 2026**, Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Sign up free: **sempervirgo.org**

Liturgical Calendar	
Sun 11/29	First Sunday of Advent
Mon 11/30	St. Andrew, Apostle
Tues 12/1	Advent Weekday
Wed 12/2	Advent Weekday
Thurs 12/3	St. Francis Xavier
Fri 12/4	Advent Weekday · St. John Damascene
Sat 12/5	Advent Weekday

Make a Good Confession

Prepare ye the way of the Lord!

Confessions at St. Monica
Mon–Fri: before and after Mass
Saturday: 4:20 PM · Sunday: after Mass

Why go to Confession? Mortal sin robs the soul of sanctifying grace. In His mercy Christ gave His Church the Sacrament of Penance to restore it. The Fathers of the Church call it "the second plank [of salvation] after the shipwreck which is the loss of grace." *(CCC 1446)*

Even our daily faults are worth confessing. Holy Mother Church strongly recommends it, for regular Confession "helps us form our conscience, fight against evil tendencies, let ourselves be healed by Christ and progress in the life of the Spirit." *(CCC 1458)*

"The confession of evil works is the beginning of good works."
— St. Augustine

Do not let Christmas find your soul unready.

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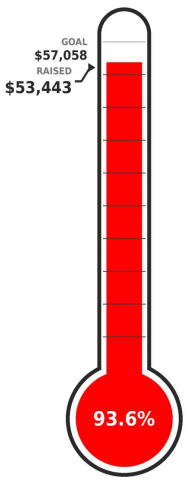

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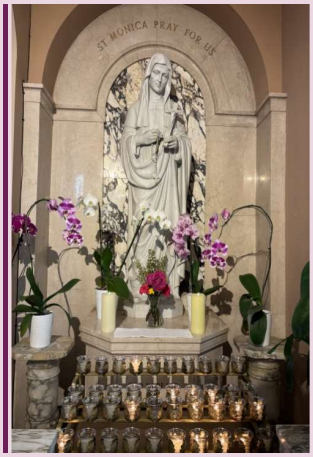

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It takes two minutes!

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Archdiocese Annual Appeal

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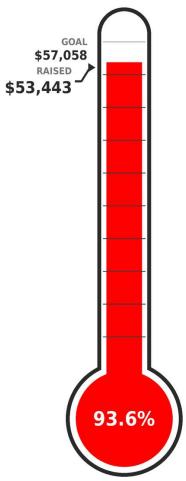

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November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

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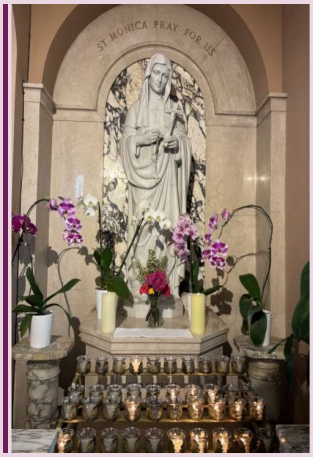

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PASTOR'S LETTER



Living Face to Face with God

Fr. Javier Olivera Ravasi

San Francisco, November 29, 2026.
First Sunday of Advent.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Today we begin Advent and, with it, a new liturgical year. The Church, like a good Mother, wakes us up with a word that the Lord repeats again and again in today's Gospel: "Watch!"

Jesus tells us the story of a man who goes on a journey. He leaves his house in the care of his servants, gives each one his work, and orders the gatekeeper to stay awake. For they do not know when the master of the house will return: in the evening, at midnight, at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find us sleeping.





That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

1. Living face to face with God means knowing that He sees us

The one who lives face to face with God knows that everything he does, he does in His presence: at Mass, yes, but also at work, at home, with his phone in his hand, when no one is watching. The Lord said it clearly: your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you (Mt 6:4).

In today's Psalm we ask the Lord to show us His face, so that we may be saved. A Christian is someone who lives seeking the face of God.

That is why, in this Holy Mass, as you can see, the priest and you are all facing the same direction: toward Him, to whom the Holy Sacrifice is offered. The priest is not turning his back on you; we are all walking together, as one people on pilgrimage, looking toward the Lord who comes.

But what matters most, dear brothers and sisters, is not only where we look during Mass, but where we look in life. Because one can pray facing God and then live facing men.

2. The great enemy: human respect

And what makes us live facing men? What the saints called "human respect": the fear of what others will say.

It is that fear of looking bad, of seeming old-fashioned, fanatical, or "too Catholic," that leads us to keep silent when we should speak, or to stop doing good so as not to draw attention.

Let us take some simple examples:

- The one who does not make the Sign of the Cross before eating in a restaurant, out of embarrassment.
- The one who hears jokes about the Church at work or at school and says nothing.
- The father who does not pray with his children so as not to seem "excessive."
- The young person who never mentions going to Mass on Sundays, so as not to be the odd one out.
- Or the one who keeps quiet about the truth on life, family, or marriage, because "you can't say that anymore."

And so, little by little, one ends up living face to face with men and with one's back turned to God.

Saint Paul put it bluntly: if I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ (Gal 1:10). And the Lord Himself warned that whoever is ashamed of Him before this generation, of that one He too will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father (Mk 8:38).

Notice: "when He comes." Advent again.

Human respect is, in the end, a way of falling asleep: it is like the gatekeeper who, instead of watching the door through which his master will come, spends the whole night worrying about what the neighbors think.

3. How can we live face to face with God this Advent?

The Cristero martyrs of Mexico had no human respect. Saint José Sánchez del Río, only fourteen years old, chose to die crying out

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"¡Viva Cristo Rey!" rather than deny his faith to please his executioners. He lived, and he died, face to face with God.

Thanks be to God, we are not asked for that much. But we are asked for a few concrete things this Advent:

- An examination of conscience every night, asking ourselves: today, did I live facing God, or facing others?
- A good confession before Christmas.
- One small act of Christian courage each week: making the Sign of the Cross in public, praying before meals, defending the Church when she is attacked, inviting someone to Mass.

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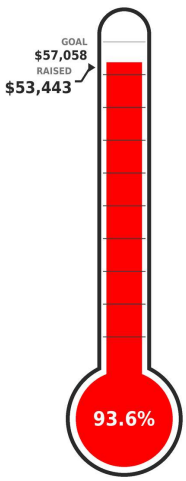

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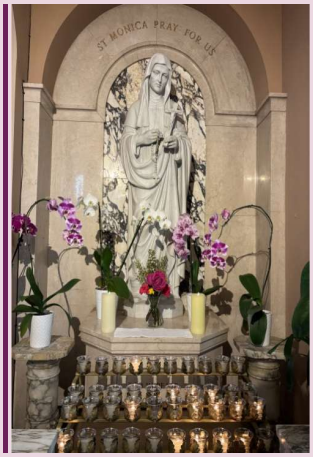

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That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

1. Living face to face with God means knowing that He sees us

The one who lives face to face with God knows that everything he does, he does in His presence: at Mass, yes, but also at work, at home, with his phone in his hand, when no one is watching. The Lord said it clearly: your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you (Mt 6:4).

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November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

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Let us ask for this grace from the Blessed Virgin Mary, who lived face to face with God better than anyone, who said "Behold the handmaid of the Lord" without caring what others might think: may she help us, this Advent, to wait for her Son wide awake, without fear of what people will say, and with our eyes fixed on Him. Amen.

Fr. Javier Olivera Ravasi, SE
Parochial Administrator
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Sign up free: **sempervirgo.org**

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PRAY · FRIDAY ADORATION

Adorers Needed

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Scan to sign up

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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

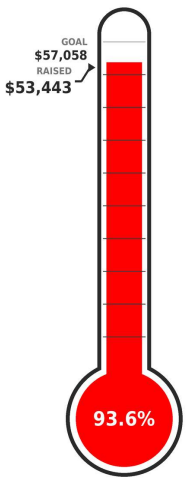
Give online, set up **recurring giving**, or remember the parish in your **will or estate**. Thank you!

Scan to give online ►

Archdiocese Annual Appeal

PARISH GOAL	RAISED SO FAR	STILL NEEDED
$57,058	$53,443	$3,615

Help us reach our goal! Only 5 weeks left this year.



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Archdiocesan Annual Appeal 2026 Goal: $6,450,000

Star of the Sea & Stella Maris Academy

4420 Geary Blvd SF CA 94118

St Nicholas

CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE

Handmade Gifts! Made by 14 artisans.

DECEMBER 2026

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Enjoy Hot Chocolate & Pastries While You Shop!



November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

ST. MONICA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH

Christmas Poinsettias



Please use this envelope
Use este sobre

As we prepare to celebrate the **Birth of Our Lord**, we wish to adorn the altars of St. Monica and St. Thomas the Apostle with **poinsettias for Christmas**.

To cover their cost, we kindly ask for your help through a **special collection this Sunday**.

Every gift, large or small, helps make our churches beautiful for the Christ Child.

Poinsettia Collection this Sunday

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

The Advent Wreath

The evergreen circle stands for the eternity of God, who has no beginning and no end. The **three violet candles** stand for penance and watchful prayer; the **rose candle**, lit on Gaudete Sunday, for the joy of Christ's nearness. Light one more candle each week as Christmas draws near.

Prayer for the First Week

Stir up Thy power, we beseech Thee, O Lord, and come: that from the threatening dangers of our sins we may deserve to be rescued by Thy protection, and to be saved by Thy deliverance. Who livest and reignest for ever and ever. Amen.

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Procession in Honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Procesión en honor a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe





DECEMBER · DICIEMBRE
13
SUNDAY · DOMINGO
12:00 NOON
MEDIODÍA

St. Monica Church
470 24th Ave., San Francisco

Between the 11 AM and 1 PM Masses
Entre las Misas de 11 AM y 1 PM

You are invited!

Join us as we walk in procession around **St. Monica Church** to honor **Our Lady of Guadalupe**, Mother of the Americas. Bring your family and flowers!

¡Están invitados!

Acompáñenos en procesión alrededor de la **iglesia Santa Mónica** para honrar a **Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe**, Madre de las Américas. ¡Traiga a su familia y flores!

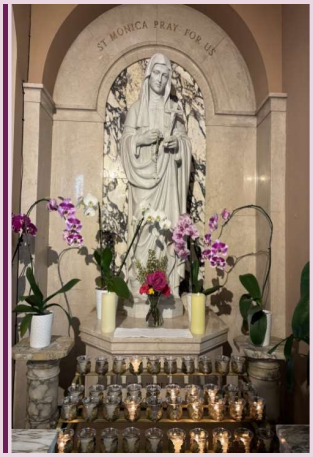
"¿No estoy yo aquí, que soy tu madre?"
¡Viva la Virgen de Guadalupe!

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 help make sandwiches each month, and to those who shop for supplies and deliver to the shelter the next day! Sandwich making is the **3rd Wednesday of every month.**

Next: Wed., Dec. 16 · 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**.

November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

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
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PASTOR'S LETTER



Living Face to Face with God

Fr. Javier Olivera Ravasi

San Francisco, November 29, 2026.
First Sunday of Advent.

Dear brothers and sisters,

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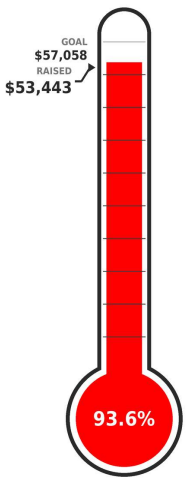

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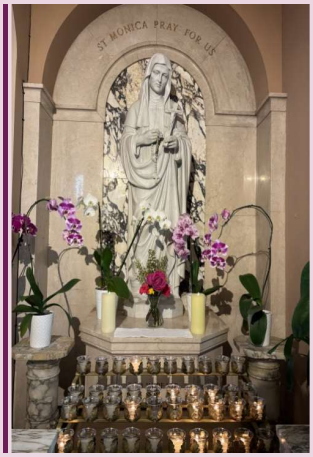
St. Monica Shrine

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.



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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!*

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Thank you to all who help make sandwiches each month, and to those who shop for supplies and deliver to the shelter the next day! Sandwich making is the **3rd Wednesday of every month.**

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November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

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Saint Thomas the Apostle
Parish

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PASTOR'S LETTER



Living Face to Face with God

Fr. Javier Olivera Ravasi

San Francisco, November 29, 2026.
First Sunday of Advent.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Today we begin Advent and, with it, a new liturgical year. The Church, like a good Mother, wakes us up with a word that the Lord repeats again and again in today's Gospel: "Watch!"

Jesus tells us the story of a man who goes on a journey. He leaves his house in the care of his servants, gives each one his work, and orders the gatekeeper to stay awake. For they do not know when the master of the house will return: in the evening, at midnight, at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find us sleeping.





That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

1. Living face to face with God means knowing that He sees us

The one who lives face to face with God knows that everything he does, he does in His presence: at Mass, yes, but also at work, at home, with his phone in his hand, when no one is watching. The Lord said it clearly: your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you (Mt 6:4).

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That is why, in this Holy Mass, as you can see, the priest and you are all facing the same direction: toward Him, to whom the Holy Sacrifice is offered. The priest is not turning his back on you; we are all walking together, as one people on pilgrimage, looking toward the Lord who comes.

But what matters most, dear brothers and sisters, is not only where we look during Mass, but where we look in life. Because one can pray facing God and then live facing men.

2. The great enemy: human respect

And what makes us live facing men? What the saints called "human respect": the fear of what others will say.

It is that fear of looking bad, of seeming old-fashioned, fanatical, or "too Catholic," that leads us to keep silent when we should speak, or to stop doing good so as not to draw attention.

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Let us ask for this grace from the Blessed Virgin Mary, who lived face to face with God better than anyone, who said "Behold the handmaid of the Lord" without caring what others might think: may she help us, this Advent, to wait for her Son wide awake, without fear of what people will say, and with our eyes fixed on Him. Amen.

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Parochial Administrator
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Sunday Gospel: *Mk. 13:33-37*

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Begins **Dec. 12, 2026**, Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Sign up free: **sempervirgo.org**

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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

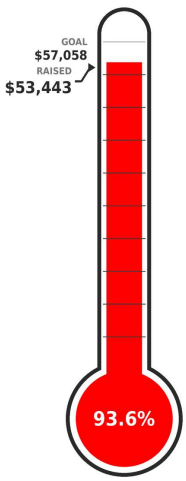
Give online, set up **recurring giving**, or remember the parish in your **will or estate**. Thank you!

Scan to give online ►

Archdiocese Annual Appeal

PARISH GOAL	RAISED SO FAR	STILL NEEDED
$57,058	$53,443	$3,615

Help us reach our goal! Only 5 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.

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

Archdiocesan Annual Appeal 2026 Goal: $6,450,000

Star of the Sea & Stella Maris Academy

4420 Geary Blvd SF CA 94118

St Nicholas

CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE

Handmade Gifts! Made by 14 artisans.

DECEMBER 2026

AUDITORIUM

Friday 4, 2pm-7pm
Saturday 5, 9am-6pm
Sunday 6, 9am-2pm



Enjoy Hot Chocolate & Pastries While You Shop!



November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

ST. MONICA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH

Christmas Poinsettias



Please use this envelope
Use este sobre

As we prepare to celebrate the **Birth of Our Lord**, we wish to adorn the altars of St. Monica and St. Thomas the Apostle with **poinsettias for Christmas**.

To cover their cost, we kindly ask for your help through a **special collection this Sunday**.

Every gift, large or small, helps make our churches beautiful for the Christ Child.

Poinsettia Collection this Sunday

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

The Advent Wreath

The evergreen circle stands for the eternity of God, who has no beginning and no end. The **three violet candles** stand for penance and watchful prayer; the **rose candle**, lit on Gaudete Sunday, for the joy of Christ's nearness. Light one more candle each week as Christmas draws near.

Prayer for the First Week

Stir up Thy power, we beseech Thee, O Lord, and come: that from the threatening dangers of our sins we may deserve to be rescued by Thy protection, and to be saved by Thy deliverance. Who livest and reignest for ever and ever. Amen.

Sunday Collection

Collection	St. Monica	St. Thomas
Sunday (English)	$1,531.00	$1,137.00
Vietnamese	—	$514.00

ST. MONICA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH

Procession in Honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Procesión en honor a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe





DECEMBER · DICIEMBRE
13
SUNDAY · DOMINGO
12:00 NOON
MEDIODÍA

St. Monica Church
470 24th Ave., San Francisco

Between the 11 AM and 1 PM Masses
Entre las Misas de 11 AM y 1 PM

You are invited!

Join us as we walk in procession around **St. Monica Church** to honor **Our Lady of Guadalupe**, Mother of the Americas. Bring your family and flowers!

¡Están invitados!

Acompáñenos en procesión alrededor de la **iglesia Santa Mónica** para honrar a **Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe**, Madre de las Américas. ¡Traiga a su familia y flores!

"¿No estoy yo aquí, que soy tu madre?"
¡Viva la Virgen de Guadalupe!

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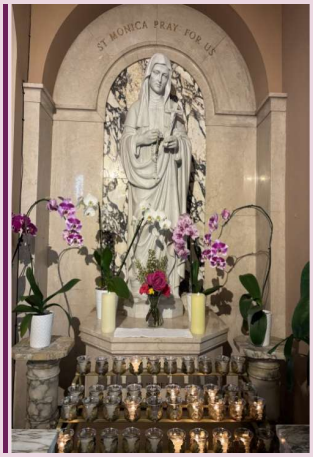

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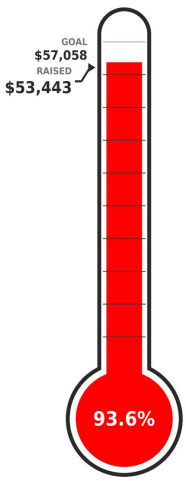

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4420 Geary Blvd SF CA 94118

St Nicholas

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DECEMBER 2026

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November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

ST. MONICA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH

Christmas Poinsettias



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Use este sobre

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To cover their cost, we kindly ask for your help through a **special collection this Sunday**.

Every gift, large or small, helps make our churches beautiful for the Christ Child.

Poinsettia Collection this Sunday

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

The Advent Wreath

The evergreen circle stands for the eternity of God, who has no beginning and no end. The **three violet candles** stand for penance and watchful prayer; the **rose candle**, lit on Gaudete Sunday, for the joy of Christ's nearness. Light one more candle each week as Christmas draws near.

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DECEMBER · DICIEMBRE
13
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St. Monica Church
470 24th Ave., San Francisco

Between the 11 AM and 1 PM Masses
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You are invited!

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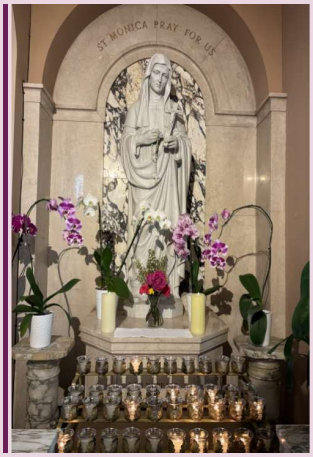

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Saint Thomas the Apostle
Parish

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www.smstaparishsf.org
Office Hours: Mon-Fri 9am-5:30pm
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Clergy	Staff
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PASTOR'S LETTER



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That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

1. Living face to face with God means knowing that He sees us

The one who lives face to face with God knows that everything he does, he does in His presence: at Mass, yes, but also at work, at home, with his phone in his hand, when no one is watching. The Lord said it clearly: your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you (Mt 6:4).

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But what matters most, dear brothers and sisters, is not only where we look during Mass, but where we look in life. Because one can pray facing God and then live facing men.

2. The great enemy: human respect

And what makes us live facing men? What the saints called "human respect": the fear of what others will say.

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Today Saint Paul reminded us that God is faithful, and that He has called us into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord (1 Cor 1:9). God is faithful… The question is whether we will be faithful to Him, even when it costs us.

On the day the Master of the house returns, He will not ask us what others said about us, but what we did with Him.

Let us ask for this grace from the Blessed Virgin Mary, who lived face to face with God better than anyone, who said "Behold the handmaid of the Lord" without caring what others might think: may she help us, this Advent, to wait for her Son wide awake, without fear of what people will say, and with our eyes fixed on Him. Amen.

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Parochial Administrator
St. Monica–St. Thomas the Apostle Parish

Sunday Gospel: *Mk. 13:33-37*

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Our Lord gives no date because He wants us ready at every hour. The servant who is "sleeping" is the soul in mortal sin. To the world he may look perfectly well, but in the eyes of God his soul is dead. As the month of the Holy Souls comes to a close, we are reminded that death comes when no man expects it, and whatever state it finds us in is the state we keep for all eternity. That is why Holy Mother Church gives us Advent as a season of penance. Do not wait for a more convenient time. Let us each prepare as well as we can by making a good Confession during this holy season, so that whenever the Master comes, He may find us awake.

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Make a Good Confession

Prepare ye the way of the Lord!

Confessions at St. Monica
Mon–Fri: before and after Mass
Saturday: 4:20 PM · Sunday: after Mass

Why go to Confession? Mortal sin robs the soul of sanctifying grace. In His mercy Christ gave His Church the Sacrament of Penance to restore it. The Fathers of the Church call it "the second plank [of salvation] after the shipwreck which is the loss of grace." *(CCC 1446)*

Even our daily faults are worth confessing. Holy Mother Church strongly recommends it, for regular Confession "helps us form our conscience, fight against evil tendencies, let ourselves be healed by Christ and progress in the life of the Spirit." *(CCC 1458)*

"The confession of evil works is the beginning of good works."
— St. Augustine

Do not let Christmas find your soul unready.

Mass Intentions

	St. Monica		St. Thomas the Apostle	
Sunday 11/29	11:00am 1:00pm	Betty & Morelia Bermejo † Gilda Maria Mangana † Int. for the Parishioners	9:30am	Adelaida Maximo Iglesias †
Monday 11/30	8:00am	Ann Yan Lam-Lau	8:30am	Robert Anselmo Han †
Tuesday 12/01	8:00am	Rene Revel †		No Mass
Wednesday 12/02	8:00am	Mercedes Yazdini, Birthday	8:30am	Veronico Flores Fabular †
Thursday 12/03	8:00am	Lucio Aguirre †		No Mass
Friday 12/04	8:00am	Francisco Matturano-Gomez †	8:30am	Int. of the People of the Parish
Saturday 12/05	5:00pm	Santiago & Enelia Pacheco †	8:30am	Int. of the People of the Parish

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

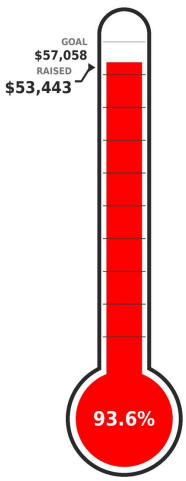
Give online, set up **recurring giving**, or remember the parish in your **will or estate**. Thank you!

Scan to give online ►

Archdiocese Annual Appeal

PARISH GOAL	RAISED SO FAR	STILL NEEDED
$57,058	$53,443	$3,615

Help us reach our goal! Only 5 weeks left this year.



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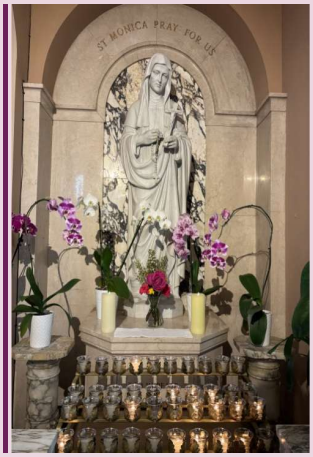

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It takes two minutes!

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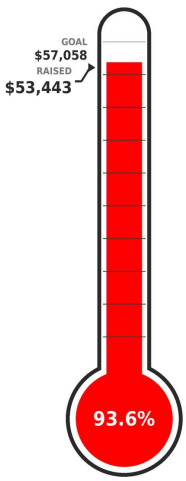
Archdiocese Annual Appeal

PARISH GOAL	RAISED SO FAR	STILL NEEDED
$57,058	$53,443	$3,615

Help us reach our goal! Only 5 weeks left this year.



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St Nicholas

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DECEMBER 2026

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November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

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Every gift, large or small, helps make our churches beautiful for the Christ Child.

Poinsettia Collection this Sunday

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

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The evergreen circle stands for the eternity of God, who has no beginning and no end. The **three violet candles** stand for penance and watchful prayer; the **rose candle**, lit on Gaudete Sunday, for the joy of Christ's nearness. Light one more candle each week as Christmas draws near.

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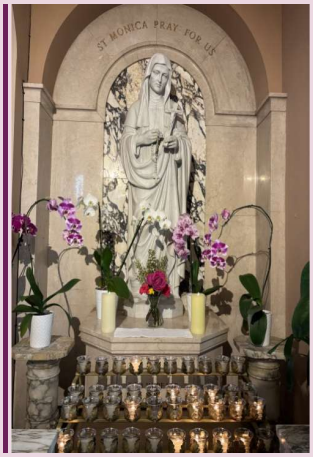

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Saint Thomas the Apostle
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Clergy	Staff
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PASTOR'S LETTER



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Fr. Javier Olivera Ravasi

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That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

1. Living face to face with God means knowing that He sees us

The one who lives face to face with God knows that everything he does, he does in His presence: at Mass, yes, but also at work, at home, with his phone in his hand, when no one is watching. The Lord said it clearly: your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you (Mt 6:4).

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That is why, in this Holy Mass, as you can see, the priest and you are all facing the same direction: toward Him, to whom the Holy Sacrifice is offered. The priest is not turning his back on you; we are all walking together, as one people on pilgrimage, looking toward the Lord who comes.

But what matters most, dear brothers and sisters, is not only where we look during Mass, but where we look in life. Because one can pray facing God and then live facing men.

2. The great enemy: human respect

And what makes us live facing men? What the saints called "human respect": the fear of what others will say.

It is that fear of looking bad, of seeming old-fashioned, fanatical, or "too Catholic," that leads us to keep silent when we should speak, or to stop doing good so as not to draw attention.

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And so, little by little, one ends up living face to face with men and with one's back turned to God.

Saint Paul put it bluntly: if I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ (Gal 1:10). And the Lord Himself warned that whoever is ashamed of Him before this generation, of that one He too will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father (Mk 8:38).

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3. How can we live face to face with God this Advent?

The Cristero martyrs of Mexico had no human respect. Saint José Sánchez del Río, only fourteen years old, chose to die crying out

November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

"¡Viva Cristo Rey!" rather than deny his faith to please his executioners. He lived, and he died, face to face with God.

Thanks be to God, we are not asked for that much. But we are asked for a few concrete things this Advent:

- An examination of conscience every night, asking ourselves: today, did I live facing God, or facing others?
- A good confession before Christmas.
- One small act of Christian courage each week: making the Sign of the Cross in public, praying before meals, defending the Church when she is attacked, inviting someone to Mass.

No one becomes brave all at once; courage, too, must be trained.

✠ ✠ ✠

Today Saint Paul reminded us that God is faithful, and that He has called us into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord (1 Cor 1:9). God is faithful… The question is whether we will be faithful to Him, even when it costs us.

On the day the Master of the house returns, He will not ask us what others said about us, but what we did with Him.

Let us ask for this grace from the Blessed Virgin Mary, who lived face to face with God better than anyone, who said "Behold the handmaid of the Lord" without caring what others might think: may she help us, this Advent, to wait for her Son wide awake, without fear of what people will say, and with our eyes fixed on Him. Amen.

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

Sunday Gospel: *Mk. 13:33-37*

Jesus said to his disciples: "Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come. It is like a man traveling abroad. He leaves home and places his servants in charge, each with his own work, and orders the gatekeeper to be on the watch. Watch, therefore; you do not know when the lord of the house is coming, whether in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to all: 'Watch!'"

Our Lord gives no date because He wants us ready at every hour. The servant who is "sleeping" is the soul in mortal sin. To the world he may look perfectly well, but in the eyes of God his soul is dead. As the month of the Holy Souls comes to a close, we are reminded that death comes when no man expects it, and whatever state it finds us in is the state we keep for all eternity. That is why Holy Mother Church gives us Advent as a season of penance. Do not wait for a more convenient time. Let us each prepare as well as we can by making a good Confession during this holy season, so that whenever the Master comes, He may find us awake.

Semper Virgo

A Marian Pilgrimage to Guadalupe 2031

Cardinal Burke invites the faithful to a **daily Marian devotion** preparing for the 500th anniversary of Our Lady of Guadalupe in 2031. Each morning, receive a short meditation on the Mother of God.

Begins **Dec. 12, 2026**, Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Sign up free: **sempervirgo.org**

Liturgical Calendar	
Sun 11/29	First Sunday of Advent
Mon 11/30	St. Andrew, Apostle
Tues 12/1	Advent Weekday
Wed 12/2	Advent Weekday
Thurs 12/3	St. Francis Xavier
Fri 12/4	Advent Weekday · St. John Damascene
Sat 12/5	Advent Weekday

Make a Good Confession

Prepare ye the way of the Lord!

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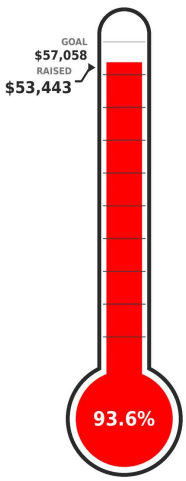

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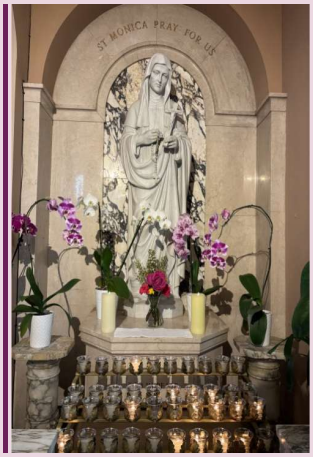

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Sign up free: **sempervirgo.org**

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It takes two minutes!

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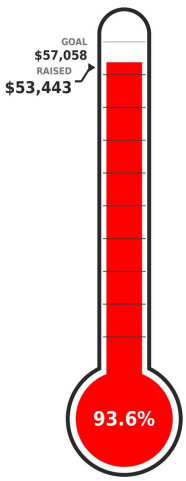

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The evergreen circle stands for the eternity of God, who has no beginning and no end. The **three violet candles** stand for penance and watchful prayer; the **rose candle**, lit on Gaudete Sunday, for the joy of Christ's nearness. Light one more candle each week as Christmas draws near.

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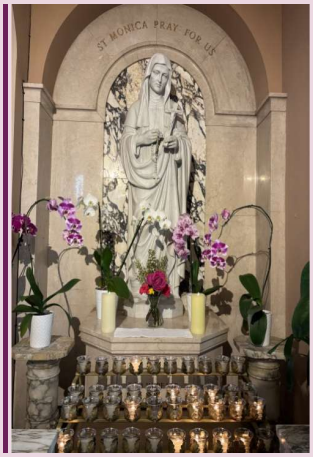

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PASTOR'S LETTER



Living Face to Face with God

Fr. Javier Olivera Ravasi

San Francisco, November 29, 2026.
First Sunday of Advent.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Today we begin Advent and, with it, a new liturgical year. The Church, like a good Mother, wakes us up with a word that the Lord repeats again and again in today's Gospel: "Watch!"

Jesus tells us the story of a man who goes on a journey. He leaves his house in the care of his servants, gives each one his work, and orders the gatekeeper to stay awake. For they do not know when the master of the house will return: in the evening, at midnight, at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find us sleeping.





That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

1. Living face to face with God means knowing that He sees us

The one who lives face to face with God knows that everything he does, he does in His presence: at Mass, yes, but also at work, at home, with his phone in his hand, when no one is watching. The Lord said it clearly: your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you (Mt 6:4).

In today's Psalm we ask the Lord to show us His face, so that we may be saved. A Christian is someone who lives seeking the face of God.

That is why, in this Holy Mass, as you can see, the priest and you are all facing the same direction: toward Him, to whom the Holy Sacrifice is offered. The priest is not turning his back on you; we are all walking together, as one people on pilgrimage, looking toward the Lord who comes.

But what matters most, dear brothers and sisters, is not only where we look during Mass, but where we look in life. Because one can pray facing God and then live facing men.

2. The great enemy: human respect

And what makes us live facing men? What the saints called "human respect": the fear of what others will say.

It is that fear of looking bad, of seeming old-fashioned, fanatical, or "too Catholic," that leads us to keep silent when we should speak, or to stop doing good so as not to draw attention.

Let us take some simple examples:

- The one who does not make the Sign of the Cross before eating in a restaurant, out of embarrassment.
- The one who hears jokes about the Church at work or at school and says nothing.
- The father who does not pray with his children so as not to seem "excessive."
- The young person who never mentions going to Mass on Sundays, so as not to be the odd one out.
- Or the one who keeps quiet about the truth on life, family, or marriage, because "you can't say that anymore."

And so, little by little, one ends up living face to face with men and with one's back turned to God.

Saint Paul put it bluntly: if I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ (Gal 1:10). And the Lord Himself warned that whoever is ashamed of Him before this generation, of that one He too will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father (Mk 8:38).

Notice: "when He comes." Advent again.

Human respect is, in the end, a way of falling asleep: it is like the gatekeeper who, instead of watching the door through which his master will come, spends the whole night worrying about what the neighbors think.

3. How can we live face to face with God this Advent?

The Cristero martyrs of Mexico had no human respect. Saint José Sánchez del Río, only fourteen years old, chose to die crying out

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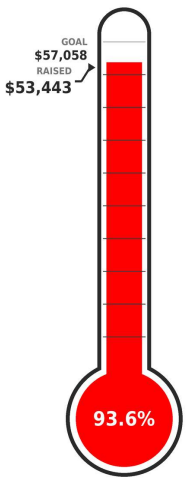

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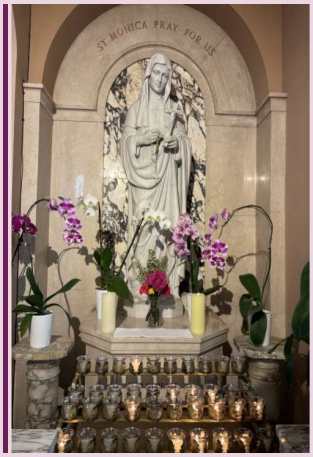

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PASTOR'S LETTER



Living Face to Face with God

Fr. Javier Olivera Ravasi

San Francisco, November 29, 2026.
First Sunday of Advent.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Today we begin Advent and, with it, a new liturgical year. The Church, like a good Mother, wakes us up with a word that the Lord repeats again and again in today's Gospel: "Watch!"

Jesus tells us the story of a man who goes on a journey. He leaves his house in the care of his servants, gives each one his work, and orders the gatekeeper to stay awake. For they do not know when the master of the house will return: in the evening, at midnight, at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find us sleeping.





That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

1. Living face to face with God means knowing that He sees us

The one who lives face to face with God knows that everything he does, he does in His presence: at Mass, yes, but also at work, at home, with his phone in his hand, when no one is watching. The Lord said it clearly: your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you (Mt 6:4).

In today's Psalm we ask the Lord to show us His face, so that we may be saved. A Christian is someone who lives seeking the face of God.

That is why, in this Holy Mass, as you can see, the priest and you are all facing the same direction: toward Him, to whom the Holy Sacrifice is offered. The priest is not turning his back on you; we are all walking together, as one people on pilgrimage, looking toward the Lord who comes.

But what matters most, dear brothers and sisters, is not only where we look during Mass, but where we look in life. Because one can pray facing God and then live facing men.

2. The great enemy: human respect

And what makes us live facing men? What the saints called "human respect": the fear of what others will say.

It is that fear of looking bad, of seeming old-fashioned, fanatical, or "too Catholic," that leads us to keep silent when we should speak, or to stop doing good so as not to draw attention.

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Saint Paul put it bluntly: if I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ (Gal 1:10). And the Lord Himself warned that whoever is ashamed of Him before this generation, of that one He too will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father (Mk 8:38).

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Today Saint Paul reminded us that God is faithful, and that He has called us into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord (1 Cor 1:9). God is faithful… The question is whether we will be faithful to Him, even when it costs us.

On the day the Master of the house returns, He will not ask us what others said about us, but what we did with Him.

Let us ask for this grace from the Blessed Virgin Mary, who lived face to face with God better than anyone, who said "Behold the handmaid of the Lord" without caring what others might think: may she help us, this Advent, to wait for her Son wide awake, without fear of what people will say, and with our eyes fixed on Him. Amen.

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Sign up free: **sempervirgo.org**

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PRAY · FRIDAY ADORATION

Adorers Needed

Fridays 9am – 5pm · Our Lord is waiting for you!



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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

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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

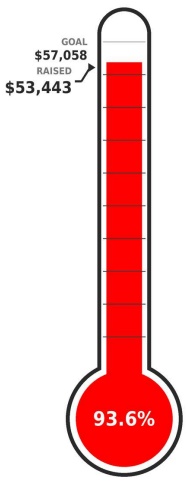
Give online, set up **recurring giving**, or remember the parish in your **will or estate**. Thank you!

Scan to give online ►

Archdiocese Annual Appeal

PARISH GOAL	RAISED SO FAR	STILL NEEDED
$57,058	$53,443	$3,615

Help us reach our goal! Only 5 weeks left this year.



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Archdiocesan Annual Appeal 2026 Goal: $6,450,000

Star of the Sea & Stella Maris Academy

4420 Geary Blvd SF CA 94118

St Nicholas

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Handmade Gifts! Made by 14 artisans.

DECEMBER 2026

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Friday 4, 2pm-7pm
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Enjoy Hot Chocolate & Pastries While You Shop!



November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

ST. MONICA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH

Christmas Poinsettias



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Use este sobre

As we prepare to celebrate the **Birth of Our Lord**, we wish to adorn the altars of St. Monica and St. Thomas the Apostle with **poinsettias for Christmas**.

To cover their cost, we kindly ask for your help through a **special collection this Sunday**.

Every gift, large or small, helps make our churches beautiful for the Christ Child.

Poinsettia Collection this Sunday

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

The Advent Wreath

The evergreen circle stands for the eternity of God, who has no beginning and no end. The **three violet candles** stand for penance and watchful prayer; the **rose candle**, lit on Gaudete Sunday, for the joy of Christ's nearness. Light one more candle each week as Christmas draws near.

Prayer for the First Week

Stir up Thy power, we beseech Thee, O Lord, and come: that from the threatening dangers of our sins we may deserve to be rescued by Thy protection, and to be saved by Thy deliverance. Who livest and reignest for ever and ever. Amen.

Sunday Collection

Collection	St. Monica	St. Thomas
Sunday (English)	$1,531.00	$1,137.00
Vietnamese	—	$514.00

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Procession in Honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Procesión en honor a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe





DECEMBER · DICIEMBRE
13
SUNDAY · DOMINGO
12:00 NOON
MEDIODÍA

St. Monica Church
470 24th Ave., San Francisco

Between the 11 AM and 1 PM Masses
Entre las Misas de 11 AM y 1 PM

You are invited!

Join us as we walk in procession around **St. Monica Church** to honor **Our Lady of Guadalupe**, Mother of the Americas. Bring your family and flowers!

¡Están invitados!

Acompáñenos en procesión alrededor de la **iglesia Santa Mónica** para honrar a **Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe**, Madre de las Américas. ¡Traiga a su familia y flores!

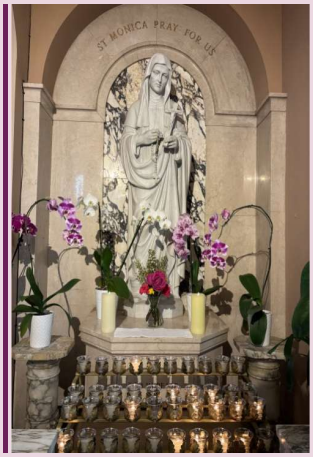
"¿No estoy yo aquí, que soy tu madre?"
¡Viva la Virgen de Guadalupe!

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 help make sandwiches each month, and to those who shop for supplies and deliver to the shelter the next day! Sandwich making is the **3rd Wednesday of every month.**

Next: Wed., Dec. 16 · 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**.

November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

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

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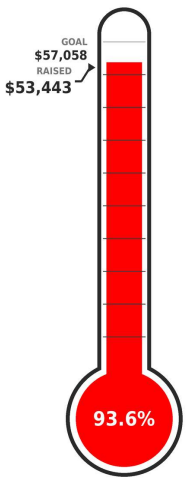

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Entre las Misas de 11 AM y 1 PM

You are invited!

Join us as we walk in procession around **St. Monica Church** to honor **Our Lady of Guadalupe**, Mother of the Americas. Bring your family and flowers!

¡Están invitados!

Acompáñenos en procesión alrededor de la **iglesia Santa Mónica** para honrar a **Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe**, Madre de las Américas. ¡Traiga a su familia y flores!

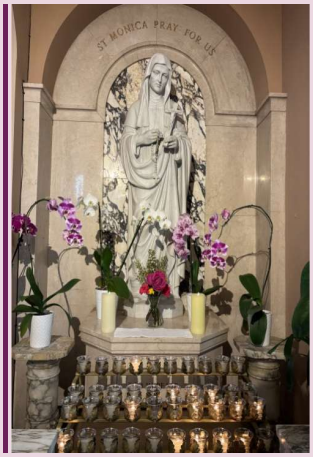
"¿No estoy yo aquí, que soy tu madre?"
¡Viva la Virgen de Guadalupe!

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.



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November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

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Saint Thomas the Apostle
Parish

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www.smstaparishsf.org
Office Hours: Mon-Fri 9am-5:30pm
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Clergy	Staff
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PASTOR'S LETTER



Living Face to Face with God

Fr. Javier Olivera Ravasi

San Francisco, November 29, 2026.
First Sunday of Advent.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Today we begin Advent and, with it, a new liturgical year. The Church, like a good Mother, wakes us up with a word that the Lord repeats again and again in today's Gospel: "Watch!"

Jesus tells us the story of a man who goes on a journey. He leaves his house in the care of his servants, gives each one his work, and orders the gatekeeper to stay awake. For they do not know when the master of the house will return: in the evening, at midnight, at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find us sleeping.





That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

1. Living face to face with God means knowing that He sees us

The one who lives face to face with God knows that everything he does, he does in His presence: at Mass, yes, but also at work, at home, with his phone in his hand, when no one is watching. The Lord said it clearly: your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you (Mt 6:4).

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But what matters most, dear brothers and sisters, is not only where we look during Mass, but where we look in life. Because one can pray facing God and then live facing men.

2. The great enemy: human respect

And what makes us live facing men? What the saints called "human respect": the fear of what others will say.

It is that fear of looking bad, of seeming old-fashioned, fanatical, or "too Catholic," that leads us to keep silent when we should speak, or to stop doing good so as not to draw attention.

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Let us ask for this grace from the Blessed Virgin Mary, who lived face to face with God better than anyone, who said "Behold the handmaid of the Lord" without caring what others might think: may she help us, this Advent, to wait for her Son wide awake, without fear of what people will say, and with our eyes fixed on Him. Amen.

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Parochial Administrator
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Sunday Gospel: *Mk. 13:33-37*

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Sign up free: **sempervirgo.org**

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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

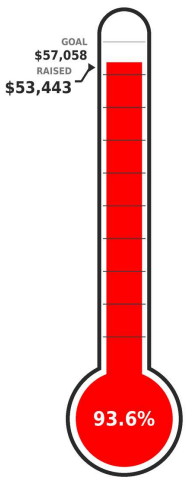
Give online, set up **recurring giving**, or remember the parish in your **will or estate**. Thank you!

Scan to give online ►

Archdiocese Annual Appeal

PARISH GOAL	RAISED SO FAR	STILL NEEDED
$57,058	$53,443	$3,615

Help us reach our goal! Only 5 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.

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

Archdiocesan Annual Appeal 2026 Goal: $6,450,000

Star of the Sea & Stella Maris Academy

4420 Geary Blvd SF CA 94118

St Nicholas

CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE

Handmade Gifts! Made by 14 artisans.

DECEMBER 2026

AUDITORIUM

Friday 4, 2pm-7pm
Saturday 5, 9am-6pm
Sunday 6, 9am-2pm



Enjoy Hot Chocolate & Pastries While You Shop!



November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

ST. MONICA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH

Christmas Poinsettias



Please use this envelope
Use este sobre

As we prepare to celebrate the **Birth of Our Lord**, we wish to adorn the altars of St. Monica and St. Thomas the Apostle with **poinsettias for Christmas**.

To cover their cost, we kindly ask for your help through a **special collection this Sunday**.

Every gift, large or small, helps make our churches beautiful for the Christ Child.

Poinsettia Collection this Sunday

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

The Advent Wreath

The evergreen circle stands for the eternity of God, who has no beginning and no end. The **three violet candles** stand for penance and watchful prayer; the **rose candle**, lit on Gaudete Sunday, for the joy of Christ's nearness. Light one more candle each week as Christmas draws near.

Prayer for the First Week

Stir up Thy power, we beseech Thee, O Lord, and come: that from the threatening dangers of our sins we may deserve to be rescued by Thy protection, and to be saved by Thy deliverance. Who livest and reignest for ever and ever. Amen.

Sunday Collection

Collection	St. Monica	St. Thomas
Sunday (English)	$1,531.00	$1,137.00
Vietnamese	—	$514.00

ST. MONICA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH

Procession in Honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Procesión en honor a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe





DECEMBER · DICIEMBRE
13
SUNDAY · DOMINGO
12:00 NOON
MEDIODÍA

St. Monica Church
470 24th Ave., San Francisco

Between the 11 AM and 1 PM Masses
Entre las Misas de 11 AM y 1 PM

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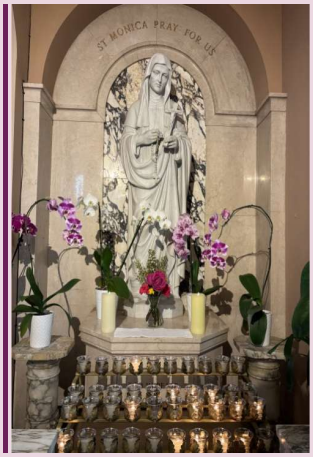

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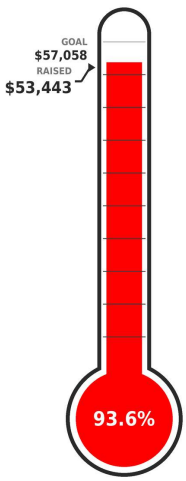
Help us reach our goal! Only 5 weeks left this year.



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4420 Geary Blvd SF CA 94118

St Nicholas

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November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

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To cover their cost, we kindly ask for your help through a **special collection this Sunday**.

Every gift, large or small, helps make our churches beautiful for the Christ Child.

Poinsettia Collection this Sunday

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

The Advent Wreath

The evergreen circle stands for the eternity of God, who has no beginning and no end. The **three violet candles** stand for penance and watchful prayer; the **rose candle**, lit on Gaudete Sunday, for the joy of Christ's nearness. Light one more candle each week as Christmas draws near.

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Stir up Thy power, we beseech Thee, O Lord, and come: that from the threatening dangers of our sins we may deserve to be rescued by Thy protection, and to be saved by Thy deliverance. Who livest and reignest for ever and ever. Amen.

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Procession in Honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Procesión en honor a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe





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St. Monica Church
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Between the 11 AM and 1 PM Masses
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You are invited!

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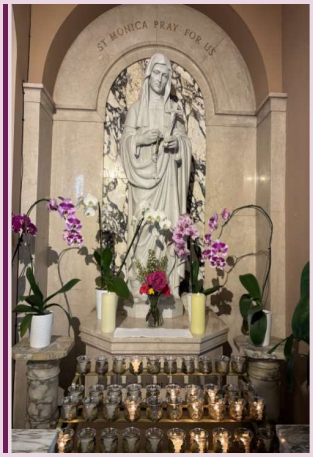

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Saint Thomas the Apostle
Parish

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Telephone: (415)751-5275
www.smstaparishsf.org
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Clergy	Staff
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PASTOR'S LETTER



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That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

1. Living face to face with God means knowing that He sees us

The one who lives face to face with God knows that everything he does, he does in His presence: at Mass, yes, but also at work, at home, with his phone in his hand, when no one is watching. The Lord said it clearly: your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you (Mt 6:4).

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But what matters most, dear brothers and sisters, is not only where we look during Mass, but where we look in life. Because one can pray facing God and then live facing men.

2. The great enemy: human respect

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On the day the Master of the house returns, He will not ask us what others said about us, but what we did with Him.

Let us ask for this grace from the Blessed Virgin Mary, who lived face to face with God better than anyone, who said "Behold the handmaid of the Lord" without caring what others might think: may she help us, this Advent, to wait for her Son wide awake, without fear of what people will say, and with our eyes fixed on Him. Amen.

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Parochial Administrator
St. Monica–St. Thomas the Apostle Parish

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Our Lord gives no date because He wants us ready at every hour. The servant who is "sleeping" is the soul in mortal sin. To the world he may look perfectly well, but in the eyes of God his soul is dead. As the month of the Holy Souls comes to a close, we are reminded that death comes when no man expects it, and whatever state it finds us in is the state we keep for all eternity. That is why Holy Mother Church gives us Advent as a season of penance. Do not wait for a more convenient time. Let us each prepare as well as we can by making a good Confession during this holy season, so that whenever the Master comes, He may find us awake.

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Sign up free: **sempervirgo.org**

Liturgical Calendar	
Sun 11/29	First Sunday of Advent
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Tues 12/1	Advent Weekday
Wed 12/2	Advent Weekday
Thurs 12/3	St. Francis Xavier
Fri 12/4	Advent Weekday · St. John Damascene
Sat 12/5	Advent Weekday

Make a Good Confession

Prepare ye the way of the Lord!

Confessions at St. Monica
Mon–Fri: before and after Mass
Saturday: 4:20 PM · Sunday: after Mass

Why go to Confession? Mortal sin robs the soul of sanctifying grace. In His mercy Christ gave His Church the Sacrament of Penance to restore it. The Fathers of the Church call it "the second plank [of salvation] after the shipwreck which is the loss of grace." *(CCC 1446)*

Even our daily faults are worth confessing. Holy Mother Church strongly recommends it, for regular Confession "helps us form our conscience, fight against evil tendencies, let ourselves be healed by Christ and progress in the life of the Spirit." *(CCC 1458)*

"The confession of evil works is the beginning of good works."
— St. Augustine

Do not let Christmas find your soul unready.

Mass Intentions

	St. Monica		St. Thomas the Apostle	
Sunday 11/29	11:00am 1:00pm	Betty & Morelia Bermejo † Gilda Maria Mangana † Int. for the Parishioners	9:30am	Adelaida Maximo Iglesias †
Monday 11/30	8:00am	Ann Yan Lam-Lau	8:30am	Robert Anselmo Han †
Tuesday 12/01	8:00am	Rene Revel †		No Mass
Wednesday 12/02	8:00am	Mercedes Yazdini, Birthday	8:30am	Veronico Flores Fabular †
Thursday 12/03	8:00am	Lucio Aguirre †		No Mass
Friday 12/04	8:00am	Francisco Matturano-Gomez †	8:30am	Int. of the People of the Parish
Saturday 12/05	5:00pm	Santiago & Enelia Pacheco †	8:30am	Int. of the People of the Parish

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

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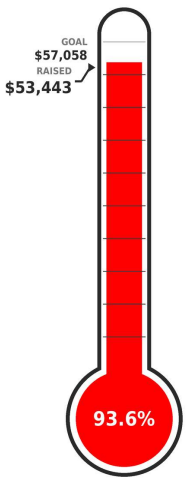

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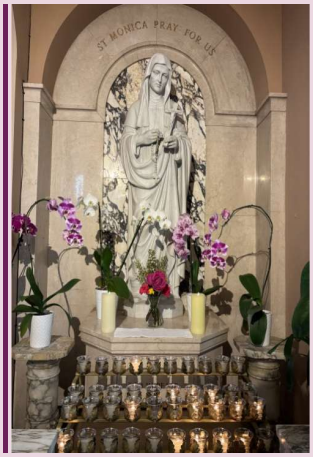

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Archdiocese Annual Appeal

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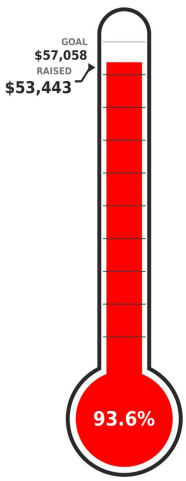
Help us reach our goal! Only 5 weeks left this year.



