

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time August 16, 2020

Observe what is right, do what is just;
for my salvation is about to come,
my justice, about to be revealed.
— Isaiah 56:1



WHY PRAY?

The “foreigners” as Isaiah calls them, the “Gentiles” as Paul calls them, or the “Canaanites” as Matthew calls them are called to worship the one true God in prayer. As we listen to today’s readings, perhaps we are tempted to ask: Why pray? The question is rhetorical; it is tantamount to asking why should friends talk to one another or people in love kiss one another. Prayer is a way of relating to God, a way of talking to God. The apostles had the opportunity to talk to Jesus in the flesh. We have the opportunity to talk to Jesus Christ in prayer. Our relationship with him must be enthusiastic; it cannot be faint-hearted. John Donne, a fifteenth-century poet, knew what the qualities of good prayer were. Donne asks God to treat him differently from most Christians. The poet does not want God to merely “knock, breathe, shine, and seek to mend,” but also to “break, blow, burn, and make me new” (*Holy Sonnets*, XIV).

It takes a dynamic faith on our part to come to God in prayer. As Jesus once said, “Knock and the door will be opened to you” (Matthew 7:7). It may take pounding the door down, but if we are as persistent as the woman in today’s Gospel, the results will follow.

Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

TODAY’S READINGS

First Reading — Thus says the LORD: “Stand firm in justice; do what is right” (Isaiah 56:1, 6-7).

Psalm — O God, let all the nations praise you! (Psalm 67).

Second Reading — The gifts and the calling of God are unable to be revoked (Romans 11:13-15, 29-32).

Gospel — Recognizing the Canaanite woman’s great faith, Jesus told her, “It shall be done as you wish” (Matthew 15:21-28).

The English translation of the Psalm Responses from *Lectionary for Mass* © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday	August 17
8:00 am	† John Sant
Tuesday	August 18
8:00 am	† Anna Skropanich
Wednesday	August 19
8:00 am	Communion Service
7:00 pm	Earl McCarthy
Thursday	August 20
8:00 am	† Tessie, † Joseph and † Saviour Schembri
Friday	August 21
8:00 am	† Vincent Gagliardo Sr. † Maria and † Giuseppe Mazafferro
Saturday	August 22
8:00 am	† Josip Skropanich
4:30 pm	† Alioto Family
Sunday	August 23
7:30 am	People of the Parish
9:30 am	† Mary Rose Cristobal
11:30 am	Italian Catholic Federation † Flora Suan

†Denotes deceased – (L) Living

For any available Masses listed above please see the priest before Mass with your written intention and stipend.

Sunday Collection August 9, 2020

Weekly Need: \$ 5,000.00

Sunday Collection \$ 1,960.00

Over / Under \$ 3,040.00

If you make your offertory donation by check, without using parishioner envelopes, it would be most helpful if you placed your parishioner/envelope # in the “memo” section of the check.

This helps us input your donation to the offertory data system.

We will not be responsible for donations not credited due to missing envelope numbers (or not having a Sunday collection envelope.)

As directed by the Archdiocese of San Francisco and the City and County of San Francisco: No public Masses until further notice including all weekend and weekday Masses.

Parish Office

Our parish office is reopened with **VERY limited contact** with the public. We ask you to please first call the parish office at 415-468-0820 as we can handle most requests over the telephone. If a visit is necessary, we will be asking