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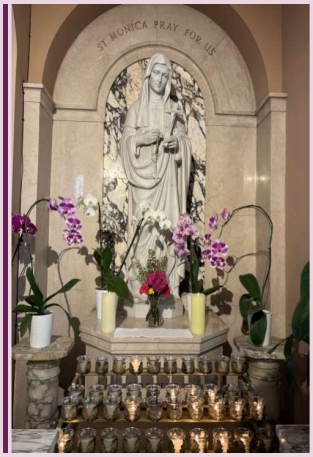

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Fr. Javier Olivera Ravasi

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That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

1. Living face to face with God means knowing that He sees us

The one who lives face to face with God knows that everything he does, he does in His presence: at Mass, yes, but also at work, at home, with his phone in his hand, when no one is watching. The Lord said it clearly: your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you (Mt 6:4).

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But what matters most, dear brothers and sisters, is not only where we look during Mass, but where we look in life. Because one can pray facing God and then live facing men.

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And what makes us live facing men? What the saints called "human respect": the fear of what others will say.

It is that fear of looking bad, of seeming old-fashioned, fanatical, or "too Catholic," that leads us to keep silent when we should speak, or to stop doing good so as not to draw attention.

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And so, little by little, one ends up living face to face with men and with one's back turned to God.

Saint Paul put it bluntly: if I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ (Gal 1:10). And the Lord Himself warned that whoever is ashamed of Him before this generation, of that one He too will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father (Mk 8:38).

Notice: "when He comes." Advent again.

Human respect is, in the end, a way of falling asleep: it is like the gatekeeper who, instead of watching the door through which his master will come, spends the whole night worrying about what the neighbors think.

3. How can we live face to face with God this Advent?

The Cristero martyrs of Mexico had no human respect. Saint José Sánchez del Río, only fourteen years old, chose to die crying out

November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

"¡Viva Cristo Rey!" rather than deny his faith to please his executioners. He lived, and he died, face to face with God.

Thanks be to God, we are not asked for that much. But we are asked for a few concrete things this Advent:

- An examination of conscience every night, asking ourselves: today, did I live facing God, or facing others?
- A good confession before Christmas.
- One small act of Christian courage each week: making the Sign of the Cross in public, praying before meals, defending the Church when she is attacked, inviting someone to Mass.

No one becomes brave all at once; courage, too, must be trained.

✠ ✠ ✠

Today Saint Paul reminded us that God is faithful, and that He has called us into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord (1 Cor 1:9). God is faithful… The question is whether we will be faithful to Him, even when it costs us.

On the day the Master of the house returns, He will not ask us what others said about us, but what we did with Him.

Let us ask for this grace from the Blessed Virgin Mary, who lived face to face with God better than anyone, who said "Behold the handmaid of the Lord" without caring what others might think: may she help us, this Advent, to wait for her Son wide awake, without fear of what people will say, and with our eyes fixed on Him. Amen.

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

Sunday Gospel: *Mk. 13:33-37*

Jesus said to his disciples: "Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come. It is like a man traveling abroad. He leaves home and places his servants in charge, each with his own work, and orders the gatekeeper to be on the watch. Watch, therefore; you do not know when the lord of the house is coming, whether in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to all: 'Watch!'"

Our Lord gives no date because He wants us ready at every hour. The servant who is "sleeping" is the soul in mortal sin. To the world he may look perfectly well, but in the eyes of God his soul is dead. As the month of the Holy Souls comes to a close, we are reminded that death comes when no man expects it, and whatever state it finds us in is the state we keep for all eternity. That is why Holy Mother Church gives us Advent as a season of penance. Do not wait for a more convenient time. Let us each prepare as well as we can by making a good Confession during this holy season, so that whenever the Master comes, He may find us awake.

Semper Virgo

A Marian Pilgrimage to Guadalupe 2031

Cardinal Burke invites the faithful to a **daily Marian devotion** preparing for the 500th anniversary of Our Lady of Guadalupe in 2031. Each morning, receive a short meditation on the Mother of God.

Begins **Dec. 12, 2026**, Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Sign up free: **sempervirgo.org**

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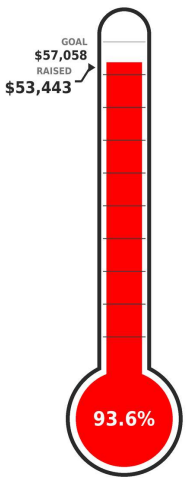

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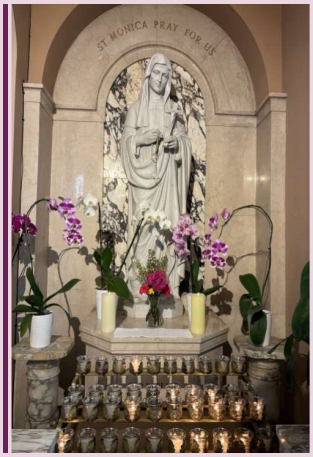

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It takes two minutes!

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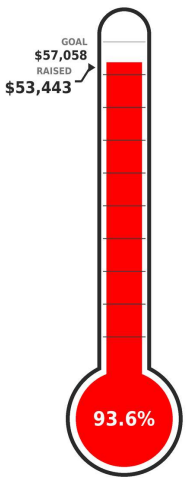
Help us reach our goal! Only 5 weeks left this year.



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November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

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To cover their cost, we kindly ask for your help through a **special collection this Sunday**.

Every gift, large or small, helps make our churches beautiful for the Christ Child.

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The evergreen circle stands for the eternity of God, who has no beginning and no end. The **three violet candles** stand for penance and watchful prayer; the **rose candle**, lit on Gaudete Sunday, for the joy of Christ's nearness. Light one more candle each week as Christmas draws near.

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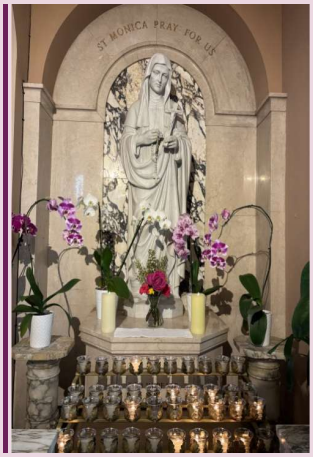

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Parish

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www.smstaparishsf.org
Office Hours: Mon-Fri 9am-5:30pm
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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
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PASTOR'S LETTER



Living Face to Face with God

Fr. Javier Olivera Ravasi

San Francisco, November 29, 2026.
First Sunday of Advent.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Today we begin Advent and, with it, a new liturgical year. The Church, like a good Mother, wakes us up with a word that the Lord repeats again and again in today's Gospel: "Watch!"

Jesus tells us the story of a man who goes on a journey. He leaves his house in the care of his servants, gives each one his work, and orders the gatekeeper to stay awake. For they do not know when the master of the house will return: in the evening, at midnight, at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find us sleeping.





That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

1. Living face to face with God means knowing that He sees us

The one who lives face to face with God knows that everything he does, he does in His presence: at Mass, yes, but also at work, at home, with his phone in his hand, when no one is watching. The Lord said it clearly: your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you (Mt 6:4).

In today's Psalm we ask the Lord to show us His face, so that we may be saved. A Christian is someone who lives seeking the face of God.

That is why, in this Holy Mass, as you can see, the priest and you are all facing the same direction: toward Him, to whom the Holy Sacrifice is offered. The priest is not turning his back on you; we are all walking together, as one people on pilgrimage, looking toward the Lord who comes.

But what matters most, dear brothers and sisters, is not only where we look during Mass, but where we look in life. Because one can pray facing God and then live facing men.

2. The great enemy: human respect

And what makes us live facing men? What the saints called "human respect": the fear of what others will say.

It is that fear of looking bad, of seeming old-fashioned, fanatical, or "too Catholic," that leads us to keep silent when we should speak, or to stop doing good so as not to draw attention.

Let us take some simple examples:

- The one who does not make the Sign of the Cross before eating in a restaurant, out of embarrassment.
- The one who hears jokes about the Church at work or at school and says nothing.
- The father who does not pray with his children so as not to seem "excessive."
- The young person who never mentions going to Mass on Sundays, so as not to be the odd one out.
- Or the one who keeps quiet about the truth on life, family, or marriage, because "you can't say that anymore."

And so, little by little, one ends up living face to face with men and with one's back turned to God.

Saint Paul put it bluntly: if I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ (Gal 1:10). And the Lord Himself warned that whoever is ashamed of Him before this generation, of that one He too will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father (Mk 8:38).

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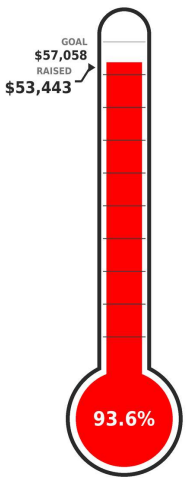

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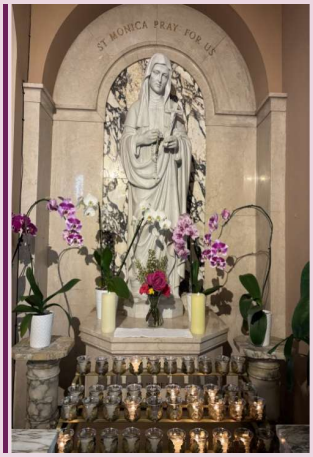

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Clergy	Staff
Rev. Javier O. Ravasi, Parochial Administrator pastor@smstaparishsf.org **In Residence:** **Rev. Paulinus Iwuji, SMMM, Ph.D.** **VA Hospital Chaplain** St. Thomas Apostle Rectory **Rev. Te Van Nguyen** **Vietnamese Ministry** St. Thomas 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

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St. Monica	St. Thomas the Apostle
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PASTOR'S LETTER



Living Face to Face with God

Fr. Javier Olivera Ravasi

San Francisco, November 29, 2026.
First Sunday of Advent.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Today we begin Advent and, with it, a new liturgical year. The Church, like a good Mother, wakes us up with a word that the Lord repeats again and again in today's Gospel: "Watch!"

Jesus tells us the story of a man who goes on a journey. He leaves his house in the care of his servants, gives each one his work, and orders the gatekeeper to stay awake. For they do not know when the master of the house will return: in the evening, at midnight, at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find us sleeping.





That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

1. Living face to face with God means knowing that He sees us

The one who lives face to face with God knows that everything he does, he does in His presence: at Mass, yes, but also at work, at home, with his phone in his hand, when no one is watching. The Lord said it clearly: your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you (Mt 6:4).

In today's Psalm we ask the Lord to show us His face, so that we may be saved. A Christian is someone who lives seeking the face of God.

That is why, in this Holy Mass, as you can see, the priest and you are all facing the same direction: toward Him, to whom the Holy Sacrifice is offered. The priest is not turning his back on you; we are all walking together, as one people on pilgrimage, looking toward the Lord who comes.

But what matters most, dear brothers and sisters, is not only where we look during Mass, but where we look in life. Because one can pray facing God and then live facing men.

2. The great enemy: human respect

And what makes us live facing men? What the saints called "human respect": the fear of what others will say.

It is that fear of looking bad, of seeming old-fashioned, fanatical, or "too Catholic," that leads us to keep silent when we should speak, or to stop doing good so as not to draw attention.

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Saint Paul put it bluntly: if I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ (Gal 1:10). And the Lord Himself warned that whoever is ashamed of Him before this generation, of that one He too will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father (Mk 8:38).

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Today Saint Paul reminded us that God is faithful, and that He has called us into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord (1 Cor 1:9). God is faithful… The question is whether we will be faithful to Him, even when it costs us.

On the day the Master of the house returns, He will not ask us what others said about us, but what we did with Him.

Let us ask for this grace from the Blessed Virgin Mary, who lived face to face with God better than anyone, who said "Behold the handmaid of the Lord" without caring what others might think: may she help us, this Advent, to wait for her Son wide awake, without fear of what people will say, and with our eyes fixed on Him. Amen.

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Parochial Administrator
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Sunday Gospel: *Mk. 13:33-37*

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Begins **Dec. 12, 2026**, Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Sign up free: **sempervirgo.org**

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"The confession of evil works is the beginning of good works."
— St. Augustine

Do not let Christmas find your soul unready.

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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

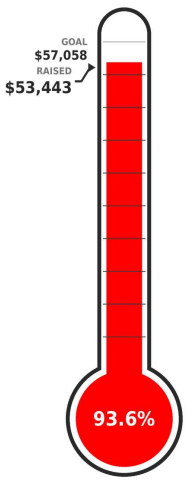
Give online, set up **recurring giving**, or remember the parish in your **will or estate**. Thank you!

Scan to give online ►

Archdiocese Annual Appeal

PARISH GOAL	RAISED SO FAR	STILL NEEDED
$57,058	$53,443	$3,615

Help us reach our goal! Only 5 weeks left this year.



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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/

Archdiocesan Annual Appeal 2026 Goal: $6,450,000

Star of the Sea & Stella Maris Academy

4420 Geary Blvd SF CA 94118

St Nicholas

CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE

Handmade Gifts! Made by 14 artisans.

DECEMBER 2026

AUDITORIUM

Friday 4, 2pm-7pm
Saturday 5, 9am-6pm
Sunday 6, 9am-2pm



Enjoy Hot Chocolate & Pastries While You Shop!



November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

ST. MONICA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH

Christmas Poinsettias



Please use this envelope
Use este sobre

As we prepare to celebrate the **Birth of Our Lord**, we wish to adorn the altars of St. Monica and St. Thomas the Apostle with **poinsettias for Christmas**.

To cover their cost, we kindly ask for your help through a **special collection this Sunday**.

Every gift, large or small, helps make our churches beautiful for the Christ Child.

Poinsettia Collection this Sunday

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

The Advent Wreath

The evergreen circle stands for the eternity of God, who has no beginning and no end. The **three violet candles** stand for penance and watchful prayer; the **rose candle**, lit on Gaudete Sunday, for the joy of Christ's nearness. Light one more candle each week as Christmas draws near.

Prayer for the First Week

Stir up Thy power, we beseech Thee, O Lord, and come: that from the threatening dangers of our sins we may deserve to be rescued by Thy protection, and to be saved by Thy deliverance. Who livest and reignest for ever and ever. Amen.

Sunday Collection

Collection	St. Monica	St. Thomas
Sunday (English)	$1,531.00	$1,137.00
Vietnamese	—	$514.00

ST. MONICA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH

Procession in Honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Procesión en honor a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe





DECEMBER · DICIEMBRE
13
SUNDAY · DOMINGO
12:00 NOON
MEDIODÍA

St. Monica Church
470 24th Ave., San Francisco

Between the 11 AM and 1 PM Masses
Entre las Misas de 11 AM y 1 PM

You are invited!

Join us as we walk in procession around **St. Monica Church** to honor **Our Lady of Guadalupe**, Mother of the Americas. Bring your family and flowers!

¡Están invitados!

Acompáñenos en procesión alrededor de la **iglesia Santa Mónica** para honrar a **Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe**, Madre de las Américas. ¡Traiga a su familia y flores!

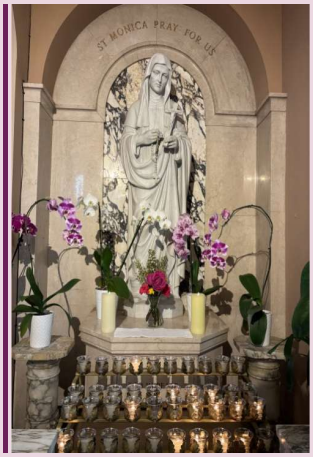
"¿No estoy yo aquí, que soy tu madre?"
¡Viva la Virgen de Guadalupe!

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 help make sandwiches each month, and to those who shop for supplies and deliver to the shelter the next day! Sandwich making is the **3rd Wednesday of every month.**

Next: Wed., Dec. 16 · 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**.

November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

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
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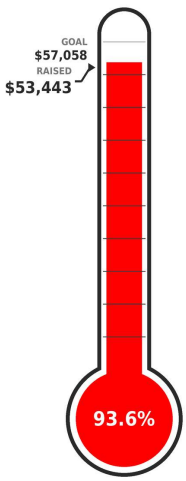

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Sunday Collection

Collection	St. Monica	St. Thomas
Sunday (English)	$1,531.00	$1,137.00
Vietnamese	—	$514.00

ST. MONICA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH

Procession in Honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Procesión en honor a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe





DECEMBER · DICIEMBRE
13
SUNDAY · DOMINGO
12:00 NOON
MEDIODÍA

St. Monica Church
470 24th Ave., San Francisco

Between the 11 AM and 1 PM Masses
Entre las Misas de 11 AM y 1 PM

You are invited!

Join us as we walk in procession around **St. Monica Church** to honor **Our Lady of Guadalupe**, Mother of the Americas. Bring your family and flowers!

¡Están invitados!

Acompáñenos en procesión alrededor de la **iglesia Santa Mónica** para honrar a **Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe**, Madre de las Américas. ¡Traiga a su familia y flores!

"¿No estoy yo aquí, que soy tu madre?"
¡Viva la Virgen de Guadalupe!

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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.

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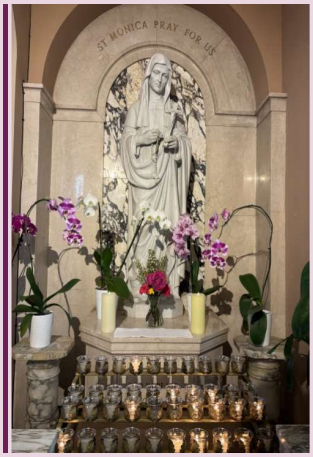

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November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

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Saint Thomas the Apostle
Parish

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www.smstaparishsf.org
Office Hours: Mon-Fri 9am-5:30pm
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PASTOR'S LETTER



Living Face to Face with God

Fr. Javier Olivera Ravasi

San Francisco, November 29, 2026.
First Sunday of Advent.

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Jesus tells us the story of a man who goes on a journey. He leaves his house in the care of his servants, gives each one his work, and orders the gatekeeper to stay awake. For they do not know when the master of the house will return: in the evening, at midnight, at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find us sleeping.





That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

1. Living face to face with God means knowing that He sees us

The one who lives face to face with God knows that everything he does, he does in His presence: at Mass, yes, but also at work, at home, with his phone in his hand, when no one is watching. The Lord said it clearly: your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you (Mt 6:4).

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But what matters most, dear brothers and sisters, is not only where we look during Mass, but where we look in life. Because one can pray facing God and then live facing men.

2. The great enemy: human respect

And what makes us live facing men? What the saints called "human respect": the fear of what others will say.

It is that fear of looking bad, of seeming old-fashioned, fanatical, or "too Catholic," that leads us to keep silent when we should speak, or to stop doing good so as not to draw attention.

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On the day the Master of the house returns, He will not ask us what others said about us, but what we did with Him.

Let us ask for this grace from the Blessed Virgin Mary, who lived face to face with God better than anyone, who said "Behold the handmaid of the Lord" without caring what others might think: may she help us, this Advent, to wait for her Son wide awake, without fear of what people will say, and with our eyes fixed on Him. Amen.

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Parochial Administrator
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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?"*

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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

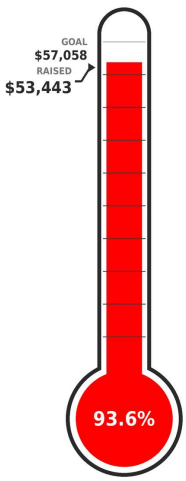
Give online, set up **recurring giving**, or remember the parish in your **will or estate**. Thank you!

Scan to give online ►

Archdiocese Annual Appeal

PARISH GOAL	RAISED SO FAR	STILL NEEDED
$57,058	$53,443	$3,615

Help us reach our goal! Only 5 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.

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

Archdiocesan Annual Appeal 2026 Goal: $6,450,000

Star of the Sea & Stella Maris Academy

4420 Geary Blvd SF CA 94118

St Nicholas

CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE

Handmade Gifts! Made by 14 artisans.

DECEMBER 2026

AUDITORIUM

Friday 4, 2pm-7pm
Saturday 5, 9am-6pm
Sunday 6, 9am-2pm



Enjoy Hot Chocolate & Pastries While You Shop!



November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

ST. MONICA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH

Christmas Poinsettias



Please use this envelope
Use este sobre

As we prepare to celebrate the **Birth of Our Lord**, we wish to adorn the altars of St. Monica and St. Thomas the Apostle with **poinsettias for Christmas**.

To cover their cost, we kindly ask for your help through a **special collection this Sunday**.

Every gift, large or small, helps make our churches beautiful for the Christ Child.

Poinsettia Collection this Sunday

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

The Advent Wreath

The evergreen circle stands for the eternity of God, who has no beginning and no end. The **three violet candles** stand for penance and watchful prayer; the **rose candle**, lit on Gaudete Sunday, for the joy of Christ's nearness. Light one more candle each week as Christmas draws near.

Prayer for the First Week

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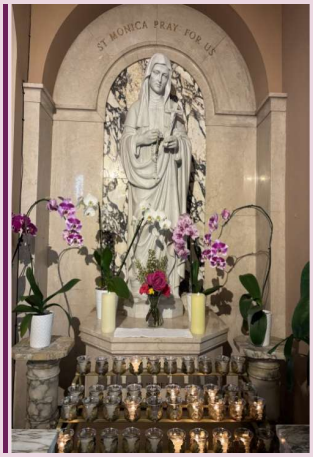

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GATHER · SUNDAY HOSPITALITY





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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

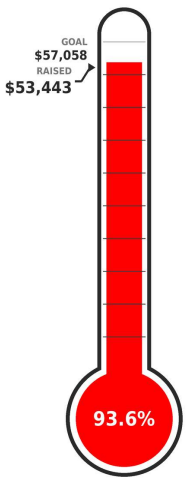
Give online, set up **recurring giving**, or remember the parish in your **will or estate**. Thank you!

Scan to give online ►

Archdiocese Annual Appeal

PARISH GOAL	RAISED SO FAR	STILL NEEDED
$57,058	$53,443	$3,615

Help us reach our goal! Only 5 weeks left this year.



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Archdiocesan Annual Appeal 2026 Goal: $6,450,000

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4420 Geary Blvd SF CA 94118

St Nicholas

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DECEMBER 2026

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November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

ST. MONICA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH

Christmas Poinsettias



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Use este sobre

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To cover their cost, we kindly ask for your help through a **special collection this Sunday**.

Every gift, large or small, helps make our churches beautiful for the Christ Child.

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

The Advent Wreath

The evergreen circle stands for the eternity of God, who has no beginning and no end. The **three violet candles** stand for penance and watchful prayer; the **rose candle**, lit on Gaudete Sunday, for the joy of Christ's nearness. Light one more candle each week as Christmas draws near.

Prayer for the First Week

Stir up Thy power, we beseech Thee, O Lord, and come: that from the threatening dangers of our sins we may deserve to be rescued by Thy protection, and to be saved by Thy deliverance. Who livest and reignest for ever and ever. Amen.

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Procesión en honor a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe





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St. Monica Church
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Between the 11 AM and 1 PM Masses
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You are invited!

Join us as we walk in procession around **St. Monica Church** to honor **Our Lady of Guadalupe**, Mother of the Americas. Bring your family and flowers!

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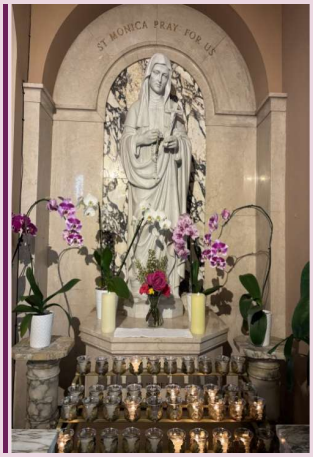

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www.smstaparishsf.org
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Clergy	Staff
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PASTOR'S LETTER



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Fr. Javier Olivera Ravasi

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Jesus tells us the story of a man who goes on a journey. He leaves his house in the care of his servants, gives each one his work, and orders the gatekeeper to stay awake. For they do not know when the master of the house will return: in the evening, at midnight, at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find us sleeping.





That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

1. Living face to face with God means knowing that He sees us

The one who lives face to face with God knows that everything he does, he does in His presence: at Mass, yes, but also at work, at home, with his phone in his hand, when no one is watching. The Lord said it clearly: your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you (Mt 6:4).

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On the day the Master of the house returns, He will not ask us what others said about us, but what we did with Him.

Let us ask for this grace from the Blessed Virgin Mary, who lived face to face with God better than anyone, who said "Behold the handmaid of the Lord" without caring what others might think: may she help us, this Advent, to wait for her Son wide awake, without fear of what people will say, and with our eyes fixed on Him. Amen.

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

Sunday Gospel: *Mk. 13:33-37*

Jesus said to his disciples: "Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come. It is like a man traveling abroad. He leaves home and places his servants in charge, each with his own work, and orders the gatekeeper to be on the watch. Watch, therefore; you do not know when the lord of the house is coming, whether in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to all: 'Watch!'"

Our Lord gives no date because He wants us ready at every hour. The servant who is "sleeping" is the soul in mortal sin. To the world he may look perfectly well, but in the eyes of God his soul is dead. As the month of the Holy Souls comes to a close, we are reminded that death comes when no man expects it, and whatever state it finds us in is the state we keep for all eternity. That is why Holy Mother Church gives us Advent as a season of penance. Do not wait for a more convenient time. Let us each prepare as well as we can by making a good Confession during this holy season, so that whenever the Master comes, He may find us awake.

Semper Virgo

A Marian Pilgrimage to Guadalupe 2031

Cardinal Burke invites the faithful to a **daily Marian devotion** preparing for the 500th anniversary of Our Lady of Guadalupe in 2031. Each morning, receive a short meditation on the Mother of God.

Begins **Dec. 12, 2026**, Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Sign up free: **sempervirgo.org**

Liturgical Calendar	
Sun 11/29	First Sunday of Advent
Mon 11/30	St. Andrew, Apostle
Tues 12/1	Advent Weekday
Wed 12/2	Advent Weekday
Thurs 12/3	St. Francis Xavier
Fri 12/4	Advent Weekday · St. John Damascene
Sat 12/5	Advent Weekday

Make a Good Confession

Prepare ye the way of the Lord!

Confessions at St. Monica
Mon–Fri: before and after Mass
Saturday: 4:20 PM · Sunday: after Mass

Why go to Confession? Mortal sin robs the soul of sanctifying grace. In His mercy Christ gave His Church the Sacrament of Penance to restore it. The Fathers of the Church call it "the second plank [of salvation] after the shipwreck which is the loss of grace." *(CCC 1446)*

Even our daily faults are worth confessing. Holy Mother Church strongly recommends it, for regular Confession "helps us form our conscience, fight against evil tendencies, let ourselves be healed by Christ and progress in the life of the Spirit." *(CCC 1458)*

"The confession of evil works is the beginning of good works."
— St. Augustine

Do not let Christmas find your soul unready.

Mass Intentions

	St. Monica		St. Thomas the Apostle	
Sunday 11/29	11:00am 1:00pm	Betty & Morelia Bermejo † Gilda Maria Mangana † Int. for the Parishioners	9:30am	Adelaida Maximo Iglesias †
Monday 11/30	8:00am	Ann Yan Lam-Lau	8:30am	Robert Anselmo Han †
Tuesday 12/01	8:00am	Rene Revel †		No Mass
Wednesday 12/02	8:00am	Mercedes Yazdini, Birthday	8:30am	Veronico Flores Fabular †
Thursday 12/03	8:00am	Lucio Aguirre †		No Mass
Friday 12/04	8:00am	Francisco Matturano-Gomez †	8:30am	Int. of the People of the Parish
Saturday 12/05	5:00pm	Santiago & Enelia Pacheco †	8:30am	Int. of the People of the Parish

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

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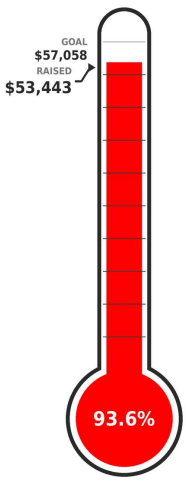

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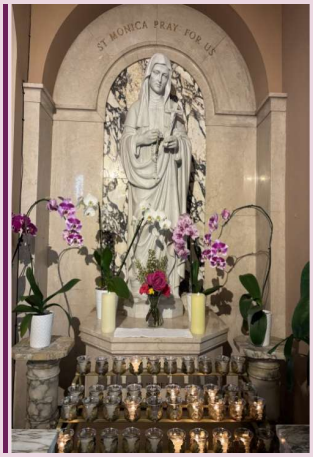

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Sign up free: **sempervirgo.org**

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

Scan to join our parish ►

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Archdiocese Annual Appeal

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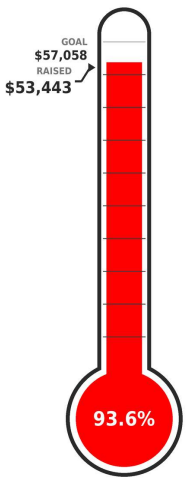
Help us reach our goal! Only 5 weeks left this year.



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November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

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The evergreen circle stands for the eternity of God, who has no beginning and no end. The **three violet candles** stand for penance and watchful prayer; the **rose candle**, lit on Gaudete Sunday, for the joy of Christ's nearness. Light one more candle each week as Christmas draws near.

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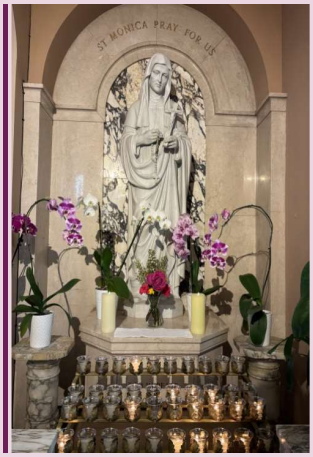

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PASTOR'S LETTER



Living Face to Face with God

Fr. Javier Olivera Ravasi

San Francisco, November 29, 2026.
First Sunday of Advent.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Today we begin Advent and, with it, a new liturgical year. The Church, like a good Mother, wakes us up with a word that the Lord repeats again and again in today's Gospel: "Watch!"

Jesus tells us the story of a man who goes on a journey. He leaves his house in the care of his servants, gives each one his work, and orders the gatekeeper to stay awake. For they do not know when the master of the house will return: in the evening, at midnight, at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find us sleeping.





That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

1. Living face to face with God means knowing that He sees us

The one who lives face to face with God knows that everything he does, he does in His presence: at Mass, yes, but also at work, at home, with his phone in his hand, when no one is watching. The Lord said it clearly: your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you (Mt 6:4).

In today's Psalm we ask the Lord to show us His face, so that we may be saved. A Christian is someone who lives seeking the face of God.

That is why, in this Holy Mass, as you can see, the priest and you are all facing the same direction: toward Him, to whom the Holy Sacrifice is offered. The priest is not turning his back on you; we are all walking together, as one people on pilgrimage, looking toward the Lord who comes.

But what matters most, dear brothers and sisters, is not only where we look during Mass, but where we look in life. Because one can pray facing God and then live facing men.

2. The great enemy: human respect

And what makes us live facing men? What the saints called "human respect": the fear of what others will say.

It is that fear of looking bad, of seeming old-fashioned, fanatical, or "too Catholic," that leads us to keep silent when we should speak, or to stop doing good so as not to draw attention.

Let us take some simple examples:

- The one who does not make the Sign of the Cross before eating in a restaurant, out of embarrassment.
- The one who hears jokes about the Church at work or at school and says nothing.
- The father who does not pray with his children so as not to seem "excessive."
- The young person who never mentions going to Mass on Sundays, so as not to be the odd one out.
- Or the one who keeps quiet about the truth on life, family, or marriage, because "you can't say that anymore."

And so, little by little, one ends up living face to face with men and with one's back turned to God.

Saint Paul put it bluntly: if I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ (Gal 1:10). And the Lord Himself warned that whoever is ashamed of Him before this generation, of that one He too will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father (Mk 8:38).

Notice: "when He comes." Advent again.

Human respect is, in the end, a way of falling asleep: it is like the gatekeeper who, instead of watching the door through which his master will come, spends the whole night worrying about what the neighbors think.

3. How can we live face to face with God this Advent?

The Cristero martyrs of Mexico had no human respect. Saint José Sánchez del Río, only fourteen years old, chose to die crying out

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"¡Viva Cristo Rey!" rather than deny his faith to please his executioners. He lived, and he died, face to face with God.

Thanks be to God, we are not asked for that much. But we are asked for a few concrete things this Advent:

- An examination of conscience every night, asking ourselves: today, did I live facing God, or facing others?
- A good confession before Christmas.
- One small act of Christian courage each week: making the Sign of the Cross in public, praying before meals, defending the Church when she is attacked, inviting someone to Mass.

No one becomes brave all at once; courage, too, must be trained.

✠ ✠ ✠

Today Saint Paul reminded us that God is faithful, and that He has called us into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord (1 Cor 1:9). God is faithful… The question is whether we will be faithful to Him, even when it costs us.

On the day the Master of the house returns, He will not ask us what others said about us, but what we did with Him.

Let us ask for this grace from the Blessed Virgin Mary, who lived face to face with God better than anyone, who said "Behold the handmaid of the Lord" without caring what others might think: may she help us, this Advent, to wait for her Son wide awake, without fear of what people will say, and with our eyes fixed on Him. Amen.

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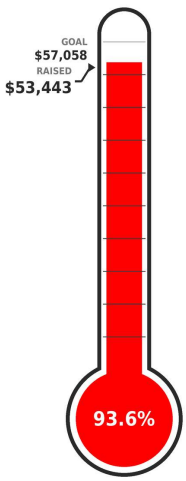

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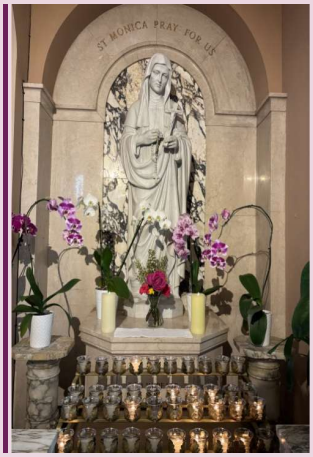

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Sign up free: **sempervirgo.org**

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PRAY · FRIDAY ADORATION

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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

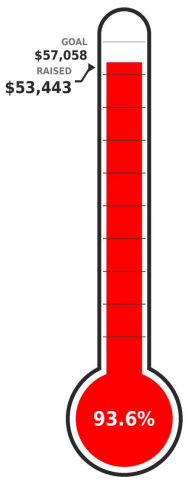
Give online, set up **recurring giving**, or remember the parish in your **will or estate**. Thank you!

Scan to give online ►

Archdiocese Annual Appeal

PARISH GOAL	RAISED SO FAR	STILL NEEDED
$57,058	$53,443	$3,615

Help us reach our goal! Only 5 weeks left this year.



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Archdiocesan Annual Appeal 2026 Goal: $6,450,000

Star of the Sea & Stella Maris Academy

4420 Geary Blvd SF CA 94118

St Nicholas

CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE

Handmade Gifts! Made by 14 artisans.

DECEMBER 2026

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Enjoy Hot Chocolate & Pastries While You Shop!



November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

ST. MONICA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH

Christmas Poinsettias



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Use este sobre

As we prepare to celebrate the **Birth of Our Lord**, we wish to adorn the altars of St. Monica and St. Thomas the Apostle with **poinsettias for Christmas**.

To cover their cost, we kindly ask for your help through a **special collection this Sunday**.

Every gift, large or small, helps make our churches beautiful for the Christ Child.

Poinsettia Collection this Sunday

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

The Advent Wreath

The evergreen circle stands for the eternity of God, who has no beginning and no end. The **three violet candles** stand for penance and watchful prayer; the **rose candle**, lit on Gaudete Sunday, for the joy of Christ's nearness. Light one more candle each week as Christmas draws near.

Prayer for the First Week

Stir up Thy power, we beseech Thee, O Lord, and come: that from the threatening dangers of our sins we may deserve to be rescued by Thy protection, and to be saved by Thy deliverance. Who livest and reignest for ever and ever. Amen.

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Procession in Honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Procesión en honor a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe





DECEMBER · DICIEMBRE
13
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12:00 NOON
MEDIODÍA

St. Monica Church
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Between the 11 AM and 1 PM Masses
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You are invited!

Join us as we walk in procession around **St. Monica Church** to honor **Our Lady of Guadalupe**, Mother of the Americas. Bring your family and flowers!

¡Están invitados!

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"¿No estoy yo aquí, que soy tu madre?"
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LIGHT A CANDLE • PRAY • HELP OUR CHURCH

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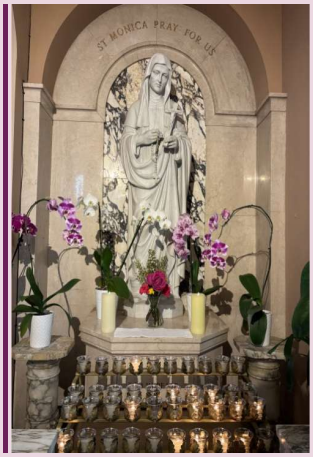

Light a candle today!

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 help make sandwiches each month, and to those who shop for supplies and deliver to the shelter the next day! Sandwich making is the **3rd Wednesday of every month.**

Next: Wed., Dec. 16 · 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**.

November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

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) **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



Living Face to Face with God

Fr. Javier Olivera Ravasi

San Francisco, November 29, 2026.
First Sunday of Advent.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Today we begin Advent and, with it, a new liturgical year. The Church, like a good Mother, wakes us up with a word that the Lord repeats again and again in today's Gospel: "Watch!"

Jesus tells us the story of a man who goes on a journey. He leaves his house in the care of his servants, gives each one his work, and orders the gatekeeper to stay awake. For they do not know when the master of the house will return: in the evening, at midnight, at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find us sleeping.





That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

1. Living face to face with God means knowing that He sees us

The one who lives face to face with God knows that everything he does, he does in His presence: at Mass, yes, but also at work, at home, with his phone in his hand, when no one is watching. The Lord said it clearly: your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you (Mt 6:4).

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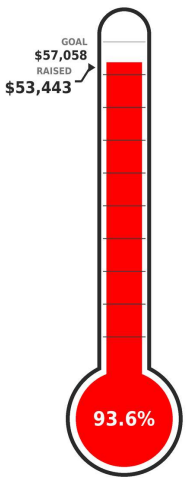

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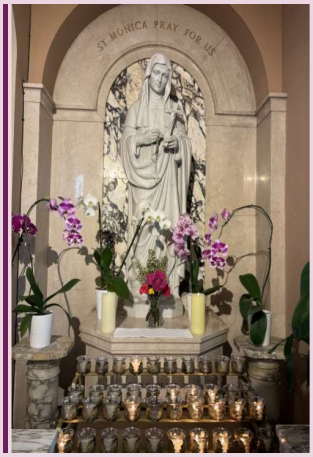

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November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

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PASTOR'S LETTER



Living Face to Face with God

Fr. Javier Olivera Ravasi

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First Sunday of Advent.

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That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

1. Living face to face with God means knowing that He sees us

The one who lives face to face with God knows that everything he does, he does in His presence: at Mass, yes, but also at work, at home, with his phone in his hand, when no one is watching. The Lord said it clearly: your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you (Mt 6:4).

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Adorers Needed

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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

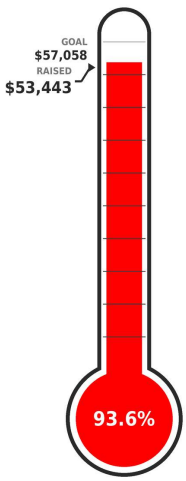
Give online, set up **recurring giving**, or remember the parish in your **will or estate**. Thank you!

Scan to give online ►

Archdiocese Annual Appeal

PARISH GOAL	RAISED SO FAR	STILL NEEDED
$57,058	$53,443	$3,615

Help us reach our goal! Only 5 weeks left this year.



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

Archdiocesan Annual Appeal 2026 Goal: $6,450,000

Star of the Sea & Stella Maris Academy

4420 Geary Blvd SF CA 94118

St Nicholas

CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE

Handmade Gifts! Made by 14 artisans.

DECEMBER 2026

AUDITORIUM

Friday 4, 2pm-7pm
Saturday 5, 9am-6pm
Sunday 6, 9am-2pm



Enjoy Hot Chocolate & Pastries While You Shop!



November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

ST. MONICA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH

Christmas Poinsettias



Please use this envelope
Use este sobre

As we prepare to celebrate the **Birth of Our Lord**, we wish to adorn the altars of St. Monica and St. Thomas the Apostle with **poinsettias for Christmas**.

To cover their cost, we kindly ask for your help through a **special collection this Sunday**.

Every gift, large or small, helps make our churches beautiful for the Christ Child.

Poinsettia Collection this Sunday

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

The Advent Wreath

The evergreen circle stands for the eternity of God, who has no beginning and no end. The **three violet candles** stand for penance and watchful prayer; the **rose candle**, lit on Gaudete Sunday, for the joy of Christ's nearness. Light one more candle each week as Christmas draws near.

Prayer for the First Week

Stir up Thy power, we beseech Thee, O Lord, and come: that from the threatening dangers of our sins we may deserve to be rescued by Thy protection, and to be saved by Thy deliverance. Who livest and reignest for ever and ever. Amen.

Sunday Collection

Collection	St. Monica	St. Thomas
Sunday (English)	$1,531.00	$1,137.00
Vietnamese	—	$514.00

ST. MONICA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH

Procession in Honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Procesión en honor a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe





DECEMBER · DICIEMBRE
13
SUNDAY · DOMINGO
12:00 NOON
MEDIODÍA

St. Monica Church
470 24th Ave., San Francisco

Between the 11 AM and 1 PM Masses
Entre las Misas de 11 AM y 1 PM

You are invited!

Join us as we walk in procession around **St. Monica Church** to honor **Our Lady of Guadalupe**, Mother of the Americas. Bring your family and flowers!

¡Están invitados!

Acompáñenos en procesión alrededor de la **iglesia Santa Mónica** para honrar a **Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe**, Madre de las Américas. ¡Traiga a su familia y flores!

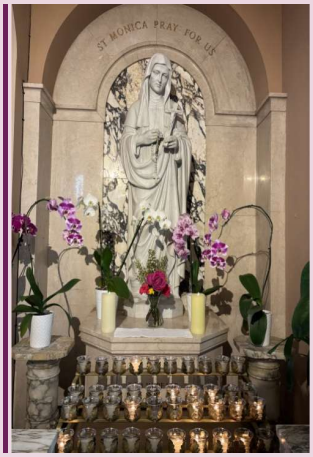
"¿No estoy yo aquí, que soy tu madre?"
¡Viva la Virgen de Guadalupe!

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.



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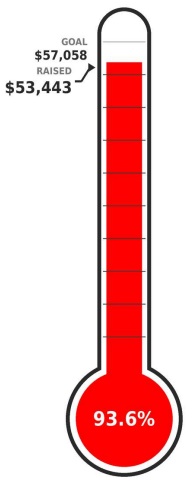

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To learn more about the Archdiocese Annual Appeal, and to donate, please visit https://sfarch.org/aaa/

Archdiocesan Annual Appeal 2026 Goal: $6,450,000

Star of the Sea & Stella Maris Academy

4420 Geary Blvd SF CA 94118

St Nicholas

CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE

Handmade Gifts! Made by 14 artisans.

DECEMBER 2026

AUDITORIUM

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Saturday 5, 9am-6pm
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Enjoy Hot Chocolate & Pastries While You Shop!



November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

ST. MONICA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH

Christmas Poinsettias



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Use este sobre

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To cover their cost, we kindly ask for your help through a **special collection this Sunday**.

Every gift, large or small, helps make our churches beautiful for the Christ Child.

Poinsettia Collection this Sunday

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

The Advent Wreath

The evergreen circle stands for the eternity of God, who has no beginning and no end. The **three violet candles** stand for penance and watchful prayer; the **rose candle**, lit on Gaudete Sunday, for the joy of Christ's nearness. Light one more candle each week as Christmas draws near.

Prayer for the First Week

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Between the 11 AM and 1 PM Masses
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"¿No estoy yo aquí, que soy tu madre?"
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LIGHT A CANDLE • PRAY • HELP OUR CHURCH

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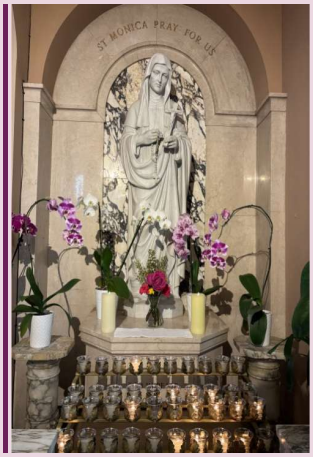

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PASTOR'S LETTER



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That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

1. Living face to face with God means knowing that He sees us

The one who lives face to face with God knows that everything he does, he does in His presence: at Mass, yes, but also at work, at home, with his phone in his hand, when no one is watching. The Lord said it clearly: your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you (Mt 6:4).

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But what matters most, dear brothers and sisters, is not only where we look during Mass, but where we look in life. Because one can pray facing God and then live facing men.

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Let us ask for this grace from the Blessed Virgin Mary, who lived face to face with God better than anyone, who said "Behold the handmaid of the Lord" without caring what others might think: may she help us, this Advent, to wait for her Son wide awake, without fear of what people will say, and with our eyes fixed on Him. Amen.

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Do not let Christmas find your soul unready.

Mass Intentions

	St. Monica		St. Thomas the Apostle	
Sunday 11/29	11:00am 1:00pm	Betty & Morelia Bermejo † Gilda Maria Mangana † Int. for the Parishioners	9:30am	Adelaida Maximo Iglesias †
Monday 11/30	8:00am	Ann Yan Lam-Lau	8:30am	Robert Anselmo Han †
Tuesday 12/01	8:00am	Rene Revel †		No Mass
Wednesday 12/02	8:00am	Mercedes Yazdini, Birthday	8:30am	Veronico Flores Fabular †
Thursday 12/03	8:00am	Lucio Aguirre †		No Mass
Friday 12/04	8:00am	Francisco Matturano-Gomez †	8:30am	Int. of the People of the Parish
Saturday 12/05	5:00pm	Santiago & Enelia Pacheco †	8:30am	Int. of the People of the Parish

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

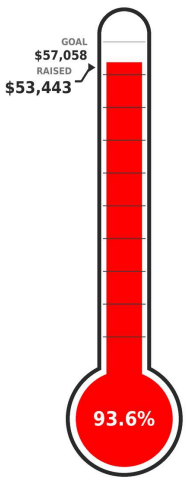
Give online, set up **recurring giving**, or remember the parish in your **will or estate**. Thank you!

Scan to give online ►

Archdiocese Annual Appeal

PARISH GOAL	RAISED SO FAR	STILL NEEDED
$57,058	$53,443	$3,615

Help us reach our goal! Only 5 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.

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13
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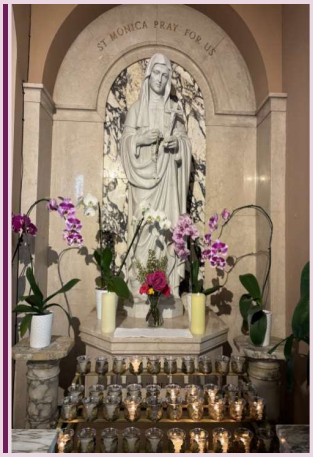

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PARISH GOAL	RAISED SO FAR	STILL NEEDED
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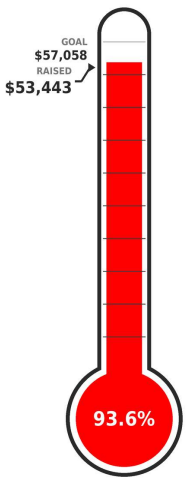

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November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

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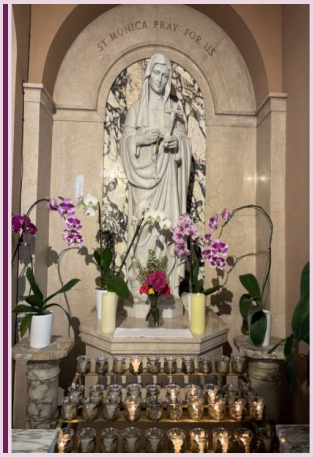

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But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

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But what matters most, dear brothers and sisters, is not only where we look during Mass, but where we look in life. Because one can pray facing God and then live facing men.

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✠ ✠ ✠

Today Saint Paul reminded us that God is faithful, and that He has called us into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord (1 Cor 1:9). God is faithful… The question is whether we will be faithful to Him, even when it costs us.

On the day the Master of the house returns, He will not ask us what others said about us, but what we did with Him.

Let us ask for this grace from the Blessed Virgin Mary, who lived face to face with God better than anyone, who said "Behold the handmaid of the Lord" without caring what others might think: may she help us, this Advent, to wait for her Son wide awake, without fear of what people will say, and with our eyes fixed on Him. Amen.

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

Sunday Gospel: *Mk. 13:33-37*

Jesus said to his disciples: "Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come. It is like a man traveling abroad. He leaves home and places his servants in charge, each with his own work, and orders the gatekeeper to be on the watch. Watch, therefore; you do not know when the lord of the house is coming, whether in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to all: 'Watch!'"

Our Lord gives no date because He wants us ready at every hour. The servant who is "sleeping" is the soul in mortal sin. To the world he may look perfectly well, but in the eyes of God his soul is dead. As the month of the Holy Souls comes to a close, we are reminded that death comes when no man expects it, and whatever state it finds us in is the state we keep for all eternity. That is why Holy Mother Church gives us Advent as a season of penance. Do not wait for a more convenient time. Let us each prepare as well as we can by making a good Confession during this holy season, so that whenever the Master comes, He may find us awake.

Semper Virgo

A Marian Pilgrimage to Guadalupe 2031

Cardinal Burke invites the faithful to a **daily Marian devotion** preparing for the 500th anniversary of Our Lady of Guadalupe in 2031. Each morning, receive a short meditation on the Mother of God.

Begins **Dec. 12, 2026**, Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Sign up free: **sempervirgo.org**

Liturgical Calendar	
Sun 11/29	First Sunday of Advent
Mon 11/30	St. Andrew, Apostle
Tues 12/1	Advent Weekday
Wed 12/2	Advent Weekday
Thurs 12/3	St. Francis Xavier
Fri 12/4	Advent Weekday · St. John Damascene
Sat 12/5	Advent Weekday

Make a Good Confession

Prepare ye the way of the Lord!

Confessions at St. Monica
Mon–Fri: before and after Mass
Saturday: 4:20 PM · Sunday: after Mass

Why go to Confession? Mortal sin robs the soul of sanctifying grace. In His mercy Christ gave His Church the Sacrament of Penance to restore it. The Fathers of the Church call it "the second plank [of salvation] after the shipwreck which is the loss of grace." *(CCC 1446)*

Even our daily faults are worth confessing. Holy Mother Church strongly recommends it, for regular Confession "helps us form our conscience, fight against evil tendencies, let ourselves be healed by Christ and progress in the life of the Spirit." *(CCC 1458)*

"The confession of evil works is the beginning of good works."
— St. Augustine

Do not let Christmas find your soul unready.

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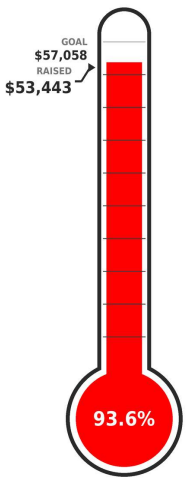

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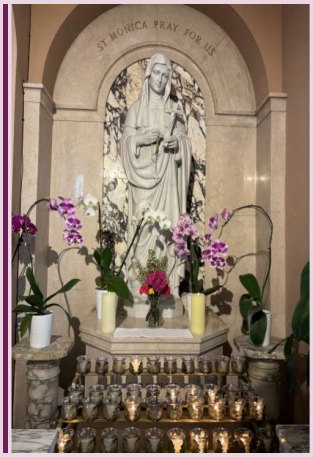

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It takes two minutes!

Scan to join our parish ►

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Archdiocese Annual Appeal

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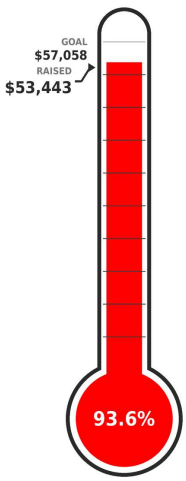
Help us reach our goal! Only 5 weeks left this year.



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November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

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The evergreen circle stands for the eternity of God, who has no beginning and no end. The **three violet candles** stand for penance and watchful prayer; the **rose candle**, lit on Gaudete Sunday, for the joy of Christ's nearness. Light one more candle each week as Christmas draws near.

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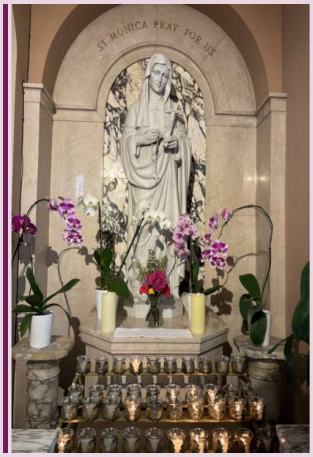

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PASTOR'S LETTER



Living Face to Face with God

Fr. Javier Olivera Ravasi

San Francisco, November 29, 2026.
First Sunday of Advent.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Today we begin Advent and, with it, a new liturgical year. The Church, like a good Mother, wakes us up with a word that the Lord repeats again and again in today's Gospel: "Watch!"

Jesus tells us the story of a man who goes on a journey. He leaves his house in the care of his servants, gives each one his work, and orders the gatekeeper to stay awake. For they do not know when the master of the house will return: in the evening, at midnight, at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find us sleeping.





That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

1. Living face to face with God means knowing that He sees us

The one who lives face to face with God knows that everything he does, he does in His presence: at Mass, yes, but also at work, at home, with his phone in his hand, when no one is watching. The Lord said it clearly: your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you (Mt 6:4).

In today's Psalm we ask the Lord to show us His face, so that we may be saved. A Christian is someone who lives seeking the face of God.

That is why, in this Holy Mass, as you can see, the priest and you are all facing the same direction: toward Him, to whom the Holy Sacrifice is offered. The priest is not turning his back on you; we are all walking together, as one people on pilgrimage, looking toward the Lord who comes.

But what matters most, dear brothers and sisters, is not only where we look during Mass, but where we look in life. Because one can pray facing God and then live facing men.

2. The great enemy: human respect

And what makes us live facing men? What the saints called "human respect": the fear of what others will say.

It is that fear of looking bad, of seeming old-fashioned, fanatical, or "too Catholic," that leads us to keep silent when we should speak, or to stop doing good so as not to draw attention.

Let us take some simple examples:

- The one who does not make the Sign of the Cross before eating in a restaurant, out of embarrassment.
- The one who hears jokes about the Church at work or at school and says nothing.
- The father who does not pray with his children so as not to seem "excessive."
- The young person who never mentions going to Mass on Sundays, so as not to be the odd one out.
- Or the one who keeps quiet about the truth on life, family, or marriage, because "you can't say that anymore."

And so, little by little, one ends up living face to face with men and with one's back turned to God.

Saint Paul put it bluntly: if I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ (Gal 1:10). And the Lord Himself warned that whoever is ashamed of Him before this generation, of that one He too will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father (Mk 8:38).

Notice: "when He comes." Advent again.

Human respect is, in the end, a way of falling asleep: it is like the gatekeeper who, instead of watching the door through which his master will come, spends the whole night worrying about what the neighbors think.

3. How can we live face to face with God this Advent?

The Cristero martyrs of Mexico had no human respect. Saint José Sánchez del Río, only fourteen years old, chose to die crying out

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"¡Viva Cristo Rey!" rather than deny his faith to please his executioners. He lived, and he died, face to face with God.

Thanks be to God, we are not asked for that much. But we are asked for a few concrete things this Advent:

- An examination of conscience every night, asking ourselves: today, did I live facing God, or facing others?
- A good confession before Christmas.
- One small act of Christian courage each week: making the Sign of the Cross in public, praying before meals, defending the Church when she is attacked, inviting someone to Mass.

No one becomes brave all at once; courage, too, must be trained.

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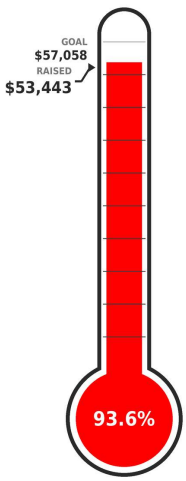

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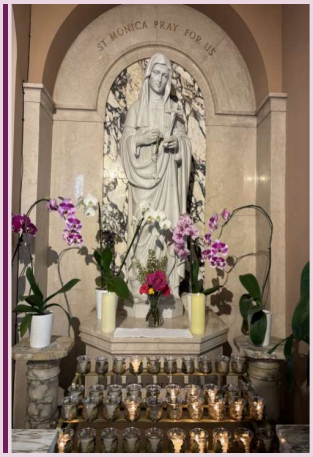

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That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

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Sign up free: **sempervirgo.org**

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PRAY · FRIDAY ADORATION

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

All are welcome!

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

Scan to join our parish ►

GIVE: Support Your Parish

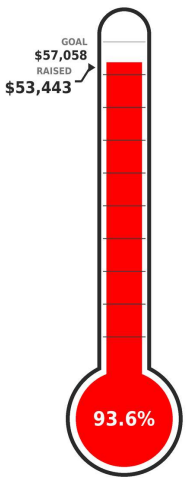
Give online, set up **recurring giving**, or remember the parish in your **will or estate**. Thank you!

Scan to give online ►

Archdiocese Annual Appeal

PARISH GOAL	RAISED SO FAR	STILL NEEDED
$57,058	$53,443	$3,615

Help us reach our goal! Only 5 weeks left this year.



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Star of the Sea & Stella Maris Academy

4420 Geary Blvd SF CA 94118

St Nicholas

CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE

Handmade Gifts! Made by 14 artisans.

DECEMBER 2026

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Enjoy Hot Chocolate & Pastries While You Shop!



November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

ST. MONICA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH

Christmas Poinsettias



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Use este sobre

As we prepare to celebrate the **Birth of Our Lord**, we wish to adorn the altars of St. Monica and St. Thomas the Apostle with **poinsettias for Christmas**.

To cover their cost, we kindly ask for your help through a **special collection this Sunday**.

Every gift, large or small, helps make our churches beautiful for the Christ Child.

Poinsettia Collection this Sunday

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

The Advent Wreath

The evergreen circle stands for the eternity of God, who has no beginning and no end. The **three violet candles** stand for penance and watchful prayer; the **rose candle**, lit on Gaudete Sunday, for the joy of Christ's nearness. Light one more candle each week as Christmas draws near.

Prayer for the First Week

Stir up Thy power, we beseech Thee, O Lord, and come: that from the threatening dangers of our sins we may deserve to be rescued by Thy protection, and to be saved by Thy deliverance. Who livest and reignest for ever and ever. Amen.

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Procession in Honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Procesión en honor a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe





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13
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12:00 NOON
MEDIODÍA

St. Monica Church
470 24th Ave., San Francisco

Between the 11 AM and 1 PM Masses
Entre las Misas de 11 AM y 1 PM

You are invited!

Join us as we walk in procession around **St. Monica Church** to honor **Our Lady of Guadalupe**, Mother of the Americas. Bring your family and flowers!

¡Están invitados!

Acompáñenos en procesión alrededor de la **iglesia Santa Mónica** para honrar a **Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe**, Madre de las Américas. ¡Traiga a su familia y flores!

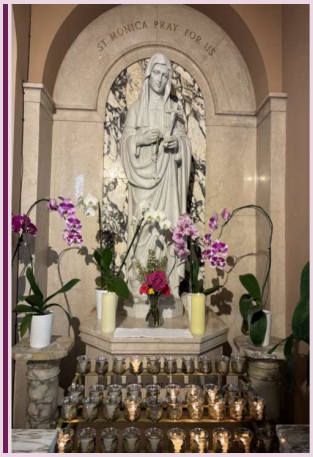
"¿No estoy yo aquí, que soy tu madre?"
¡Viva la Virgen de Guadalupe!

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 help make sandwiches each month, and to those who shop for supplies and deliver to the shelter the next day! Sandwich making is the **3rd Wednesday of every month.**

Next: Wed., Dec. 16 · 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**.

November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

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
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PASTOR'S LETTER



Living Face to Face with God

Fr. Javier Olivera Ravasi

San Francisco, November 29, 2026.
First Sunday of Advent.

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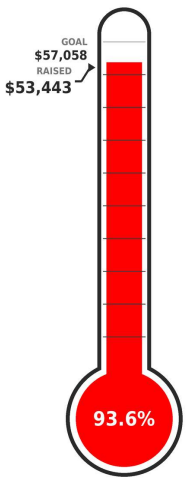

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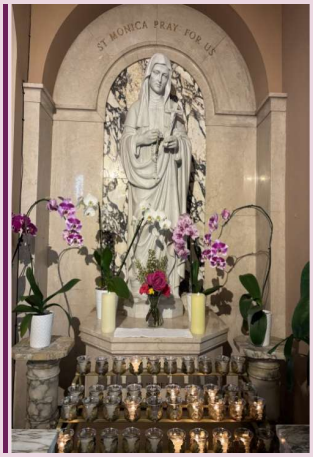
St. Monica Shrine

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!*

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Thank you to all who help make sandwiches each month, and to those who shop for supplies and deliver to the shelter the next day! Sandwich making is the **3rd Wednesday of every month.**

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November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

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Saint Thomas the Apostle
Parish

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www.smstaparishsf.org
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PASTOR'S LETTER



Living Face to Face with God

Fr. Javier Olivera Ravasi

San Francisco, November 29, 2026.
First Sunday of Advent.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Today we begin Advent and, with it, a new liturgical year. The Church, like a good Mother, wakes us up with a word that the Lord repeats again and again in today's Gospel: "Watch!"

Jesus tells us the story of a man who goes on a journey. He leaves his house in the care of his servants, gives each one his work, and orders the gatekeeper to stay awake. For they do not know when the master of the house will return: in the evening, at midnight, at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find us sleeping.





That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

1. Living face to face with God means knowing that He sees us

The one who lives face to face with God knows that everything he does, he does in His presence: at Mass, yes, but also at work, at home, with his phone in his hand, when no one is watching. The Lord said it clearly: your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you (Mt 6:4).

In today's Psalm we ask the Lord to show us His face, so that we may be saved. A Christian is someone who lives seeking the face of God.

That is why, in this Holy Mass, as you can see, the priest and you are all facing the same direction: toward Him, to whom the Holy Sacrifice is offered. The priest is not turning his back on you; we are all walking together, as one people on pilgrimage, looking toward the Lord who comes.

But what matters most, dear brothers and sisters, is not only where we look during Mass, but where we look in life. Because one can pray facing God and then live facing men.

2. The great enemy: human respect

And what makes us live facing men? What the saints called "human respect": the fear of what others will say.

It is that fear of looking bad, of seeming old-fashioned, fanatical, or "too Catholic," that leads us to keep silent when we should speak, or to stop doing good so as not to draw attention.

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Today Saint Paul reminded us that God is faithful, and that He has called us into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord (1 Cor 1:9). God is faithful… The question is whether we will be faithful to Him, even when it costs us.

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Let us ask for this grace from the Blessed Virgin Mary, who lived face to face with God better than anyone, who said "Behold the handmaid of the Lord" without caring what others might think: may she help us, this Advent, to wait for her Son wide awake, without fear of what people will say, and with our eyes fixed on Him. Amen.

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Parochial Administrator
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Sunday Gospel: *Mk. 13:33-37*

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Begins **Dec. 12, 2026**, Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Sign up free: **sempervirgo.org**

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"The confession of evil works is the beginning of good works."
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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

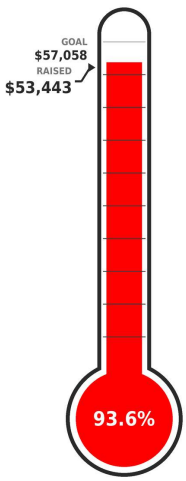
Give online, set up **recurring giving**, or remember the parish in your **will or estate**. Thank you!

Scan to give online ►

Archdiocese Annual Appeal

PARISH GOAL	RAISED SO FAR	STILL NEEDED
$57,058	$53,443	$3,615

Help us reach our goal! Only 5 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.

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

Archdiocesan Annual Appeal 2026 Goal: $6,450,000

Star of the Sea & Stella Maris Academy

4420 Geary Blvd SF CA 94118

St Nicholas

CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE

Handmade Gifts! Made by 14 artisans.

DECEMBER 2026

AUDITORIUM

Friday 4, 2pm-7pm
Saturday 5, 9am-6pm
Sunday 6, 9am-2pm



Enjoy Hot Chocolate & Pastries While You Shop!



November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

ST. MONICA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH

Christmas Poinsettias



Please use this envelope
Use este sobre

As we prepare to celebrate the **Birth of Our Lord**, we wish to adorn the altars of St. Monica and St. Thomas the Apostle with **poinsettias for Christmas**.

To cover their cost, we kindly ask for your help through a **special collection this Sunday**.

Every gift, large or small, helps make our churches beautiful for the Christ Child.

Poinsettia Collection this Sunday

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

The Advent Wreath

The evergreen circle stands for the eternity of God, who has no beginning and no end. The **three violet candles** stand for penance and watchful prayer; the **rose candle**, lit on Gaudete Sunday, for the joy of Christ's nearness. Light one more candle each week as Christmas draws near.

Prayer for the First Week

Stir up Thy power, we beseech Thee, O Lord, and come: that from the threatening dangers of our sins we may deserve to be rescued by Thy protection, and to be saved by Thy deliverance. Who livest and reignest for ever and ever. Amen.

Sunday Collection

Collection	St. Monica	St. Thomas
Sunday (English)	$1,531.00	$1,137.00
Vietnamese	—	$514.00

ST. MONICA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH

Procession in Honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Procesión en honor a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe





DECEMBER · DICIEMBRE
13
SUNDAY · DOMINGO
12:00 NOON
MEDIODÍA

St. Monica Church
470 24th Ave., San Francisco

Between the 11 AM and 1 PM Masses
Entre las Misas de 11 AM y 1 PM

You are invited!

Join us as we walk in procession around **St. Monica Church** to honor **Our Lady of Guadalupe**, Mother of the Americas. Bring your family and flowers!

¡Están invitados!

Acompáñenos en procesión alrededor de la **iglesia Santa Mónica** para honrar a **Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe**, Madre de las Américas. ¡Traiga a su familia y flores!

"¿No estoy yo aquí, que soy tu madre?"
¡Viva la Virgen de Guadalupe!

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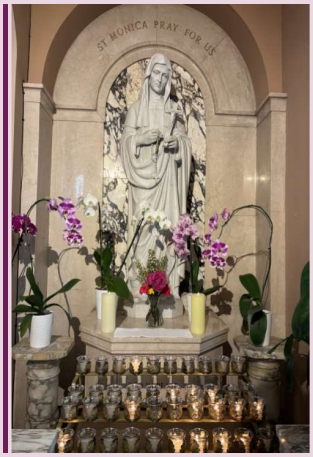

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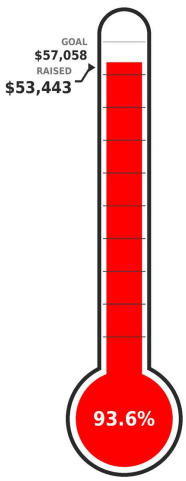

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St Nicholas

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DECEMBER 2026

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November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

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Between the 11 AM and 1 PM Masses
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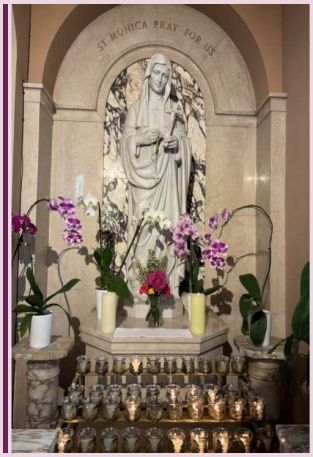

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www.smstaparishsf.org
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That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

1. Living face to face with God means knowing that He sees us

The one who lives face to face with God knows that everything he does, he does in His presence: at Mass, yes, but also at work, at home, with his phone in his hand, when no one is watching. The Lord said it clearly: your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you (Mt 6:4).

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But what matters most, dear brothers and sisters, is not only where we look during Mass, but where we look in life. Because one can pray facing God and then live facing men.

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On the day the Master of the house returns, He will not ask us what others said about us, but what we did with Him.

Let us ask for this grace from the Blessed Virgin Mary, who lived face to face with God better than anyone, who said "Behold the handmaid of the Lord" without caring what others might think: may she help us, this Advent, to wait for her Son wide awake, without fear of what people will say, and with our eyes fixed on Him. Amen.

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Parochial Administrator
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Sunday Gospel: *Mk. 13:33-37*

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Make a Good Confession

Prepare ye the way of the Lord!

Confessions at St. Monica
Mon–Fri: before and after Mass
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Why go to Confession? Mortal sin robs the soul of sanctifying grace. In His mercy Christ gave His Church the Sacrament of Penance to restore it. The Fathers of the Church call it "the second plank [of salvation] after the shipwreck which is the loss of grace." *(CCC 1446)*

Even our daily faults are worth confessing. Holy Mother Church strongly recommends it, for regular Confession "helps us form our conscience, fight against evil tendencies, let ourselves be healed by Christ and progress in the life of the Spirit." *(CCC 1458)*

"The confession of evil works is the beginning of good works."
— St. Augustine

Do not let Christmas find your soul unready.

Mass Intentions

	St. Monica		St. Thomas the Apostle	
Sunday 11/29	11:00am 1:00pm	Betty & Morelia Bermejo † Gilda Maria Mangana † Int. for the Parishioners	9:30am	Adelaida Maximo Iglesias †
Monday 11/30	8:00am	Ann Yan Lam-Lau	8:30am	Robert Anselmo Han †
Tuesday 12/01	8:00am	Rene Revel †		No Mass
Wednesday 12/02	8:00am	Mercedes Yazdini, Birthday	8:30am	Veronico Flores Fabular †
Thursday 12/03	8:00am	Lucio Aguirre †		No Mass
Friday 12/04	8:00am	Francisco Matturano-Gomez †	8:30am	Int. of the People of the Parish
Saturday 12/05	5:00pm	Santiago & Enelia Pacheco †	8:30am	Int. of the People of the Parish

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

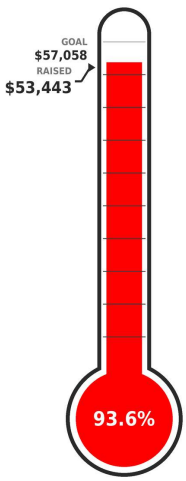
Give online, set up **recurring giving**, or remember the parish in your **will or estate**. Thank you!

Scan to give online ►

Archdiocese Annual Appeal

PARISH GOAL	RAISED SO FAR	STILL NEEDED
$57,058	$53,443	$3,615

Help us reach our goal! Only 5 weeks left this year.



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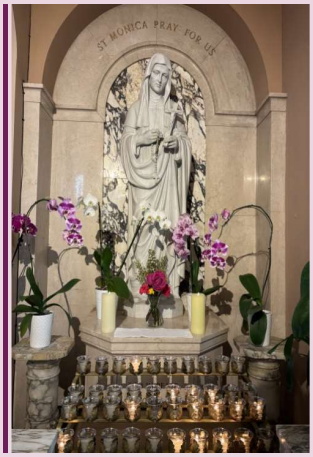

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PARISH GOAL	RAISED SO FAR	STILL NEEDED
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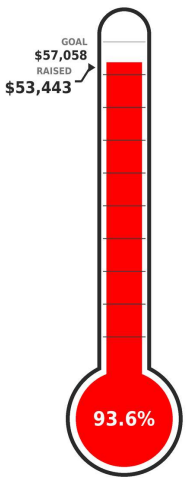
Help us reach our goal! Only 5 weeks left this year.



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November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

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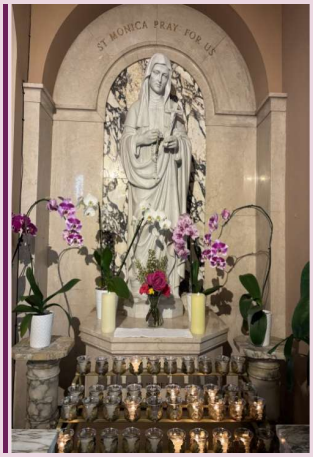

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That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

1. Living face to face with God means knowing that He sees us

The one who lives face to face with God knows that everything he does, he does in His presence: at Mass, yes, but also at work, at home, with his phone in his hand, when no one is watching. The Lord said it clearly: your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you (Mt 6:4).

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But what matters most, dear brothers and sisters, is not only where we look during Mass, but where we look in life. Because one can pray facing God and then live facing men.

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And what makes us live facing men? What the saints called "human respect": the fear of what others will say.

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"¡Viva Cristo Rey!" rather than deny his faith to please his executioners. He lived, and he died, face to face with God.

Thanks be to God, we are not asked for that much. But we are asked for a few concrete things this Advent:

- An examination of conscience every night, asking ourselves: today, did I live facing God, or facing others?
- A good confession before Christmas.
- One small act of Christian courage each week: making the Sign of the Cross in public, praying before meals, defending the Church when she is attacked, inviting someone to Mass.

No one becomes brave all at once; courage, too, must be trained.

✠ ✠ ✠

Today Saint Paul reminded us that God is faithful, and that He has called us into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord (1 Cor 1:9). God is faithful… The question is whether we will be faithful to Him, even when it costs us.

On the day the Master of the house returns, He will not ask us what others said about us, but what we did with Him.

Let us ask for this grace from the Blessed Virgin Mary, who lived face to face with God better than anyone, who said "Behold the handmaid of the Lord" without caring what others might think: may she help us, this Advent, to wait for her Son wide awake, without fear of what people will say, and with our eyes fixed on Him. Amen.

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

Sunday Gospel: *Mk. 13:33-37*

Jesus said to his disciples: "Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come. It is like a man traveling abroad. He leaves home and places his servants in charge, each with his own work, and orders the gatekeeper to be on the watch. Watch, therefore; you do not know when the lord of the house is coming, whether in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to all: 'Watch!'"

Our Lord gives no date because He wants us ready at every hour. The servant who is "sleeping" is the soul in mortal sin. To the world he may look perfectly well, but in the eyes of God his soul is dead. As the month of the Holy Souls comes to a close, we are reminded that death comes when no man expects it, and whatever state it finds us in is the state we keep for all eternity. That is why Holy Mother Church gives us Advent as a season of penance. Do not wait for a more convenient time. Let us each prepare as well as we can by making a good Confession during this holy season, so that whenever the Master comes, He may find us awake.

Semper Virgo

A Marian Pilgrimage to Guadalupe 2031

Cardinal Burke invites the faithful to a **daily Marian devotion** preparing for the 500th anniversary of Our Lady of Guadalupe in 2031. Each morning, receive a short meditation on the Mother of God.

Begins **Dec. 12, 2026**, Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Sign up free: **sempervirgo.org**

Liturgical Calendar	
Sun 11/29	First Sunday of Advent
Mon 11/30	St. Andrew, Apostle
Tues 12/1	Advent Weekday
Wed 12/2	Advent Weekday
Thurs 12/3	St. Francis Xavier
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Make a Good Confession

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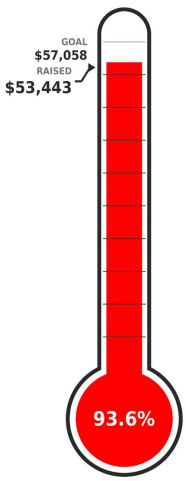

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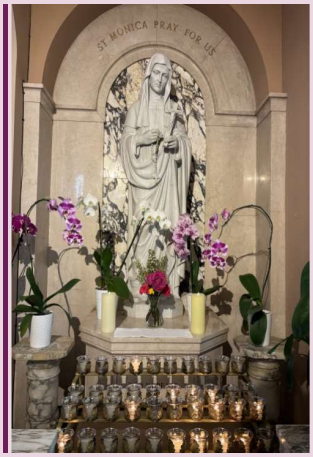

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Sign up free: **sempervirgo.org**

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

Scan to join our parish ►

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Archdiocese Annual Appeal

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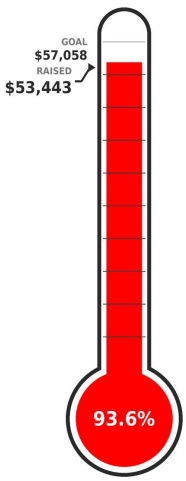
Help us reach our goal! Only 5 weeks left this year.



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Every gift, large or small, helps make our churches beautiful for the Christ Child.

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The evergreen circle stands for the eternity of God, who has no beginning and no end. The **three violet candles** stand for penance and watchful prayer; the **rose candle**, lit on Gaudete Sunday, for the joy of Christ's nearness. Light one more candle each week as Christmas draws near.

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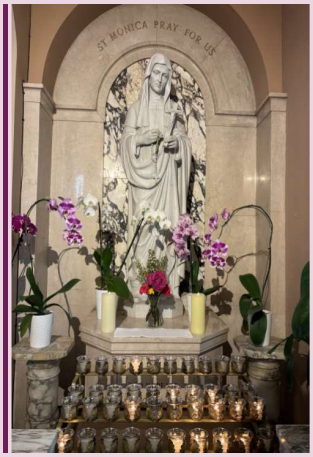

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PASTOR'S LETTER



Living Face to Face with God

Fr. Javier Olivera Ravasi

San Francisco, November 29, 2026.
First Sunday of Advent.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Today we begin Advent and, with it, a new liturgical year. The Church, like a good Mother, wakes us up with a word that the Lord repeats again and again in today's Gospel: "Watch!"

Jesus tells us the story of a man who goes on a journey. He leaves his house in the care of his servants, gives each one his work, and orders the gatekeeper to stay awake. For they do not know when the master of the house will return: in the evening, at midnight, at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find us sleeping.





That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

1. Living face to face with God means knowing that He sees us

The one who lives face to face with God knows that everything he does, he does in His presence: at Mass, yes, but also at work, at home, with his phone in his hand, when no one is watching. The Lord said it clearly: your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you (Mt 6:4).

In today's Psalm we ask the Lord to show us His face, so that we may be saved. A Christian is someone who lives seeking the face of God.

That is why, in this Holy Mass, as you can see, the priest and you are all facing the same direction: toward Him, to whom the Holy Sacrifice is offered. The priest is not turning his back on you; we are all walking together, as one people on pilgrimage, looking toward the Lord who comes.

But what matters most, dear brothers and sisters, is not only where we look during Mass, but where we look in life. Because one can pray facing God and then live facing men.

2. The great enemy: human respect

And what makes us live facing men? What the saints called "human respect": the fear of what others will say.

It is that fear of looking bad, of seeming old-fashioned, fanatical, or "too Catholic," that leads us to keep silent when we should speak, or to stop doing good so as not to draw attention.

Let us take some simple examples:

- The one who does not make the Sign of the Cross before eating in a restaurant, out of embarrassment.
- The one who hears jokes about the Church at work or at school and says nothing.
- The father who does not pray with his children so as not to seem "excessive."
- The young person who never mentions going to Mass on Sundays, so as not to be the odd one out.
- Or the one who keeps quiet about the truth on life, family, or marriage, because "you can't say that anymore."

And so, little by little, one ends up living face to face with men and with one's back turned to God.

Saint Paul put it bluntly: if I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ (Gal 1:10). And the Lord Himself warned that whoever is ashamed of Him before this generation, of that one He too will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father (Mk 8:38).

Notice: "when He comes." Advent again.

Human respect is, in the end, a way of falling asleep: it is like the gatekeeper who, instead of watching the door through which his master will come, spends the whole night worrying about what the neighbors think.

3. How can we live face to face with God this Advent?

The Cristero martyrs of Mexico had no human respect. Saint José Sánchez del Río, only fourteen years old, chose to die crying out

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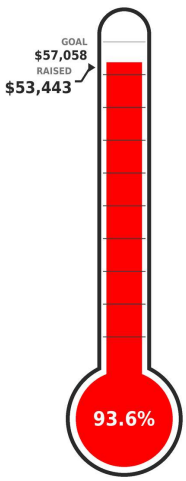

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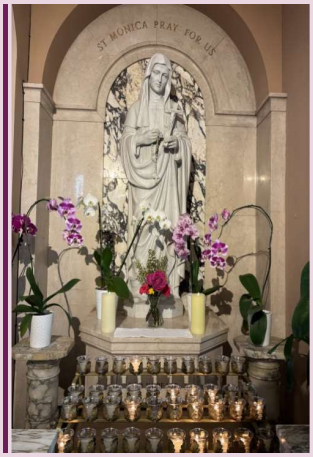

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PASTOR'S LETTER



Living Face to Face with God

Fr. Javier Olivera Ravasi

San Francisco, November 29, 2026.
First Sunday of Advent.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Today we begin Advent and, with it, a new liturgical year. The Church, like a good Mother, wakes us up with a word that the Lord repeats again and again in today's Gospel: "Watch!"

Jesus tells us the story of a man who goes on a journey. He leaves his house in the care of his servants, gives each one his work, and orders the gatekeeper to stay awake. For they do not know when the master of the house will return: in the evening, at midnight, at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find us sleeping.





That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

1. Living face to face with God means knowing that He sees us

The one who lives face to face with God knows that everything he does, he does in His presence: at Mass, yes, but also at work, at home, with his phone in his hand, when no one is watching. The Lord said it clearly: your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you (Mt 6:4).

In today's Psalm we ask the Lord to show us His face, so that we may be saved. A Christian is someone who lives seeking the face of God.

That is why, in this Holy Mass, as you can see, the priest and you are all facing the same direction: toward Him, to whom the Holy Sacrifice is offered. The priest is not turning his back on you; we are all walking together, as one people on pilgrimage, looking toward the Lord who comes.

But what matters most, dear brothers and sisters, is not only where we look during Mass, but where we look in life. Because one can pray facing God and then live facing men.

2. The great enemy: human respect

And what makes us live facing men? What the saints called "human respect": the fear of what others will say.

It is that fear of looking bad, of seeming old-fashioned, fanatical, or "too Catholic," that leads us to keep silent when we should speak, or to stop doing good so as not to draw attention.

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Saint Paul put it bluntly: if I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ (Gal 1:10). And the Lord Himself warned that whoever is ashamed of Him before this generation, of that one He too will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father (Mk 8:38).

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Today Saint Paul reminded us that God is faithful, and that He has called us into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord (1 Cor 1:9). God is faithful… The question is whether we will be faithful to Him, even when it costs us.

On the day the Master of the house returns, He will not ask us what others said about us, but what we did with Him.

Let us ask for this grace from the Blessed Virgin Mary, who lived face to face with God better than anyone, who said "Behold the handmaid of the Lord" without caring what others might think: may she help us, this Advent, to wait for her Son wide awake, without fear of what people will say, and with our eyes fixed on Him. Amen.

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Sunday Gospel: *Mk. 13:33-37*

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Begins **Dec. 12, 2026**, Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Sign up free: **sempervirgo.org**

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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

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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

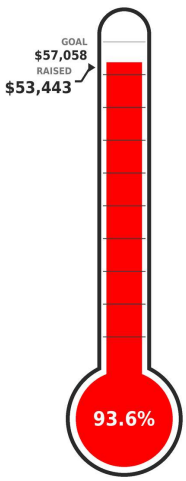
Give online, set up **recurring giving**, or remember the parish in your **will or estate**. Thank you!

Scan to give online ►

Archdiocese Annual Appeal

PARISH GOAL	RAISED SO FAR	STILL NEEDED
$57,058	$53,443	$3,615

Help us reach our goal! Only 5 weeks left this year.



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

Archdiocesan Annual Appeal 2026 Goal: $6,450,000

Star of the Sea & Stella Maris Academy

4420 Geary Blvd SF CA 94118

St Nicholas

CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE

Handmade Gifts! Made by 14 artisans.

DECEMBER 2026

AUDITORIUM

Friday 4, 2pm-7pm
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Enjoy Hot Chocolate & Pastries While You Shop!



November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

ST. MONICA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH

Christmas Poinsettias



Please use this envelope
Use este sobre

As we prepare to celebrate the **Birth of Our Lord**, we wish to adorn the altars of St. Monica and St. Thomas the Apostle with **poinsettias for Christmas**.

To cover their cost, we kindly ask for your help through a **special collection this Sunday**.

Every gift, large or small, helps make our churches beautiful for the Christ Child.

Poinsettia Collection this Sunday

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

The Advent Wreath

The evergreen circle stands for the eternity of God, who has no beginning and no end. The **three violet candles** stand for penance and watchful prayer; the **rose candle**, lit on Gaudete Sunday, for the joy of Christ's nearness. Light one more candle each week as Christmas draws near.

Prayer for the First Week

Stir up Thy power, we beseech Thee, O Lord, and come: that from the threatening dangers of our sins we may deserve to be rescued by Thy protection, and to be saved by Thy deliverance. Who livest and reignest for ever and ever. Amen.

Sunday Collection

Collection	St. Monica	St. Thomas
Sunday (English)	$1,531.00	$1,137.00
Vietnamese	—	$514.00

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Procession in Honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Procesión en honor a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe





DECEMBER · DICIEMBRE
13
SUNDAY · DOMINGO
12:00 NOON
MEDIODÍA

St. Monica Church
470 24th Ave., San Francisco

Between the 11 AM and 1 PM Masses
Entre las Misas de 11 AM y 1 PM

You are invited!

Join us as we walk in procession around **St. Monica Church** to honor **Our Lady of Guadalupe**, Mother of the Americas. Bring your family and flowers!

¡Están invitados!

Acompáñenos en procesión alrededor de la **iglesia Santa Mónica** para honrar a **Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe**, Madre de las Américas. ¡Traiga a su familia y flores!

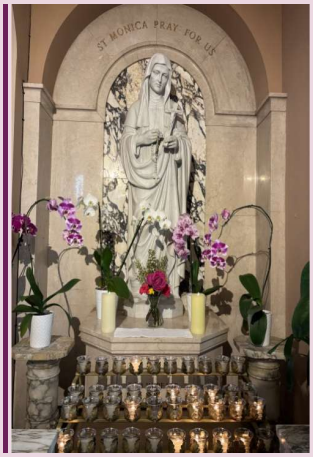
"¿No estoy yo aquí, que soy tu madre?"
¡Viva la Virgen de Guadalupe!

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 help make sandwiches each month, and to those who shop for supplies and deliver to the shelter the next day! Sandwich making is the **3rd Wednesday of every month.**

Next: Wed., Dec. 16 · 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**.

November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

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

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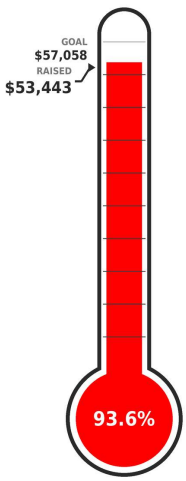

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Entre las Misas de 11 AM y 1 PM

You are invited!

Join us as we walk in procession around **St. Monica Church** to honor **Our Lady of Guadalupe**, Mother of the Americas. Bring your family and flowers!

¡Están invitados!

Acompáñenos en procesión alrededor de la **iglesia Santa Mónica** para honrar a **Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe**, Madre de las Américas. ¡Traiga a su familia y flores!

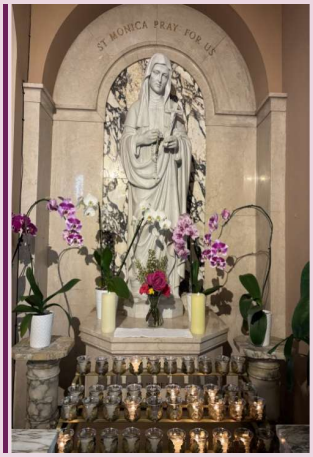
"¿No estoy yo aquí, que soy tu madre?"
¡Viva la Virgen de Guadalupe!

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.



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November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

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Saint Thomas the Apostle
Parish

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Clergy	Staff
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PASTOR'S LETTER



Living Face to Face with God

Fr. Javier Olivera Ravasi

San Francisco, November 29, 2026.
First Sunday of Advent.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Today we begin Advent and, with it, a new liturgical year. The Church, like a good Mother, wakes us up with a word that the Lord repeats again and again in today's Gospel: "Watch!"

Jesus tells us the story of a man who goes on a journey. He leaves his house in the care of his servants, gives each one his work, and orders the gatekeeper to stay awake. For they do not know when the master of the house will return: in the evening, at midnight, at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find us sleeping.





That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

1. Living face to face with God means knowing that He sees us

The one who lives face to face with God knows that everything he does, he does in His presence: at Mass, yes, but also at work, at home, with his phone in his hand, when no one is watching. The Lord said it clearly: your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you (Mt 6:4).

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But what matters most, dear brothers and sisters, is not only where we look during Mass, but where we look in life. Because one can pray facing God and then live facing men.

2. The great enemy: human respect

And what makes us live facing men? What the saints called "human respect": the fear of what others will say.

It is that fear of looking bad, of seeming old-fashioned, fanatical, or "too Catholic," that leads us to keep silent when we should speak, or to stop doing good so as not to draw attention.

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Let us ask for this grace from the Blessed Virgin Mary, who lived face to face with God better than anyone, who said "Behold the handmaid of the Lord" without caring what others might think: may she help us, this Advent, to wait for her Son wide awake, without fear of what people will say, and with our eyes fixed on Him. Amen.

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Parochial Administrator
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Sunday Gospel: *Mk. 13:33-37*

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Sign up free: **sempervirgo.org**

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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

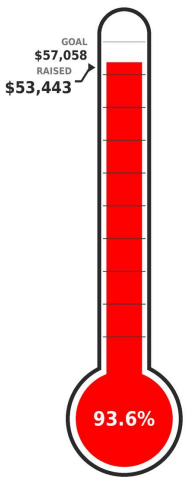
Give online, set up **recurring giving**, or remember the parish in your **will or estate**. Thank you!

Scan to give online ►

Archdiocese Annual Appeal

PARISH GOAL	RAISED SO FAR	STILL NEEDED
$57,058	$53,443	$3,615

Help us reach our goal! Only 5 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.

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

Archdiocesan Annual Appeal 2026 Goal: $6,450,000

Star of the Sea & Stella Maris Academy

4420 Geary Blvd SF CA 94118

St Nicholas

CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE

Handmade Gifts! Made by 14 artisans.

DECEMBER 2026

AUDITORIUM

Friday 4, 2pm-7pm
Saturday 5, 9am-6pm
Sunday 6, 9am-2pm



Enjoy Hot Chocolate & Pastries While You Shop!



November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

ST. MONICA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH

Christmas Poinsettias



Please use this envelope
Use este sobre

As we prepare to celebrate the **Birth of Our Lord**, we wish to adorn the altars of St. Monica and St. Thomas the Apostle with **poinsettias for Christmas**.

To cover their cost, we kindly ask for your help through a **special collection this Sunday**.

Every gift, large or small, helps make our churches beautiful for the Christ Child.

Poinsettia Collection this Sunday

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

The Advent Wreath

The evergreen circle stands for the eternity of God, who has no beginning and no end. The **three violet candles** stand for penance and watchful prayer; the **rose candle**, lit on Gaudete Sunday, for the joy of Christ's nearness. Light one more candle each week as Christmas draws near.

Prayer for the First Week

Stir up Thy power, we beseech Thee, O Lord, and come: that from the threatening dangers of our sins we may deserve to be rescued by Thy protection, and to be saved by Thy deliverance. Who livest and reignest for ever and ever. Amen.

Sunday Collection

Collection	St. Monica	St. Thomas
Sunday (English)	$1,531.00	$1,137.00
Vietnamese	—	$514.00

ST. MONICA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH

Procession in Honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Procesión en honor a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe





DECEMBER · DICIEMBRE
13
SUNDAY · DOMINGO
12:00 NOON
MEDIODÍA

St. Monica Church
470 24th Ave., San Francisco

Between the 11 AM and 1 PM Masses
Entre las Misas de 11 AM y 1 PM

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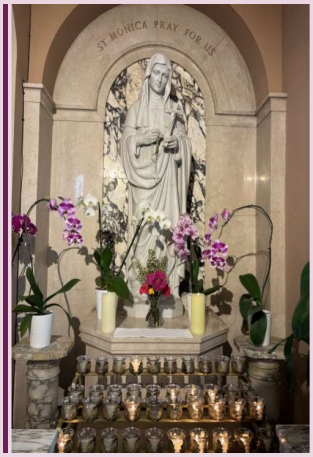

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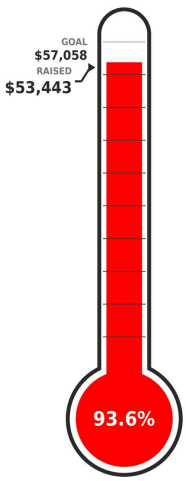

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4420 Geary Blvd SF CA 94118

St Nicholas

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November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

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To cover their cost, we kindly ask for your help through a **special collection this Sunday**.

Every gift, large or small, helps make our churches beautiful for the Christ Child.

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

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The evergreen circle stands for the eternity of God, who has no beginning and no end. The **three violet candles** stand for penance and watchful prayer; the **rose candle**, lit on Gaudete Sunday, for the joy of Christ's nearness. Light one more candle each week as Christmas draws near.

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Stir up Thy power, we beseech Thee, O Lord, and come: that from the threatening dangers of our sins we may deserve to be rescued by Thy protection, and to be saved by Thy deliverance. Who livest and reignest for ever and ever. Amen.

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Procesión en honor a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe





DECEMBER · DICIEMBRE
13
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St. Monica Church
470 24th Ave., San Francisco

Between the 11 AM and 1 PM Masses
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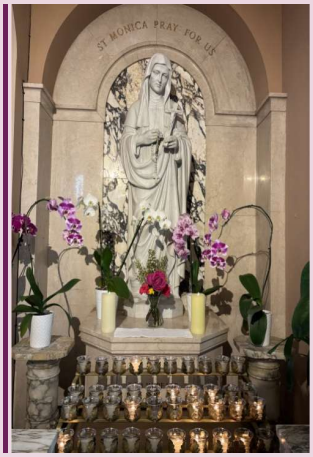

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Saint Thomas the Apostle
Parish

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www.smstaparishsf.org
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PASTOR'S LETTER



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That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

1. Living face to face with God means knowing that He sees us

The one who lives face to face with God knows that everything he does, he does in His presence: at Mass, yes, but also at work, at home, with his phone in his hand, when no one is watching. The Lord said it clearly: your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you (Mt 6:4).

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On the day the Master of the house returns, He will not ask us what others said about us, but what we did with Him.

Let us ask for this grace from the Blessed Virgin Mary, who lived face to face with God better than anyone, who said "Behold the handmaid of the Lord" without caring what others might think: may she help us, this Advent, to wait for her Son wide awake, without fear of what people will say, and with our eyes fixed on Him. Amen.

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Sign up free: **sempervirgo.org**

Liturgical Calendar	
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Tues 12/1	Advent Weekday
Wed 12/2	Advent Weekday
Thurs 12/3	St. Francis Xavier
Fri 12/4	Advent Weekday · St. John Damascene
Sat 12/5	Advent Weekday

Make a Good Confession

Prepare ye the way of the Lord!

Confessions at St. Monica
Mon–Fri: before and after Mass
Saturday: 4:20 PM · Sunday: after Mass

Why go to Confession? Mortal sin robs the soul of sanctifying grace. In His mercy Christ gave His Church the Sacrament of Penance to restore it. The Fathers of the Church call it "the second plank [of salvation] after the shipwreck which is the loss of grace." *(CCC 1446)*

Even our daily faults are worth confessing. Holy Mother Church strongly recommends it, for regular Confession "helps us form our conscience, fight against evil tendencies, let ourselves be healed by Christ and progress in the life of the Spirit." *(CCC 1458)*

"The confession of evil works is the beginning of good works."
— St. Augustine

Do not let Christmas find your soul unready.

Mass Intentions

	St. Monica		St. Thomas the Apostle	
Sunday 11/29	11:00am 1:00pm	Betty & Morelia Bermejo † Gilda Maria Mangana † Int. for the Parishioners	9:30am	Adelaida Maximo Iglesias †
Monday 11/30	8:00am	Ann Yan Lam-Lau	8:30am	Robert Anselmo Han †
Tuesday 12/01	8:00am	Rene Revel †		No Mass
Wednesday 12/02	8:00am	Mercedes Yazdini, Birthday	8:30am	Veronico Flores Fabular †
Thursday 12/03	8:00am	Lucio Aguirre †		No Mass
Friday 12/04	8:00am	Francisco Matturano-Gomez †	8:30am	Int. of the People of the Parish
Saturday 12/05	5:00pm	Santiago & Enelia Pacheco †	8:30am	Int. of the People of the Parish

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

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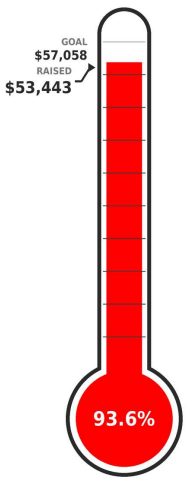

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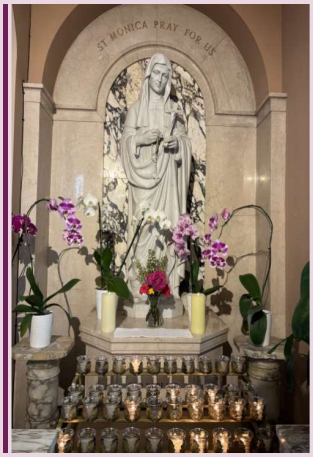

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Tues 12/1	Advent Weekday
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Registering helps us know and serve your family.
It takes two minutes!

Scan to join our parish ►

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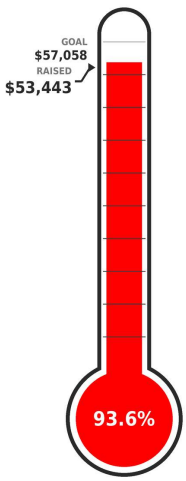
Archdiocese Annual Appeal

PARISH GOAL	RAISED SO FAR	STILL NEEDED
$57,058	$53,443	$3,615

Help us reach our goal! Only 5 weeks left this year.



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November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

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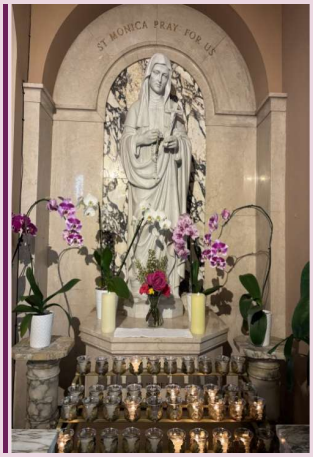

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Clergy	Staff
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PASTOR'S LETTER



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Fr. Javier Olivera Ravasi

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Jesus tells us the story of a man who goes on a journey. He leaves his house in the care of his servants, gives each one his work, and orders the gatekeeper to stay awake. For they do not know when the master of the house will return: in the evening, at midnight, at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find us sleeping.





That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

1. Living face to face with God means knowing that He sees us

The one who lives face to face with God knows that everything he does, he does in His presence: at Mass, yes, but also at work, at home, with his phone in his hand, when no one is watching. The Lord said it clearly: your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you (Mt 6:4).

In today's Psalm we ask the Lord to show us His face, so that we may be saved. A Christian is someone who lives seeking the face of God.

That is why, in this Holy Mass, as you can see, the priest and you are all facing the same direction: toward Him, to whom the Holy Sacrifice is offered. The priest is not turning his back on you; we are all walking together, as one people on pilgrimage, looking toward the Lord who comes.

But what matters most, dear brothers and sisters, is not only where we look during Mass, but where we look in life. Because one can pray facing God and then live facing men.

2. The great enemy: human respect

And what makes us live facing men? What the saints called "human respect": the fear of what others will say.

It is that fear of looking bad, of seeming old-fashioned, fanatical, or "too Catholic," that leads us to keep silent when we should speak, or to stop doing good so as not to draw attention.

Let us take some simple examples:

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And so, little by little, one ends up living face to face with men and with one's back turned to God.

Saint Paul put it bluntly: if I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ (Gal 1:10). And the Lord Himself warned that whoever is ashamed of Him before this generation, of that one He too will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father (Mk 8:38).

Notice: "when He comes." Advent again.

Human respect is, in the end, a way of falling asleep: it is like the gatekeeper who, instead of watching the door through which his master will come, spends the whole night worrying about what the neighbors think.

3. How can we live face to face with God this Advent?

The Cristero martyrs of Mexico had no human respect. Saint José Sánchez del Río, only fourteen years old, chose to die crying out

November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

"¡Viva Cristo Rey!" rather than deny his faith to please his executioners. He lived, and he died, face to face with God.

Thanks be to God, we are not asked for that much. But we are asked for a few concrete things this Advent:

- An examination of conscience every night, asking ourselves: today, did I live facing God, or facing others?
- A good confession before Christmas.
- One small act of Christian courage each week: making the Sign of the Cross in public, praying before meals, defending the Church when she is attacked, inviting someone to Mass.

No one becomes brave all at once; courage, too, must be trained.

✠ ✠ ✠

Today Saint Paul reminded us that God is faithful, and that He has called us into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord (1 Cor 1:9). God is faithful… The question is whether we will be faithful to Him, even when it costs us.

On the day the Master of the house returns, He will not ask us what others said about us, but what we did with Him.

Let us ask for this grace from the Blessed Virgin Mary, who lived face to face with God better than anyone, who said "Behold the handmaid of the Lord" without caring what others might think: may she help us, this Advent, to wait for her Son wide awake, without fear of what people will say, and with our eyes fixed on Him. Amen.

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

Sunday Gospel: *Mk. 13:33-37*

Jesus said to his disciples: "Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come. It is like a man traveling abroad. He leaves home and places his servants in charge, each with his own work, and orders the gatekeeper to be on the watch. Watch, therefore; you do not know when the lord of the house is coming, whether in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to all: 'Watch!'"

Our Lord gives no date because He wants us ready at every hour. The servant who is "sleeping" is the soul in mortal sin. To the world he may look perfectly well, but in the eyes of God his soul is dead. As the month of the Holy Souls comes to a close, we are reminded that death comes when no man expects it, and whatever state it finds us in is the state we keep for all eternity. That is why Holy Mother Church gives us Advent as a season of penance. Do not wait for a more convenient time. Let us each prepare as well as we can by making a good Confession during this holy season, so that whenever the Master comes, He may find us awake.

Semper Virgo

A Marian Pilgrimage to Guadalupe 2031

Cardinal Burke invites the faithful to a **daily Marian devotion** preparing for the 500th anniversary of Our Lady of Guadalupe in 2031. Each morning, receive a short meditation on the Mother of God.

Begins **Dec. 12, 2026**, Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Sign up free: **sempervirgo.org**

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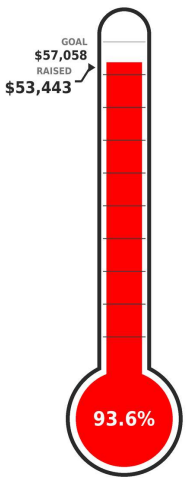

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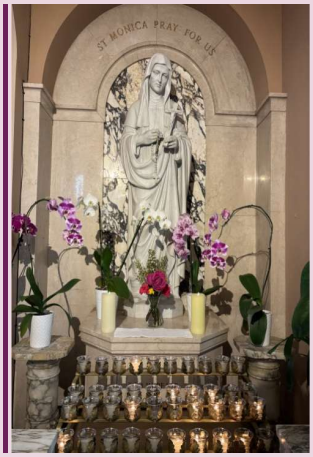

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November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

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Parochial Administrator
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Sign up free: **sempervirgo.org**

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

All are welcome!

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

Scan to join our parish ►

GIVE: Support Your Parish

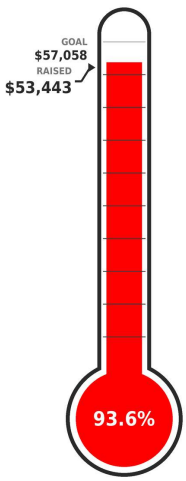
Give online, set up **recurring giving**, or remember the parish in your **will or estate**. Thank you!

Scan to give online ►

Archdiocese Annual Appeal

PARISH GOAL	RAISED SO FAR	STILL NEEDED
$57,058	$53,443	$3,615

Help us reach our goal! Only 5 weeks left this year.



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Star of the Sea & Stella Maris Academy

4420 Geary Blvd SF CA 94118

St Nicholas

CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE

Handmade Gifts! Made by 14 artisans.

DECEMBER 2026

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Enjoy Hot Chocolate & Pastries While You Shop!



November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

ST. MONICA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH

Christmas Poinsettias



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Use este sobre

As we prepare to celebrate the **Birth of Our Lord**, we wish to adorn the altars of St. Monica and St. Thomas the Apostle with **poinsettias for Christmas**.

To cover their cost, we kindly ask for your help through a **special collection this Sunday**.

Every gift, large or small, helps make our churches beautiful for the Christ Child.

Poinsettia Collection this Sunday

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

The Advent Wreath

The evergreen circle stands for the eternity of God, who has no beginning and no end. The **three violet candles** stand for penance and watchful prayer; the **rose candle**, lit on Gaudete Sunday, for the joy of Christ's nearness. Light one more candle each week as Christmas draws near.

Prayer for the First Week

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Procession in Honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Procesión en honor a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe





DECEMBER · DICIEMBRE
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St. Monica Church
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Between the 11 AM and 1 PM Masses
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You are invited!

Join us as we walk in procession around **St. Monica Church** to honor **Our Lady of Guadalupe**, Mother of the Americas. Bring your family and flowers!

¡Están invitados!

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"¿No estoy yo aquí, que soy tu madre?"
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Come visit the shrine dedicated to **St. Monica**, patroness of our church, adorned with flowers and a prayer candle rack.

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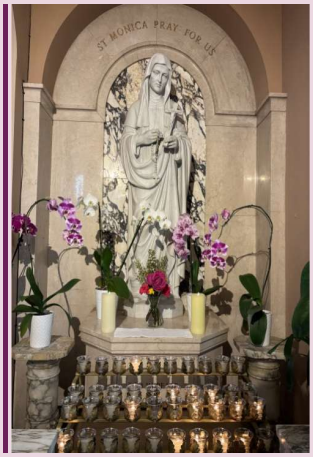

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Every candle is a prayer; every offering is a gift.
Your generous contribution for each candle helps maintain our entire church: its lights, its doors, and every sacred space where we gather as one family of faith.

Thank you, and God bless you!

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November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

Saint Monica
Saint Thomas the Apostle
Parish

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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) **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



Living Face to Face with God

Fr. Javier Olivera Ravasi

San Francisco, November 29, 2026.
First Sunday of Advent.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Today we begin Advent and, with it, a new liturgical year. The Church, like a good Mother, wakes us up with a word that the Lord repeats again and again in today's Gospel: "Watch!"

Jesus tells us the story of a man who goes on a journey. He leaves his house in the care of his servants, gives each one his work, and orders the gatekeeper to stay awake. For they do not know when the master of the house will return: in the evening, at midnight, at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find us sleeping.





That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

1. Living face to face with God means knowing that He sees us

The one who lives face to face with God knows that everything he does, he does in His presence: at Mass, yes, but also at work, at home, with his phone in his hand, when no one is watching. The Lord said it clearly: your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you (Mt 6:4).

In today's Psalm we ask the Lord to show us His face, so that we may be saved. A Christian is someone who lives seeking the face of God.

That is why, in this Holy Mass, as you can see, the priest and you are all facing the same direction: toward Him, to whom the Holy Sacrifice is offered. The priest is not turning his back on you; we are all walking together, as one people on pilgrimage, looking toward the Lord who comes.

But what matters most, dear brothers and sisters, is not only where we look during Mass, but where we look in life. Because one can pray facing God and then live facing men.

2. The great enemy: human respect

And what makes us live facing men? What the saints called "human respect": the fear of what others will say.

It is that fear of looking bad, of seeming old-fashioned, fanatical, or "too Catholic," that leads us to keep silent when we should speak, or to stop doing good so as not to draw attention.

Let us take some simple examples:

- The one who does not make the Sign of the Cross before eating in a restaurant, out of embarrassment.
- The one who hears jokes about the Church at work or at school and says nothing.
- The father who does not pray with his children so as not to seem "excessive."
- The young person who never mentions going to Mass on Sundays, so as not to be the odd one out.
- Or the one who keeps quiet about the truth on life, family, or marriage, because "you can't say that anymore."

And so, little by little, one ends up living face to face with men and with one's back turned to God.

Saint Paul put it bluntly: if I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ (Gal 1:10). And the Lord Himself warned that whoever is ashamed of Him before this generation, of that one He too will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father (Mk 8:38).

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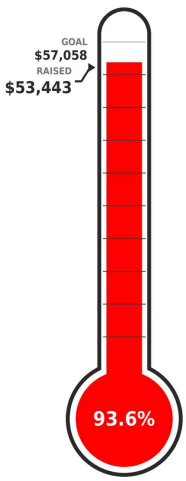

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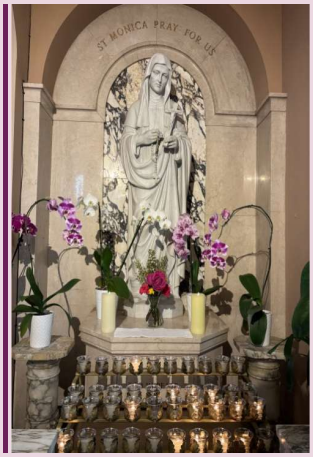

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Clergy	Staff
Rev. Javier O. Ravasi, Parochial Administrator pastor@smstaparishsf.org **In Residence:** **Rev. Paulinus Iwuji, SMMM, Ph.D.** **VA Hospital Chaplain** St. Thomas Apostle Rectory **Rev. Te Van Nguyen** **Vietnamese Ministry** St. Thomas 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

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PASTOR'S LETTER



Living Face to Face with God

Fr. Javier Olivera Ravasi

San Francisco, November 29, 2026.
First Sunday of Advent.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Today we begin Advent and, with it, a new liturgical year. The Church, like a good Mother, wakes us up with a word that the Lord repeats again and again in today's Gospel: "Watch!"

Jesus tells us the story of a man who goes on a journey. He leaves his house in the care of his servants, gives each one his work, and orders the gatekeeper to stay awake. For they do not know when the master of the house will return: in the evening, at midnight, at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find us sleeping.





That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

1. Living face to face with God means knowing that He sees us

The one who lives face to face with God knows that everything he does, he does in His presence: at Mass, yes, but also at work, at home, with his phone in his hand, when no one is watching. The Lord said it clearly: your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you (Mt 6:4).

In today's Psalm we ask the Lord to show us His face, so that we may be saved. A Christian is someone who lives seeking the face of God.

That is why, in this Holy Mass, as you can see, the priest and you are all facing the same direction: toward Him, to whom the Holy Sacrifice is offered. The priest is not turning his back on you; we are all walking together, as one people on pilgrimage, looking toward the Lord who comes.

But what matters most, dear brothers and sisters, is not only where we look during Mass, but where we look in life. Because one can pray facing God and then live facing men.

2. The great enemy: human respect

And what makes us live facing men? What the saints called "human respect": the fear of what others will say.

It is that fear of looking bad, of seeming old-fashioned, fanatical, or "too Catholic," that leads us to keep silent when we should speak, or to stop doing good so as not to draw attention.

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Today Saint Paul reminded us that God is faithful, and that He has called us into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord (1 Cor 1:9). God is faithful… The question is whether we will be faithful to Him, even when it costs us.

On the day the Master of the house returns, He will not ask us what others said about us, but what we did with Him.

Let us ask for this grace from the Blessed Virgin Mary, who lived face to face with God better than anyone, who said "Behold the handmaid of the Lord" without caring what others might think: may she help us, this Advent, to wait for her Son wide awake, without fear of what people will say, and with our eyes fixed on Him. Amen.

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Begins **Dec. 12, 2026**, Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Sign up free: **sempervirgo.org**

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PRAY · GATHER · BELONG · GIVE

PRAY · FRIDAY ADORATION

Adorers Needed

Fridays 9am – 5pm · Our Lord is waiting for you!



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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

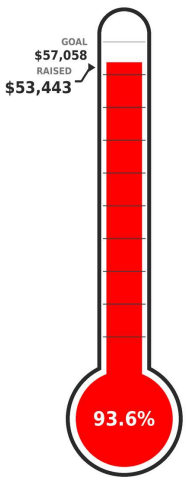
Give online, set up **recurring giving**, or remember the parish in your **will or estate**. Thank you!

Scan to give online ►

Archdiocese Annual Appeal

PARISH GOAL	RAISED SO FAR	STILL NEEDED
$57,058	$53,443	$3,615

Help us reach our goal! Only 5 weeks left this year.



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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/

Archdiocesan Annual Appeal 2026 Goal: $6,450,000

Star of the Sea & Stella Maris Academy

4420 Geary Blvd SF CA 94118

St Nicholas

CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE

Handmade Gifts! Made by 14 artisans.

DECEMBER 2026

AUDITORIUM

Friday 4, 2pm-7pm
Saturday 5, 9am-6pm
Sunday 6, 9am-2pm



Enjoy Hot Chocolate & Pastries While You Shop!



November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

ST. MONICA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH

Christmas Poinsettias



Please use this envelope
Use este sobre

As we prepare to celebrate the **Birth of Our Lord**, we wish to adorn the altars of St. Monica and St. Thomas the Apostle with **poinsettias for Christmas**.

To cover their cost, we kindly ask for your help through a **special collection this Sunday**.

Every gift, large or small, helps make our churches beautiful for the Christ Child.

Poinsettia Collection this Sunday

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

The Advent Wreath

The evergreen circle stands for the eternity of God, who has no beginning and no end. The **three violet candles** stand for penance and watchful prayer; the **rose candle**, lit on Gaudete Sunday, for the joy of Christ's nearness. Light one more candle each week as Christmas draws near.

Prayer for the First Week

Stir up Thy power, we beseech Thee, O Lord, and come: that from the threatening dangers of our sins we may deserve to be rescued by Thy protection, and to be saved by Thy deliverance. Who livest and reignest for ever and ever. Amen.

Sunday Collection

Collection	St. Monica	St. Thomas
Sunday (English)	$1,531.00	$1,137.00
Vietnamese	—	$514.00

ST. MONICA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH

Procession in Honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Procesión en honor a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe





DECEMBER · DICIEMBRE
13
SUNDAY · DOMINGO
12:00 NOON
MEDIODÍA

St. Monica Church
470 24th Ave., San Francisco

Between the 11 AM and 1 PM Masses
Entre las Misas de 11 AM y 1 PM

You are invited!

Join us as we walk in procession around **St. Monica Church** to honor **Our Lady of Guadalupe**, Mother of the Americas. Bring your family and flowers!

¡Están invitados!

Acompáñenos en procesión alrededor de la **iglesia Santa Mónica** para honrar a **Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe**, Madre de las Américas. ¡Traiga a su familia y flores!

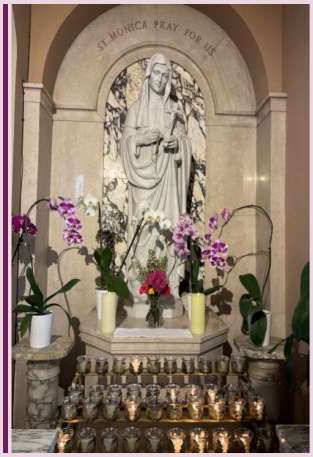
"¿No estoy yo aquí, que soy tu madre?"
¡Viva la Virgen de Guadalupe!

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 help make sandwiches each month, and to those who shop for supplies and deliver to the shelter the next day! Sandwich making is the **3rd Wednesday of every month.**

Next: Wed., Dec. 16 · 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**.

November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

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
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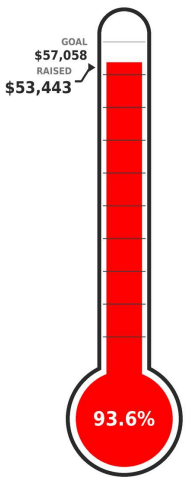

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Sunday Collection

Collection	St. Monica	St. Thomas
Sunday (English)	$1,531.00	$1,137.00
Vietnamese	—	$514.00

ST. MONICA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH

Procession in Honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Procesión en honor a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe





DECEMBER · DICIEMBRE
13
SUNDAY · DOMINGO
12:00 NOON
MEDIODÍA

St. Monica Church
470 24th Ave., San Francisco

Between the 11 AM and 1 PM Masses
Entre las Misas de 11 AM y 1 PM

You are invited!

Join us as we walk in procession around **St. Monica Church** to honor **Our Lady of Guadalupe**, Mother of the Americas. Bring your family and flowers!

¡Están invitados!

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"¿No estoy yo aquí, que soy tu madre?"
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LIGHT A CANDLE • PRAY • HELP OUR CHURCH

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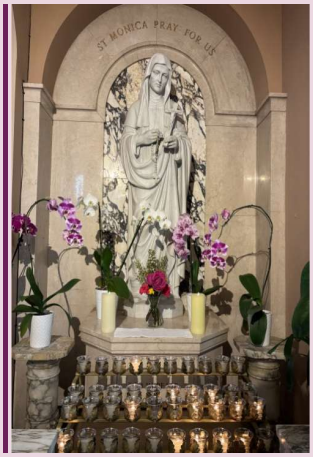

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November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

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PASTOR'S LETTER



Living Face to Face with God

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San Francisco, November 29, 2026.
First Sunday of Advent.

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That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

1. Living face to face with God means knowing that He sees us

The one who lives face to face with God knows that everything he does, he does in His presence: at Mass, yes, but also at work, at home, with his phone in his hand, when no one is watching. The Lord said it clearly: your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you (Mt 6:4).

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But what matters most, dear brothers and sisters, is not only where we look during Mass, but where we look in life. Because one can pray facing God and then live facing men.

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And what makes us live facing men? What the saints called "human respect": the fear of what others will say.

It is that fear of looking bad, of seeming old-fashioned, fanatical, or "too Catholic," that leads us to keep silent when we should speak, or to stop doing good so as not to draw attention.

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Let us ask for this grace from the Blessed Virgin Mary, who lived face to face with God better than anyone, who said "Behold the handmaid of the Lord" without caring what others might think: may she help us, this Advent, to wait for her Son wide awake, without fear of what people will say, and with our eyes fixed on Him. Amen.

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Parochial Administrator
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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

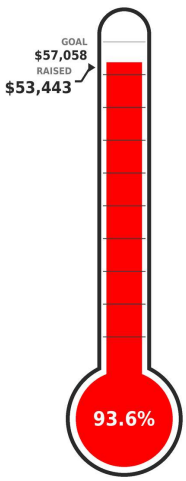
Give online, set up **recurring giving**, or remember the parish in your **will or estate**. Thank you!

Scan to give online ►

Archdiocese Annual Appeal

PARISH GOAL	RAISED SO FAR	STILL NEEDED
$57,058	$53,443	$3,615

Help us reach our goal! Only 5 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.

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

Archdiocesan Annual Appeal 2026 Goal: $6,450,000

Star of the Sea & Stella Maris Academy

4420 Geary Blvd SF CA 94118

St Nicholas

CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE

Handmade Gifts! Made by 14 artisans.

DECEMBER 2026

AUDITORIUM

Friday 4, 2pm-7pm
Saturday 5, 9am-6pm
Sunday 6, 9am-2pm



Enjoy Hot Chocolate & Pastries While You Shop!



November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

ST. MONICA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH

Christmas Poinsettias



Please use this envelope
Use este sobre

As we prepare to celebrate the **Birth of Our Lord**, we wish to adorn the altars of St. Monica and St. Thomas the Apostle with **poinsettias for Christmas**.

To cover their cost, we kindly ask for your help through a **special collection this Sunday**.

Every gift, large or small, helps make our churches beautiful for the Christ Child.

Poinsettia Collection this Sunday

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

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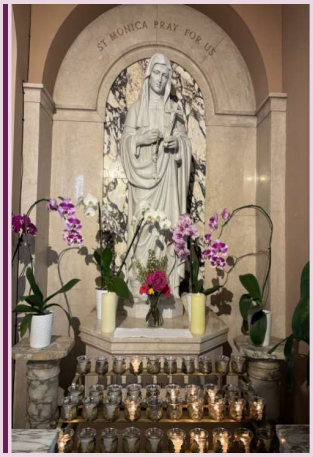

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Scan to sign up

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

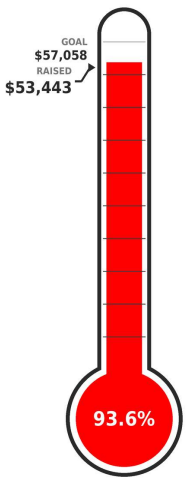
Give online, set up **recurring giving**, or remember the parish in your **will or estate**. Thank you!

Scan to give online ►

Archdiocese Annual Appeal

PARISH GOAL	RAISED SO FAR	STILL NEEDED
$57,058	$53,443	$3,615

Help us reach our goal! Only 5 weeks left this year.



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St Nicholas

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November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

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Use este sobre

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To cover their cost, we kindly ask for your help through a **special collection this Sunday**.

Every gift, large or small, helps make our churches beautiful for the Christ Child.

Poinsettia Collection this Sunday

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

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The evergreen circle stands for the eternity of God, who has no beginning and no end. The **three violet candles** stand for penance and watchful prayer; the **rose candle**, lit on Gaudete Sunday, for the joy of Christ's nearness. Light one more candle each week as Christmas draws near.

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13
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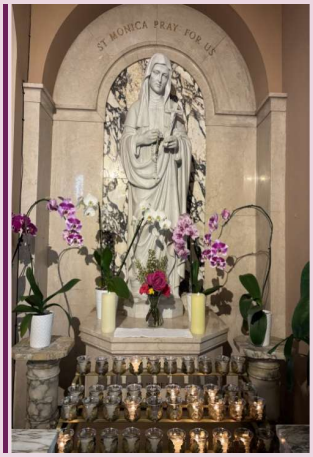

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Saint Thomas the Apostle
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www.smstaparishsf.org
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That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

1. Living face to face with God means knowing that He sees us

The one who lives face to face with God knows that everything he does, he does in His presence: at Mass, yes, but also at work, at home, with his phone in his hand, when no one is watching. The Lord said it clearly: your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you (Mt 6:4).

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On the day the Master of the house returns, He will not ask us what others said about us, but what we did with Him.

Let us ask for this grace from the Blessed Virgin Mary, who lived face to face with God better than anyone, who said "Behold the handmaid of the Lord" without caring what others might think: may she help us, this Advent, to wait for her Son wide awake, without fear of what people will say, and with our eyes fixed on Him. Amen.

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

Sunday Gospel: *Mk. 13:33-37*

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Our Lord gives no date because He wants us ready at every hour. The servant who is "sleeping" is the soul in mortal sin. To the world he may look perfectly well, but in the eyes of God his soul is dead. As the month of the Holy Souls comes to a close, we are reminded that death comes when no man expects it, and whatever state it finds us in is the state we keep for all eternity. That is why Holy Mother Church gives us Advent as a season of penance. Do not wait for a more convenient time. Let us each prepare as well as we can by making a good Confession during this holy season, so that whenever the Master comes, He may find us awake.

Semper Virgo

A Marian Pilgrimage to Guadalupe 2031

Cardinal Burke invites the faithful to a **daily Marian devotion** preparing for the 500th anniversary of Our Lady of Guadalupe in 2031. Each morning, receive a short meditation on the Mother of God.

Begins **Dec. 12, 2026**, Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Sign up free: **sempervirgo.org**

Liturgical Calendar	
Sun 11/29	First Sunday of Advent
Mon 11/30	St. Andrew, Apostle
Tues 12/1	Advent Weekday
Wed 12/2	Advent Weekday
Thurs 12/3	St. Francis Xavier
Fri 12/4	Advent Weekday · St. John Damascene
Sat 12/5	Advent Weekday

Make a Good Confession

Prepare ye the way of the Lord!

Confessions at St. Monica
Mon–Fri: before and after Mass
Saturday: 4:20 PM · Sunday: after Mass

Why go to Confession? Mortal sin robs the soul of sanctifying grace. In His mercy Christ gave His Church the Sacrament of Penance to restore it. The Fathers of the Church call it "the second plank [of salvation] after the shipwreck which is the loss of grace." *(CCC 1446)*

Even our daily faults are worth confessing. Holy Mother Church strongly recommends it, for regular Confession "helps us form our conscience, fight against evil tendencies, let ourselves be healed by Christ and progress in the life of the Spirit." *(CCC 1458)*

"The confession of evil works is the beginning of good works."
— St. Augustine

Do not let Christmas find your soul unready.

Mass Intentions

	St. Monica		St. Thomas the Apostle	
Sunday 11/29	11:00am 1:00pm	Betty & Morelia Bermejo † Gilda Maria Mangana † Int. for the Parishioners	9:30am	Adelaida Maximo Iglesias †
Monday 11/30	8:00am	Ann Yan Lam-Lau	8:30am	Robert Anselmo Han †
Tuesday 12/01	8:00am	Rene Revel †		No Mass
Wednesday 12/02	8:00am	Mercedes Yazdini, Birthday	8:30am	Veronico Flores Fabular †
Thursday 12/03	8:00am	Lucio Aguirre †		No Mass
Friday 12/04	8:00am	Francisco Matturano-Gomez †	8:30am	Int. of the People of the Parish
Saturday 12/05	5:00pm	Santiago & Enelia Pacheco †	8:30am	Int. of the People of the Parish

Support Your Parish

PRAY · GATHER · BELONG · GIVE

PRAY · FRIDAY ADORATION

Adorers Needed

Fridays 9am – 5pm · Our Lord is waiting for you!



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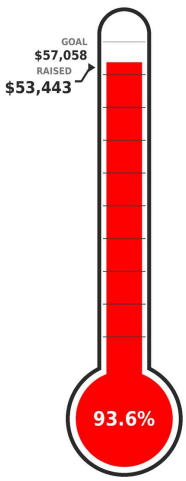

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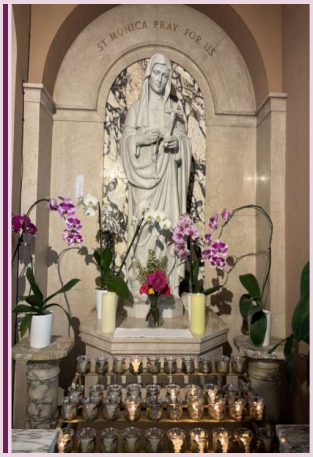

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Sign up free: **sempervirgo.org**

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

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

Scan to join our parish ►

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

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Archdiocese Annual Appeal

PARISH GOAL	RAISED SO FAR	STILL NEEDED
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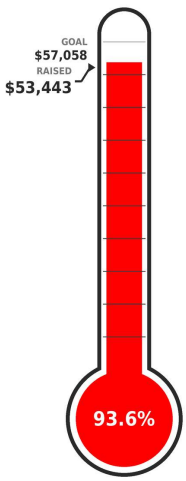
Help us reach our goal! Only 5 weeks left this year.



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St Nicholas

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Enjoy Hot Chocolate & Pastries While You Shop!



November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

ST. MONICA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH

Christmas Poinsettias



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Use este sobre

As we prepare to celebrate the **Birth of Our Lord**, we wish to adorn the altars of St. Monica and St. Thomas the Apostle with **poinsettias for Christmas**.

To cover their cost, we kindly ask for your help through a **special collection this Sunday**.

Every gift, large or small, helps make our churches beautiful for the Christ Child.

Poinsettia Collection this Sunday

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

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The evergreen circle stands for the eternity of God, who has no beginning and no end. The **three violet candles** stand for penance and watchful prayer; the **rose candle**, lit on Gaudete Sunday, for the joy of Christ's nearness. Light one more candle each week as Christmas draws near.

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Stir up Thy power, we beseech Thee, O Lord, and come: that from the threatening dangers of our sins we may deserve to be rescued by Thy protection, and to be saved by Thy deliverance. Who livest and reignest for ever and ever. Amen.

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You are invited!

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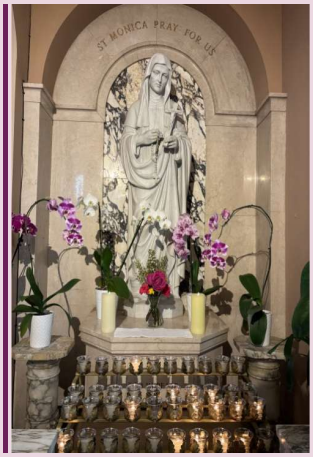

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PASTOR'S LETTER



Living Face to Face with God

Fr. Javier Olivera Ravasi

San Francisco, November 29, 2026.
First Sunday of Advent.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Today we begin Advent and, with it, a new liturgical year. The Church, like a good Mother, wakes us up with a word that the Lord repeats again and again in today's Gospel: "Watch!"

Jesus tells us the story of a man who goes on a journey. He leaves his house in the care of his servants, gives each one his work, and orders the gatekeeper to stay awake. For they do not know when the master of the house will return: in the evening, at midnight, at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find us sleeping.





That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

1. Living face to face with God means knowing that He sees us

The one who lives face to face with God knows that everything he does, he does in His presence: at Mass, yes, but also at work, at home, with his phone in his hand, when no one is watching. The Lord said it clearly: your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you (Mt 6:4).

In today's Psalm we ask the Lord to show us His face, so that we may be saved. A Christian is someone who lives seeking the face of God.

That is why, in this Holy Mass, as you can see, the priest and you are all facing the same direction: toward Him, to whom the Holy Sacrifice is offered. The priest is not turning his back on you; we are all walking together, as one people on pilgrimage, looking toward the Lord who comes.

But what matters most, dear brothers and sisters, is not only where we look during Mass, but where we look in life. Because one can pray facing God and then live facing men.

2. The great enemy: human respect

And what makes us live facing men? What the saints called "human respect": the fear of what others will say.

It is that fear of looking bad, of seeming old-fashioned, fanatical, or "too Catholic," that leads us to keep silent when we should speak, or to stop doing good so as not to draw attention.

Let us take some simple examples:

- The one who does not make the Sign of the Cross before eating in a restaurant, out of embarrassment.
- The one who hears jokes about the Church at work or at school and says nothing.
- The father who does not pray with his children so as not to seem "excessive."
- The young person who never mentions going to Mass on Sundays, so as not to be the odd one out.
- Or the one who keeps quiet about the truth on life, family, or marriage, because "you can't say that anymore."

And so, little by little, one ends up living face to face with men and with one's back turned to God.

Saint Paul put it bluntly: if I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ (Gal 1:10). And the Lord Himself warned that whoever is ashamed of Him before this generation, of that one He too will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father (Mk 8:38).

Notice: "when He comes." Advent again.

Human respect is, in the end, a way of falling asleep: it is like the gatekeeper who, instead of watching the door through which his master will come, spends the whole night worrying about what the neighbors think.

3. How can we live face to face with God this Advent?

The Cristero martyrs of Mexico had no human respect. Saint José Sánchez del Río, only fourteen years old, chose to die crying out

November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

"¡Viva Cristo Rey!" rather than deny his faith to please his executioners. He lived, and he died, face to face with God.

Thanks be to God, we are not asked for that much. But we are asked for a few concrete things this Advent:

- An examination of conscience every night, asking ourselves: today, did I live facing God, or facing others?
- A good confession before Christmas.
- One small act of Christian courage each week: making the Sign of the Cross in public, praying before meals, defending the Church when she is attacked, inviting someone to Mass.

No one becomes brave all at once; courage, too, must be trained.

✠ ✠ ✠

Today Saint Paul reminded us that God is faithful, and that He has called us into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord (1 Cor 1:9). God is faithful… The question is whether we will be faithful to Him, even when it costs us.

On the day the Master of the house returns, He will not ask us what others said about us, but what we did with Him.

Let us ask for this grace from the Blessed Virgin Mary, who lived face to face with God better than anyone, who said "Behold the handmaid of the Lord" without caring what others might think: may she help us, this Advent, to wait for her Son wide awake, without fear of what people will say, and with our eyes fixed on Him. Amen.

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Parochial Administrator
St. Monica–St. Thomas the Apostle Parish

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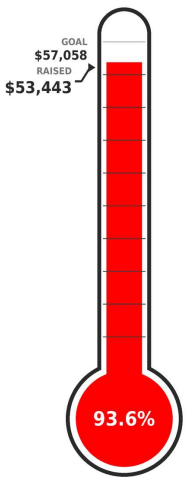

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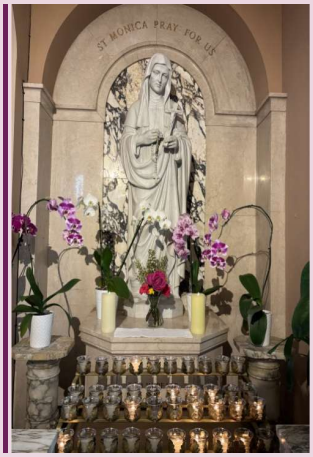

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Sign up free: **sempervirgo.org**

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PRAY · FRIDAY ADORATION

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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

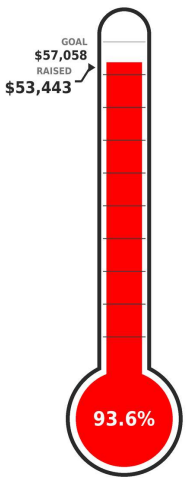
Give online, set up **recurring giving**, or remember the parish in your **will or estate**. Thank you!

Scan to give online ►

Archdiocese Annual Appeal

PARISH GOAL	RAISED SO FAR	STILL NEEDED
$57,058	$53,443	$3,615

Help us reach our goal! Only 5 weeks left this year.



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Star of the Sea & Stella Maris Academy

4420 Geary Blvd SF CA 94118

St Nicholas

CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE

Handmade Gifts! Made by 14 artisans.

DECEMBER 2026

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Enjoy Hot Chocolate & Pastries While You Shop!



November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

ST. MONICA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH

Christmas Poinsettias



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Use este sobre

As we prepare to celebrate the **Birth of Our Lord**, we wish to adorn the altars of St. Monica and St. Thomas the Apostle with **poinsettias for Christmas**.

To cover their cost, we kindly ask for your help through a **special collection this Sunday**.

Every gift, large or small, helps make our churches beautiful for the Christ Child.

Poinsettia Collection this Sunday

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

The Advent Wreath

The evergreen circle stands for the eternity of God, who has no beginning and no end. The **three violet candles** stand for penance and watchful prayer; the **rose candle**, lit on Gaudete Sunday, for the joy of Christ's nearness. Light one more candle each week as Christmas draws near.

Prayer for the First Week

Stir up Thy power, we beseech Thee, O Lord, and come: that from the threatening dangers of our sins we may deserve to be rescued by Thy protection, and to be saved by Thy deliverance. Who livest and reignest for ever and ever. Amen.

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Procession in Honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Procesión en honor a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe





DECEMBER · DICIEMBRE
13
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12:00 NOON
MEDIODÍA

St. Monica Church
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Between the 11 AM and 1 PM Masses
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You are invited!

Join us as we walk in procession around **St. Monica Church** to honor **Our Lady of Guadalupe**, Mother of the Americas. Bring your family and flowers!

¡Están invitados!

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"¿No estoy yo aquí, que soy tu madre?"
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LIGHT A CANDLE • PRAY • HELP OUR CHURCH

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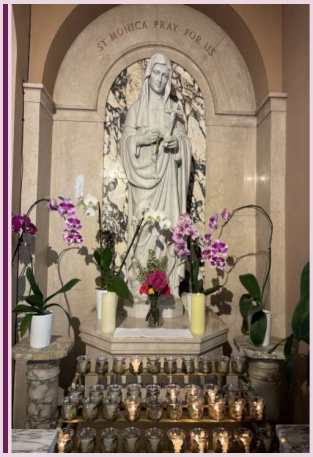

Light a candle today!

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 help make sandwiches each month, and to those who shop for supplies and deliver to the shelter the next day! Sandwich making is the **3rd Wednesday of every month.**

Next: Wed., Dec. 16 · 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**.

November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

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) **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



Living Face to Face with God

Fr. Javier Olivera Ravasi

San Francisco, November 29, 2026.
First Sunday of Advent.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Today we begin Advent and, with it, a new liturgical year. The Church, like a good Mother, wakes us up with a word that the Lord repeats again and again in today's Gospel: "Watch!"

Jesus tells us the story of a man who goes on a journey. He leaves his house in the care of his servants, gives each one his work, and orders the gatekeeper to stay awake. For they do not know when the master of the house will return: in the evening, at midnight, at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find us sleeping.





That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

1. Living face to face with God means knowing that He sees us

The one who lives face to face with God knows that everything he does, he does in His presence: at Mass, yes, but also at work, at home, with his phone in his hand, when no one is watching. The Lord said it clearly: your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you (Mt 6:4).

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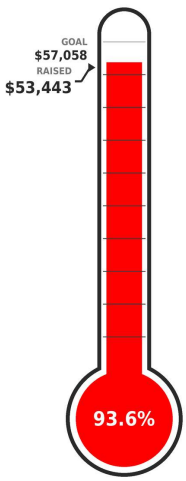

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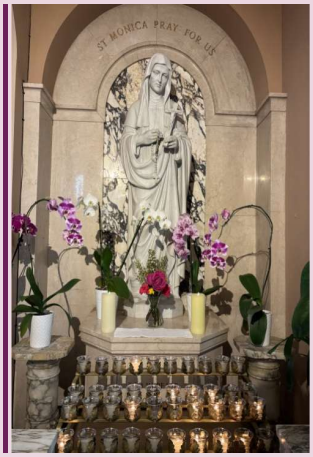

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November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

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PASTOR'S LETTER



Living Face to Face with God

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San Francisco, November 29, 2026.
First Sunday of Advent.

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That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

1. Living face to face with God means knowing that He sees us

The one who lives face to face with God knows that everything he does, he does in His presence: at Mass, yes, but also at work, at home, with his phone in his hand, when no one is watching. The Lord said it clearly: your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you (Mt 6:4).

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And what makes us live facing men? What the saints called "human respect": the fear of what others will say.

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Adorers Needed

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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

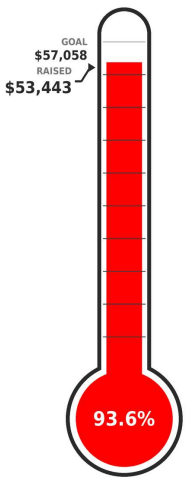
Give online, set up **recurring giving**, or remember the parish in your **will or estate**. Thank you!

Scan to give online ►

Archdiocese Annual Appeal

PARISH GOAL	RAISED SO FAR	STILL NEEDED
$57,058	$53,443	$3,615

Help us reach our goal! Only 5 weeks left this year.



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

Archdiocesan Annual Appeal 2026 Goal: $6,450,000

Star of the Sea & Stella Maris Academy

4420 Geary Blvd SF CA 94118

St Nicholas

CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE

Handmade Gifts! Made by 14 artisans.

DECEMBER 2026

AUDITORIUM

Friday 4, 2pm-7pm
Saturday 5, 9am-6pm
Sunday 6, 9am-2pm



Enjoy Hot Chocolate & Pastries While You Shop!



November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

ST. MONICA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH

Christmas Poinsettias



Please use this envelope
Use este sobre

As we prepare to celebrate the **Birth of Our Lord**, we wish to adorn the altars of St. Monica and St. Thomas the Apostle with **poinsettias for Christmas**.

To cover their cost, we kindly ask for your help through a **special collection this Sunday**.

Every gift, large or small, helps make our churches beautiful for the Christ Child.

Poinsettia Collection this Sunday

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

The Advent Wreath

The evergreen circle stands for the eternity of God, who has no beginning and no end. The **three violet candles** stand for penance and watchful prayer; the **rose candle**, lit on Gaudete Sunday, for the joy of Christ's nearness. Light one more candle each week as Christmas draws near.

Prayer for the First Week

Stir up Thy power, we beseech Thee, O Lord, and come: that from the threatening dangers of our sins we may deserve to be rescued by Thy protection, and to be saved by Thy deliverance. Who livest and reignest for ever and ever. Amen.

Sunday Collection

Collection	St. Monica	St. Thomas
Sunday (English)	$1,531.00	$1,137.00
Vietnamese	—	$514.00

ST. MONICA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH

Procession in Honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Procesión en honor a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe





DECEMBER · DICIEMBRE
13
SUNDAY · DOMINGO
12:00 NOON
MEDIODÍA

St. Monica Church
470 24th Ave., San Francisco

Between the 11 AM and 1 PM Masses
Entre las Misas de 11 AM y 1 PM

You are invited!

Join us as we walk in procession around **St. Monica Church** to honor **Our Lady of Guadalupe**, Mother of the Americas. Bring your family and flowers!

¡Están invitados!

Acompáñenos en procesión alrededor de la **iglesia Santa Mónica** para honrar a **Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe**, Madre de las Américas. ¡Traiga a su familia y flores!

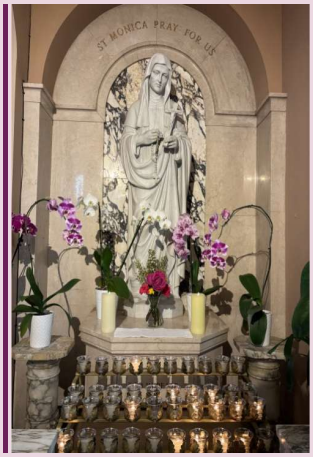
"¿No estoy yo aquí, que soy tu madre?"
¡Viva la Virgen de Guadalupe!

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.



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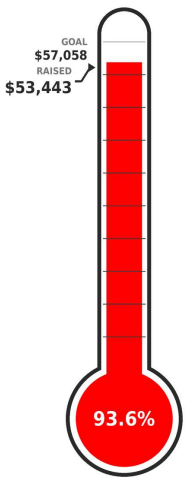

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To learn more about the Archdiocese Annual Appeal, and to donate, please visit https://sfarch.org/aaa/

Archdiocesan Annual Appeal 2026 Goal: $6,450,000

Star of the Sea & Stella Maris Academy

4420 Geary Blvd SF CA 94118

St Nicholas

CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE

Handmade Gifts! Made by 14 artisans.

DECEMBER 2026

AUDITORIUM

Friday 4, 2pm-7pm
Saturday 5, 9am-6pm
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Enjoy Hot Chocolate & Pastries While You Shop!



November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

ST. MONICA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH

Christmas Poinsettias



Please use this envelope
Use este sobre

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To cover their cost, we kindly ask for your help through a **special collection this Sunday**.

Every gift, large or small, helps make our churches beautiful for the Christ Child.

Poinsettia Collection this Sunday

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

The Advent Wreath

The evergreen circle stands for the eternity of God, who has no beginning and no end. The **three violet candles** stand for penance and watchful prayer; the **rose candle**, lit on Gaudete Sunday, for the joy of Christ's nearness. Light one more candle each week as Christmas draws near.

Prayer for the First Week

Stir up Thy power, we beseech Thee, O Lord, and come: that from the threatening dangers of our sins we may deserve to be rescued by Thy protection, and to be saved by Thy deliverance. Who livest and reignest for ever and ever. Amen.

Sunday Collection

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Procesión en honor a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe





DECEMBER · DICIEMBRE
13
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12:00 NOON
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470 24th Ave., San Francisco

Between the 11 AM and 1 PM Masses
Entre las Misas de 11 AM y 1 PM

You are invited!

Join us as we walk in procession around **St. Monica Church** to honor **Our Lady of Guadalupe**, Mother of the Americas. Bring your family and flowers!

¡Están invitados!

Acompáñenos en procesión alrededor de la **iglesia Santa Mónica** para honrar a **Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe**, Madre de las Américas. ¡Traiga a su familia y flores!

"¿No estoy yo aquí, que soy tu madre?"
¡Viva la Virgen de Guadalupe!

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.

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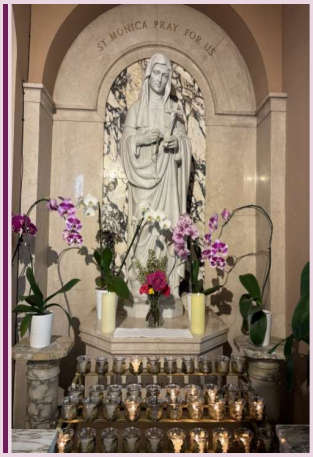

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PASTOR'S LETTER



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That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

1. Living face to face with God means knowing that He sees us

The one who lives face to face with God knows that everything he does, he does in His presence: at Mass, yes, but also at work, at home, with his phone in his hand, when no one is watching. The Lord said it clearly: your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you (Mt 6:4).

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But what matters most, dear brothers and sisters, is not only where we look during Mass, but where we look in life. Because one can pray facing God and then live facing men.

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Let us ask for this grace from the Blessed Virgin Mary, who lived face to face with God better than anyone, who said "Behold the handmaid of the Lord" without caring what others might think: may she help us, this Advent, to wait for her Son wide awake, without fear of what people will say, and with our eyes fixed on Him. Amen.

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Parochial Administrator
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Sunday Gospel: *Mk. 13:33-37*

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"The confession of evil works is the beginning of good works."
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Do not let Christmas find your soul unready.

Mass Intentions

	St. Monica		St. Thomas the Apostle	
Sunday 11/29	11:00am 1:00pm	Betty & Morelia Bermejo † Gilda Maria Mangana † Int. for the Parishioners	9:30am	Adelaida Maximo Iglesias †
Monday 11/30	8:00am	Ann Yan Lam-Lau	8:30am	Robert Anselmo Han †
Tuesday 12/01	8:00am	Rene Revel †		No Mass
Wednesday 12/02	8:00am	Mercedes Yazdini, Birthday	8:30am	Veronico Flores Fabular †
Thursday 12/03	8:00am	Lucio Aguirre †		No Mass
Friday 12/04	8:00am	Francisco Matturano-Gomez †	8:30am	Int. of the People of the Parish
Saturday 12/05	5:00pm	Santiago & Enelia Pacheco †	8:30am	Int. of the People of the Parish

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

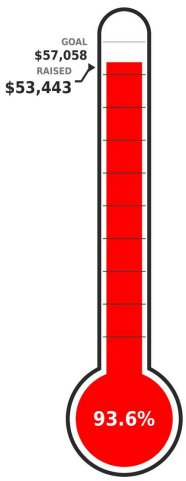
Give online, set up **recurring giving**, or remember the parish in your **will or estate**. Thank you!

Scan to give online ►

Archdiocese Annual Appeal

PARISH GOAL	RAISED SO FAR	STILL NEEDED
$57,058	$53,443	$3,615

Help us reach our goal! Only 5 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.

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13
SUNDAY · DOMINGO
12:00 NOON
MEDIODÍA

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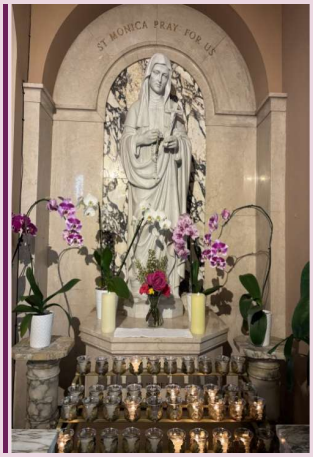

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PRAY · GATHER · BELONG · GIVE

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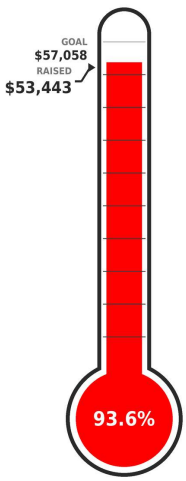
Help us reach our goal! Only 5 weeks left this year.



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November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

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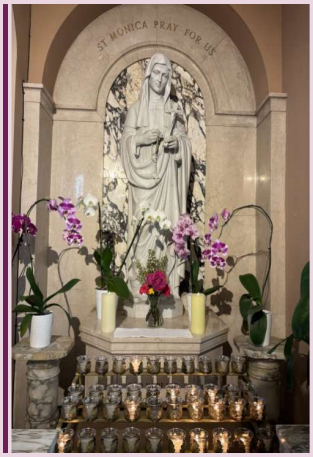

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That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

1. Living face to face with God means knowing that He sees us

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But what matters most, dear brothers and sisters, is not only where we look during Mass, but where we look in life. Because one can pray facing God and then live facing men.

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✠ ✠ ✠

Today Saint Paul reminded us that God is faithful, and that He has called us into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord (1 Cor 1:9). God is faithful… The question is whether we will be faithful to Him, even when it costs us.

On the day the Master of the house returns, He will not ask us what others said about us, but what we did with Him.

Let us ask for this grace from the Blessed Virgin Mary, who lived face to face with God better than anyone, who said "Behold the handmaid of the Lord" without caring what others might think: may she help us, this Advent, to wait for her Son wide awake, without fear of what people will say, and with our eyes fixed on Him. Amen.

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

Sunday Gospel: *Mk. 13:33-37*

Jesus said to his disciples: "Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come. It is like a man traveling abroad. He leaves home and places his servants in charge, each with his own work, and orders the gatekeeper to be on the watch. Watch, therefore; you do not know when the lord of the house is coming, whether in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to all: 'Watch!'"

Our Lord gives no date because He wants us ready at every hour. The servant who is "sleeping" is the soul in mortal sin. To the world he may look perfectly well, but in the eyes of God his soul is dead. As the month of the Holy Souls comes to a close, we are reminded that death comes when no man expects it, and whatever state it finds us in is the state we keep for all eternity. That is why Holy Mother Church gives us Advent as a season of penance. Do not wait for a more convenient time. Let us each prepare as well as we can by making a good Confession during this holy season, so that whenever the Master comes, He may find us awake.

Semper Virgo

A Marian Pilgrimage to Guadalupe 2031

Cardinal Burke invites the faithful to a **daily Marian devotion** preparing for the 500th anniversary of Our Lady of Guadalupe in 2031. Each morning, receive a short meditation on the Mother of God.

Begins **Dec. 12, 2026**, Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Sign up free: **sempervirgo.org**

Liturgical Calendar	
Sun 11/29	First Sunday of Advent
Mon 11/30	St. Andrew, Apostle
Tues 12/1	Advent Weekday
Wed 12/2	Advent Weekday
Thurs 12/3	St. Francis Xavier
Fri 12/4	Advent Weekday · St. John Damascene
Sat 12/5	Advent Weekday

Make a Good Confession

Prepare ye the way of the Lord!

Confessions at St. Monica
Mon–Fri: before and after Mass
Saturday: 4:20 PM · Sunday: after Mass

Why go to Confession? Mortal sin robs the soul of sanctifying grace. In His mercy Christ gave His Church the Sacrament of Penance to restore it. The Fathers of the Church call it "the second plank [of salvation] after the shipwreck which is the loss of grace." *(CCC 1446)*

Even our daily faults are worth confessing. Holy Mother Church strongly recommends it, for regular Confession "helps us form our conscience, fight against evil tendencies, let ourselves be healed by Christ and progress in the life of the Spirit." *(CCC 1458)*

"The confession of evil works is the beginning of good works."
— St. Augustine

Do not let Christmas find your soul unready.

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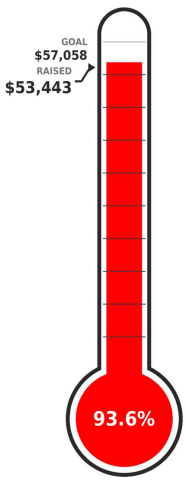

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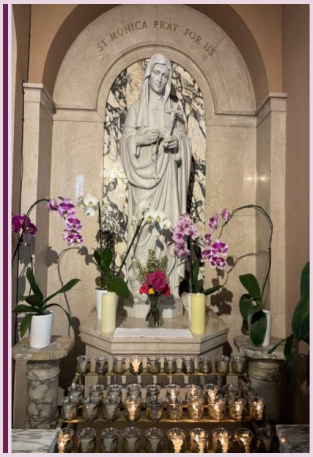

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It takes two minutes!

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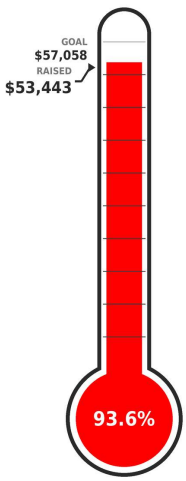

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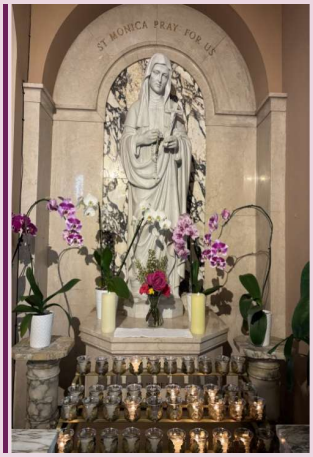

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PASTOR'S LETTER



Living Face to Face with God

Fr. Javier Olivera Ravasi

San Francisco, November 29, 2026.
First Sunday of Advent.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Today we begin Advent and, with it, a new liturgical year. The Church, like a good Mother, wakes us up with a word that the Lord repeats again and again in today's Gospel: "Watch!"

Jesus tells us the story of a man who goes on a journey. He leaves his house in the care of his servants, gives each one his work, and orders the gatekeeper to stay awake. For they do not know when the master of the house will return: in the evening, at midnight, at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find us sleeping.





That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

1. Living face to face with God means knowing that He sees us

The one who lives face to face with God knows that everything he does, he does in His presence: at Mass, yes, but also at work, at home, with his phone in his hand, when no one is watching. The Lord said it clearly: your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you (Mt 6:4).

In today's Psalm we ask the Lord to show us His face, so that we may be saved. A Christian is someone who lives seeking the face of God.

That is why, in this Holy Mass, as you can see, the priest and you are all facing the same direction: toward Him, to whom the Holy Sacrifice is offered. The priest is not turning his back on you; we are all walking together, as one people on pilgrimage, looking toward the Lord who comes.

But what matters most, dear brothers and sisters, is not only where we look during Mass, but where we look in life. Because one can pray facing God and then live facing men.

2. The great enemy: human respect

And what makes us live facing men? What the saints called "human respect": the fear of what others will say.

It is that fear of looking bad, of seeming old-fashioned, fanatical, or "too Catholic," that leads us to keep silent when we should speak, or to stop doing good so as not to draw attention.

Let us take some simple examples:

- The one who does not make the Sign of the Cross before eating in a restaurant, out of embarrassment.
- The one who hears jokes about the Church at work or at school and says nothing.
- The father who does not pray with his children so as not to seem "excessive."
- The young person who never mentions going to Mass on Sundays, so as not to be the odd one out.
- Or the one who keeps quiet about the truth on life, family, or marriage, because "you can't say that anymore."

And so, little by little, one ends up living face to face with men and with one's back turned to God.

Saint Paul put it bluntly: if I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ (Gal 1:10). And the Lord Himself warned that whoever is ashamed of Him before this generation, of that one He too will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father (Mk 8:38).

Notice: "when He comes." Advent again.

Human respect is, in the end, a way of falling asleep: it is like the gatekeeper who, instead of watching the door through which his master will come, spends the whole night worrying about what the neighbors think.

3. How can we live face to face with God this Advent?

The Cristero martyrs of Mexico had no human respect. Saint José Sánchez del Río, only fourteen years old, chose to die crying out

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"¡Viva Cristo Rey!" rather than deny his faith to please his executioners. He lived, and he died, face to face with God.

Thanks be to God, we are not asked for that much. But we are asked for a few concrete things this Advent:

- An examination of conscience every night, asking ourselves: today, did I live facing God, or facing others?
- A good confession before Christmas.
- One small act of Christian courage each week: making the Sign of the Cross in public, praying before meals, defending the Church when she is attacked, inviting someone to Mass.

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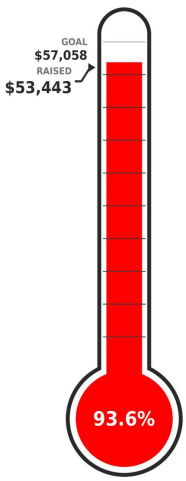

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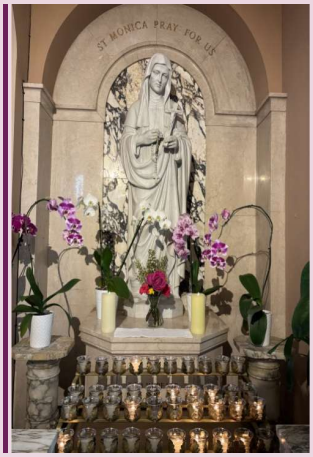

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That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

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The one who lives face to face with God knows that everything he does, he does in His presence: at Mass, yes, but also at work, at home, with his phone in his hand, when no one is watching. The Lord said it clearly: your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you (Mt 6:4).

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Sign up free: **sempervirgo.org**

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PRAY · FRIDAY ADORATION

Adorers Needed

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Scan to sign up

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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

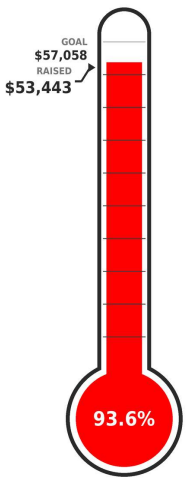
Give online, set up **recurring giving**, or remember the parish in your **will or estate**. Thank you!

Scan to give online ►

Archdiocese Annual Appeal

PARISH GOAL	RAISED SO FAR	STILL NEEDED
$57,058	$53,443	$3,615

Help us reach our goal! Only 5 weeks left this year.



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Archdiocesan Annual Appeal 2026 Goal: $6,450,000

Star of the Sea & Stella Maris Academy

4420 Geary Blvd SF CA 94118

St Nicholas

CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE

Handmade Gifts! Made by 14 artisans.

DECEMBER 2026

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Friday 4, 2pm-7pm
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Enjoy Hot Chocolate & Pastries While You Shop!



November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

ST. MONICA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH

Christmas Poinsettias



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Use este sobre

As we prepare to celebrate the **Birth of Our Lord**, we wish to adorn the altars of St. Monica and St. Thomas the Apostle with **poinsettias for Christmas**.

To cover their cost, we kindly ask for your help through a **special collection this Sunday**.

Every gift, large or small, helps make our churches beautiful for the Christ Child.

Poinsettia Collection this Sunday

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

The Advent Wreath

The evergreen circle stands for the eternity of God, who has no beginning and no end. The **three violet candles** stand for penance and watchful prayer; the **rose candle**, lit on Gaudete Sunday, for the joy of Christ's nearness. Light one more candle each week as Christmas draws near.

Prayer for the First Week

Stir up Thy power, we beseech Thee, O Lord, and come: that from the threatening dangers of our sins we may deserve to be rescued by Thy protection, and to be saved by Thy deliverance. Who livest and reignest for ever and ever. Amen.

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Procession in Honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Procesión en honor a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe





DECEMBER · DICIEMBRE
13
SUNDAY · DOMINGO
12:00 NOON
MEDIODÍA

St. Monica Church
470 24th Ave., San Francisco

Between the 11 AM and 1 PM Masses
Entre las Misas de 11 AM y 1 PM

You are invited!

Join us as we walk in procession around **St. Monica Church** to honor **Our Lady of Guadalupe**, Mother of the Americas. Bring your family and flowers!

¡Están invitados!

Acompáñenos en procesión alrededor de la **iglesia Santa Mónica** para honrar a **Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe**, Madre de las Américas. ¡Traiga a su familia y flores!

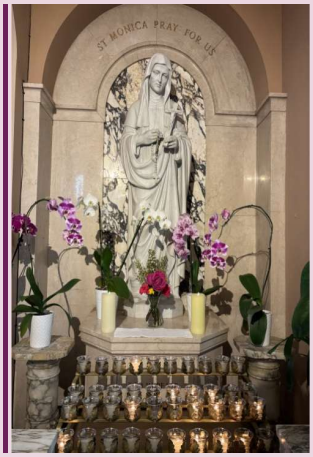
"¿No estoy yo aquí, que soy tu madre?"
¡Viva la Virgen de Guadalupe!

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 help make sandwiches each month, and to those who shop for supplies and deliver to the shelter the next day! Sandwich making is the **3rd Wednesday of every month.**

Next: Wed., Dec. 16 · 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**.

November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

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
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PASTOR'S LETTER



Living Face to Face with God

Fr. Javier Olivera Ravasi

San Francisco, November 29, 2026.
First Sunday of Advent.

Dear brothers and sisters,

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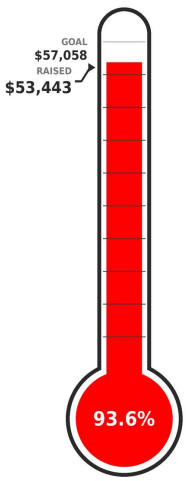

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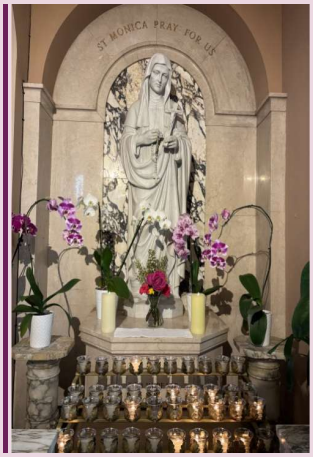
St. Monica Shrine

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!*

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Thank you to all who help make sandwiches each month, and to those who shop for supplies and deliver to the shelter the next day! Sandwich making is the **3rd Wednesday of every month.**

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November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

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Saint Thomas the Apostle
Parish

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www.smstaparishsf.org
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PASTOR'S LETTER



Living Face to Face with God

Fr. Javier Olivera Ravasi

San Francisco, November 29, 2026.
First Sunday of Advent.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Today we begin Advent and, with it, a new liturgical year. The Church, like a good Mother, wakes us up with a word that the Lord repeats again and again in today's Gospel: "Watch!"

Jesus tells us the story of a man who goes on a journey. He leaves his house in the care of his servants, gives each one his work, and orders the gatekeeper to stay awake. For they do not know when the master of the house will return: in the evening, at midnight, at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find us sleeping.





That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

1. Living face to face with God means knowing that He sees us

The one who lives face to face with God knows that everything he does, he does in His presence: at Mass, yes, but also at work, at home, with his phone in his hand, when no one is watching. The Lord said it clearly: your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you (Mt 6:4).

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That is why, in this Holy Mass, as you can see, the priest and you are all facing the same direction: toward Him, to whom the Holy Sacrifice is offered. The priest is not turning his back on you; we are all walking together, as one people on pilgrimage, looking toward the Lord who comes.

But what matters most, dear brothers and sisters, is not only where we look during Mass, but where we look in life. Because one can pray facing God and then live facing men.

2. The great enemy: human respect

And what makes us live facing men? What the saints called "human respect": the fear of what others will say.

It is that fear of looking bad, of seeming old-fashioned, fanatical, or "too Catholic," that leads us to keep silent when we should speak, or to stop doing good so as not to draw attention.

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Let us ask for this grace from the Blessed Virgin Mary, who lived face to face with God better than anyone, who said "Behold the handmaid of the Lord" without caring what others might think: may she help us, this Advent, to wait for her Son wide awake, without fear of what people will say, and with our eyes fixed on Him. Amen.

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Parochial Administrator
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Sunday Gospel: *Mk. 13:33-37*

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Begins **Dec. 12, 2026**, Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Sign up free: **sempervirgo.org**

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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

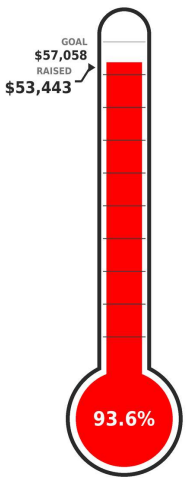
Give online, set up **recurring giving**, or remember the parish in your **will or estate**. Thank you!

Scan to give online ►

Archdiocese Annual Appeal

PARISH GOAL	RAISED SO FAR	STILL NEEDED
$57,058	$53,443	$3,615

Help us reach our goal! Only 5 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.

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

Archdiocesan Annual Appeal 2026 Goal: $6,450,000

Star of the Sea & Stella Maris Academy

4420 Geary Blvd SF CA 94118

St Nicholas

CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE

Handmade Gifts! Made by 14 artisans.

DECEMBER 2026

AUDITORIUM

Friday 4, 2pm-7pm
Saturday 5, 9am-6pm
Sunday 6, 9am-2pm



Enjoy Hot Chocolate & Pastries While You Shop!



November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

ST. MONICA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH

Christmas Poinsettias



Please use this envelope
Use este sobre

As we prepare to celebrate the **Birth of Our Lord**, we wish to adorn the altars of St. Monica and St. Thomas the Apostle with **poinsettias for Christmas**.

To cover their cost, we kindly ask for your help through a **special collection this Sunday**.

Every gift, large or small, helps make our churches beautiful for the Christ Child.

Poinsettia Collection this Sunday

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

The Advent Wreath

The evergreen circle stands for the eternity of God, who has no beginning and no end. The **three violet candles** stand for penance and watchful prayer; the **rose candle**, lit on Gaudete Sunday, for the joy of Christ's nearness. Light one more candle each week as Christmas draws near.

Prayer for the First Week

Stir up Thy power, we beseech Thee, O Lord, and come: that from the threatening dangers of our sins we may deserve to be rescued by Thy protection, and to be saved by Thy deliverance. Who livest and reignest for ever and ever. Amen.

Sunday Collection

Collection	St. Monica	St. Thomas
Sunday (English)	$1,531.00	$1,137.00
Vietnamese	—	$514.00

ST. MONICA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH

Procession in Honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Procesión en honor a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe





DECEMBER · DICIEMBRE
13
SUNDAY · DOMINGO
12:00 NOON
MEDIODÍA

St. Monica Church
470 24th Ave., San Francisco

Between the 11 AM and 1 PM Masses
Entre las Misas de 11 AM y 1 PM

You are invited!

Join us as we walk in procession around **St. Monica Church** to honor **Our Lady of Guadalupe**, Mother of the Americas. Bring your family and flowers!

¡Están invitados!

Acompáñenos en procesión alrededor de la **iglesia Santa Mónica** para honrar a **Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe**, Madre de las Américas. ¡Traiga a su familia y flores!

"¿No estoy yo aquí, que soy tu madre?"
¡Viva la Virgen de Guadalupe!

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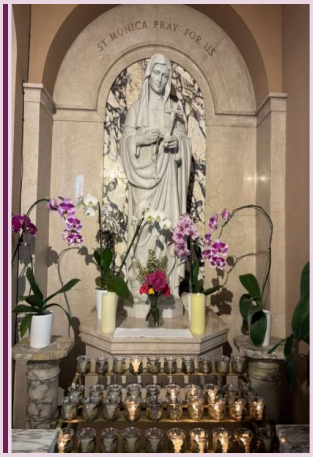

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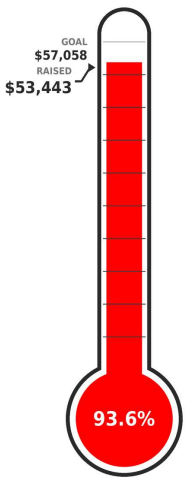

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4420 Geary Blvd SF CA 94118

St Nicholas

CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE

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DECEMBER 2026

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November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

ST. MONICA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH

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Use este sobre

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Every gift, large or small, helps make our churches beautiful for the Christ Child.

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

The Advent Wreath

The evergreen circle stands for the eternity of God, who has no beginning and no end. The **three violet candles** stand for penance and watchful prayer; the **rose candle**, lit on Gaudete Sunday, for the joy of Christ's nearness. Light one more candle each week as Christmas draws near.

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DECEMBER · DICIEMBRE
13
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St. Monica Church
470 24th Ave., San Francisco

Between the 11 AM and 1 PM Masses
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You are invited!

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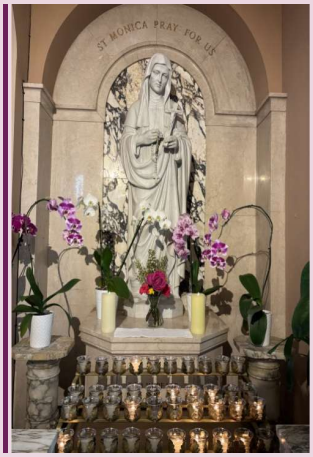

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Saint Thomas the Apostle
Parish

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www.smstaparishsf.org
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Clergy	Staff
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PASTOR'S LETTER



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That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

1. Living face to face with God means knowing that He sees us

The one who lives face to face with God knows that everything he does, he does in His presence: at Mass, yes, but also at work, at home, with his phone in his hand, when no one is watching. The Lord said it clearly: your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you (Mt 6:4).

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But what matters most, dear brothers and sisters, is not only where we look during Mass, but where we look in life. Because one can pray facing God and then live facing men.

2. The great enemy: human respect

And what makes us live facing men? What the saints called "human respect": the fear of what others will say.

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Today Saint Paul reminded us that God is faithful, and that He has called us into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord (1 Cor 1:9). God is faithful… The question is whether we will be faithful to Him, even when it costs us.

On the day the Master of the house returns, He will not ask us what others said about us, but what we did with Him.

Let us ask for this grace from the Blessed Virgin Mary, who lived face to face with God better than anyone, who said "Behold the handmaid of the Lord" without caring what others might think: may she help us, this Advent, to wait for her Son wide awake, without fear of what people will say, and with our eyes fixed on Him. Amen.

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Parochial Administrator
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Sunday Gospel: *Mk. 13:33-37*

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Our Lord gives no date because He wants us ready at every hour. The servant who is "sleeping" is the soul in mortal sin. To the world he may look perfectly well, but in the eyes of God his soul is dead. As the month of the Holy Souls comes to a close, we are reminded that death comes when no man expects it, and whatever state it finds us in is the state we keep for all eternity. That is why Holy Mother Church gives us Advent as a season of penance. Do not wait for a more convenient time. Let us each prepare as well as we can by making a good Confession during this holy season, so that whenever the Master comes, He may find us awake.

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Make a Good Confession

Prepare ye the way of the Lord!

Confessions at St. Monica
Mon–Fri: before and after Mass
Saturday: 4:20 PM · Sunday: after Mass

Why go to Confession? Mortal sin robs the soul of sanctifying grace. In His mercy Christ gave His Church the Sacrament of Penance to restore it. The Fathers of the Church call it "the second plank [of salvation] after the shipwreck which is the loss of grace." *(CCC 1446)*

Even our daily faults are worth confessing. Holy Mother Church strongly recommends it, for regular Confession "helps us form our conscience, fight against evil tendencies, let ourselves be healed by Christ and progress in the life of the Spirit." *(CCC 1458)*

"The confession of evil works is the beginning of good works."
— St. Augustine

Do not let Christmas find your soul unready.

Mass Intentions

	St. Monica		St. Thomas the Apostle	
Sunday 11/29	11:00am 1:00pm	Betty & Morelia Bermejo † Gilda Maria Mangana † Int. for the Parishioners	9:30am	Adelaida Maximo Iglesias †
Monday 11/30	8:00am	Ann Yan Lam-Lau	8:30am	Robert Anselmo Han †
Tuesday 12/01	8:00am	Rene Revel †		No Mass
Wednesday 12/02	8:00am	Mercedes Yazdini, Birthday	8:30am	Veronico Flores Fabular †
Thursday 12/03	8:00am	Lucio Aguirre †		No Mass
Friday 12/04	8:00am	Francisco Matturano-Gomez †	8:30am	Int. of the People of the Parish
Saturday 12/05	5:00pm	Santiago & Enelia Pacheco †	8:30am	Int. of the People of the Parish

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

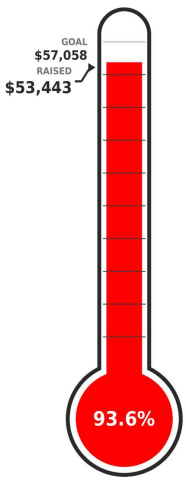
Give online, set up **recurring giving**, or remember the parish in your **will or estate**. Thank you!

Scan to give online ►

Archdiocese Annual Appeal

PARISH GOAL	RAISED SO FAR	STILL NEEDED
$57,058	$53,443	$3,615

Help us reach our goal! Only 5 weeks left this year.



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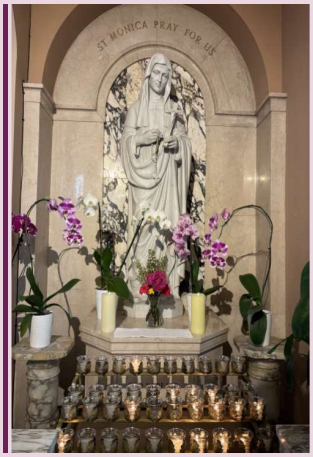

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Registering helps us know and serve your family.
It takes two minutes!

Scan to join our parish ►

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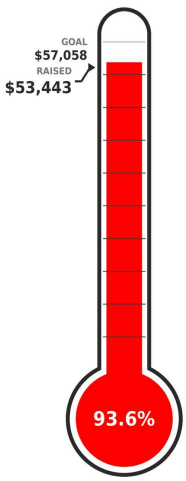
Archdiocese Annual Appeal

PARISH GOAL	RAISED SO FAR	STILL NEEDED
$57,058	$53,443	$3,615

Help us reach our goal! Only 5 weeks left this year.



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November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

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The evergreen circle stands for the eternity of God, who has no beginning and no end. The **three violet candles** stand for penance and watchful prayer; the **rose candle**, lit on Gaudete Sunday, for the joy of Christ's nearness. Light one more candle each week as Christmas draws near.

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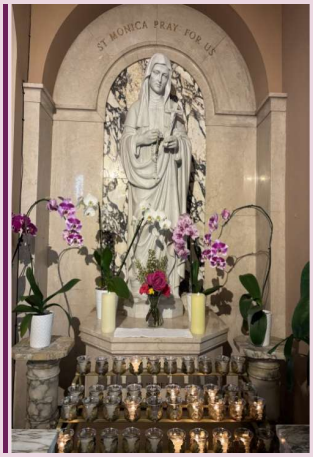

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PASTOR'S LETTER



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Fr. Javier Olivera Ravasi

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That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

1. Living face to face with God means knowing that He sees us

The one who lives face to face with God knows that everything he does, he does in His presence: at Mass, yes, but also at work, at home, with his phone in his hand, when no one is watching. The Lord said it clearly: your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you (Mt 6:4).

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But what matters most, dear brothers and sisters, is not only where we look during Mass, but where we look in life. Because one can pray facing God and then live facing men.

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And what makes us live facing men? What the saints called "human respect": the fear of what others will say.

It is that fear of looking bad, of seeming old-fashioned, fanatical, or "too Catholic," that leads us to keep silent when we should speak, or to stop doing good so as not to draw attention.

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And so, little by little, one ends up living face to face with men and with one's back turned to God.

Saint Paul put it bluntly: if I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ (Gal 1:10). And the Lord Himself warned that whoever is ashamed of Him before this generation, of that one He too will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father (Mk 8:38).

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The Cristero martyrs of Mexico had no human respect. Saint José Sánchez del Río, only fourteen years old, chose to die crying out

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"¡Viva Cristo Rey!" rather than deny his faith to please his executioners. He lived, and he died, face to face with God.

Thanks be to God, we are not asked for that much. But we are asked for a few concrete things this Advent:

- An examination of conscience every night, asking ourselves: today, did I live facing God, or facing others?
- A good confession before Christmas.
- One small act of Christian courage each week: making the Sign of the Cross in public, praying before meals, defending the Church when she is attacked, inviting someone to Mass.

No one becomes brave all at once; courage, too, must be trained.

✠ ✠ ✠

Today Saint Paul reminded us that God is faithful, and that He has called us into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord (1 Cor 1:9). God is faithful… The question is whether we will be faithful to Him, even when it costs us.

On the day the Master of the house returns, He will not ask us what others said about us, but what we did with Him.

Let us ask for this grace from the Blessed Virgin Mary, who lived face to face with God better than anyone, who said "Behold the handmaid of the Lord" without caring what others might think: may she help us, this Advent, to wait for her Son wide awake, without fear of what people will say, and with our eyes fixed on Him. Amen.

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

Sunday Gospel: *Mk. 13:33-37*

Jesus said to his disciples: "Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come. It is like a man traveling abroad. He leaves home and places his servants in charge, each with his own work, and orders the gatekeeper to be on the watch. Watch, therefore; you do not know when the lord of the house is coming, whether in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to all: 'Watch!'"

Our Lord gives no date because He wants us ready at every hour. The servant who is "sleeping" is the soul in mortal sin. To the world he may look perfectly well, but in the eyes of God his soul is dead. As the month of the Holy Souls comes to a close, we are reminded that death comes when no man expects it, and whatever state it finds us in is the state we keep for all eternity. That is why Holy Mother Church gives us Advent as a season of penance. Do not wait for a more convenient time. Let us each prepare as well as we can by making a good Confession during this holy season, so that whenever the Master comes, He may find us awake.

Semper Virgo

A Marian Pilgrimage to Guadalupe 2031

Cardinal Burke invites the faithful to a **daily Marian devotion** preparing for the 500th anniversary of Our Lady of Guadalupe in 2031. Each morning, receive a short meditation on the Mother of God.

Begins **Dec. 12, 2026**, Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Sign up free: **sempervirgo.org**

Liturgical Calendar	
Sun 11/29	First Sunday of Advent
Mon 11/30	St. Andrew, Apostle
Tues 12/1	Advent Weekday
Wed 12/2	Advent Weekday
Thurs 12/3	St. Francis Xavier
Fri 12/4	Advent Weekday · St. John Damascene
Sat 12/5	Advent Weekday

Make a Good Confession

Prepare ye the way of the Lord!

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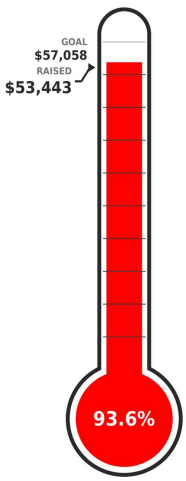

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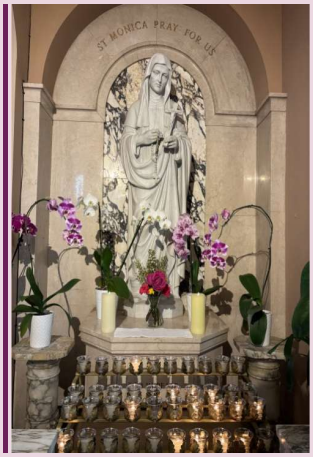

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Sign up free: **sempervirgo.org**

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

Scan to join our parish ►

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

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Archdiocese Annual Appeal

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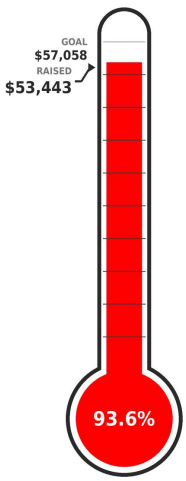
Help us reach our goal! Only 5 weeks left this year.



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Star of the Sea & Stella Maris Academy

4420 Geary Blvd SF CA 94118

St Nicholas

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Handmade Gifts! Made by 14 artisans.

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November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

ST. MONICA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH

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To cover their cost, we kindly ask for your help through a **special collection this Sunday**.

Every gift, large or small, helps make our churches beautiful for the Christ Child.

Poinsettia Collection this Sunday

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

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The evergreen circle stands for the eternity of God, who has no beginning and no end. The **three violet candles** stand for penance and watchful prayer; the **rose candle**, lit on Gaudete Sunday, for the joy of Christ's nearness. Light one more candle each week as Christmas draws near.

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You are invited!

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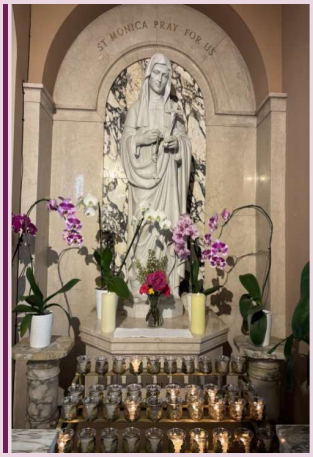

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PASTOR'S LETTER



Living Face to Face with God

Fr. Javier Olivera Ravasi

San Francisco, November 29, 2026.
First Sunday of Advent.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Today we begin Advent and, with it, a new liturgical year. The Church, like a good Mother, wakes us up with a word that the Lord repeats again and again in today's Gospel: "Watch!"

Jesus tells us the story of a man who goes on a journey. He leaves his house in the care of his servants, gives each one his work, and orders the gatekeeper to stay awake. For they do not know when the master of the house will return: in the evening, at midnight, at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find us sleeping.





That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

1. Living face to face with God means knowing that He sees us

The one who lives face to face with God knows that everything he does, he does in His presence: at Mass, yes, but also at work, at home, with his phone in his hand, when no one is watching. The Lord said it clearly: your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you (Mt 6:4).

In today's Psalm we ask the Lord to show us His face, so that we may be saved. A Christian is someone who lives seeking the face of God.

That is why, in this Holy Mass, as you can see, the priest and you are all facing the same direction: toward Him, to whom the Holy Sacrifice is offered. The priest is not turning his back on you; we are all walking together, as one people on pilgrimage, looking toward the Lord who comes.

But what matters most, dear brothers and sisters, is not only where we look during Mass, but where we look in life. Because one can pray facing God and then live facing men.

2. The great enemy: human respect

And what makes us live facing men? What the saints called "human respect": the fear of what others will say.

It is that fear of looking bad, of seeming old-fashioned, fanatical, or "too Catholic," that leads us to keep silent when we should speak, or to stop doing good so as not to draw attention.

Let us take some simple examples:

- The one who does not make the Sign of the Cross before eating in a restaurant, out of embarrassment.
- The one who hears jokes about the Church at work or at school and says nothing.
- The father who does not pray with his children so as not to seem "excessive."
- The young person who never mentions going to Mass on Sundays, so as not to be the odd one out.
- Or the one who keeps quiet about the truth on life, family, or marriage, because "you can't say that anymore."

And so, little by little, one ends up living face to face with men and with one's back turned to God.

Saint Paul put it bluntly: if I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ (Gal 1:10). And the Lord Himself warned that whoever is ashamed of Him before this generation, of that one He too will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father (Mk 8:38).

Notice: "when He comes." Advent again.

Human respect is, in the end, a way of falling asleep: it is like the gatekeeper who, instead of watching the door through which his master will come, spends the whole night worrying about what the neighbors think.

3. How can we live face to face with God this Advent?

The Cristero martyrs of Mexico had no human respect. Saint José Sánchez del Río, only fourteen years old, chose to die crying out

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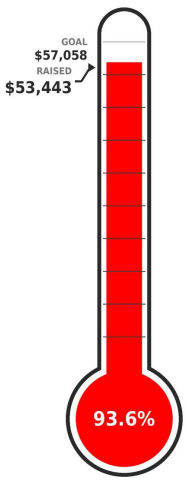

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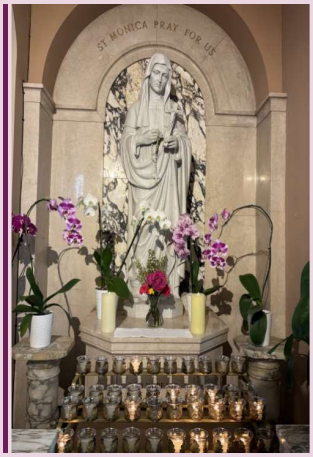

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PASTOR'S LETTER



Living Face to Face with God

Fr. Javier Olivera Ravasi

San Francisco, November 29, 2026.
First Sunday of Advent.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Today we begin Advent and, with it, a new liturgical year. The Church, like a good Mother, wakes us up with a word that the Lord repeats again and again in today's Gospel: "Watch!"

Jesus tells us the story of a man who goes on a journey. He leaves his house in the care of his servants, gives each one his work, and orders the gatekeeper to stay awake. For they do not know when the master of the house will return: in the evening, at midnight, at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find us sleeping.





That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

1. Living face to face with God means knowing that He sees us

The one who lives face to face with God knows that everything he does, he does in His presence: at Mass, yes, but also at work, at home, with his phone in his hand, when no one is watching. The Lord said it clearly: your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you (Mt 6:4).

In today's Psalm we ask the Lord to show us His face, so that we may be saved. A Christian is someone who lives seeking the face of God.

That is why, in this Holy Mass, as you can see, the priest and you are all facing the same direction: toward Him, to whom the Holy Sacrifice is offered. The priest is not turning his back on you; we are all walking together, as one people on pilgrimage, looking toward the Lord who comes.

But what matters most, dear brothers and sisters, is not only where we look during Mass, but where we look in life. Because one can pray facing God and then live facing men.

2. The great enemy: human respect

And what makes us live facing men? What the saints called "human respect": the fear of what others will say.

It is that fear of looking bad, of seeming old-fashioned, fanatical, or "too Catholic," that leads us to keep silent when we should speak, or to stop doing good so as not to draw attention.

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Saint Paul put it bluntly: if I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ (Gal 1:10). And the Lord Himself warned that whoever is ashamed of Him before this generation, of that one He too will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father (Mk 8:38).

Notice: "when He comes." Advent again.

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Today Saint Paul reminded us that God is faithful, and that He has called us into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord (1 Cor 1:9). God is faithful… The question is whether we will be faithful to Him, even when it costs us.

On the day the Master of the house returns, He will not ask us what others said about us, but what we did with Him.

Let us ask for this grace from the Blessed Virgin Mary, who lived face to face with God better than anyone, who said "Behold the handmaid of the Lord" without caring what others might think: may she help us, this Advent, to wait for her Son wide awake, without fear of what people will say, and with our eyes fixed on Him. Amen.

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Parochial Administrator
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Sunday Gospel: *Mk. 13:33-37*

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Sign up free: **sempervirgo.org**

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"The confession of evil works is the beginning of good works."
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Do not let Christmas find your soul unready.

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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

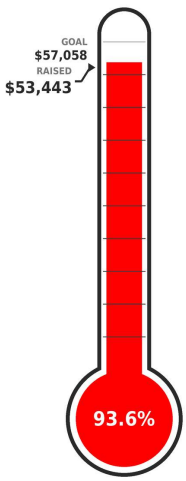
Give online, set up **recurring giving**, or remember the parish in your **will or estate**. Thank you!

Scan to give online ►

Archdiocese Annual Appeal

PARISH GOAL	RAISED SO FAR	STILL NEEDED
$57,058	$53,443	$3,615

Help us reach our goal! Only 5 weeks left this year.



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Archdiocesan Annual Appeal 2026 Goal: $6,450,000

Star of the Sea & Stella Maris Academy

4420 Geary Blvd SF CA 94118

St Nicholas

CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE

Handmade Gifts! Made by 14 artisans.

DECEMBER 2026

AUDITORIUM

Friday 4, 2pm-7pm
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Enjoy Hot Chocolate & Pastries While You Shop!



November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

ST. MONICA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH

Christmas Poinsettias



Please use this envelope
Use este sobre

As we prepare to celebrate the **Birth of Our Lord**, we wish to adorn the altars of St. Monica and St. Thomas the Apostle with **poinsettias for Christmas**.

To cover their cost, we kindly ask for your help through a **special collection this Sunday**.

Every gift, large or small, helps make our churches beautiful for the Christ Child.

Poinsettia Collection this Sunday

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

The Advent Wreath

The evergreen circle stands for the eternity of God, who has no beginning and no end. The **three violet candles** stand for penance and watchful prayer; the **rose candle**, lit on Gaudete Sunday, for the joy of Christ's nearness. Light one more candle each week as Christmas draws near.

Prayer for the First Week

Stir up Thy power, we beseech Thee, O Lord, and come: that from the threatening dangers of our sins we may deserve to be rescued by Thy protection, and to be saved by Thy deliverance. Who livest and reignest for ever and ever. Amen.

Sunday Collection

Collection	St. Monica	St. Thomas
Sunday (English)	$1,531.00	$1,137.00
Vietnamese	—	$514.00

ST. MONICA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH

Procession in Honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Procesión en honor a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe





DECEMBER · DICIEMBRE
13
SUNDAY · DOMINGO
12:00 NOON
MEDIODÍA

St. Monica Church
470 24th Ave., San Francisco

Between the 11 AM and 1 PM Masses
Entre las Misas de 11 AM y 1 PM

You are invited!

Join us as we walk in procession around **St. Monica Church** to honor **Our Lady of Guadalupe**, Mother of the Americas. Bring your family and flowers!

¡Están invitados!

Acompáñenos en procesión alrededor de la **iglesia Santa Mónica** para honrar a **Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe**, Madre de las Américas. ¡Traiga a su familia y flores!

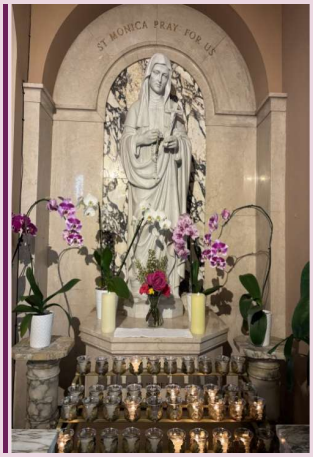
"¿No estoy yo aquí, que soy tu madre?"
¡Viva la Virgen de Guadalupe!

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 help make sandwiches each month, and to those who shop for supplies and deliver to the shelter the next day! Sandwich making is the **3rd Wednesday of every month.**

Next: Wed., Dec. 16 · 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**.

November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

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

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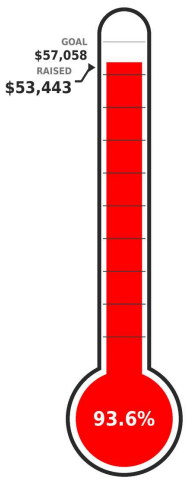

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Entre las Misas de 11 AM y 1 PM

You are invited!

Join us as we walk in procession around **St. Monica Church** to honor **Our Lady of Guadalupe**, Mother of the Americas. Bring your family and flowers!

¡Están invitados!

Acompáñenos en procesión alrededor de la **iglesia Santa Mónica** para honrar a **Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe**, Madre de las Américas. ¡Traiga a su familia y flores!

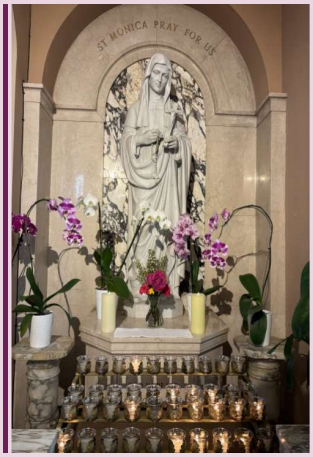
"¿No estoy yo aquí, que soy tu madre?"
¡Viva la Virgen de Guadalupe!

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.



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Thank you, and God bless you!

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November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

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Saint Thomas the Apostle
Parish

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www.smstaparishsf.org
Office Hours: Mon-Fri 9am-5:30pm
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Clergy	Staff
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PASTOR'S LETTER



Living Face to Face with God

Fr. Javier Olivera Ravasi

San Francisco, November 29, 2026.
First Sunday of Advent.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Today we begin Advent and, with it, a new liturgical year. The Church, like a good Mother, wakes us up with a word that the Lord repeats again and again in today's Gospel: "Watch!"

Jesus tells us the story of a man who goes on a journey. He leaves his house in the care of his servants, gives each one his work, and orders the gatekeeper to stay awake. For they do not know when the master of the house will return: in the evening, at midnight, at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find us sleeping.





That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

1. Living face to face with God means knowing that He sees us

The one who lives face to face with God knows that everything he does, he does in His presence: at Mass, yes, but also at work, at home, with his phone in his hand, when no one is watching. The Lord said it clearly: your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you (Mt 6:4).

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That is why, in this Holy Mass, as you can see, the priest and you are all facing the same direction: toward Him, to whom the Holy Sacrifice is offered. The priest is not turning his back on you; we are all walking together, as one people on pilgrimage, looking toward the Lord who comes.

But what matters most, dear brothers and sisters, is not only where we look during Mass, but where we look in life. Because one can pray facing God and then live facing men.

2. The great enemy: human respect

And what makes us live facing men? What the saints called "human respect": the fear of what others will say.

It is that fear of looking bad, of seeming old-fashioned, fanatical, or "too Catholic," that leads us to keep silent when we should speak, or to stop doing good so as not to draw attention.

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On the day the Master of the house returns, He will not ask us what others said about us, but what we did with Him.

Let us ask for this grace from the Blessed Virgin Mary, who lived face to face with God better than anyone, who said "Behold the handmaid of the Lord" without caring what others might think: may she help us, this Advent, to wait for her Son wide awake, without fear of what people will say, and with our eyes fixed on Him. Amen.

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Parochial Administrator
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Sunday Gospel: *Mk. 13:33-37*

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Begins **Dec. 12, 2026**, Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Sign up free: **sempervirgo.org**

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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

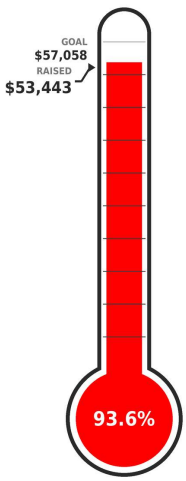
Give online, set up **recurring giving**, or remember the parish in your **will or estate**. Thank you!

Scan to give online ►

Archdiocese Annual Appeal

PARISH GOAL	RAISED SO FAR	STILL NEEDED
$57,058	$53,443	$3,615

Help us reach our goal! Only 5 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.

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

Archdiocesan Annual Appeal 2026 Goal: $6,450,000

Star of the Sea & Stella Maris Academy

4420 Geary Blvd SF CA 94118

St Nicholas

CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE

Handmade Gifts! Made by 14 artisans.

DECEMBER 2026

AUDITORIUM

Friday 4, 2pm-7pm
Saturday 5, 9am-6pm
Sunday 6, 9am-2pm



Enjoy Hot Chocolate & Pastries While You Shop!



November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

ST. MONICA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH

Christmas Poinsettias



Please use this envelope
Use este sobre

As we prepare to celebrate the **Birth of Our Lord**, we wish to adorn the altars of St. Monica and St. Thomas the Apostle with **poinsettias for Christmas**.

To cover their cost, we kindly ask for your help through a **special collection this Sunday**.

Every gift, large or small, helps make our churches beautiful for the Christ Child.

Poinsettia Collection this Sunday

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

The Advent Wreath

The evergreen circle stands for the eternity of God, who has no beginning and no end. The **three violet candles** stand for penance and watchful prayer; the **rose candle**, lit on Gaudete Sunday, for the joy of Christ's nearness. Light one more candle each week as Christmas draws near.

Prayer for the First Week

Stir up Thy power, we beseech Thee, O Lord, and come: that from the threatening dangers of our sins we may deserve to be rescued by Thy protection, and to be saved by Thy deliverance. Who livest and reignest for ever and ever. Amen.

Sunday Collection

Collection	St. Monica	St. Thomas
Sunday (English)	$1,531.00	$1,137.00
Vietnamese	—	$514.00

ST. MONICA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH

Procession in Honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Procesión en honor a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe





DECEMBER · DICIEMBRE
13
SUNDAY · DOMINGO
12:00 NOON
MEDIODÍA

St. Monica Church
470 24th Ave., San Francisco

Between the 11 AM and 1 PM Masses
Entre las Misas de 11 AM y 1 PM

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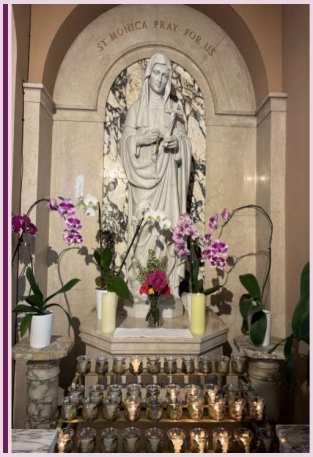

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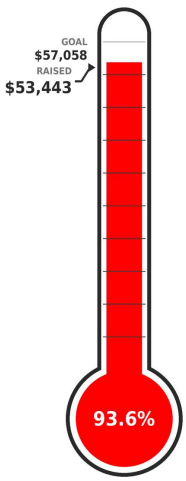
Help us reach our goal! Only 5 weeks left this year.



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4420 Geary Blvd SF CA 94118

St Nicholas

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DECEMBER 2026

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November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

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Christmas Poinsettias



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Use este sobre

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To cover their cost, we kindly ask for your help through a **special collection this Sunday**.

Every gift, large or small, helps make our churches beautiful for the Christ Child.

Poinsettia Collection this Sunday

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

The Advent Wreath

The evergreen circle stands for the eternity of God, who has no beginning and no end. The **three violet candles** stand for penance and watchful prayer; the **rose candle**, lit on Gaudete Sunday, for the joy of Christ's nearness. Light one more candle each week as Christmas draws near.

Prayer for the First Week

Stir up Thy power, we beseech Thee, O Lord, and come: that from the threatening dangers of our sins we may deserve to be rescued by Thy protection, and to be saved by Thy deliverance. Who livest and reignest for ever and ever. Amen.

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Procesión en honor a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe





DECEMBER · DICIEMBRE
13
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St. Monica Church
470 24th Ave., San Francisco

Between the 11 AM and 1 PM Masses
Entre las Misas de 11 AM y 1 PM

You are invited!

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¡Están invitados!

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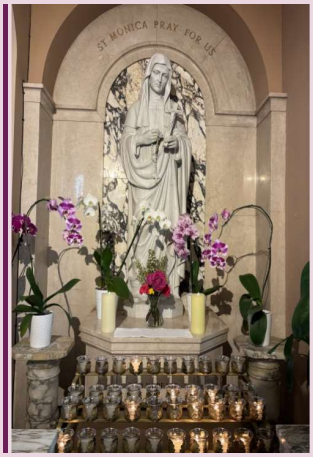

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November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

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Saint Thomas the Apostle
Parish

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Telephone: (415)751-5275
www.smstaparishsf.org
Office Hours: Mon-Fri 9am-5:30pm
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Clergy	Staff
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PASTOR'S LETTER



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Fr. Javier Olivera Ravasi

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That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

1. Living face to face with God means knowing that He sees us

The one who lives face to face with God knows that everything he does, he does in His presence: at Mass, yes, but also at work, at home, with his phone in his hand, when no one is watching. The Lord said it clearly: your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you (Mt 6:4).

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But what matters most, dear brothers and sisters, is not only where we look during Mass, but where we look in life. Because one can pray facing God and then live facing men.

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And what makes us live facing men? What the saints called "human respect": the fear of what others will say.

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On the day the Master of the house returns, He will not ask us what others said about us, but what we did with Him.

Let us ask for this grace from the Blessed Virgin Mary, who lived face to face with God better than anyone, who said "Behold the handmaid of the Lord" without caring what others might think: may she help us, this Advent, to wait for her Son wide awake, without fear of what people will say, and with our eyes fixed on Him. Amen.

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

Sunday Gospel: *Mk. 13:33-37*

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Our Lord gives no date because He wants us ready at every hour. The servant who is "sleeping" is the soul in mortal sin. To the world he may look perfectly well, but in the eyes of God his soul is dead. As the month of the Holy Souls comes to a close, we are reminded that death comes when no man expects it, and whatever state it finds us in is the state we keep for all eternity. That is why Holy Mother Church gives us Advent as a season of penance. Do not wait for a more convenient time. Let us each prepare as well as we can by making a good Confession during this holy season, so that whenever the Master comes, He may find us awake.

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Cardinal Burke invites the faithful to a **daily Marian devotion** preparing for the 500th anniversary of Our Lady of Guadalupe in 2031. Each morning, receive a short meditation on the Mother of God.

Begins **Dec. 12, 2026**, Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Sign up free: **sempervirgo.org**

Liturgical Calendar	
Sun 11/29	First Sunday of Advent
Mon 11/30	St. Andrew, Apostle
Tues 12/1	Advent Weekday
Wed 12/2	Advent Weekday
Thurs 12/3	St. Francis Xavier
Fri 12/4	Advent Weekday · St. John Damascene
Sat 12/5	Advent Weekday

Make a Good Confession

Prepare ye the way of the Lord!

Confessions at St. Monica
Mon–Fri: before and after Mass
Saturday: 4:20 PM · Sunday: after Mass

Why go to Confession? Mortal sin robs the soul of sanctifying grace. In His mercy Christ gave His Church the Sacrament of Penance to restore it. The Fathers of the Church call it "the second plank [of salvation] after the shipwreck which is the loss of grace." *(CCC 1446)*

Even our daily faults are worth confessing. Holy Mother Church strongly recommends it, for regular Confession "helps us form our conscience, fight against evil tendencies, let ourselves be healed by Christ and progress in the life of the Spirit." *(CCC 1458)*

"The confession of evil works is the beginning of good works."
— St. Augustine

Do not let Christmas find your soul unready.

Mass Intentions

	St. Monica		St. Thomas the Apostle	
Sunday 11/29	11:00am 1:00pm	Betty & Morelia Bermejo † Gilda Maria Mangana † Int. for the Parishioners	9:30am	Adelaida Maximo Iglesias †
Monday 11/30	8:00am	Ann Yan Lam-Lau	8:30am	Robert Anselmo Han †
Tuesday 12/01	8:00am	Rene Revel †		No Mass
Wednesday 12/02	8:00am	Mercedes Yazdini, Birthday	8:30am	Veronico Flores Fabular †
Thursday 12/03	8:00am	Lucio Aguirre †		No Mass
Friday 12/04	8:00am	Francisco Matturano-Gomez †	8:30am	Int. of the People of the Parish
Saturday 12/05	5:00pm	Santiago & Enelia Pacheco †	8:30am	Int. of the People of the Parish

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

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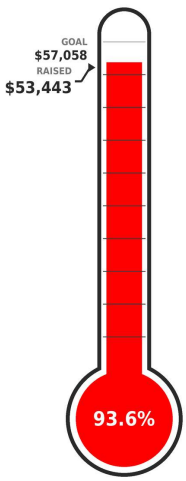

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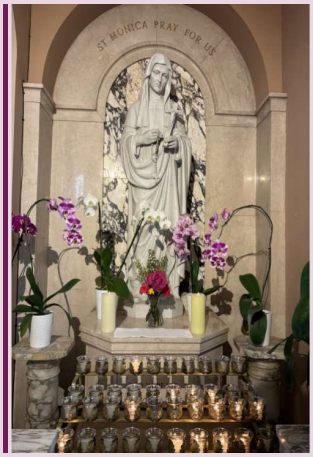

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Archdiocese Annual Appeal

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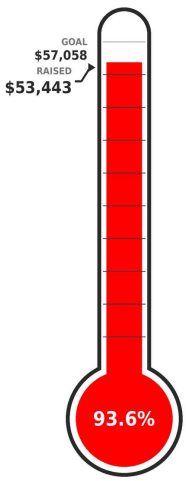
Help us reach our goal! Only 5 weeks left this year.



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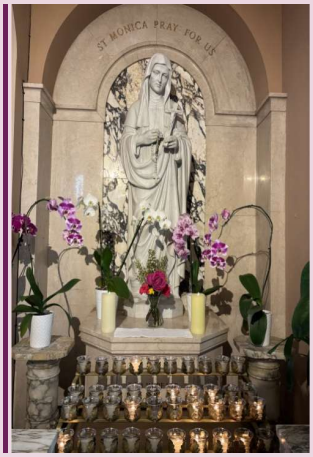

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That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

1. Living face to face with God means knowing that He sees us

The one who lives face to face with God knows that everything he does, he does in His presence: at Mass, yes, but also at work, at home, with his phone in his hand, when no one is watching. The Lord said it clearly: your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you (Mt 6:4).

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But what matters most, dear brothers and sisters, is not only where we look during Mass, but where we look in life. Because one can pray facing God and then live facing men.

2. The great enemy: human respect

And what makes us live facing men? What the saints called "human respect": the fear of what others will say.

It is that fear of looking bad, of seeming old-fashioned, fanatical, or "too Catholic," that leads us to keep silent when we should speak, or to stop doing good so as not to draw attention.

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And so, little by little, one ends up living face to face with men and with one's back turned to God.

Saint Paul put it bluntly: if I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ (Gal 1:10). And the Lord Himself warned that whoever is ashamed of Him before this generation, of that one He too will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father (Mk 8:38).

Notice: "when He comes." Advent again.

Human respect is, in the end, a way of falling asleep: it is like the gatekeeper who, instead of watching the door through which his master will come, spends the whole night worrying about what the neighbors think.

3. How can we live face to face with God this Advent?

The Cristero martyrs of Mexico had no human respect. Saint José Sánchez del Río, only fourteen years old, chose to die crying out

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"¡Viva Cristo Rey!" rather than deny his faith to please his executioners. He lived, and he died, face to face with God.

Thanks be to God, we are not asked for that much. But we are asked for a few concrete things this Advent:

- An examination of conscience every night, asking ourselves: today, did I live facing God, or facing others?
- A good confession before Christmas.
- One small act of Christian courage each week: making the Sign of the Cross in public, praying before meals, defending the Church when she is attacked, inviting someone to Mass.

No one becomes brave all at once; courage, too, must be trained.

✠ ✠ ✠

Today Saint Paul reminded us that God is faithful, and that He has called us into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord (1 Cor 1:9). God is faithful… The question is whether we will be faithful to Him, even when it costs us.

On the day the Master of the house returns, He will not ask us what others said about us, but what we did with Him.

Let us ask for this grace from the Blessed Virgin Mary, who lived face to face with God better than anyone, who said "Behold the handmaid of the Lord" without caring what others might think: may she help us, this Advent, to wait for her Son wide awake, without fear of what people will say, and with our eyes fixed on Him. Amen.

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

Sunday Gospel: *Mk. 13:33-37*

Jesus said to his disciples: "Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come. It is like a man traveling abroad. He leaves home and places his servants in charge, each with his own work, and orders the gatekeeper to be on the watch. Watch, therefore; you do not know when the lord of the house is coming, whether in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to all: 'Watch!'"

Our Lord gives no date because He wants us ready at every hour. The servant who is "sleeping" is the soul in mortal sin. To the world he may look perfectly well, but in the eyes of God his soul is dead. As the month of the Holy Souls comes to a close, we are reminded that death comes when no man expects it, and whatever state it finds us in is the state we keep for all eternity. That is why Holy Mother Church gives us Advent as a season of penance. Do not wait for a more convenient time. Let us each prepare as well as we can by making a good Confession during this holy season, so that whenever the Master comes, He may find us awake.

Semper Virgo

A Marian Pilgrimage to Guadalupe 2031

Cardinal Burke invites the faithful to a **daily Marian devotion** preparing for the 500th anniversary of Our Lady of Guadalupe in 2031. Each morning, receive a short meditation on the Mother of God.

Begins **Dec. 12, 2026**, Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Sign up free: **sempervirgo.org**

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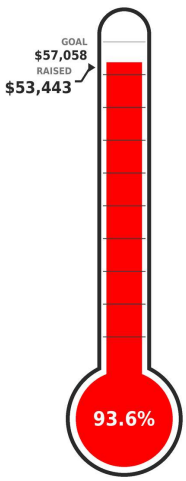

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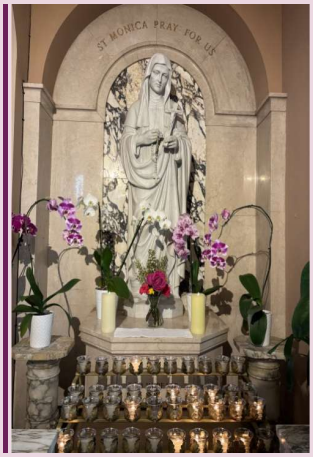

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It takes two minutes!

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Archdiocese Annual Appeal

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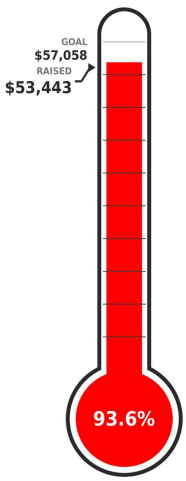
Help us reach our goal! Only 5 weeks left this year.



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November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

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The evergreen circle stands for the eternity of God, who has no beginning and no end. The **three violet candles** stand for penance and watchful prayer; the **rose candle**, lit on Gaudete Sunday, for the joy of Christ's nearness. Light one more candle each week as Christmas draws near.

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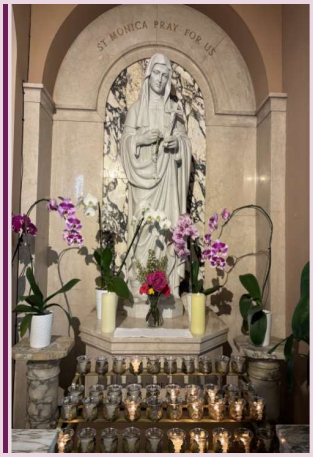

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Parish

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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
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PASTOR'S LETTER



Living Face to Face with God

Fr. Javier Olivera Ravasi

San Francisco, November 29, 2026.
First Sunday of Advent.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Today we begin Advent and, with it, a new liturgical year. The Church, like a good Mother, wakes us up with a word that the Lord repeats again and again in today's Gospel: "Watch!"

Jesus tells us the story of a man who goes on a journey. He leaves his house in the care of his servants, gives each one his work, and orders the gatekeeper to stay awake. For they do not know when the master of the house will return: in the evening, at midnight, at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find us sleeping.





That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

1. Living face to face with God means knowing that He sees us

The one who lives face to face with God knows that everything he does, he does in His presence: at Mass, yes, but also at work, at home, with his phone in his hand, when no one is watching. The Lord said it clearly: your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you (Mt 6:4).

In today's Psalm we ask the Lord to show us His face, so that we may be saved. A Christian is someone who lives seeking the face of God.

That is why, in this Holy Mass, as you can see, the priest and you are all facing the same direction: toward Him, to whom the Holy Sacrifice is offered. The priest is not turning his back on you; we are all walking together, as one people on pilgrimage, looking toward the Lord who comes.

But what matters most, dear brothers and sisters, is not only where we look during Mass, but where we look in life. Because one can pray facing God and then live facing men.

2. The great enemy: human respect

And what makes us live facing men? What the saints called "human respect": the fear of what others will say.

It is that fear of looking bad, of seeming old-fashioned, fanatical, or "too Catholic," that leads us to keep silent when we should speak, or to stop doing good so as not to draw attention.

Let us take some simple examples:

- The one who does not make the Sign of the Cross before eating in a restaurant, out of embarrassment.
- The one who hears jokes about the Church at work or at school and says nothing.
- The father who does not pray with his children so as not to seem "excessive."
- The young person who never mentions going to Mass on Sundays, so as not to be the odd one out.
- Or the one who keeps quiet about the truth on life, family, or marriage, because "you can't say that anymore."

And so, little by little, one ends up living face to face with men and with one's back turned to God.

Saint Paul put it bluntly: if I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ (Gal 1:10). And the Lord Himself warned that whoever is ashamed of Him before this generation, of that one He too will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father (Mk 8:38).

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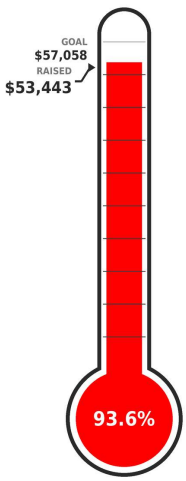

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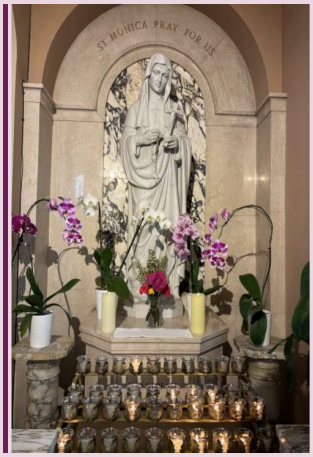

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Clergy	Staff
Rev. Javier O. Ravasi, Parochial Administrator pastor@smstaparishsf.org **In Residence:** **Rev. Paulinus Iwuji, SMMM, Ph.D.** **VA Hospital Chaplain** St. Thomas Apostle Rectory **Rev. Te Van Nguyen** **Vietnamese Ministry** St. Thomas 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

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St. Monica	St. Thomas the Apostle
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PASTOR'S LETTER



Living Face to Face with God

Fr. Javier Olivera Ravasi

San Francisco, November 29, 2026.
First Sunday of Advent.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Today we begin Advent and, with it, a new liturgical year. The Church, like a good Mother, wakes us up with a word that the Lord repeats again and again in today's Gospel: "Watch!"

Jesus tells us the story of a man who goes on a journey. He leaves his house in the care of his servants, gives each one his work, and orders the gatekeeper to stay awake. For they do not know when the master of the house will return: in the evening, at midnight, at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find us sleeping.





That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

1. Living face to face with God means knowing that He sees us

The one who lives face to face with God knows that everything he does, he does in His presence: at Mass, yes, but also at work, at home, with his phone in his hand, when no one is watching. The Lord said it clearly: your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you (Mt 6:4).

In today's Psalm we ask the Lord to show us His face, so that we may be saved. A Christian is someone who lives seeking the face of God.

That is why, in this Holy Mass, as you can see, the priest and you are all facing the same direction: toward Him, to whom the Holy Sacrifice is offered. The priest is not turning his back on you; we are all walking together, as one people on pilgrimage, looking toward the Lord who comes.

But what matters most, dear brothers and sisters, is not only where we look during Mass, but where we look in life. Because one can pray facing God and then live facing men.

2. The great enemy: human respect

And what makes us live facing men? What the saints called "human respect": the fear of what others will say.

It is that fear of looking bad, of seeming old-fashioned, fanatical, or "too Catholic," that leads us to keep silent when we should speak, or to stop doing good so as not to draw attention.

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Saint Paul put it bluntly: if I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ (Gal 1:10). And the Lord Himself warned that whoever is ashamed of Him before this generation, of that one He too will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father (Mk 8:38).

Notice: "when He comes." Advent again.

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Today Saint Paul reminded us that God is faithful, and that He has called us into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord (1 Cor 1:9). God is faithful… The question is whether we will be faithful to Him, even when it costs us.

On the day the Master of the house returns, He will not ask us what others said about us, but what we did with Him.

Let us ask for this grace from the Blessed Virgin Mary, who lived face to face with God better than anyone, who said "Behold the handmaid of the Lord" without caring what others might think: may she help us, this Advent, to wait for her Son wide awake, without fear of what people will say, and with our eyes fixed on Him. Amen.

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Parochial Administrator
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Sunday Gospel: *Mk. 13:33-37*

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Begins **Dec. 12, 2026**, Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Sign up free: **sempervirgo.org**

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"The confession of evil works is the beginning of good works."
— St. Augustine

Do not let Christmas find your soul unready.

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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

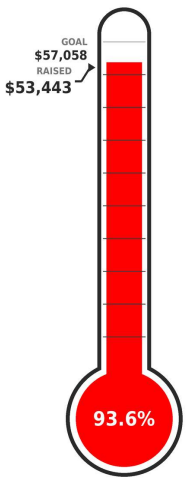
Give online, set up **recurring giving**, or remember the parish in your **will or estate**. Thank you!

Scan to give online ►

Archdiocese Annual Appeal

PARISH GOAL	RAISED SO FAR	STILL NEEDED
$57,058	$53,443	$3,615

Help us reach our goal! Only 5 weeks left this year.



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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/

Archdiocesan Annual Appeal 2026 Goal: $6,450,000

Star of the Sea & Stella Maris Academy

4420 Geary Blvd SF CA 94118

St Nicholas

CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE

Handmade Gifts! Made by 14 artisans.

DECEMBER 2026

AUDITORIUM

Friday 4, 2pm-7pm
Saturday 5, 9am-6pm
Sunday 6, 9am-2pm



Enjoy Hot Chocolate & Pastries While You Shop!



November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

ST. MONICA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH

Christmas Poinsettias



Please use this envelope
Use este sobre

As we prepare to celebrate the **Birth of Our Lord**, we wish to adorn the altars of St. Monica and St. Thomas the Apostle with **poinsettias for Christmas**.

To cover their cost, we kindly ask for your help through a **special collection this Sunday**.

Every gift, large or small, helps make our churches beautiful for the Christ Child.

Poinsettia Collection this Sunday

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

The Advent Wreath

The evergreen circle stands for the eternity of God, who has no beginning and no end. The **three violet candles** stand for penance and watchful prayer; the **rose candle**, lit on Gaudete Sunday, for the joy of Christ's nearness. Light one more candle each week as Christmas draws near.

Prayer for the First Week

Stir up Thy power, we beseech Thee, O Lord, and come: that from the threatening dangers of our sins we may deserve to be rescued by Thy protection, and to be saved by Thy deliverance. Who livest and reignest for ever and ever. Amen.

Sunday Collection

Collection	St. Monica	St. Thomas
Sunday (English)	$1,531.00	$1,137.00
Vietnamese	—	$514.00

ST. MONICA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH

Procession in Honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Procesión en honor a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe





DECEMBER · DICIEMBRE
13
SUNDAY · DOMINGO
12:00 NOON
MEDIODÍA

St. Monica Church
470 24th Ave., San Francisco

Between the 11 AM and 1 PM Masses
Entre las Misas de 11 AM y 1 PM

You are invited!

Join us as we walk in procession around **St. Monica Church** to honor **Our Lady of Guadalupe**, Mother of the Americas. Bring your family and flowers!

¡Están invitados!

Acompáñenos en procesión alrededor de la **iglesia Santa Mónica** para honrar a **Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe**, Madre de las Américas. ¡Traiga a su familia y flores!

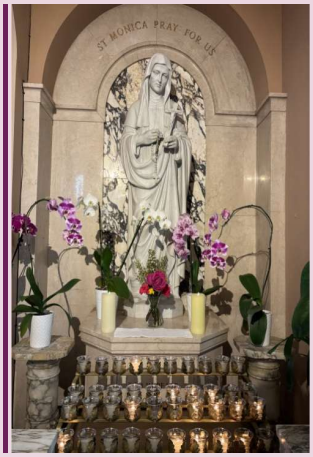
"¿No estoy yo aquí, que soy tu madre?"
¡Viva la Virgen de Guadalupe!

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 help make sandwiches each month, and to those who shop for supplies and deliver to the shelter the next day! Sandwich making is the **3rd Wednesday of every month.**

Next: Wed., Dec. 16 · 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**.

November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

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
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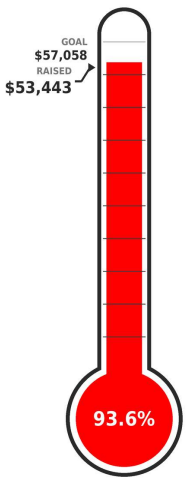

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Sunday Collection

Collection	St. Monica	St. Thomas
Sunday (English)	$1,531.00	$1,137.00
Vietnamese	—	$514.00

ST. MONICA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH

Procession in Honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Procesión en honor a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe





DECEMBER · DICIEMBRE
13
SUNDAY · DOMINGO
12:00 NOON
MEDIODÍA

St. Monica Church
470 24th Ave., San Francisco

Between the 11 AM and 1 PM Masses
Entre las Misas de 11 AM y 1 PM

You are invited!

Join us as we walk in procession around **St. Monica Church** to honor **Our Lady of Guadalupe**, Mother of the Americas. Bring your family and flowers!

¡Están invitados!

Acompáñenos en procesión alrededor de la **iglesia Santa Mónica** para honrar a **Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe**, Madre de las Américas. ¡Traiga a su familia y flores!

"¿No estoy yo aquí, que soy tu madre?"
¡Viva la Virgen de Guadalupe!

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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.

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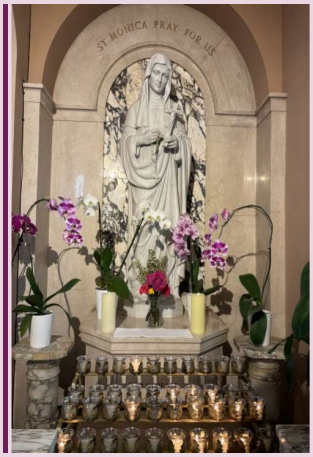

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November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

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Saint Thomas the Apostle
Parish

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www.smstaparishsf.org
Office Hours: Mon-Fri 9am-5:30pm
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Clergy	Staff
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PASTOR'S LETTER



Living Face to Face with God

Fr. Javier Olivera Ravasi

San Francisco, November 29, 2026.
First Sunday of Advent.

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Jesus tells us the story of a man who goes on a journey. He leaves his house in the care of his servants, gives each one his work, and orders the gatekeeper to stay awake. For they do not know when the master of the house will return: in the evening, at midnight, at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find us sleeping.





That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

1. Living face to face with God means knowing that He sees us

The one who lives face to face with God knows that everything he does, he does in His presence: at Mass, yes, but also at work, at home, with his phone in his hand, when no one is watching. The Lord said it clearly: your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you (Mt 6:4).

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But what matters most, dear brothers and sisters, is not only where we look during Mass, but where we look in life. Because one can pray facing God and then live facing men.

2. The great enemy: human respect

And what makes us live facing men? What the saints called "human respect": the fear of what others will say.

It is that fear of looking bad, of seeming old-fashioned, fanatical, or "too Catholic," that leads us to keep silent when we should speak, or to stop doing good so as not to draw attention.

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On the day the Master of the house returns, He will not ask us what others said about us, but what we did with Him.

Let us ask for this grace from the Blessed Virgin Mary, who lived face to face with God better than anyone, who said "Behold the handmaid of the Lord" without caring what others might think: may she help us, this Advent, to wait for her Son wide awake, without fear of what people will say, and with our eyes fixed on Him. Amen.

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Parochial Administrator
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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

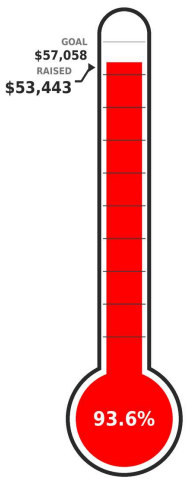
Give online, set up **recurring giving**, or remember the parish in your **will or estate**. Thank you!

Scan to give online ►

Archdiocese Annual Appeal

PARISH GOAL	RAISED SO FAR	STILL NEEDED
$57,058	$53,443	$3,615

Help us reach our goal! Only 5 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.

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

Archdiocesan Annual Appeal 2026 Goal: $6,450,000

Star of the Sea & Stella Maris Academy

4420 Geary Blvd SF CA 94118

St Nicholas

CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE

Handmade Gifts! Made by 14 artisans.

DECEMBER 2026

AUDITORIUM

Friday 4, 2pm-7pm
Saturday 5, 9am-6pm
Sunday 6, 9am-2pm



Enjoy Hot Chocolate & Pastries While You Shop!



November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

ST. MONICA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH

Christmas Poinsettias



Please use this envelope
Use este sobre

As we prepare to celebrate the **Birth of Our Lord**, we wish to adorn the altars of St. Monica and St. Thomas the Apostle with **poinsettias for Christmas**.

To cover their cost, we kindly ask for your help through a **special collection this Sunday**.

Every gift, large or small, helps make our churches beautiful for the Christ Child.

Poinsettia Collection this Sunday

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

The Advent Wreath

The evergreen circle stands for the eternity of God, who has no beginning and no end. The **three violet candles** stand for penance and watchful prayer; the **rose candle**, lit on Gaudete Sunday, for the joy of Christ's nearness. Light one more candle each week as Christmas draws near.

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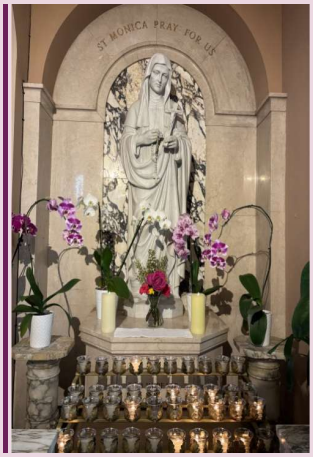

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GATHER · SUNDAY HOSPITALITY





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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

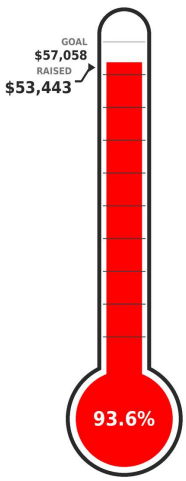
Give online, set up **recurring giving**, or remember the parish in your **will or estate**. Thank you!

Scan to give online ►

Archdiocese Annual Appeal

PARISH GOAL	RAISED SO FAR	STILL NEEDED
$57,058	$53,443	$3,615

Help us reach our goal! Only 5 weeks left this year.



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Archdiocesan Annual Appeal 2026 Goal: $6,450,000

Star of the Sea & Stella Maris Academy

4420 Geary Blvd SF CA 94118

St Nicholas

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DECEMBER 2026

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November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

ST. MONICA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH

Christmas Poinsettias



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Use este sobre

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To cover their cost, we kindly ask for your help through a **special collection this Sunday**.

Every gift, large or small, helps make our churches beautiful for the Christ Child.

Poinsettia Collection this Sunday

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

The Advent Wreath

The evergreen circle stands for the eternity of God, who has no beginning and no end. The **three violet candles** stand for penance and watchful prayer; the **rose candle**, lit on Gaudete Sunday, for the joy of Christ's nearness. Light one more candle each week as Christmas draws near.

Prayer for the First Week

Stir up Thy power, we beseech Thee, O Lord, and come: that from the threatening dangers of our sins we may deserve to be rescued by Thy protection, and to be saved by Thy deliverance. Who livest and reignest for ever and ever. Amen.

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Procesión en honor a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe





DECEMBER · DICIEMBRE
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St. Monica Church
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Between the 11 AM and 1 PM Masses
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You are invited!

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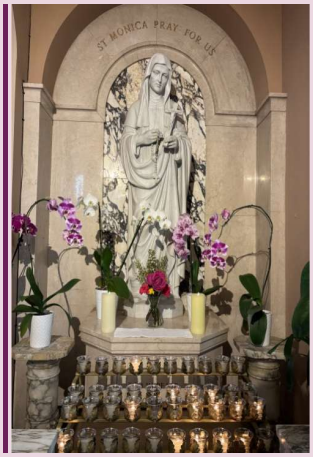

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Saint Thomas the Apostle
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www.smstaparishsf.org
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Clergy	Staff
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PASTOR'S LETTER



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That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

1. Living face to face with God means knowing that He sees us

The one who lives face to face with God knows that everything he does, he does in His presence: at Mass, yes, but also at work, at home, with his phone in his hand, when no one is watching. The Lord said it clearly: your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you (Mt 6:4).

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But what matters most, dear brothers and sisters, is not only where we look during Mass, but where we look in life. Because one can pray facing God and then live facing men.

2. The great enemy: human respect

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On the day the Master of the house returns, He will not ask us what others said about us, but what we did with Him.

Let us ask for this grace from the Blessed Virgin Mary, who lived face to face with God better than anyone, who said "Behold the handmaid of the Lord" without caring what others might think: may she help us, this Advent, to wait for her Son wide awake, without fear of what people will say, and with our eyes fixed on Him. Amen.

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

Sunday Gospel: *Mk. 13:33-37*

Jesus said to his disciples: "Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come. It is like a man traveling abroad. He leaves home and places his servants in charge, each with his own work, and orders the gatekeeper to be on the watch. Watch, therefore; you do not know when the lord of the house is coming, whether in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to all: 'Watch!'"

Our Lord gives no date because He wants us ready at every hour. The servant who is "sleeping" is the soul in mortal sin. To the world he may look perfectly well, but in the eyes of God his soul is dead. As the month of the Holy Souls comes to a close, we are reminded that death comes when no man expects it, and whatever state it finds us in is the state we keep for all eternity. That is why Holy Mother Church gives us Advent as a season of penance. Do not wait for a more convenient time. Let us each prepare as well as we can by making a good Confession during this holy season, so that whenever the Master comes, He may find us awake.

Semper Virgo

A Marian Pilgrimage to Guadalupe 2031

Cardinal Burke invites the faithful to a **daily Marian devotion** preparing for the 500th anniversary of Our Lady of Guadalupe in 2031. Each morning, receive a short meditation on the Mother of God.

Begins **Dec. 12, 2026**, Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Sign up free: **sempervirgo.org**

Liturgical Calendar	
Sun 11/29	First Sunday of Advent
Mon 11/30	St. Andrew, Apostle
Tues 12/1	Advent Weekday
Wed 12/2	Advent Weekday
Thurs 12/3	St. Francis Xavier
Fri 12/4	Advent Weekday · St. John Damascene
Sat 12/5	Advent Weekday

Make a Good Confession

Prepare ye the way of the Lord!

Confessions at St. Monica
Mon–Fri: before and after Mass
Saturday: 4:20 PM · Sunday: after Mass

Why go to Confession? Mortal sin robs the soul of sanctifying grace. In His mercy Christ gave His Church the Sacrament of Penance to restore it. The Fathers of the Church call it "the second plank [of salvation] after the shipwreck which is the loss of grace." *(CCC 1446)*

Even our daily faults are worth confessing. Holy Mother Church strongly recommends it, for regular Confession "helps us form our conscience, fight against evil tendencies, let ourselves be healed by Christ and progress in the life of the Spirit." *(CCC 1458)*

"The confession of evil works is the beginning of good works."
— St. Augustine

Do not let Christmas find your soul unready.

Mass Intentions

	St. Monica		St. Thomas the Apostle	
Sunday 11/29	11:00am 1:00pm	Betty & Morelia Bermejo † Gilda Maria Mangana † Int. for the Parishioners	9:30am	Adelaida Maximo Iglesias †
Monday 11/30	8:00am	Ann Yan Lam-Lau	8:30am	Robert Anselmo Han †
Tuesday 12/01	8:00am	Rene Revel †		No Mass
Wednesday 12/02	8:00am	Mercedes Yazdini, Birthday	8:30am	Veronico Flores Fabular †
Thursday 12/03	8:00am	Lucio Aguirre †		No Mass
Friday 12/04	8:00am	Francisco Matturano-Gomez †	8:30am	Int. of the People of the Parish
Saturday 12/05	5:00pm	Santiago & Enelia Pacheco †	8:30am	Int. of the People of the Parish

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

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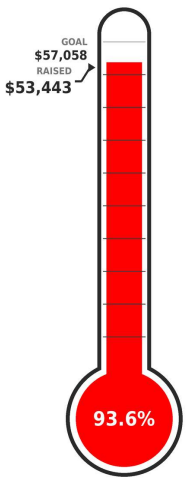

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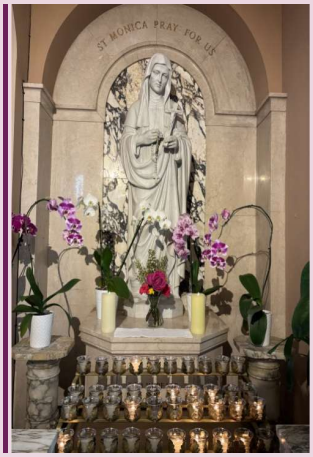

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Sign up free: **sempervirgo.org**

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It takes two minutes!

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Archdiocese Annual Appeal

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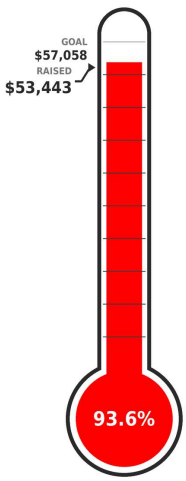
Help us reach our goal! Only 5 weeks left this year.



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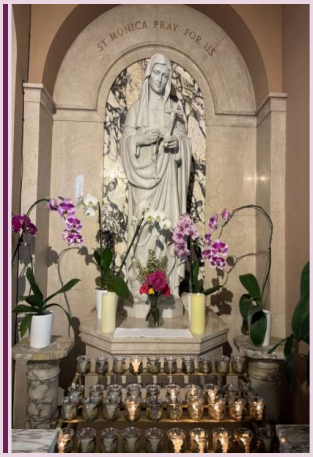

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PASTOR'S LETTER



Living Face to Face with God

Fr. Javier Olivera Ravasi

San Francisco, November 29, 2026.
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Dear brothers and sisters,

Today we begin Advent and, with it, a new liturgical year. The Church, like a good Mother, wakes us up with a word that the Lord repeats again and again in today's Gospel: "Watch!"

Jesus tells us the story of a man who goes on a journey. He leaves his house in the care of his servants, gives each one his work, and orders the gatekeeper to stay awake. For they do not know when the master of the house will return: in the evening, at midnight, at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find us sleeping.





That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

1. Living face to face with God means knowing that He sees us

The one who lives face to face with God knows that everything he does, he does in His presence: at Mass, yes, but also at work, at home, with his phone in his hand, when no one is watching. The Lord said it clearly: your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you (Mt 6:4).

In today's Psalm we ask the Lord to show us His face, so that we may be saved. A Christian is someone who lives seeking the face of God.

That is why, in this Holy Mass, as you can see, the priest and you are all facing the same direction: toward Him, to whom the Holy Sacrifice is offered. The priest is not turning his back on you; we are all walking together, as one people on pilgrimage, looking toward the Lord who comes.

But what matters most, dear brothers and sisters, is not only where we look during Mass, but where we look in life. Because one can pray facing God and then live facing men.

2. The great enemy: human respect

And what makes us live facing men? What the saints called "human respect": the fear of what others will say.

It is that fear of looking bad, of seeming old-fashioned, fanatical, or "too Catholic," that leads us to keep silent when we should speak, or to stop doing good so as not to draw attention.

Let us take some simple examples:

- The one who does not make the Sign of the Cross before eating in a restaurant, out of embarrassment.
- The one who hears jokes about the Church at work or at school and says nothing.
- The father who does not pray with his children so as not to seem "excessive."
- The young person who never mentions going to Mass on Sundays, so as not to be the odd one out.
- Or the one who keeps quiet about the truth on life, family, or marriage, because "you can't say that anymore."

And so, little by little, one ends up living face to face with men and with one's back turned to God.

Saint Paul put it bluntly: if I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ (Gal 1:10). And the Lord Himself warned that whoever is ashamed of Him before this generation, of that one He too will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father (Mk 8:38).

Notice: "when He comes." Advent again.

Human respect is, in the end, a way of falling asleep: it is like the gatekeeper who, instead of watching the door through which his master will come, spends the whole night worrying about what the neighbors think.

3. How can we live face to face with God this Advent?

The Cristero martyrs of Mexico had no human respect. Saint José Sánchez del Río, only fourteen years old, chose to die crying out

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"¡Viva Cristo Rey!" rather than deny his faith to please his executioners. He lived, and he died, face to face with God.

Thanks be to God, we are not asked for that much. But we are asked for a few concrete things this Advent:

- An examination of conscience every night, asking ourselves: today, did I live facing God, or facing others?
- A good confession before Christmas.
- One small act of Christian courage each week: making the Sign of the Cross in public, praying before meals, defending the Church when she is attacked, inviting someone to Mass.

No one becomes brave all at once; courage, too, must be trained.

✠ ✠ ✠

Today Saint Paul reminded us that God is faithful, and that He has called us into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord (1 Cor 1:9). God is faithful… The question is whether we will be faithful to Him, even when it costs us.

On the day the Master of the house returns, He will not ask us what others said about us, but what we did with Him.

Let us ask for this grace from the Blessed Virgin Mary, who lived face to face with God better than anyone, who said "Behold the handmaid of the Lord" without caring what others might think: may she help us, this Advent, to wait for her Son wide awake, without fear of what people will say, and with our eyes fixed on Him. Amen.

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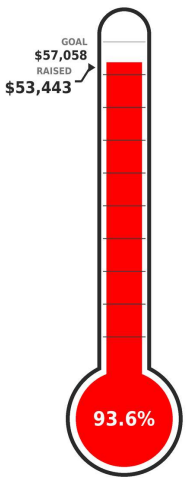

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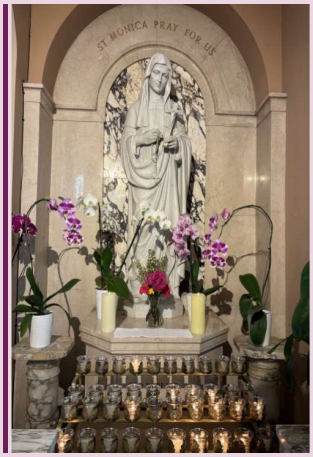

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Sign up free: **sempervirgo.org**

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PRAY · FRIDAY ADORATION

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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

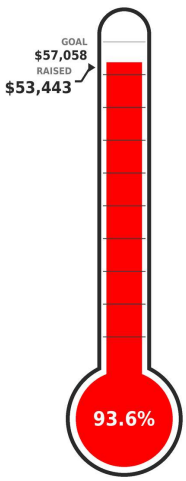
Give online, set up **recurring giving**, or remember the parish in your **will or estate**. Thank you!

Scan to give online ►

Archdiocese Annual Appeal

PARISH GOAL	RAISED SO FAR	STILL NEEDED
$57,058	$53,443	$3,615

Help us reach our goal! Only 5 weeks left this year.



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Archdiocesan Annual Appeal 2026 Goal: $6,450,000

Star of the Sea & Stella Maris Academy

4420 Geary Blvd SF CA 94118

St Nicholas

CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE

Handmade Gifts! Made by 14 artisans.

DECEMBER 2026

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Enjoy Hot Chocolate & Pastries While You Shop!



November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

ST. MONICA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH

Christmas Poinsettias



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Use este sobre

As we prepare to celebrate the **Birth of Our Lord**, we wish to adorn the altars of St. Monica and St. Thomas the Apostle with **poinsettias for Christmas**.

To cover their cost, we kindly ask for your help through a **special collection this Sunday**.

Every gift, large or small, helps make our churches beautiful for the Christ Child.

Poinsettia Collection this Sunday

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

The Advent Wreath

The evergreen circle stands for the eternity of God, who has no beginning and no end. The **three violet candles** stand for penance and watchful prayer; the **rose candle**, lit on Gaudete Sunday, for the joy of Christ's nearness. Light one more candle each week as Christmas draws near.

Prayer for the First Week

Stir up Thy power, we beseech Thee, O Lord, and come: that from the threatening dangers of our sins we may deserve to be rescued by Thy protection, and to be saved by Thy deliverance. Who livest and reignest for ever and ever. Amen.

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Procession in Honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Procesión en honor a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe





DECEMBER · DICIEMBRE
13
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12:00 NOON
MEDIODÍA

St. Monica Church
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Between the 11 AM and 1 PM Masses
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You are invited!

Join us as we walk in procession around **St. Monica Church** to honor **Our Lady of Guadalupe**, Mother of the Americas. Bring your family and flowers!

¡Están invitados!

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"¿No estoy yo aquí, que soy tu madre?"
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LIGHT A CANDLE • PRAY • HELP OUR CHURCH

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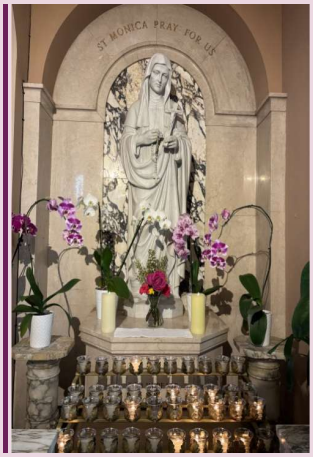

Light a candle today!

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 help make sandwiches each month, and to those who shop for supplies and deliver to the shelter the next day! Sandwich making is the **3rd Wednesday of every month.**

Next: Wed., Dec. 16 · 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**.

November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

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) **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



Living Face to Face with God

Fr. Javier Olivera Ravasi

San Francisco, November 29, 2026.
First Sunday of Advent.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Today we begin Advent and, with it, a new liturgical year. The Church, like a good Mother, wakes us up with a word that the Lord repeats again and again in today's Gospel: "Watch!"

Jesus tells us the story of a man who goes on a journey. He leaves his house in the care of his servants, gives each one his work, and orders the gatekeeper to stay awake. For they do not know when the master of the house will return: in the evening, at midnight, at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find us sleeping.





That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

1. Living face to face with God means knowing that He sees us

The one who lives face to face with God knows that everything he does, he does in His presence: at Mass, yes, but also at work, at home, with his phone in his hand, when no one is watching. The Lord said it clearly: your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you (Mt 6:4).

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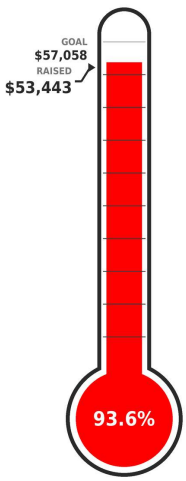

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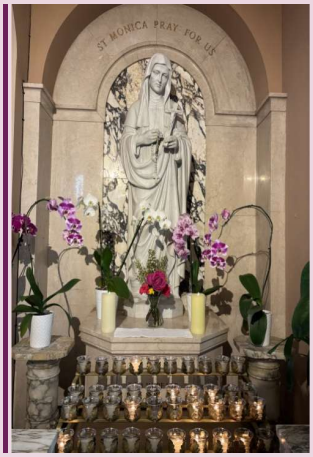

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November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

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PASTOR'S LETTER



Living Face to Face with God

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San Francisco, November 29, 2026.
First Sunday of Advent.

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That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

1. Living face to face with God means knowing that He sees us

The one who lives face to face with God knows that everything he does, he does in His presence: at Mass, yes, but also at work, at home, with his phone in his hand, when no one is watching. The Lord said it clearly: your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you (Mt 6:4).

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Adorers Needed

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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

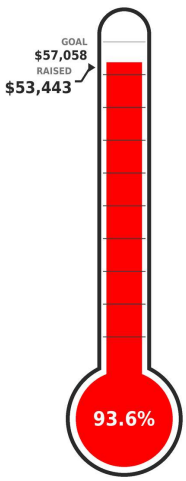
Give online, set up **recurring giving**, or remember the parish in your **will or estate**. Thank you!

Scan to give online ►

Archdiocese Annual Appeal

PARISH GOAL	RAISED SO FAR	STILL NEEDED
$57,058	$53,443	$3,615

Help us reach our goal! Only 5 weeks left this year.



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

Archdiocesan Annual Appeal 2026 Goal: $6,450,000

Star of the Sea & Stella Maris Academy

4420 Geary Blvd SF CA 94118

St Nicholas

CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE

Handmade Gifts! Made by 14 artisans.

DECEMBER 2026

AUDITORIUM

Friday 4, 2pm-7pm
Saturday 5, 9am-6pm
Sunday 6, 9am-2pm



Enjoy Hot Chocolate & Pastries While You Shop!



November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

ST. MONICA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH

Christmas Poinsettias



Please use this envelope
Use este sobre

As we prepare to celebrate the **Birth of Our Lord**, we wish to adorn the altars of St. Monica and St. Thomas the Apostle with **poinsettias for Christmas**.

To cover their cost, we kindly ask for your help through a **special collection this Sunday**.

Every gift, large or small, helps make our churches beautiful for the Christ Child.

Poinsettia Collection this Sunday

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

The Advent Wreath

The evergreen circle stands for the eternity of God, who has no beginning and no end. The **three violet candles** stand for penance and watchful prayer; the **rose candle**, lit on Gaudete Sunday, for the joy of Christ's nearness. Light one more candle each week as Christmas draws near.

Prayer for the First Week

Stir up Thy power, we beseech Thee, O Lord, and come: that from the threatening dangers of our sins we may deserve to be rescued by Thy protection, and to be saved by Thy deliverance. Who livest and reignest for ever and ever. Amen.

Sunday Collection

Collection	St. Monica	St. Thomas
Sunday (English)	$1,531.00	$1,137.00
Vietnamese	—	$514.00

ST. MONICA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH

Procession in Honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Procesión en honor a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe





DECEMBER · DICIEMBRE
13
SUNDAY · DOMINGO
12:00 NOON
MEDIODÍA

St. Monica Church
470 24th Ave., San Francisco

Between the 11 AM and 1 PM Masses
Entre las Misas de 11 AM y 1 PM

You are invited!

Join us as we walk in procession around **St. Monica Church** to honor **Our Lady of Guadalupe**, Mother of the Americas. Bring your family and flowers!

¡Están invitados!

Acompáñenos en procesión alrededor de la **iglesia Santa Mónica** para honrar a **Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe**, Madre de las Américas. ¡Traiga a su familia y flores!

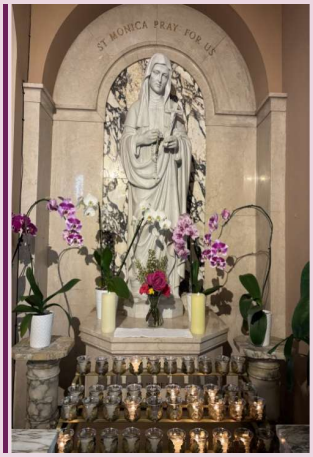
"¿No estoy yo aquí, que soy tu madre?"
¡Viva la Virgen de Guadalupe!

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.



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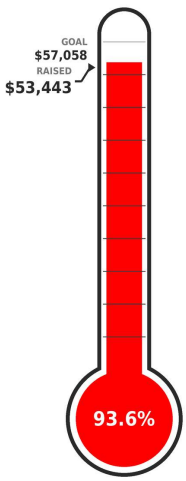

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To learn more about the Archdiocese Annual Appeal, and to donate, please visit https://sfarch.org/aaa/

Archdiocesan Annual Appeal 2026 Goal: $6,450,000

Star of the Sea & Stella Maris Academy

4420 Geary Blvd SF CA 94118

St Nicholas

CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE

Handmade Gifts! Made by 14 artisans.

DECEMBER 2026

AUDITORIUM

Friday 4, 2pm-7pm
Saturday 5, 9am-6pm
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Enjoy Hot Chocolate & Pastries While You Shop!



November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

ST. MONICA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH

Christmas Poinsettias



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Use este sobre

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To cover their cost, we kindly ask for your help through a **special collection this Sunday**.

Every gift, large or small, helps make our churches beautiful for the Christ Child.

Poinsettia Collection this Sunday

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

The Advent Wreath

The evergreen circle stands for the eternity of God, who has no beginning and no end. The **three violet candles** stand for penance and watchful prayer; the **rose candle**, lit on Gaudete Sunday, for the joy of Christ's nearness. Light one more candle each week as Christmas draws near.

Prayer for the First Week

Stir up Thy power, we beseech Thee, O Lord, and come: that from the threatening dangers of our sins we may deserve to be rescued by Thy protection, and to be saved by Thy deliverance. Who livest and reignest for ever and ever. Amen.

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Procesión en honor a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe





DECEMBER · DICIEMBRE
13
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Between the 11 AM and 1 PM Masses
Entre las Misas de 11 AM y 1 PM

You are invited!

Join us as we walk in procession around **St. Monica Church** to honor **Our Lady of Guadalupe**, Mother of the Americas. Bring your family and flowers!

¡Están invitados!

Acompáñenos en procesión alrededor de la **iglesia Santa Mónica** para honrar a **Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe**, Madre de las Américas. ¡Traiga a su familia y flores!

"¿No estoy yo aquí, que soy tu madre?"
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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.

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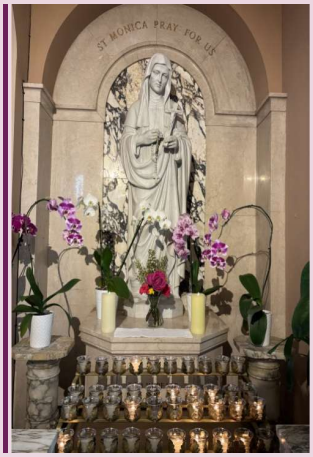

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That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

1. Living face to face with God means knowing that He sees us

The one who lives face to face with God knows that everything he does, he does in His presence: at Mass, yes, but also at work, at home, with his phone in his hand, when no one is watching. The Lord said it clearly: your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you (Mt 6:4).

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Let us ask for this grace from the Blessed Virgin Mary, who lived face to face with God better than anyone, who said "Behold the handmaid of the Lord" without caring what others might think: may she help us, this Advent, to wait for her Son wide awake, without fear of what people will say, and with our eyes fixed on Him. Amen.

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Do not let Christmas find your soul unready.

Mass Intentions

	St. Monica		St. Thomas the Apostle	
Sunday 11/29	11:00am 1:00pm	Betty & Morelia Bermejo † Gilda Maria Mangana † Int. for the Parishioners	9:30am	Adelaida Maximo Iglesias †
Monday 11/30	8:00am	Ann Yan Lam-Lau	8:30am	Robert Anselmo Han †
Tuesday 12/01	8:00am	Rene Revel †		No Mass
Wednesday 12/02	8:00am	Mercedes Yazdini, Birthday	8:30am	Veronico Flores Fabular †
Thursday 12/03	8:00am	Lucio Aguirre †		No Mass
Friday 12/04	8:00am	Francisco Matturano-Gomez †	8:30am	Int. of the People of the Parish
Saturday 12/05	5:00pm	Santiago & Enelia Pacheco †	8:30am	Int. of the People of the Parish

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

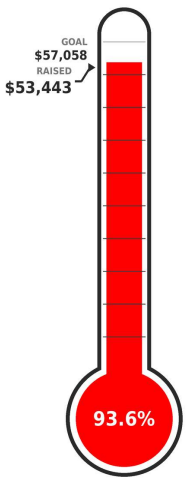
Give online, set up **recurring giving**, or remember the parish in your **will or estate**. Thank you!

Scan to give online ►

Archdiocese Annual Appeal

PARISH GOAL	RAISED SO FAR	STILL NEEDED
$57,058	$53,443	$3,615

Help us reach our goal! Only 5 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.

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13
SUNDAY · DOMINGO
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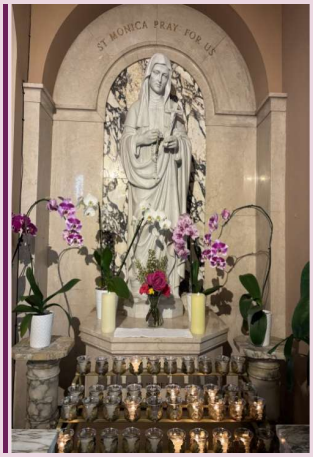

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PRAY · GATHER · BELONG · GIVE

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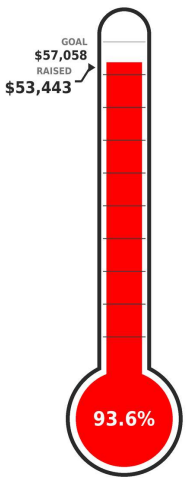
$57,058	$53,443	$3,615

Help us reach our goal! Only 5 weeks left this year.



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November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

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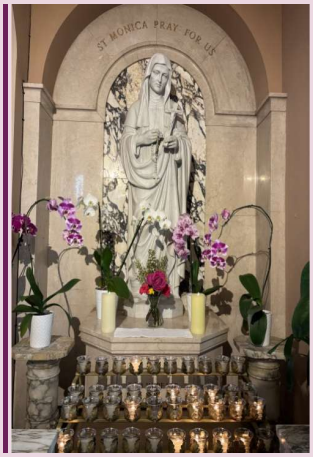

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That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

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But what matters most, dear brothers and sisters, is not only where we look during Mass, but where we look in life. Because one can pray facing God and then live facing men.

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And what makes us live facing men? What the saints called "human respect": the fear of what others will say.

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✠ ✠ ✠

Today Saint Paul reminded us that God is faithful, and that He has called us into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord (1 Cor 1:9). God is faithful… The question is whether we will be faithful to Him, even when it costs us.

On the day the Master of the house returns, He will not ask us what others said about us, but what we did with Him.

Let us ask for this grace from the Blessed Virgin Mary, who lived face to face with God better than anyone, who said "Behold the handmaid of the Lord" without caring what others might think: may she help us, this Advent, to wait for her Son wide awake, without fear of what people will say, and with our eyes fixed on Him. Amen.

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

Sunday Gospel: *Mk. 13:33-37*

Jesus said to his disciples: "Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come. It is like a man traveling abroad. He leaves home and places his servants in charge, each with his own work, and orders the gatekeeper to be on the watch. Watch, therefore; you do not know when the lord of the house is coming, whether in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to all: 'Watch!'"

Our Lord gives no date because He wants us ready at every hour. The servant who is "sleeping" is the soul in mortal sin. To the world he may look perfectly well, but in the eyes of God his soul is dead. As the month of the Holy Souls comes to a close, we are reminded that death comes when no man expects it, and whatever state it finds us in is the state we keep for all eternity. That is why Holy Mother Church gives us Advent as a season of penance. Do not wait for a more convenient time. Let us each prepare as well as we can by making a good Confession during this holy season, so that whenever the Master comes, He may find us awake.

Semper Virgo

A Marian Pilgrimage to Guadalupe 2031

Cardinal Burke invites the faithful to a **daily Marian devotion** preparing for the 500th anniversary of Our Lady of Guadalupe in 2031. Each morning, receive a short meditation on the Mother of God.

Begins **Dec. 12, 2026**, Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Sign up free: **sempervirgo.org**

Liturgical Calendar	
Sun 11/29	First Sunday of Advent
Mon 11/30	St. Andrew, Apostle
Tues 12/1	Advent Weekday
Wed 12/2	Advent Weekday
Thurs 12/3	St. Francis Xavier
Fri 12/4	Advent Weekday · St. John Damascene
Sat 12/5	Advent Weekday

Make a Good Confession

Prepare ye the way of the Lord!

Confessions at St. Monica
Mon–Fri: before and after Mass
Saturday: 4:20 PM · Sunday: after Mass

Why go to Confession? Mortal sin robs the soul of sanctifying grace. In His mercy Christ gave His Church the Sacrament of Penance to restore it. The Fathers of the Church call it "the second plank [of salvation] after the shipwreck which is the loss of grace." *(CCC 1446)*

Even our daily faults are worth confessing. Holy Mother Church strongly recommends it, for regular Confession "helps us form our conscience, fight against evil tendencies, let ourselves be healed by Christ and progress in the life of the Spirit." *(CCC 1458)*

"The confession of evil works is the beginning of good works."
— St. Augustine

Do not let Christmas find your soul unready.

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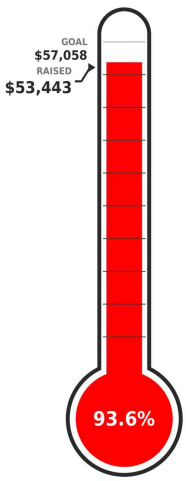

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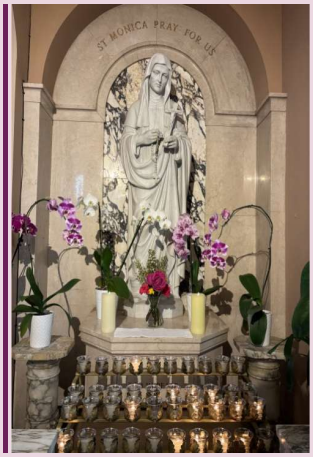

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Sign up free: **sempervirgo.org**

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

Scan to join our parish ►

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Archdiocese Annual Appeal

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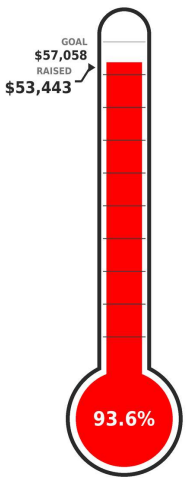
Help us reach our goal! Only 5 weeks left this year.



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November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

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The evergreen circle stands for the eternity of God, who has no beginning and no end. The **three violet candles** stand for penance and watchful prayer; the **rose candle**, lit on Gaudete Sunday, for the joy of Christ's nearness. Light one more candle each week as Christmas draws near.

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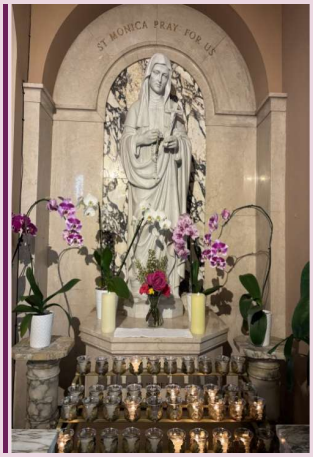

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PASTOR'S LETTER



Living Face to Face with God

Fr. Javier Olivera Ravasi

San Francisco, November 29, 2026.
First Sunday of Advent.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Today we begin Advent and, with it, a new liturgical year. The Church, like a good Mother, wakes us up with a word that the Lord repeats again and again in today's Gospel: "Watch!"

Jesus tells us the story of a man who goes on a journey. He leaves his house in the care of his servants, gives each one his work, and orders the gatekeeper to stay awake. For they do not know when the master of the house will return: in the evening, at midnight, at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find us sleeping.





That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

1. Living face to face with God means knowing that He sees us

The one who lives face to face with God knows that everything he does, he does in His presence: at Mass, yes, but also at work, at home, with his phone in his hand, when no one is watching. The Lord said it clearly: your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you (Mt 6:4).

In today's Psalm we ask the Lord to show us His face, so that we may be saved. A Christian is someone who lives seeking the face of God.

That is why, in this Holy Mass, as you can see, the priest and you are all facing the same direction: toward Him, to whom the Holy Sacrifice is offered. The priest is not turning his back on you; we are all walking together, as one people on pilgrimage, looking toward the Lord who comes.

But what matters most, dear brothers and sisters, is not only where we look during Mass, but where we look in life. Because one can pray facing God and then live facing men.

2. The great enemy: human respect

And what makes us live facing men? What the saints called "human respect": the fear of what others will say.

It is that fear of looking bad, of seeming old-fashioned, fanatical, or "too Catholic," that leads us to keep silent when we should speak, or to stop doing good so as not to draw attention.

Let us take some simple examples:

- The one who does not make the Sign of the Cross before eating in a restaurant, out of embarrassment.
- The one who hears jokes about the Church at work or at school and says nothing.
- The father who does not pray with his children so as not to seem "excessive."
- The young person who never mentions going to Mass on Sundays, so as not to be the odd one out.
- Or the one who keeps quiet about the truth on life, family, or marriage, because "you can't say that anymore."

And so, little by little, one ends up living face to face with men and with one's back turned to God.

Saint Paul put it bluntly: if I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ (Gal 1:10). And the Lord Himself warned that whoever is ashamed of Him before this generation, of that one He too will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father (Mk 8:38).

Notice: "when He comes." Advent again.

Human respect is, in the end, a way of falling asleep: it is like the gatekeeper who, instead of watching the door through which his master will come, spends the whole night worrying about what the neighbors think.

3. How can we live face to face with God this Advent?

The Cristero martyrs of Mexico had no human respect. Saint José Sánchez del Río, only fourteen years old, chose to die crying out

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"¡Viva Cristo Rey!" rather than deny his faith to please his executioners. He lived, and he died, face to face with God.

Thanks be to God, we are not asked for that much. But we are asked for a few concrete things this Advent:

- An examination of conscience every night, asking ourselves: today, did I live facing God, or facing others?
- A good confession before Christmas.
- One small act of Christian courage each week: making the Sign of the Cross in public, praying before meals, defending the Church when she is attacked, inviting someone to Mass.

No one becomes brave all at once; courage, too, must be trained.

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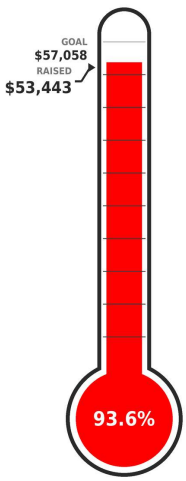

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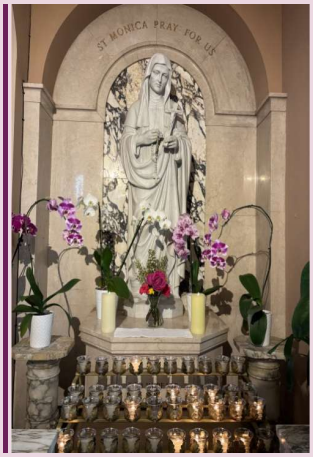

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That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

1. Living face to face with God means knowing that He sees us

The one who lives face to face with God knows that everything he does, he does in His presence: at Mass, yes, but also at work, at home, with his phone in his hand, when no one is watching. The Lord said it clearly: your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you (Mt 6:4).

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Let us ask for this grace from the Blessed Virgin Mary, who lived face to face with God better than anyone, who said "Behold the handmaid of the Lord" without caring what others might think: may she help us, this Advent, to wait for her Son wide awake, without fear of what people will say, and with our eyes fixed on Him. Amen.

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Sign up free: **sempervirgo.org**

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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

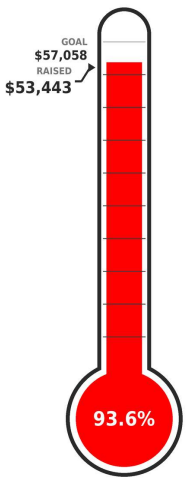
Give online, set up **recurring giving**, or remember the parish in your **will or estate**. Thank you!

Scan to give online ►

Archdiocese Annual Appeal

PARISH GOAL	RAISED SO FAR	STILL NEEDED
$57,058	$53,443	$3,615

Help us reach our goal! Only 5 weeks left this year.



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Star of the Sea & Stella Maris Academy

4420 Geary Blvd SF CA 94118

St Nicholas

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DECEMBER 2026

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Enjoy Hot Chocolate & Pastries While You Shop!



November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

ST. MONICA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH

Christmas Poinsettias



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As we prepare to celebrate the **Birth of Our Lord**, we wish to adorn the altars of St. Monica and St. Thomas the Apostle with **poinsettias for Christmas**.

To cover their cost, we kindly ask for your help through a **special collection this Sunday**.

Every gift, large or small, helps make our churches beautiful for the Christ Child.

Poinsettia Collection this Sunday

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

The Advent Wreath

The evergreen circle stands for the eternity of God, who has no beginning and no end. The **three violet candles** stand for penance and watchful prayer; the **rose candle**, lit on Gaudete Sunday, for the joy of Christ's nearness. Light one more candle each week as Christmas draws near.

Prayer for the First Week

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13
SUNDAY · DOMINGO
12:00 NOON
MEDIODÍA

St. Monica Church
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Between the 11 AM and 1 PM Masses
Entre las Misas de 11 AM y 1 PM

You are invited!

Join us as we walk in procession around **St. Monica Church** to honor **Our Lady of Guadalupe**, Mother of the Americas. Bring your family and flowers!

¡Están invitados!

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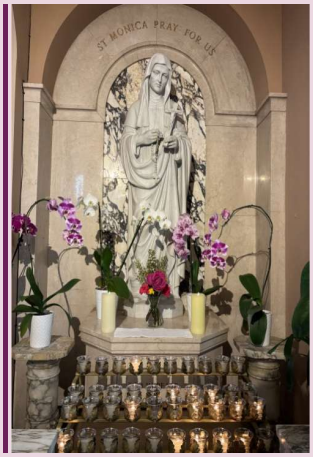
"¿No estoy yo aquí, que soy tu madre?"
¡Viva la Virgen de Guadalupe!

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 help make sandwiches each month, and to those who shop for supplies and deliver to the shelter the next day! Sandwich making is the **3rd Wednesday of every month.**

Next: Wed., Dec. 16 · 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**.

November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

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
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PASTOR'S LETTER



Living Face to Face with God

Fr. Javier Olivera Ravasi

San Francisco, November 29, 2026.
First Sunday of Advent.

Dear brothers and sisters,

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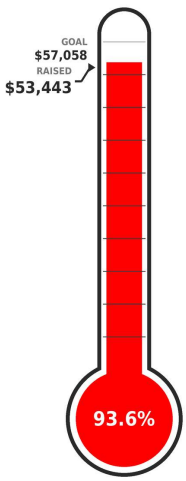

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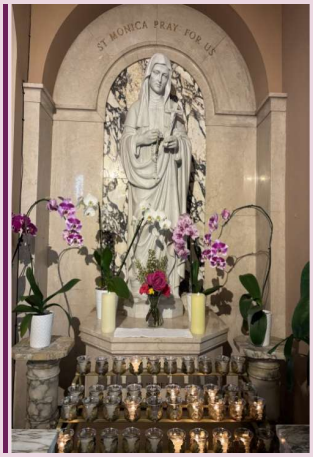
St. Monica Shrine

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!*

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Thank you to all who help make sandwiches each month, and to those who shop for supplies and deliver to the shelter the next day! Sandwich making is the **3rd Wednesday of every month.**

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November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

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Saint Thomas the Apostle
Parish

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Telephone: (415)751-5275
www.smstaparishsf.org
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PASTOR'S LETTER



Living Face to Face with God

Fr. Javier Olivera Ravasi

San Francisco, November 29, 2026.
First Sunday of Advent.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Today we begin Advent and, with it, a new liturgical year. The Church, like a good Mother, wakes us up with a word that the Lord repeats again and again in today's Gospel: "Watch!"

Jesus tells us the story of a man who goes on a journey. He leaves his house in the care of his servants, gives each one his work, and orders the gatekeeper to stay awake. For they do not know when the master of the house will return: in the evening, at midnight, at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find us sleeping.





That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

1. Living face to face with God means knowing that He sees us

The one who lives face to face with God knows that everything he does, he does in His presence: at Mass, yes, but also at work, at home, with his phone in his hand, when no one is watching. The Lord said it clearly: your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you (Mt 6:4).

In today's Psalm we ask the Lord to show us His face, so that we may be saved. A Christian is someone who lives seeking the face of God.

That is why, in this Holy Mass, as you can see, the priest and you are all facing the same direction: toward Him, to whom the Holy Sacrifice is offered. The priest is not turning his back on you; we are all walking together, as one people on pilgrimage, looking toward the Lord who comes.

But what matters most, dear brothers and sisters, is not only where we look during Mass, but where we look in life. Because one can pray facing God and then live facing men.

2. The great enemy: human respect

And what makes us live facing men? What the saints called "human respect": the fear of what others will say.

It is that fear of looking bad, of seeming old-fashioned, fanatical, or "too Catholic," that leads us to keep silent when we should speak, or to stop doing good so as not to draw attention.

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Today Saint Paul reminded us that God is faithful, and that He has called us into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord (1 Cor 1:9). God is faithful… The question is whether we will be faithful to Him, even when it costs us.

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Let us ask for this grace from the Blessed Virgin Mary, who lived face to face with God better than anyone, who said "Behold the handmaid of the Lord" without caring what others might think: may she help us, this Advent, to wait for her Son wide awake, without fear of what people will say, and with our eyes fixed on Him. Amen.

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Parochial Administrator
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Sunday Gospel: *Mk. 13:33-37*

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Begins **Dec. 12, 2026**, Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Sign up free: **sempervirgo.org**

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"The confession of evil works is the beginning of good works."
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Do not let Christmas find your soul unready.

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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

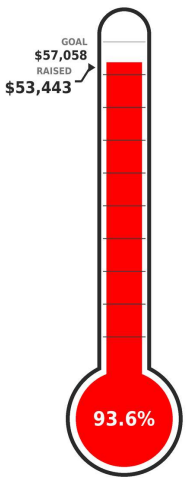
Give online, set up **recurring giving**, or remember the parish in your **will or estate**. Thank you!

Scan to give online ►

Archdiocese Annual Appeal

PARISH GOAL	RAISED SO FAR	STILL NEEDED
$57,058	$53,443	$3,615

Help us reach our goal! Only 5 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.

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

Archdiocesan Annual Appeal 2026 Goal: $6,450,000

Star of the Sea & Stella Maris Academy

4420 Geary Blvd SF CA 94118

St Nicholas

CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE

Handmade Gifts! Made by 14 artisans.

DECEMBER 2026

AUDITORIUM

Friday 4, 2pm-7pm
Saturday 5, 9am-6pm
Sunday 6, 9am-2pm



Enjoy Hot Chocolate & Pastries While You Shop!



November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

ST. MONICA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH

Christmas Poinsettias



Please use this envelope
Use este sobre

As we prepare to celebrate the **Birth of Our Lord**, we wish to adorn the altars of St. Monica and St. Thomas the Apostle with **poinsettias for Christmas**.

To cover their cost, we kindly ask for your help through a **special collection this Sunday**.

Every gift, large or small, helps make our churches beautiful for the Christ Child.

Poinsettia Collection this Sunday

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

The Advent Wreath

The evergreen circle stands for the eternity of God, who has no beginning and no end. The **three violet candles** stand for penance and watchful prayer; the **rose candle**, lit on Gaudete Sunday, for the joy of Christ's nearness. Light one more candle each week as Christmas draws near.

Prayer for the First Week

Stir up Thy power, we beseech Thee, O Lord, and come: that from the threatening dangers of our sins we may deserve to be rescued by Thy protection, and to be saved by Thy deliverance. Who livest and reignest for ever and ever. Amen.

Sunday Collection

Collection	St. Monica	St. Thomas
Sunday (English)	$1,531.00	$1,137.00
Vietnamese	—	$514.00

ST. MONICA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH

Procession in Honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Procesión en honor a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe





DECEMBER · DICIEMBRE
13
SUNDAY · DOMINGO
12:00 NOON
MEDIODÍA

St. Monica Church
470 24th Ave., San Francisco

Between the 11 AM and 1 PM Masses
Entre las Misas de 11 AM y 1 PM

You are invited!

Join us as we walk in procession around **St. Monica Church** to honor **Our Lady of Guadalupe**, Mother of the Americas. Bring your family and flowers!

¡Están invitados!

Acompáñenos en procesión alrededor de la **iglesia Santa Mónica** para honrar a **Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe**, Madre de las Américas. ¡Traiga a su familia y flores!

"¿No estoy yo aquí, que soy tu madre?"
¡Viva la Virgen de Guadalupe!

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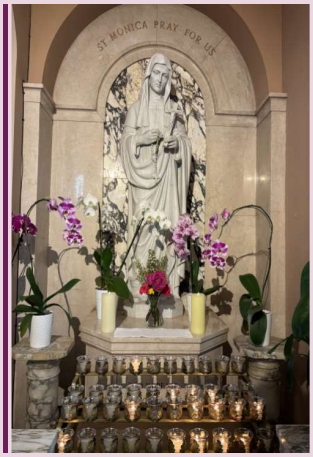

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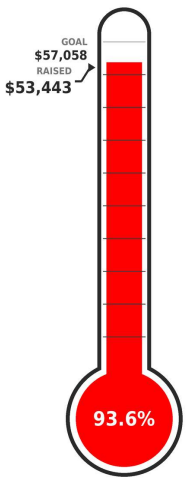

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St Nicholas

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DECEMBER 2026

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November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

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Every gift, large or small, helps make our churches beautiful for the Christ Child.

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Between the 11 AM and 1 PM Masses
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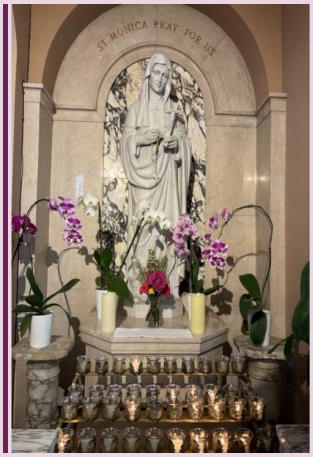

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Saint Thomas the Apostle
Parish

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www.smstaparishsf.org
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That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

1. Living face to face with God means knowing that He sees us

The one who lives face to face with God knows that everything he does, he does in His presence: at Mass, yes, but also at work, at home, with his phone in his hand, when no one is watching. The Lord said it clearly: your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you (Mt 6:4).

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But what matters most, dear brothers and sisters, is not only where we look during Mass, but where we look in life. Because one can pray facing God and then live facing men.

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Today Saint Paul reminded us that God is faithful, and that He has called us into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord (1 Cor 1:9). God is faithful… The question is whether we will be faithful to Him, even when it costs us.

On the day the Master of the house returns, He will not ask us what others said about us, but what we did with Him.

Let us ask for this grace from the Blessed Virgin Mary, who lived face to face with God better than anyone, who said "Behold the handmaid of the Lord" without caring what others might think: may she help us, this Advent, to wait for her Son wide awake, without fear of what people will say, and with our eyes fixed on Him. Amen.

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Parochial Administrator
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Sunday Gospel: *Mk. 13:33-37*

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Make a Good Confession

Prepare ye the way of the Lord!

Confessions at St. Monica
Mon–Fri: before and after Mass
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Why go to Confession? Mortal sin robs the soul of sanctifying grace. In His mercy Christ gave His Church the Sacrament of Penance to restore it. The Fathers of the Church call it "the second plank [of salvation] after the shipwreck which is the loss of grace." *(CCC 1446)*

Even our daily faults are worth confessing. Holy Mother Church strongly recommends it, for regular Confession "helps us form our conscience, fight against evil tendencies, let ourselves be healed by Christ and progress in the life of the Spirit." *(CCC 1458)*

"The confession of evil works is the beginning of good works."
— St. Augustine

Do not let Christmas find your soul unready.

Mass Intentions

	St. Monica		St. Thomas the Apostle	
Sunday 11/29	11:00am 1:00pm	Betty & Morelia Bermejo † Gilda Maria Mangana † Int. for the Parishioners	9:30am	Adelaida Maximo Iglesias †
Monday 11/30	8:00am	Ann Yan Lam-Lau	8:30am	Robert Anselmo Han †
Tuesday 12/01	8:00am	Rene Revel †		No Mass
Wednesday 12/02	8:00am	Mercedes Yazdini, Birthday	8:30am	Veronico Flores Fabular †
Thursday 12/03	8:00am	Lucio Aguirre †		No Mass
Friday 12/04	8:00am	Francisco Matturano-Gomez †	8:30am	Int. of the People of the Parish
Saturday 12/05	5:00pm	Santiago & Enelia Pacheco †	8:30am	Int. of the People of the Parish

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

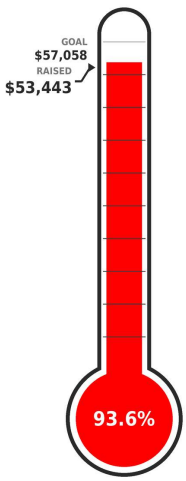
Give online, set up **recurring giving**, or remember the parish in your **will or estate**. Thank you!

Scan to give online ►

Archdiocese Annual Appeal

PARISH GOAL	RAISED SO FAR	STILL NEEDED
$57,058	$53,443	$3,615

Help us reach our goal! Only 5 weeks left this year.



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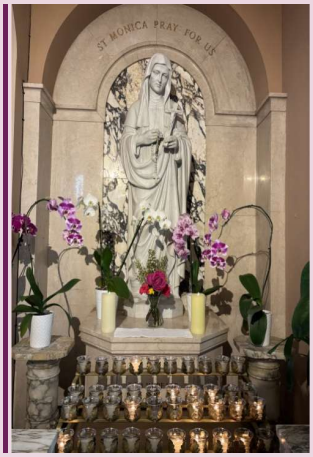

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It takes two minutes!

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Archdiocese Annual Appeal

PARISH GOAL	RAISED SO FAR	STILL NEEDED
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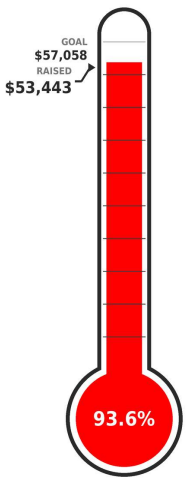
Help us reach our goal! Only 5 weeks left this year.



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November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

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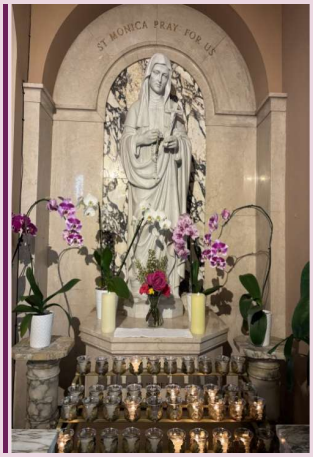

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That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

1. Living face to face with God means knowing that He sees us

The one who lives face to face with God knows that everything he does, he does in His presence: at Mass, yes, but also at work, at home, with his phone in his hand, when no one is watching. The Lord said it clearly: your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you (Mt 6:4).

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But what matters most, dear brothers and sisters, is not only where we look during Mass, but where we look in life. Because one can pray facing God and then live facing men.

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And what makes us live facing men? What the saints called "human respect": the fear of what others will say.

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"¡Viva Cristo Rey!" rather than deny his faith to please his executioners. He lived, and he died, face to face with God.

Thanks be to God, we are not asked for that much. But we are asked for a few concrete things this Advent:

- An examination of conscience every night, asking ourselves: today, did I live facing God, or facing others?
- A good confession before Christmas.
- One small act of Christian courage each week: making the Sign of the Cross in public, praying before meals, defending the Church when she is attacked, inviting someone to Mass.

No one becomes brave all at once; courage, too, must be trained.

✠ ✠ ✠

Today Saint Paul reminded us that God is faithful, and that He has called us into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord (1 Cor 1:9). God is faithful… The question is whether we will be faithful to Him, even when it costs us.

On the day the Master of the house returns, He will not ask us what others said about us, but what we did with Him.

Let us ask for this grace from the Blessed Virgin Mary, who lived face to face with God better than anyone, who said "Behold the handmaid of the Lord" without caring what others might think: may she help us, this Advent, to wait for her Son wide awake, without fear of what people will say, and with our eyes fixed on Him. Amen.

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

Sunday Gospel: *Mk. 13:33-37*

Jesus said to his disciples: "Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come. It is like a man traveling abroad. He leaves home and places his servants in charge, each with his own work, and orders the gatekeeper to be on the watch. Watch, therefore; you do not know when the lord of the house is coming, whether in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to all: 'Watch!'"

Our Lord gives no date because He wants us ready at every hour. The servant who is "sleeping" is the soul in mortal sin. To the world he may look perfectly well, but in the eyes of God his soul is dead. As the month of the Holy Souls comes to a close, we are reminded that death comes when no man expects it, and whatever state it finds us in is the state we keep for all eternity. That is why Holy Mother Church gives us Advent as a season of penance. Do not wait for a more convenient time. Let us each prepare as well as we can by making a good Confession during this holy season, so that whenever the Master comes, He may find us awake.

Semper Virgo

A Marian Pilgrimage to Guadalupe 2031

Cardinal Burke invites the faithful to a **daily Marian devotion** preparing for the 500th anniversary of Our Lady of Guadalupe in 2031. Each morning, receive a short meditation on the Mother of God.

Begins **Dec. 12, 2026**, Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Sign up free: **sempervirgo.org**

Liturgical Calendar	
Sun 11/29	First Sunday of Advent
Mon 11/30	St. Andrew, Apostle
Tues 12/1	Advent Weekday
Wed 12/2	Advent Weekday
Thurs 12/3	St. Francis Xavier
Fri 12/4	Advent Weekday · St. John Damascene
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Make a Good Confession

Prepare ye the way of the Lord!

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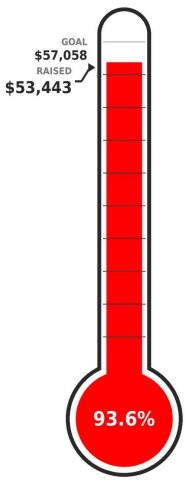

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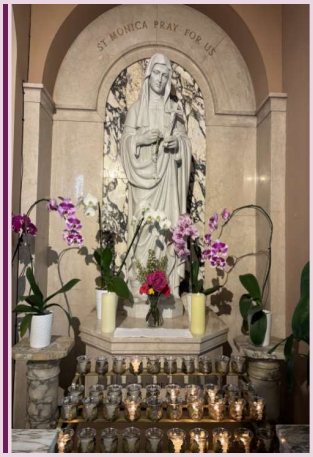

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Sign up free: **sempervirgo.org**

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It takes two minutes!

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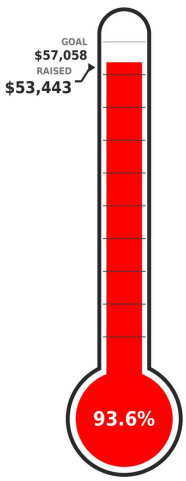
Help us reach our goal! Only 5 weeks left this year.



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The evergreen circle stands for the eternity of God, who has no beginning and no end. The **three violet candles** stand for penance and watchful prayer; the **rose candle**, lit on Gaudete Sunday, for the joy of Christ's nearness. Light one more candle each week as Christmas draws near.

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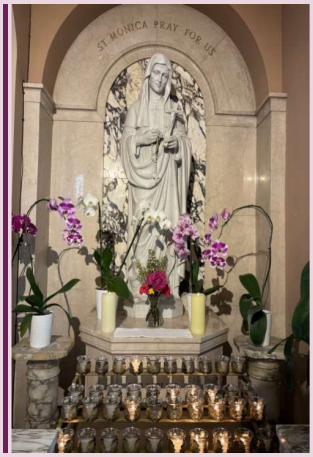

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PASTOR'S LETTER



Living Face to Face with God

Fr. Javier Olivera Ravasi

San Francisco, November 29, 2026.
First Sunday of Advent.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Today we begin Advent and, with it, a new liturgical year. The Church, like a good Mother, wakes us up with a word that the Lord repeats again and again in today's Gospel: "Watch!"

Jesus tells us the story of a man who goes on a journey. He leaves his house in the care of his servants, gives each one his work, and orders the gatekeeper to stay awake. For they do not know when the master of the house will return: in the evening, at midnight, at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find us sleeping.





That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

1. Living face to face with God means knowing that He sees us

The one who lives face to face with God knows that everything he does, he does in His presence: at Mass, yes, but also at work, at home, with his phone in his hand, when no one is watching. The Lord said it clearly: your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you (Mt 6:4).

In today's Psalm we ask the Lord to show us His face, so that we may be saved. A Christian is someone who lives seeking the face of God.

That is why, in this Holy Mass, as you can see, the priest and you are all facing the same direction: toward Him, to whom the Holy Sacrifice is offered. The priest is not turning his back on you; we are all walking together, as one people on pilgrimage, looking toward the Lord who comes.

But what matters most, dear brothers and sisters, is not only where we look during Mass, but where we look in life. Because one can pray facing God and then live facing men.

2. The great enemy: human respect

And what makes us live facing men? What the saints called "human respect": the fear of what others will say.

It is that fear of looking bad, of seeming old-fashioned, fanatical, or "too Catholic," that leads us to keep silent when we should speak, or to stop doing good so as not to draw attention.

Let us take some simple examples:

- The one who does not make the Sign of the Cross before eating in a restaurant, out of embarrassment.
- The one who hears jokes about the Church at work or at school and says nothing.
- The father who does not pray with his children so as not to seem "excessive."
- The young person who never mentions going to Mass on Sundays, so as not to be the odd one out.
- Or the one who keeps quiet about the truth on life, family, or marriage, because "you can't say that anymore."

And so, little by little, one ends up living face to face with men and with one's back turned to God.

Saint Paul put it bluntly: if I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ (Gal 1:10). And the Lord Himself warned that whoever is ashamed of Him before this generation, of that one He too will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father (Mk 8:38).

Notice: "when He comes." Advent again.

Human respect is, in the end, a way of falling asleep: it is like the gatekeeper who, instead of watching the door through which his master will come, spends the whole night worrying about what the neighbors think.

3. How can we live face to face with God this Advent?

The Cristero martyrs of Mexico had no human respect. Saint José Sánchez del Río, only fourteen years old, chose to die crying out

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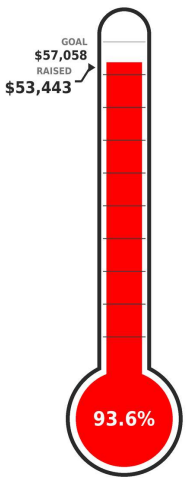

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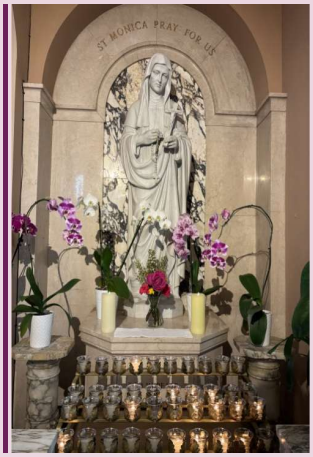

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PASTOR'S LETTER



Living Face to Face with God

Fr. Javier Olivera Ravasi

San Francisco, November 29, 2026.
First Sunday of Advent.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Today we begin Advent and, with it, a new liturgical year. The Church, like a good Mother, wakes us up with a word that the Lord repeats again and again in today's Gospel: "Watch!"

Jesus tells us the story of a man who goes on a journey. He leaves his house in the care of his servants, gives each one his work, and orders the gatekeeper to stay awake. For they do not know when the master of the house will return: in the evening, at midnight, at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find us sleeping.





That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

1. Living face to face with God means knowing that He sees us

The one who lives face to face with God knows that everything he does, he does in His presence: at Mass, yes, but also at work, at home, with his phone in his hand, when no one is watching. The Lord said it clearly: your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you (Mt 6:4).

In today's Psalm we ask the Lord to show us His face, so that we may be saved. A Christian is someone who lives seeking the face of God.

That is why, in this Holy Mass, as you can see, the priest and you are all facing the same direction: toward Him, to whom the Holy Sacrifice is offered. The priest is not turning his back on you; we are all walking together, as one people on pilgrimage, looking toward the Lord who comes.

But what matters most, dear brothers and sisters, is not only where we look during Mass, but where we look in life. Because one can pray facing God and then live facing men.

2. The great enemy: human respect

And what makes us live facing men? What the saints called "human respect": the fear of what others will say.

It is that fear of looking bad, of seeming old-fashioned, fanatical, or "too Catholic," that leads us to keep silent when we should speak, or to stop doing good so as not to draw attention.

Let us take some simple examples:

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And so, little by little, one ends up living face to face with men and with one's back turned to God.

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On the day the Master of the house returns, He will not ask us what others said about us, but what we did with Him.

Let us ask for this grace from the Blessed Virgin Mary, who lived face to face with God better than anyone, who said "Behold the handmaid of the Lord" without caring what others might think: may she help us, this Advent, to wait for her Son wide awake, without fear of what people will say, and with our eyes fixed on Him. Amen.

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Sunday Gospel: *Mk. 13:33-37*

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Sign up free: **sempervirgo.org**

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PRAY · FRIDAY ADORATION

Adorers Needed

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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

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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

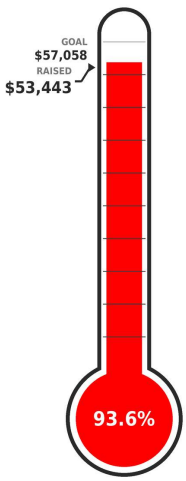
Give online, set up **recurring giving**, or remember the parish in your **will or estate**. Thank you!

Scan to give online ►

Archdiocese Annual Appeal

PARISH GOAL	RAISED SO FAR	STILL NEEDED
$57,058	$53,443	$3,615

Help us reach our goal! Only 5 weeks left this year.



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Star of the Sea & Stella Maris Academy

4420 Geary Blvd SF CA 94118

St Nicholas

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DECEMBER 2026

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Enjoy Hot Chocolate & Pastries While You Shop!



November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

ST. MONICA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH

Christmas Poinsettias



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Use este sobre

As we prepare to celebrate the **Birth of Our Lord**, we wish to adorn the altars of St. Monica and St. Thomas the Apostle with **poinsettias for Christmas**.

To cover their cost, we kindly ask for your help through a **special collection this Sunday**.

Every gift, large or small, helps make our churches beautiful for the Christ Child.

Poinsettia Collection this Sunday

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

The Advent Wreath

The evergreen circle stands for the eternity of God, who has no beginning and no end. The **three violet candles** stand for penance and watchful prayer; the **rose candle**, lit on Gaudete Sunday, for the joy of Christ's nearness. Light one more candle each week as Christmas draws near.

Prayer for the First Week

Stir up Thy power, we beseech Thee, O Lord, and come: that from the threatening dangers of our sins we may deserve to be rescued by Thy protection, and to be saved by Thy deliverance. Who livest and reignest for ever and ever. Amen.

Sunday Collection

Collection	St. Monica	St. Thomas
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Procession in Honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Procesión en honor a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe





DECEMBER · DICIEMBRE
13
SUNDAY · DOMINGO
12:00 NOON
MEDIODÍA

St. Monica Church
470 24th Ave., San Francisco

Between the 11 AM and 1 PM Masses
Entre las Misas de 11 AM y 1 PM

You are invited!

Join us as we walk in procession around **St. Monica Church** to honor **Our Lady of Guadalupe**, Mother of the Americas. Bring your family and flowers!

¡Están invitados!

Acompáñenos en procesión alrededor de la **iglesia Santa Mónica** para honrar a **Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe**, Madre de las Américas. ¡Traiga a su familia y flores!

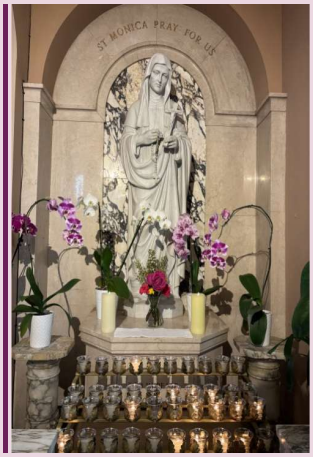
"¿No estoy yo aquí, que soy tu madre?"
¡Viva la Virgen de Guadalupe!

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 help make sandwiches each month, and to those who shop for supplies and deliver to the shelter the next day! Sandwich making is the **3rd Wednesday of every month.**

Next: Wed., Dec. 16 · 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**.

November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

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

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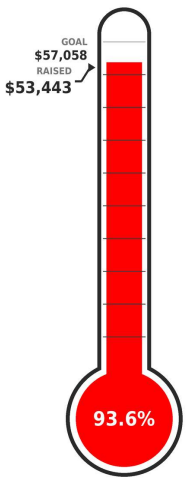

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Between the 11 AM and 1 PM Masses
Entre las Misas de 11 AM y 1 PM

You are invited!

Join us as we walk in procession around **St. Monica Church** to honor **Our Lady of Guadalupe**, Mother of the Americas. Bring your family and flowers!

¡Están invitados!

Acompáñenos en procesión alrededor de la **iglesia Santa Mónica** para honrar a **Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe**, Madre de las Américas. ¡Traiga a su familia y flores!

"¿No estoy yo aquí, que soy tu madre?"
¡Viva la Virgen de Guadalupe!

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.

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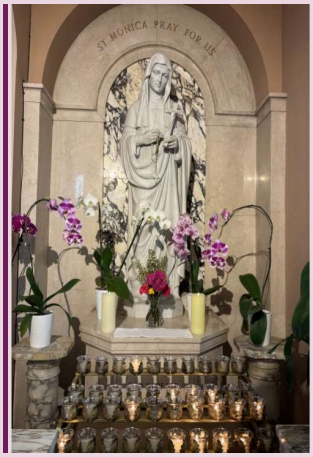

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November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

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Saint Thomas the Apostle
Parish

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PASTOR'S LETTER



Living Face to Face with God

Fr. Javier Olivera Ravasi

San Francisco, November 29, 2026.
First Sunday of Advent.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Today we begin Advent and, with it, a new liturgical year. The Church, like a good Mother, wakes us up with a word that the Lord repeats again and again in today's Gospel: "Watch!"

Jesus tells us the story of a man who goes on a journey. He leaves his house in the care of his servants, gives each one his work, and orders the gatekeeper to stay awake. For they do not know when the master of the house will return: in the evening, at midnight, at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find us sleeping.





That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

1. Living face to face with God means knowing that He sees us

The one who lives face to face with God knows that everything he does, he does in His presence: at Mass, yes, but also at work, at home, with his phone in his hand, when no one is watching. The Lord said it clearly: your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you (Mt 6:4).

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But what matters most, dear brothers and sisters, is not only where we look during Mass, but where we look in life. Because one can pray facing God and then live facing men.

2. The great enemy: human respect

And what makes us live facing men? What the saints called "human respect": the fear of what others will say.

It is that fear of looking bad, of seeming old-fashioned, fanatical, or "too Catholic," that leads us to keep silent when we should speak, or to stop doing good so as not to draw attention.

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Let us ask for this grace from the Blessed Virgin Mary, who lived face to face with God better than anyone, who said "Behold the handmaid of the Lord" without caring what others might think: may she help us, this Advent, to wait for her Son wide awake, without fear of what people will say, and with our eyes fixed on Him. Amen.

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Parochial Administrator
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Sunday Gospel: *Mk. 13:33-37*

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Sign up free: **sempervirgo.org**

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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

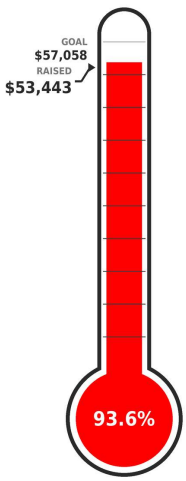
Give online, set up **recurring giving**, or remember the parish in your **will or estate**. Thank you!

Scan to give online ►

Archdiocese Annual Appeal

PARISH GOAL	RAISED SO FAR	STILL NEEDED
$57,058	$53,443	$3,615

Help us reach our goal! Only 5 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.

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

Archdiocesan Annual Appeal 2026 Goal: $6,450,000

Star of the Sea & Stella Maris Academy

4420 Geary Blvd SF CA 94118

St Nicholas

CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE

Handmade Gifts! Made by 14 artisans.

DECEMBER 2026

AUDITORIUM

Friday 4, 2pm-7pm
Saturday 5, 9am-6pm
Sunday 6, 9am-2pm



Enjoy Hot Chocolate & Pastries While You Shop!



November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

ST. MONICA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH

Christmas Poinsettias



Please use this envelope
Use este sobre

As we prepare to celebrate the **Birth of Our Lord**, we wish to adorn the altars of St. Monica and St. Thomas the Apostle with **poinsettias for Christmas**.

To cover their cost, we kindly ask for your help through a **special collection this Sunday**.

Every gift, large or small, helps make our churches beautiful for the Christ Child.

Poinsettia Collection this Sunday

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

The Advent Wreath

The evergreen circle stands for the eternity of God, who has no beginning and no end. The **three violet candles** stand for penance and watchful prayer; the **rose candle**, lit on Gaudete Sunday, for the joy of Christ's nearness. Light one more candle each week as Christmas draws near.

Prayer for the First Week

Stir up Thy power, we beseech Thee, O Lord, and come: that from the threatening dangers of our sins we may deserve to be rescued by Thy protection, and to be saved by Thy deliverance. Who livest and reignest for ever and ever. Amen.

Sunday Collection

Collection	St. Monica	St. Thomas
Sunday (English)	$1,531.00	$1,137.00
Vietnamese	—	$514.00

ST. MONICA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH

Procession in Honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Procesión en honor a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe





DECEMBER · DICIEMBRE
13
SUNDAY · DOMINGO
12:00 NOON
MEDIODÍA

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470 24th Ave., San Francisco

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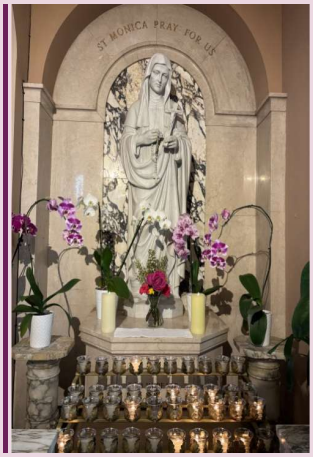

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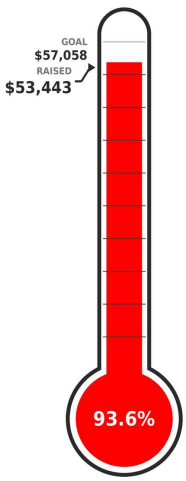
Help us reach our goal! Only 5 weeks left this year.



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St Nicholas

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November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

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Every gift, large or small, helps make our churches beautiful for the Christ Child.

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The evergreen circle stands for the eternity of God, who has no beginning and no end. The **three violet candles** stand for penance and watchful prayer; the **rose candle**, lit on Gaudete Sunday, for the joy of Christ's nearness. Light one more candle each week as Christmas draws near.

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Between the 11 AM and 1 PM Masses
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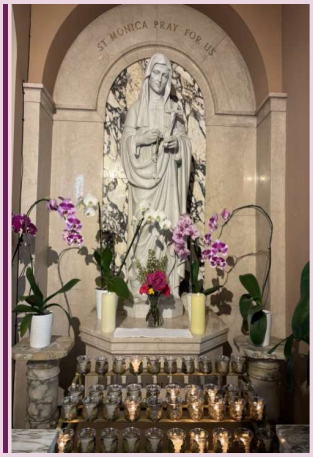

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Saint Thomas the Apostle
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PASTOR'S LETTER



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That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

1. Living face to face with God means knowing that He sees us

The one who lives face to face with God knows that everything he does, he does in His presence: at Mass, yes, but also at work, at home, with his phone in his hand, when no one is watching. The Lord said it clearly: your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you (Mt 6:4).

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Let us ask for this grace from the Blessed Virgin Mary, who lived face to face with God better than anyone, who said "Behold the handmaid of the Lord" without caring what others might think: may she help us, this Advent, to wait for her Son wide awake, without fear of what people will say, and with our eyes fixed on Him. Amen.

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Sign up free: **sempervirgo.org**

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Wed 12/2	Advent Weekday
Thurs 12/3	St. Francis Xavier
Fri 12/4	Advent Weekday · St. John Damascene
Sat 12/5	Advent Weekday

Make a Good Confession

Prepare ye the way of the Lord!

Confessions at St. Monica
Mon–Fri: before and after Mass
Saturday: 4:20 PM · Sunday: after Mass

Why go to Confession? Mortal sin robs the soul of sanctifying grace. In His mercy Christ gave His Church the Sacrament of Penance to restore it. The Fathers of the Church call it "the second plank [of salvation] after the shipwreck which is the loss of grace." *(CCC 1446)*

Even our daily faults are worth confessing. Holy Mother Church strongly recommends it, for regular Confession "helps us form our conscience, fight against evil tendencies, let ourselves be healed by Christ and progress in the life of the Spirit." *(CCC 1458)*

"The confession of evil works is the beginning of good works."
— St. Augustine

Do not let Christmas find your soul unready.

Mass Intentions

	St. Monica		St. Thomas the Apostle	
Sunday 11/29	11:00am 1:00pm	Betty & Morelia Bermejo † Gilda Maria Mangana † Int. for the Parishioners	9:30am	Adelaida Maximo Iglesias †
Monday 11/30	8:00am	Ann Yan Lam-Lau	8:30am	Robert Anselmo Han †
Tuesday 12/01	8:00am	Rene Revel †		No Mass
Wednesday 12/02	8:00am	Mercedes Yazdini, Birthday	8:30am	Veronico Flores Fabular †
Thursday 12/03	8:00am	Lucio Aguirre †		No Mass
Friday 12/04	8:00am	Francisco Matturano-Gomez †	8:30am	Int. of the People of the Parish
Saturday 12/05	5:00pm	Santiago & Enelia Pacheco †	8:30am	Int. of the People of the Parish

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

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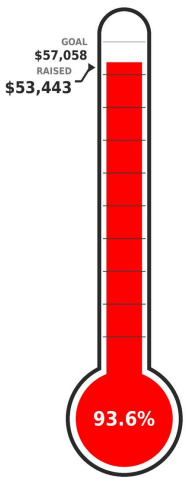

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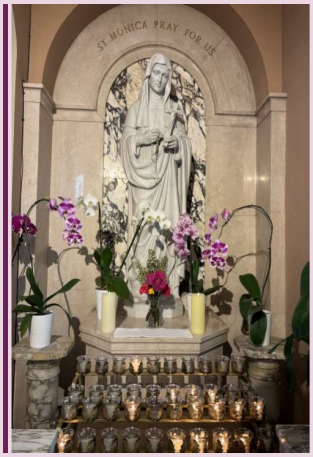

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Tues 12/1	Advent Weekday
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Registering helps us know and serve your family.
It takes two minutes!

Scan to join our parish ►

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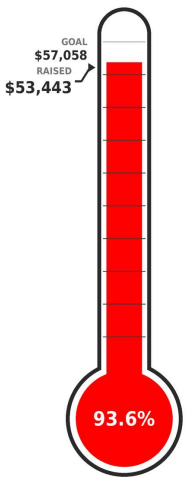
Archdiocese Annual Appeal

PARISH GOAL	RAISED SO FAR	STILL NEEDED
$57,058	$53,443	$3,615

Help us reach our goal! Only 5 weeks left this year.



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November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

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To cover their cost, we kindly ask for your help through a **special collection this Sunday**.

Every gift, large or small, helps make our churches beautiful for the Christ Child.

Poinsettia Collection this Sunday

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

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The evergreen circle stands for the eternity of God, who has no beginning and no end. The **three violet candles** stand for penance and watchful prayer; the **rose candle**, lit on Gaudete Sunday, for the joy of Christ's nearness. Light one more candle each week as Christmas draws near.

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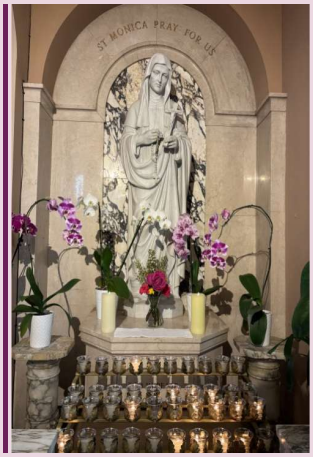

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Clergy	Staff
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PASTOR'S LETTER



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Fr. Javier Olivera Ravasi

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Jesus tells us the story of a man who goes on a journey. He leaves his house in the care of his servants, gives each one his work, and orders the gatekeeper to stay awake. For they do not know when the master of the house will return: in the evening, at midnight, at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find us sleeping.





That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

1. Living face to face with God means knowing that He sees us

The one who lives face to face with God knows that everything he does, he does in His presence: at Mass, yes, but also at work, at home, with his phone in his hand, when no one is watching. The Lord said it clearly: your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you (Mt 6:4).

In today's Psalm we ask the Lord to show us His face, so that we may be saved. A Christian is someone who lives seeking the face of God.

That is why, in this Holy Mass, as you can see, the priest and you are all facing the same direction: toward Him, to whom the Holy Sacrifice is offered. The priest is not turning his back on you; we are all walking together, as one people on pilgrimage, looking toward the Lord who comes.

But what matters most, dear brothers and sisters, is not only where we look during Mass, but where we look in life. Because one can pray facing God and then live facing men.

2. The great enemy: human respect

And what makes us live facing men? What the saints called "human respect": the fear of what others will say.

It is that fear of looking bad, of seeming old-fashioned, fanatical, or "too Catholic," that leads us to keep silent when we should speak, or to stop doing good so as not to draw attention.

Let us take some simple examples:

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And so, little by little, one ends up living face to face with men and with one's back turned to God.

Saint Paul put it bluntly: if I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ (Gal 1:10). And the Lord Himself warned that whoever is ashamed of Him before this generation, of that one He too will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father (Mk 8:38).

Notice: "when He comes." Advent again.

Human respect is, in the end, a way of falling asleep: it is like the gatekeeper who, instead of watching the door through which his master will come, spends the whole night worrying about what the neighbors think.

3. How can we live face to face with God this Advent?

The Cristero martyrs of Mexico had no human respect. Saint José Sánchez del Río, only fourteen years old, chose to die crying out

November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

"¡Viva Cristo Rey!" rather than deny his faith to please his executioners. He lived, and he died, face to face with God.

Thanks be to God, we are not asked for that much. But we are asked for a few concrete things this Advent:

- An examination of conscience every night, asking ourselves: today, did I live facing God, or facing others?
- A good confession before Christmas.
- One small act of Christian courage each week: making the Sign of the Cross in public, praying before meals, defending the Church when she is attacked, inviting someone to Mass.

No one becomes brave all at once; courage, too, must be trained.

✠ ✠ ✠

Today Saint Paul reminded us that God is faithful, and that He has called us into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord (1 Cor 1:9). God is faithful… The question is whether we will be faithful to Him, even when it costs us.

On the day the Master of the house returns, He will not ask us what others said about us, but what we did with Him.

Let us ask for this grace from the Blessed Virgin Mary, who lived face to face with God better than anyone, who said "Behold the handmaid of the Lord" without caring what others might think: may she help us, this Advent, to wait for her Son wide awake, without fear of what people will say, and with our eyes fixed on Him. Amen.

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

Sunday Gospel: *Mk. 13:33-37*

Jesus said to his disciples: "Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come. It is like a man traveling abroad. He leaves home and places his servants in charge, each with his own work, and orders the gatekeeper to be on the watch. Watch, therefore; you do not know when the lord of the house is coming, whether in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to all: 'Watch!'"

Our Lord gives no date because He wants us ready at every hour. The servant who is "sleeping" is the soul in mortal sin. To the world he may look perfectly well, but in the eyes of God his soul is dead. As the month of the Holy Souls comes to a close, we are reminded that death comes when no man expects it, and whatever state it finds us in is the state we keep for all eternity. That is why Holy Mother Church gives us Advent as a season of penance. Do not wait for a more convenient time. Let us each prepare as well as we can by making a good Confession during this holy season, so that whenever the Master comes, He may find us awake.

Semper Virgo

A Marian Pilgrimage to Guadalupe 2031

Cardinal Burke invites the faithful to a **daily Marian devotion** preparing for the 500th anniversary of Our Lady of Guadalupe in 2031. Each morning, receive a short meditation on the Mother of God.

Begins **Dec. 12, 2026**, Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Sign up free: **sempervirgo.org**

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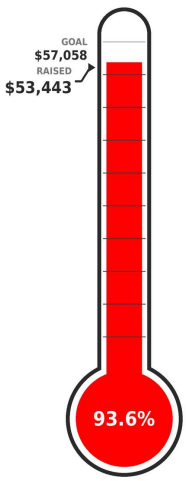

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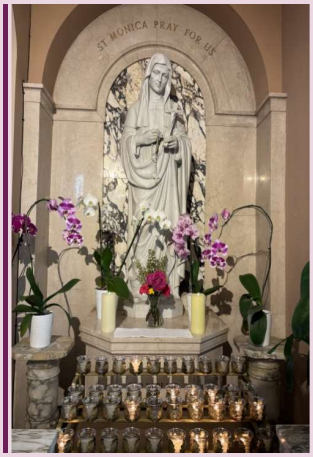

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November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

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Sign up free: **sempervirgo.org**

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

Scan to join our parish ►

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

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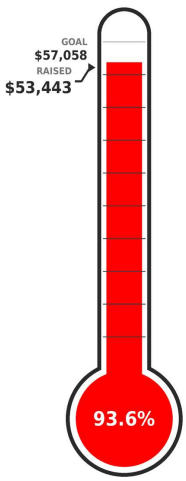
Archdiocese Annual Appeal

PARISH GOAL	RAISED SO FAR	STILL NEEDED
$57,058	$53,443	$3,615

Help us reach our goal! Only 5 weeks left this year.



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Star of the Sea & Stella Maris Academy

4420 Geary Blvd SF CA 94118

St Nicholas

CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE

Handmade Gifts! Made by 14 artisans.

DECEMBER 2026

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Enjoy Hot Chocolate & Pastries While You Shop!



November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

ST. MONICA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH

Christmas Poinsettias



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Use este sobre

As we prepare to celebrate the **Birth of Our Lord**, we wish to adorn the altars of St. Monica and St. Thomas the Apostle with **poinsettias for Christmas**.

To cover their cost, we kindly ask for your help through a **special collection this Sunday**.

Every gift, large or small, helps make our churches beautiful for the Christ Child.

Poinsettia Collection this Sunday

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

The Advent Wreath

The evergreen circle stands for the eternity of God, who has no beginning and no end. The **three violet candles** stand for penance and watchful prayer; the **rose candle**, lit on Gaudete Sunday, for the joy of Christ's nearness. Light one more candle each week as Christmas draws near.

Prayer for the First Week

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Procesión en honor a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe





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St. Monica Church
470 24th Ave., San Francisco

Between the 11 AM and 1 PM Masses
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You are invited!

Join us as we walk in procession around **St. Monica Church** to honor **Our Lady of Guadalupe**, Mother of the Americas. Bring your family and flowers!

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"¿No estoy yo aquí, que soy tu madre?"
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Come visit the shrine dedicated to **St. Monica**, patroness of our church, adorned with flowers and a prayer candle rack.

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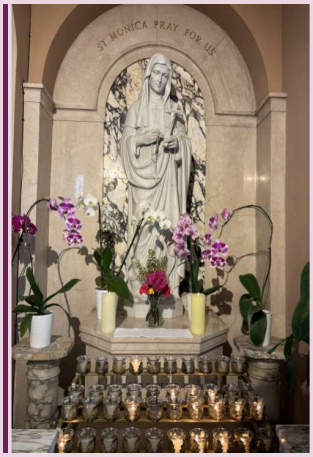

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November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

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Saint Thomas the Apostle
Parish

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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) **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



Living Face to Face with God

Fr. Javier Olivera Ravasi

San Francisco, November 29, 2026.
First Sunday of Advent.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Today we begin Advent and, with it, a new liturgical year. The Church, like a good Mother, wakes us up with a word that the Lord repeats again and again in today's Gospel: "Watch!"

Jesus tells us the story of a man who goes on a journey. He leaves his house in the care of his servants, gives each one his work, and orders the gatekeeper to stay awake. For they do not know when the master of the house will return: in the evening, at midnight, at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find us sleeping.





That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

1. Living face to face with God means knowing that He sees us

The one who lives face to face with God knows that everything he does, he does in His presence: at Mass, yes, but also at work, at home, with his phone in his hand, when no one is watching. The Lord said it clearly: your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you (Mt 6:4).

In today's Psalm we ask the Lord to show us His face, so that we may be saved. A Christian is someone who lives seeking the face of God.

That is why, in this Holy Mass, as you can see, the priest and you are all facing the same direction: toward Him, to whom the Holy Sacrifice is offered. The priest is not turning his back on you; we are all walking together, as one people on pilgrimage, looking toward the Lord who comes.

But what matters most, dear brothers and sisters, is not only where we look during Mass, but where we look in life. Because one can pray facing God and then live facing men.

2. The great enemy: human respect

And what makes us live facing men? What the saints called "human respect": the fear of what others will say.

It is that fear of looking bad, of seeming old-fashioned, fanatical, or "too Catholic," that leads us to keep silent when we should speak, or to stop doing good so as not to draw attention.

Let us take some simple examples:

- The one who does not make the Sign of the Cross before eating in a restaurant, out of embarrassment.
- The one who hears jokes about the Church at work or at school and says nothing.
- The father who does not pray with his children so as not to seem "excessive."
- The young person who never mentions going to Mass on Sundays, so as not to be the odd one out.
- Or the one who keeps quiet about the truth on life, family, or marriage, because "you can't say that anymore."

And so, little by little, one ends up living face to face with men and with one's back turned to God.

Saint Paul put it bluntly: if I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ (Gal 1:10). And the Lord Himself warned that whoever is ashamed of Him before this generation, of that one He too will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father (Mk 8:38).

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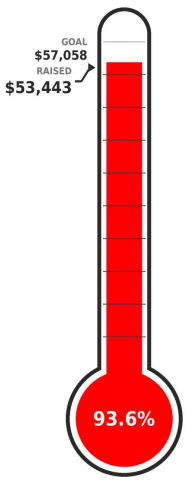

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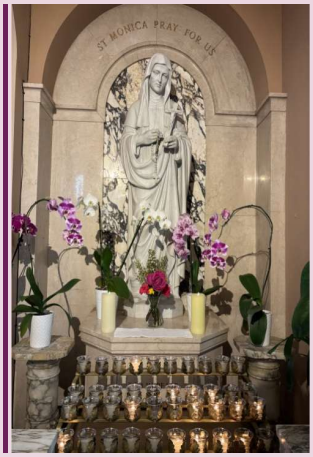

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Clergy	Staff
Rev. Javier O. Ravasi, Parochial Administrator pastor@smstaparishsf.org **In Residence:** **Rev. Paulinus Iwuji, SMMM, Ph.D.** **VA Hospital Chaplain** St. Thomas Apostle Rectory **Rev. Te Van Nguyen** **Vietnamese Ministry** St. Thomas 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

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St. Monica	St. Thomas the Apostle
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PASTOR'S LETTER



Living Face to Face with God

Fr. Javier Olivera Ravasi

San Francisco, November 29, 2026.
First Sunday of Advent.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Today we begin Advent and, with it, a new liturgical year. The Church, like a good Mother, wakes us up with a word that the Lord repeats again and again in today's Gospel: "Watch!"

Jesus tells us the story of a man who goes on a journey. He leaves his house in the care of his servants, gives each one his work, and orders the gatekeeper to stay awake. For they do not know when the master of the house will return: in the evening, at midnight, at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find us sleeping.





That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

1. Living face to face with God means knowing that He sees us

The one who lives face to face with God knows that everything he does, he does in His presence: at Mass, yes, but also at work, at home, with his phone in his hand, when no one is watching. The Lord said it clearly: your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you (Mt 6:4).

In today's Psalm we ask the Lord to show us His face, so that we may be saved. A Christian is someone who lives seeking the face of God.

That is why, in this Holy Mass, as you can see, the priest and you are all facing the same direction: toward Him, to whom the Holy Sacrifice is offered. The priest is not turning his back on you; we are all walking together, as one people on pilgrimage, looking toward the Lord who comes.

But what matters most, dear brothers and sisters, is not only where we look during Mass, but where we look in life. Because one can pray facing God and then live facing men.

2. The great enemy: human respect

And what makes us live facing men? What the saints called "human respect": the fear of what others will say.

It is that fear of looking bad, of seeming old-fashioned, fanatical, or "too Catholic," that leads us to keep silent when we should speak, or to stop doing good so as not to draw attention.

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Today Saint Paul reminded us that God is faithful, and that He has called us into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord (1 Cor 1:9). God is faithful… The question is whether we will be faithful to Him, even when it costs us.

On the day the Master of the house returns, He will not ask us what others said about us, but what we did with Him.

Let us ask for this grace from the Blessed Virgin Mary, who lived face to face with God better than anyone, who said "Behold the handmaid of the Lord" without caring what others might think: may she help us, this Advent, to wait for her Son wide awake, without fear of what people will say, and with our eyes fixed on Him. Amen.

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Begins **Dec. 12, 2026**, Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Sign up free: **sempervirgo.org**

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PRAY · GATHER · BELONG · GIVE

PRAY · FRIDAY ADORATION

Adorers Needed

Fridays 9am – 5pm · Our Lord is waiting for you!



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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

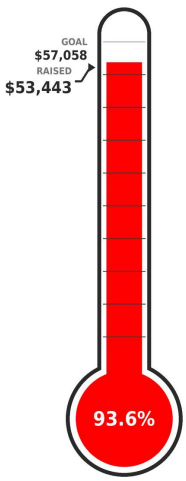
Give online, set up **recurring giving**, or remember the parish in your **will or estate**. Thank you!

Scan to give online ►

Archdiocese Annual Appeal

PARISH GOAL	RAISED SO FAR	STILL NEEDED
$57,058	$53,443	$3,615

Help us reach our goal! Only 5 weeks left this year.



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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/

Archdiocesan Annual Appeal 2026 Goal: $6,450,000

Star of the Sea & Stella Maris Academy

4420 Geary Blvd SF CA 94118

St Nicholas

CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE

Handmade Gifts! Made by 14 artisans.

DECEMBER 2026

AUDITORIUM

Friday 4, 2pm-7pm
Saturday 5, 9am-6pm
Sunday 6, 9am-2pm



Enjoy Hot Chocolate & Pastries While You Shop!



November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

ST. MONICA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH

Christmas Poinsettias



Please use this envelope
Use este sobre

As we prepare to celebrate the **Birth of Our Lord**, we wish to adorn the altars of St. Monica and St. Thomas the Apostle with **poinsettias for Christmas**.

To cover their cost, we kindly ask for your help through a **special collection this Sunday**.

Every gift, large or small, helps make our churches beautiful for the Christ Child.

Poinsettia Collection this Sunday

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

The Advent Wreath

The evergreen circle stands for the eternity of God, who has no beginning and no end. The **three violet candles** stand for penance and watchful prayer; the **rose candle**, lit on Gaudete Sunday, for the joy of Christ's nearness. Light one more candle each week as Christmas draws near.

Prayer for the First Week

Stir up Thy power, we beseech Thee, O Lord, and come: that from the threatening dangers of our sins we may deserve to be rescued by Thy protection, and to be saved by Thy deliverance. Who livest and reignest for ever and ever. Amen.

Sunday Collection

Collection	St. Monica	St. Thomas
Sunday (English)	$1,531.00	$1,137.00
Vietnamese	—	$514.00

ST. MONICA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH

Procession in Honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Procesión en honor a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe





DECEMBER · DICIEMBRE
13
SUNDAY · DOMINGO
12:00 NOON
MEDIODÍA

St. Monica Church
470 24th Ave., San Francisco

Between the 11 AM and 1 PM Masses
Entre las Misas de 11 AM y 1 PM

You are invited!

Join us as we walk in procession around **St. Monica Church** to honor **Our Lady of Guadalupe**, Mother of the Americas. Bring your family and flowers!

¡Están invitados!

Acompáñenos en procesión alrededor de la **iglesia Santa Mónica** para honrar a **Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe**, Madre de las Américas. ¡Traiga a su familia y flores!

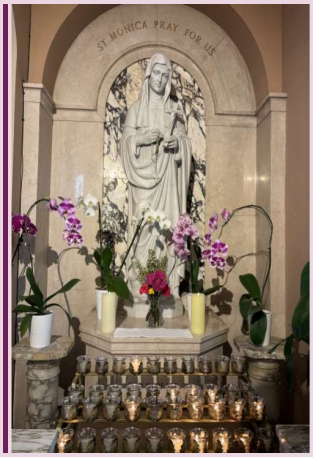
"¿No estoy yo aquí, que soy tu madre?"
¡Viva la Virgen de Guadalupe!

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 help make sandwiches each month, and to those who shop for supplies and deliver to the shelter the next day! Sandwich making is the **3rd Wednesday of every month.**

Next: Wed., Dec. 16 · 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**.

November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

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
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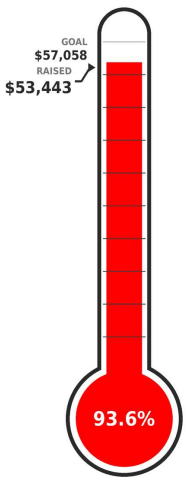

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Sunday Collection

Collection	St. Monica	St. Thomas
Sunday (English)	$1,531.00	$1,137.00
Vietnamese	—	$514.00

ST. MONICA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH

Procession in Honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Procesión en honor a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe





DECEMBER · DICIEMBRE
13
SUNDAY · DOMINGO
12:00 NOON
MEDIODÍA

St. Monica Church
470 24th Ave., San Francisco

Between the 11 AM and 1 PM Masses
Entre las Misas de 11 AM y 1 PM

You are invited!

Join us as we walk in procession around **St. Monica Church** to honor **Our Lady of Guadalupe**, Mother of the Americas. Bring your family and flowers!

¡Están invitados!

Acompáñenos en procesión alrededor de la **iglesia Santa Mónica** para honrar a **Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe**, Madre de las Américas. ¡Traiga a su familia y flores!

"¿No estoy yo aquí, que soy tu madre?"
¡Viva la Virgen de Guadalupe!

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.

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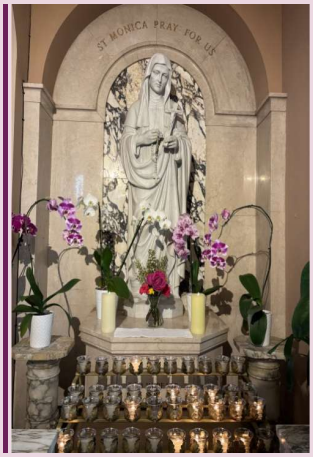

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Thank you, and God bless you!

Sancta Monica, *ora pro nobis!*

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Thank you to all who help make sandwiches each month, and to those who shop for supplies and deliver to the shelter the next day! Sandwich making is the **3rd Wednesday of every month.**

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November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

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Saint Thomas the Apostle
Parish

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www.smstaparishsf.org
Office Hours: Mon-Fri 9am-5:30pm
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Clergy	Staff
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PASTOR'S LETTER



Living Face to Face with God

Fr. Javier Olivera Ravasi

San Francisco, November 29, 2026.
First Sunday of Advent.

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Jesus tells us the story of a man who goes on a journey. He leaves his house in the care of his servants, gives each one his work, and orders the gatekeeper to stay awake. For they do not know when the master of the house will return: in the evening, at midnight, at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find us sleeping.





That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

1. Living face to face with God means knowing that He sees us

The one who lives face to face with God knows that everything he does, he does in His presence: at Mass, yes, but also at work, at home, with his phone in his hand, when no one is watching. The Lord said it clearly: your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you (Mt 6:4).

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That is why, in this Holy Mass, as you can see, the priest and you are all facing the same direction: toward Him, to whom the Holy Sacrifice is offered. The priest is not turning his back on you; we are all walking together, as one people on pilgrimage, looking toward the Lord who comes.

But what matters most, dear brothers and sisters, is not only where we look during Mass, but where we look in life. Because one can pray facing God and then live facing men.

2. The great enemy: human respect

And what makes us live facing men? What the saints called "human respect": the fear of what others will say.

It is that fear of looking bad, of seeming old-fashioned, fanatical, or "too Catholic," that leads us to keep silent when we should speak, or to stop doing good so as not to draw attention.

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On the day the Master of the house returns, He will not ask us what others said about us, but what we did with Him.

Let us ask for this grace from the Blessed Virgin Mary, who lived face to face with God better than anyone, who said "Behold the handmaid of the Lord" without caring what others might think: may she help us, this Advent, to wait for her Son wide awake, without fear of what people will say, and with our eyes fixed on Him. Amen.

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Parochial Administrator
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Sign up free: **sempervirgo.org**

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Prepare ye the way of the Lord!

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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

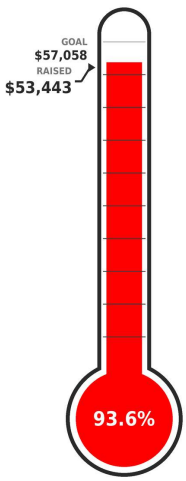
Give online, set up **recurring giving**, or remember the parish in your **will or estate**. Thank you!

Scan to give online ►

Archdiocese Annual Appeal

PARISH GOAL	RAISED SO FAR	STILL NEEDED
$57,058	$53,443	$3,615

Help us reach our goal! Only 5 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.

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

Archdiocesan Annual Appeal 2026 Goal: $6,450,000

Star of the Sea & Stella Maris Academy

4420 Geary Blvd SF CA 94118

St Nicholas

CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE

Handmade Gifts! Made by 14 artisans.

DECEMBER 2026

AUDITORIUM

Friday 4, 2pm-7pm
Saturday 5, 9am-6pm
Sunday 6, 9am-2pm



Enjoy Hot Chocolate & Pastries While You Shop!



November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

ST. MONICA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH

Christmas Poinsettias



Please use this envelope
Use este sobre

As we prepare to celebrate the **Birth of Our Lord**, we wish to adorn the altars of St. Monica and St. Thomas the Apostle with **poinsettias for Christmas**.

To cover their cost, we kindly ask for your help through a **special collection this Sunday**.

Every gift, large or small, helps make our churches beautiful for the Christ Child.

Poinsettia Collection this Sunday

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

The Advent Wreath

The evergreen circle stands for the eternity of God, who has no beginning and no end. The **three violet candles** stand for penance and watchful prayer; the **rose candle**, lit on Gaudete Sunday, for the joy of Christ's nearness. Light one more candle each week as Christmas draws near.

Prayer for the First Week

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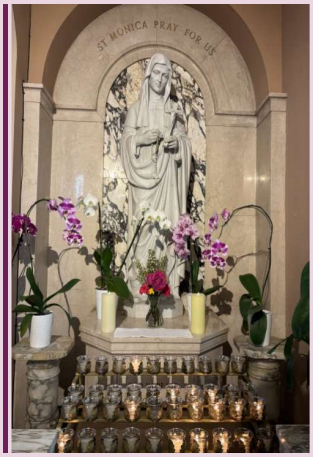

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Bring someone new! A friend, a neighbor, a returning Catholic, or someone curious about the Faith.

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

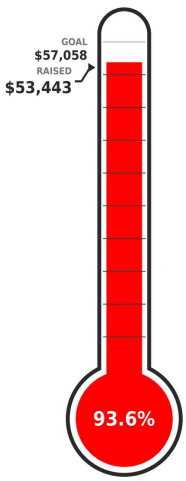
Give online, set up **recurring giving**, or remember the parish in your **will or estate**. Thank you!

Scan to give online ►

Archdiocese Annual Appeal

PARISH GOAL	RAISED SO FAR	STILL NEEDED
$57,058	$53,443	$3,615

Help us reach our goal! Only 5 weeks left this year.



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November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

ST. MONICA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH

Christmas Poinsettias



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To cover their cost, we kindly ask for your help through a **special collection this Sunday**.

Every gift, large or small, helps make our churches beautiful for the Christ Child.

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The evergreen circle stands for the eternity of God, who has no beginning and no end. The **three violet candles** stand for penance and watchful prayer; the **rose candle**, lit on Gaudete Sunday, for the joy of Christ's nearness. Light one more candle each week as Christmas draws near.

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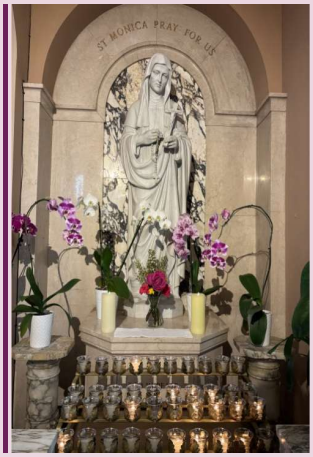

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Saint Thomas the Apostle
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www.smstaparishsf.org
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Fr. Javier Olivera Ravasi

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That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

1. Living face to face with God means knowing that He sees us

The one who lives face to face with God knows that everything he does, he does in His presence: at Mass, yes, but also at work, at home, with his phone in his hand, when no one is watching. The Lord said it clearly: your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you (Mt 6:4).

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On the day the Master of the house returns, He will not ask us what others said about us, but what we did with Him.

Let us ask for this grace from the Blessed Virgin Mary, who lived face to face with God better than anyone, who said "Behold the handmaid of the Lord" without caring what others might think: may she help us, this Advent, to wait for her Son wide awake, without fear of what people will say, and with our eyes fixed on Him. Amen.

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

Sunday Gospel: *Mk. 13:33-37*

Jesus said to his disciples: "Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come. It is like a man traveling abroad. He leaves home and places his servants in charge, each with his own work, and orders the gatekeeper to be on the watch. Watch, therefore; you do not know when the lord of the house is coming, whether in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to all: 'Watch!'"

Our Lord gives no date because He wants us ready at every hour. The servant who is "sleeping" is the soul in mortal sin. To the world he may look perfectly well, but in the eyes of God his soul is dead. As the month of the Holy Souls comes to a close, we are reminded that death comes when no man expects it, and whatever state it finds us in is the state we keep for all eternity. That is why Holy Mother Church gives us Advent as a season of penance. Do not wait for a more convenient time. Let us each prepare as well as we can by making a good Confession during this holy season, so that whenever the Master comes, He may find us awake.

Semper Virgo

A Marian Pilgrimage to Guadalupe 2031

Cardinal Burke invites the faithful to a **daily Marian devotion** preparing for the 500th anniversary of Our Lady of Guadalupe in 2031. Each morning, receive a short meditation on the Mother of God.

Begins **Dec. 12, 2026**, Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Sign up free: **sempervirgo.org**

Liturgical Calendar	
Sun 11/29	First Sunday of Advent
Mon 11/30	St. Andrew, Apostle
Tues 12/1	Advent Weekday
Wed 12/2	Advent Weekday
Thurs 12/3	St. Francis Xavier
Fri 12/4	Advent Weekday · St. John Damascene
Sat 12/5	Advent Weekday

Make a Good Confession

Prepare ye the way of the Lord!

Confessions at St. Monica
Mon–Fri: before and after Mass
Saturday: 4:20 PM · Sunday: after Mass

Why go to Confession? Mortal sin robs the soul of sanctifying grace. In His mercy Christ gave His Church the Sacrament of Penance to restore it. The Fathers of the Church call it "the second plank [of salvation] after the shipwreck which is the loss of grace." *(CCC 1446)*

Even our daily faults are worth confessing. Holy Mother Church strongly recommends it, for regular Confession "helps us form our conscience, fight against evil tendencies, let ourselves be healed by Christ and progress in the life of the Spirit." *(CCC 1458)*

"The confession of evil works is the beginning of good works."
— St. Augustine

Do not let Christmas find your soul unready.

Mass Intentions

	St. Monica		St. Thomas the Apostle	
Sunday 11/29	11:00am 1:00pm	Betty & Morelia Bermejo † Gilda Maria Mangana † Int. for the Parishioners	9:30am	Adelaida Maximo Iglesias †
Monday 11/30	8:00am	Ann Yan Lam-Lau	8:30am	Robert Anselmo Han †
Tuesday 12/01	8:00am	Rene Revel †		No Mass
Wednesday 12/02	8:00am	Mercedes Yazdini, Birthday	8:30am	Veronico Flores Fabular †
Thursday 12/03	8:00am	Lucio Aguirre †		No Mass
Friday 12/04	8:00am	Francisco Matturano-Gomez †	8:30am	Int. of the People of the Parish
Saturday 12/05	5:00pm	Santiago & Enelia Pacheco †	8:30am	Int. of the People of the Parish

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

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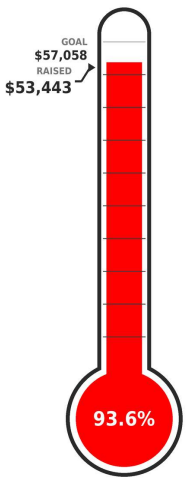

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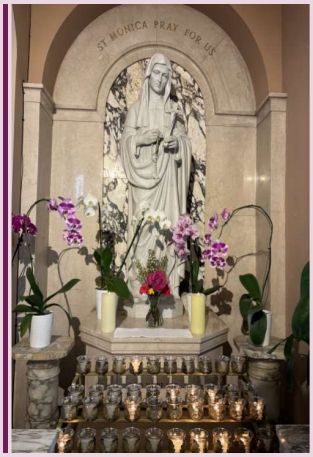

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Sign up free: **sempervirgo.org**

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

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

Scan to join our parish ►

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Archdiocese Annual Appeal

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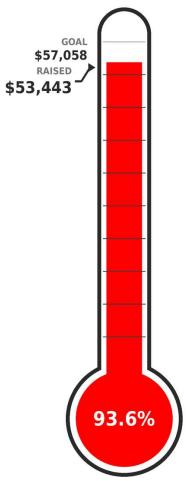
Help us reach our goal! Only 5 weeks left this year.



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St Nicholas

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November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

ST. MONICA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH

Christmas Poinsettias



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Use este sobre

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To cover their cost, we kindly ask for your help through a **special collection this Sunday**.

Every gift, large or small, helps make our churches beautiful for the Christ Child.

Poinsettia Collection this Sunday

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

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The evergreen circle stands for the eternity of God, who has no beginning and no end. The **three violet candles** stand for penance and watchful prayer; the **rose candle**, lit on Gaudete Sunday, for the joy of Christ's nearness. Light one more candle each week as Christmas draws near.

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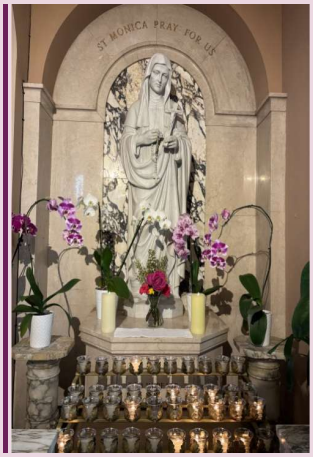

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PASTOR'S LETTER



Living Face to Face with God

Fr. Javier Olivera Ravasi

San Francisco, November 29, 2026.
First Sunday of Advent.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Today we begin Advent and, with it, a new liturgical year. The Church, like a good Mother, wakes us up with a word that the Lord repeats again and again in today's Gospel: "Watch!"

Jesus tells us the story of a man who goes on a journey. He leaves his house in the care of his servants, gives each one his work, and orders the gatekeeper to stay awake. For they do not know when the master of the house will return: in the evening, at midnight, at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find us sleeping.





That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

1. Living face to face with God means knowing that He sees us

The one who lives face to face with God knows that everything he does, he does in His presence: at Mass, yes, but also at work, at home, with his phone in his hand, when no one is watching. The Lord said it clearly: your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you (Mt 6:4).

In today's Psalm we ask the Lord to show us His face, so that we may be saved. A Christian is someone who lives seeking the face of God.

That is why, in this Holy Mass, as you can see, the priest and you are all facing the same direction: toward Him, to whom the Holy Sacrifice is offered. The priest is not turning his back on you; we are all walking together, as one people on pilgrimage, looking toward the Lord who comes.

But what matters most, dear brothers and sisters, is not only where we look during Mass, but where we look in life. Because one can pray facing God and then live facing men.

2. The great enemy: human respect

And what makes us live facing men? What the saints called "human respect": the fear of what others will say.

It is that fear of looking bad, of seeming old-fashioned, fanatical, or "too Catholic," that leads us to keep silent when we should speak, or to stop doing good so as not to draw attention.

Let us take some simple examples:

- The one who does not make the Sign of the Cross before eating in a restaurant, out of embarrassment.
- The one who hears jokes about the Church at work or at school and says nothing.
- The father who does not pray with his children so as not to seem "excessive."
- The young person who never mentions going to Mass on Sundays, so as not to be the odd one out.
- Or the one who keeps quiet about the truth on life, family, or marriage, because "you can't say that anymore."

And so, little by little, one ends up living face to face with men and with one's back turned to God.

Saint Paul put it bluntly: if I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ (Gal 1:10). And the Lord Himself warned that whoever is ashamed of Him before this generation, of that one He too will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father (Mk 8:38).

Notice: "when He comes." Advent again.

Human respect is, in the end, a way of falling asleep: it is like the gatekeeper who, instead of watching the door through which his master will come, spends the whole night worrying about what the neighbors think.

3. How can we live face to face with God this Advent?

The Cristero martyrs of Mexico had no human respect. Saint José Sánchez del Río, only fourteen years old, chose to die crying out

November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

"¡Viva Cristo Rey!" rather than deny his faith to please his executioners. He lived, and he died, face to face with God.

Thanks be to God, we are not asked for that much. But we are asked for a few concrete things this Advent:

- An examination of conscience every night, asking ourselves: today, did I live facing God, or facing others?
- A good confession before Christmas.
- One small act of Christian courage each week: making the Sign of the Cross in public, praying before meals, defending the Church when she is attacked, inviting someone to Mass.

No one becomes brave all at once; courage, too, must be trained.

✠ ✠ ✠

Today Saint Paul reminded us that God is faithful, and that He has called us into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord (1 Cor 1:9). God is faithful… The question is whether we will be faithful to Him, even when it costs us.

On the day the Master of the house returns, He will not ask us what others said about us, but what we did with Him.

Let us ask for this grace from the Blessed Virgin Mary, who lived face to face with God better than anyone, who said "Behold the handmaid of the Lord" without caring what others might think: may she help us, this Advent, to wait for her Son wide awake, without fear of what people will say, and with our eyes fixed on Him. Amen.

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Parochial Administrator
St. Monica–St. Thomas the Apostle Parish

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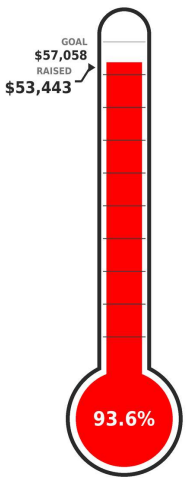

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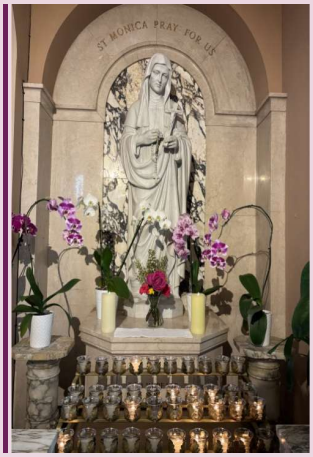

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Sign up free: **sempervirgo.org**

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PRAY · FRIDAY ADORATION

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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

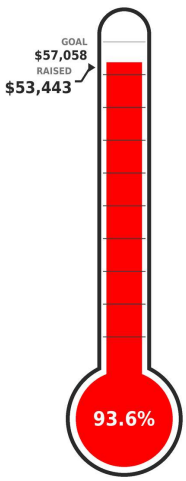
Give online, set up **recurring giving**, or remember the parish in your **will or estate**. Thank you!

Scan to give online ►

Archdiocese Annual Appeal

PARISH GOAL	RAISED SO FAR	STILL NEEDED
$57,058	$53,443	$3,615

Help us reach our goal! Only 5 weeks left this year.



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Star of the Sea & Stella Maris Academy

4420 Geary Blvd SF CA 94118

St Nicholas

CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE

Handmade Gifts! Made by 14 artisans.

DECEMBER 2026

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Enjoy Hot Chocolate & Pastries While You Shop!



November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

ST. MONICA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH

Christmas Poinsettias



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Use este sobre

As we prepare to celebrate the **Birth of Our Lord**, we wish to adorn the altars of St. Monica and St. Thomas the Apostle with **poinsettias for Christmas**.

To cover their cost, we kindly ask for your help through a **special collection this Sunday**.

Every gift, large or small, helps make our churches beautiful for the Christ Child.

Poinsettia Collection this Sunday

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

The Advent Wreath

The evergreen circle stands for the eternity of God, who has no beginning and no end. The **three violet candles** stand for penance and watchful prayer; the **rose candle**, lit on Gaudete Sunday, for the joy of Christ's nearness. Light one more candle each week as Christmas draws near.

Prayer for the First Week

Stir up Thy power, we beseech Thee, O Lord, and come: that from the threatening dangers of our sins we may deserve to be rescued by Thy protection, and to be saved by Thy deliverance. Who livest and reignest for ever and ever. Amen.

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Procession in Honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Procesión en honor a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe





DECEMBER · DICIEMBRE
13
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12:00 NOON
MEDIODÍA

St. Monica Church
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Between the 11 AM and 1 PM Masses
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You are invited!

Join us as we walk in procession around **St. Monica Church** to honor **Our Lady of Guadalupe**, Mother of the Americas. Bring your family and flowers!

¡Están invitados!

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"¿No estoy yo aquí, que soy tu madre?"
¡Viva la Virgen de Guadalupe!

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LIGHT A CANDLE • PRAY • HELP OUR CHURCH

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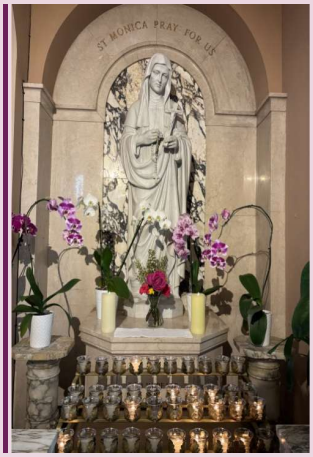

Light a candle today!

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 help make sandwiches each month, and to those who shop for supplies and deliver to the shelter the next day! Sandwich making is the **3rd Wednesday of every month.**

Next: Wed., Dec. 16 · 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**.

November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

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) **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



Living Face to Face with God

Fr. Javier Olivera Ravasi

San Francisco, November 29, 2026.
First Sunday of Advent.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Today we begin Advent and, with it, a new liturgical year. The Church, like a good Mother, wakes us up with a word that the Lord repeats again and again in today's Gospel: "Watch!"

Jesus tells us the story of a man who goes on a journey. He leaves his house in the care of his servants, gives each one his work, and orders the gatekeeper to stay awake. For they do not know when the master of the house will return: in the evening, at midnight, at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find us sleeping.





That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

1. Living face to face with God means knowing that He sees us

The one who lives face to face with God knows that everything he does, he does in His presence: at Mass, yes, but also at work, at home, with his phone in his hand, when no one is watching. The Lord said it clearly: your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you (Mt 6:4).

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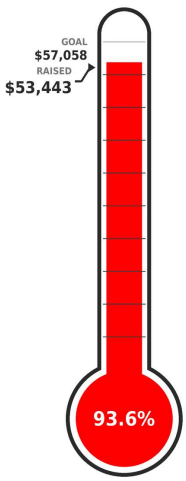

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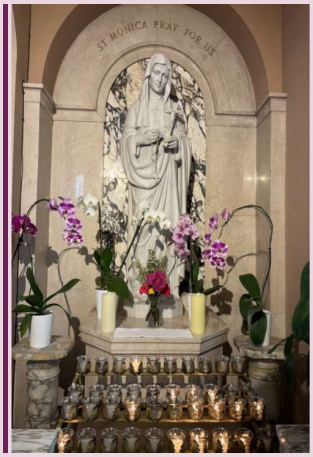

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First Sunday of Advent.

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That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

1. Living face to face with God means knowing that He sees us

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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

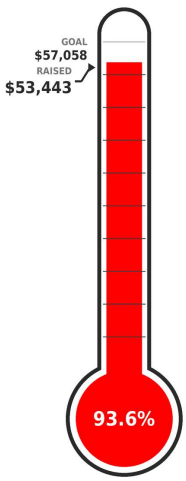
Give online, set up **recurring giving**, or remember the parish in your **will or estate**. Thank you!

Scan to give online ►

Archdiocese Annual Appeal

PARISH GOAL	RAISED SO FAR	STILL NEEDED
$57,058	$53,443	$3,615

Help us reach our goal! Only 5 weeks left this year.



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

Archdiocesan Annual Appeal 2026 Goal: $6,450,000

Star of the Sea & Stella Maris Academy

4420 Geary Blvd SF CA 94118

St Nicholas

CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE

Handmade Gifts! Made by 14 artisans.

DECEMBER 2026

AUDITORIUM

Friday 4, 2pm-7pm
Saturday 5, 9am-6pm
Sunday 6, 9am-2pm



Enjoy Hot Chocolate & Pastries While You Shop!



November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

ST. MONICA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH

Christmas Poinsettias



Please use this envelope
Use este sobre

As we prepare to celebrate the **Birth of Our Lord**, we wish to adorn the altars of St. Monica and St. Thomas the Apostle with **poinsettias for Christmas**.

To cover their cost, we kindly ask for your help through a **special collection this Sunday**.

Every gift, large or small, helps make our churches beautiful for the Christ Child.

Poinsettia Collection this Sunday

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

The Advent Wreath

The evergreen circle stands for the eternity of God, who has no beginning and no end. The **three violet candles** stand for penance and watchful prayer; the **rose candle**, lit on Gaudete Sunday, for the joy of Christ's nearness. Light one more candle each week as Christmas draws near.

Prayer for the First Week

Stir up Thy power, we beseech Thee, O Lord, and come: that from the threatening dangers of our sins we may deserve to be rescued by Thy protection, and to be saved by Thy deliverance. Who livest and reignest for ever and ever. Amen.

Sunday Collection

Collection	St. Monica	St. Thomas
Sunday (English)	$1,531.00	$1,137.00
Vietnamese	—	$514.00

ST. MONICA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH

Procession in Honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Procesión en honor a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe





DECEMBER · DICIEMBRE
13
SUNDAY · DOMINGO
12:00 NOON
MEDIODÍA

St. Monica Church
470 24th Ave., San Francisco

Between the 11 AM and 1 PM Masses
Entre las Misas de 11 AM y 1 PM

You are invited!

Join us as we walk in procession around **St. Monica Church** to honor **Our Lady of Guadalupe**, Mother of the Americas. Bring your family and flowers!

¡Están invitados!

Acompáñenos en procesión alrededor de la **iglesia Santa Mónica** para honrar a **Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe**, Madre de las Américas. ¡Traiga a su familia y flores!

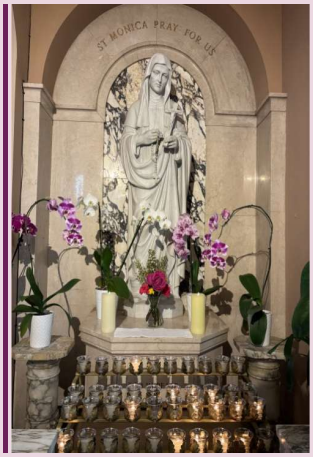
"¿No estoy yo aquí, que soy tu madre?"
¡Viva la Virgen de Guadalupe!

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.



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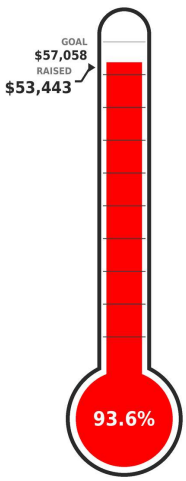

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To learn more about the Archdiocese Annual Appeal, and to donate, please visit https://sfarch.org/aaa/

Archdiocesan Annual Appeal 2026 Goal: $6,450,000

Star of the Sea & Stella Maris Academy

4420 Geary Blvd SF CA 94118

St Nicholas

CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE

Handmade Gifts! Made by 14 artisans.

DECEMBER 2026

AUDITORIUM

Friday 4, 2pm-7pm
Saturday 5, 9am-6pm
Sunday 6, 9am-2pm



Enjoy Hot Chocolate & Pastries While You Shop!



November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

ST. MONICA & ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH

Christmas Poinsettias



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Use este sobre

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To cover their cost, we kindly ask for your help through a **special collection this Sunday**.

Every gift, large or small, helps make our churches beautiful for the Christ Child.

Poinsettia Collection this Sunday

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

The Advent Wreath

The evergreen circle stands for the eternity of God, who has no beginning and no end. The **three violet candles** stand for penance and watchful prayer; the **rose candle**, lit on Gaudete Sunday, for the joy of Christ's nearness. Light one more candle each week as Christmas draws near.

Prayer for the First Week

Stir up Thy power, we beseech Thee, O Lord, and come: that from the threatening dangers of our sins we may deserve to be rescued by Thy protection, and to be saved by Thy deliverance. Who livest and reignest for ever and ever. Amen.

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Procesión en honor a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe





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13
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Between the 11 AM and 1 PM Masses
Entre las Misas de 11 AM y 1 PM

You are invited!

Join us as we walk in procession around **St. Monica Church** to honor **Our Lady of Guadalupe**, Mother of the Americas. Bring your family and flowers!

¡Están invitados!

Acompáñenos en procesión alrededor de la **iglesia Santa Mónica** para honrar a **Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe**, Madre de las Américas. ¡Traiga a su familia y flores!

"¿No estoy yo aquí, que soy tu madre?"
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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.

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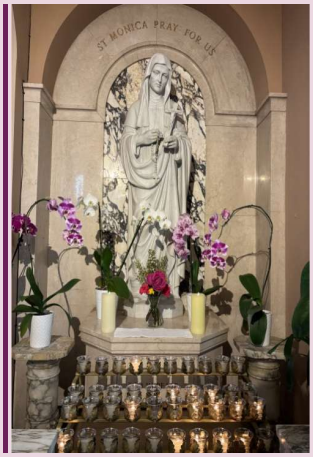

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Clergy	Staff
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PASTOR'S LETTER



Living Face to Face with God

Fr. Javier Olivera Ravasi

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That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

1. Living face to face with God means knowing that He sees us

The one who lives face to face with God knows that everything he does, he does in His presence: at Mass, yes, but also at work, at home, with his phone in his hand, when no one is watching. The Lord said it clearly: your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you (Mt 6:4).

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But what matters most, dear brothers and sisters, is not only where we look during Mass, but where we look in life. Because one can pray facing God and then live facing men.

2. The great enemy: human respect

And what makes us live facing men? What the saints called "human respect": the fear of what others will say.

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On the day the Master of the house returns, He will not ask us what others said about us, but what we did with Him.

Let us ask for this grace from the Blessed Virgin Mary, who lived face to face with God better than anyone, who said "Behold the handmaid of the Lord" without caring what others might think: may she help us, this Advent, to wait for her Son wide awake, without fear of what people will say, and with our eyes fixed on Him. Amen.

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Parochial Administrator
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Sunday Gospel: *Mk. 13:33-37*

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"The confession of evil works is the beginning of good works."
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Do not let Christmas find your soul unready.

Mass Intentions

	St. Monica		St. Thomas the Apostle	
Sunday 11/29	11:00am 1:00pm	Betty & Morelia Bermejo † Gilda Maria Mangana † Int. for the Parishioners	9:30am	Adelaida Maximo Iglesias †
Monday 11/30	8:00am	Ann Yan Lam-Lau	8:30am	Robert Anselmo Han †
Tuesday 12/01	8:00am	Rene Revel †		No Mass
Wednesday 12/02	8:00am	Mercedes Yazdini, Birthday	8:30am	Veronico Flores Fabular †
Thursday 12/03	8:00am	Lucio Aguirre †		No Mass
Friday 12/04	8:00am	Francisco Matturano-Gomez †	8:30am	Int. of the People of the Parish
Saturday 12/05	5:00pm	Santiago & Enelia Pacheco †	8:30am	Int. of the People of the Parish

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

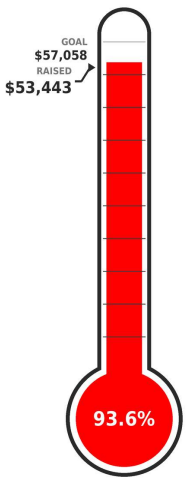
Give online, set up **recurring giving**, or remember the parish in your **will or estate**. Thank you!

Scan to give online ►

Archdiocese Annual Appeal

PARISH GOAL	RAISED SO FAR	STILL NEEDED
$57,058	$53,443	$3,615

Help us reach our goal! Only 5 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.

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13
SUNDAY · DOMINGO
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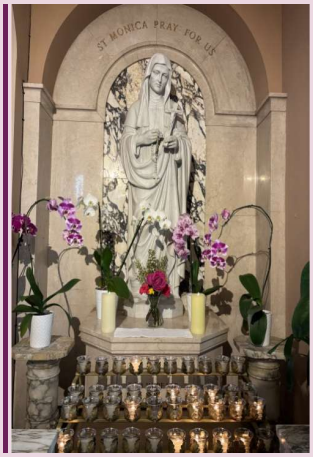

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PARISH GOAL	RAISED SO FAR	STILL NEEDED
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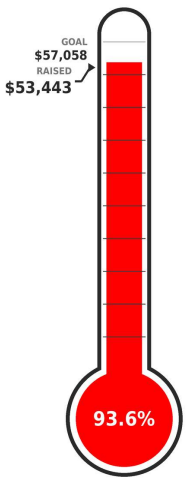
Help us reach our goal! Only 5 weeks left this year.



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November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

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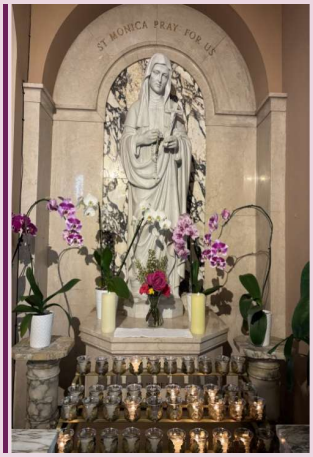

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That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

1. Living face to face with God means knowing that He sees us

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But what matters most, dear brothers and sisters, is not only where we look during Mass, but where we look in life. Because one can pray facing God and then live facing men.

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And what makes us live facing men? What the saints called "human respect": the fear of what others will say.

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✠ ✠ ✠

Today Saint Paul reminded us that God is faithful, and that He has called us into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord (1 Cor 1:9). God is faithful… The question is whether we will be faithful to Him, even when it costs us.

On the day the Master of the house returns, He will not ask us what others said about us, but what we did with Him.

Let us ask for this grace from the Blessed Virgin Mary, who lived face to face with God better than anyone, who said "Behold the handmaid of the Lord" without caring what others might think: may she help us, this Advent, to wait for her Son wide awake, without fear of what people will say, and with our eyes fixed on Him. Amen.

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

Sunday Gospel: *Mk. 13:33-37*

Jesus said to his disciples: "Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come. It is like a man traveling abroad. He leaves home and places his servants in charge, each with his own work, and orders the gatekeeper to be on the watch. Watch, therefore; you do not know when the lord of the house is coming, whether in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to all: 'Watch!'"

Our Lord gives no date because He wants us ready at every hour. The servant who is "sleeping" is the soul in mortal sin. To the world he may look perfectly well, but in the eyes of God his soul is dead. As the month of the Holy Souls comes to a close, we are reminded that death comes when no man expects it, and whatever state it finds us in is the state we keep for all eternity. That is why Holy Mother Church gives us Advent as a season of penance. Do not wait for a more convenient time. Let us each prepare as well as we can by making a good Confession during this holy season, so that whenever the Master comes, He may find us awake.

Semper Virgo

A Marian Pilgrimage to Guadalupe 2031

Cardinal Burke invites the faithful to a **daily Marian devotion** preparing for the 500th anniversary of Our Lady of Guadalupe in 2031. Each morning, receive a short meditation on the Mother of God.

Begins **Dec. 12, 2026**, Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Sign up free: **sempervirgo.org**

Liturgical Calendar	
Sun 11/29	First Sunday of Advent
Mon 11/30	St. Andrew, Apostle
Tues 12/1	Advent Weekday
Wed 12/2	Advent Weekday
Thurs 12/3	St. Francis Xavier
Fri 12/4	Advent Weekday · St. John Damascene
Sat 12/5	Advent Weekday

Make a Good Confession

Prepare ye the way of the Lord!

Confessions at St. Monica
Mon–Fri: before and after Mass
Saturday: 4:20 PM · Sunday: after Mass

Why go to Confession? Mortal sin robs the soul of sanctifying grace. In His mercy Christ gave His Church the Sacrament of Penance to restore it. The Fathers of the Church call it "the second plank [of salvation] after the shipwreck which is the loss of grace." *(CCC 1446)*

Even our daily faults are worth confessing. Holy Mother Church strongly recommends it, for regular Confession "helps us form our conscience, fight against evil tendencies, let ourselves be healed by Christ and progress in the life of the Spirit." *(CCC 1458)*

"The confession of evil works is the beginning of good works."
— St. Augustine

Do not let Christmas find your soul unready.

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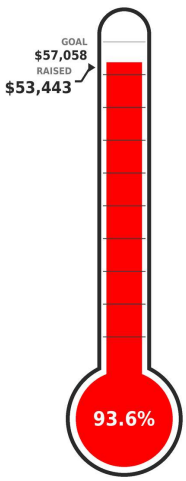

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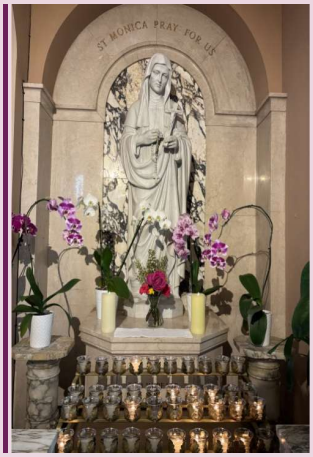

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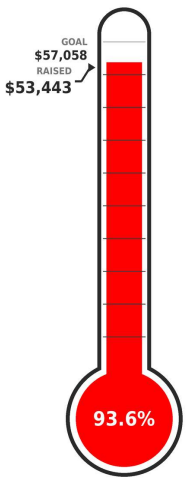

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November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

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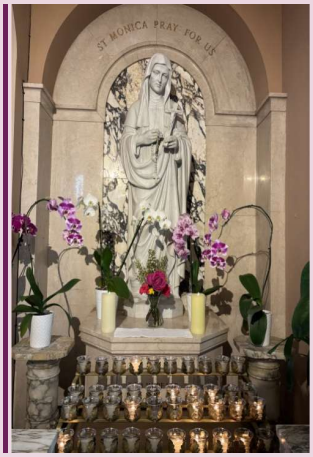

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November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

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
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PASTOR'S LETTER



Living Face to Face with God

Fr. Javier Olivera Ravasi

San Francisco, November 29, 2026.
First Sunday of Advent.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Today we begin Advent and, with it, a new liturgical year. The Church, like a good Mother, wakes us up with a word that the Lord repeats again and again in today's Gospel: "Watch!"

Jesus tells us the story of a man who goes on a journey. He leaves his house in the care of his servants, gives each one his work, and orders the gatekeeper to stay awake. For they do not know when the master of the house will return: in the evening, at midnight, at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find us sleeping.





That master of the house is Christ. The house is the world, the Church, our own soul. And we are those servants, each one with his own task.

But what does it mean to stay awake? To go without sleep? No. To stay awake is to live face to face with God.

1. Living face to face with God means knowing that He sees us

The one who lives face to face with God knows that everything he does, he does in His presence: at Mass, yes, but also at work, at home, with his phone in his hand, when no one is watching. The Lord said it clearly: your Father, who sees in secret, will repay you (Mt 6:4).

In today's Psalm we ask the Lord to show us His face, so that we may be saved. A Christian is someone who lives seeking the face of God.

That is why, in this Holy Mass, as you can see, the priest and you are all facing the same direction: toward Him, to whom the Holy Sacrifice is offered. The priest is not turning his back on you; we are all walking together, as one people on pilgrimage, looking toward the Lord who comes.

But what matters most, dear brothers and sisters, is not only where we look during Mass, but where we look in life. Because one can pray facing God and then live facing men.

2. The great enemy: human respect

And what makes us live facing men? What the saints called "human respect": the fear of what others will say.

It is that fear of looking bad, of seeming old-fashioned, fanatical, or "too Catholic," that leads us to keep silent when we should speak, or to stop doing good so as not to draw attention.

Let us take some simple examples:

- The one who does not make the Sign of the Cross before eating in a restaurant, out of embarrassment.
- The one who hears jokes about the Church at work or at school and says nothing.
- The father who does not pray with his children so as not to seem "excessive."
- The young person who never mentions going to Mass on Sundays, so as not to be the odd one out.
- Or the one who keeps quiet about the truth on life, family, or marriage, because "you can't say that anymore."

And so, little by little, one ends up living face to face with men and with one's back turned to God.

Saint Paul put it bluntly: if I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ (Gal 1:10). And the Lord Himself warned that whoever is ashamed of Him before this generation, of that one He too will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father (Mk 8:38).

Notice: "when He comes." Advent again.

Human respect is, in the end, a way of falling asleep: it is like the gatekeeper who, instead of watching the door through which his master will come, spends the whole night worrying about what the neighbors think.

3. How can we live face to face with God this Advent?

The Cristero martyrs of Mexico had no human respect. Saint José Sánchez del Río, only fourteen years old, chose to die crying out

November 29th, 2026: First Sunday of Advent

"¡Viva Cristo Rey!" rather than deny his faith to please his executioners. He lived, and he died, face to face with God.

Thanks be to God, we are not asked for that much. But we are asked for a few concrete things this Advent:

- An examination of conscience every night, asking ourselves: today, did I live facing God, or facing others?
- A good confession before Christmas.
- One small act of Christian courage each week: making the Sign of the Cross in public, praying before meals, defending the Church when she is attacked, inviting someone to Mass.

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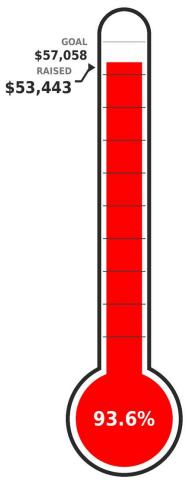

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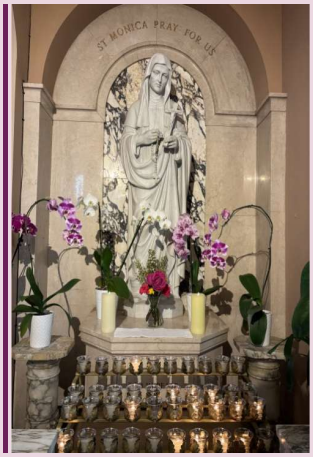

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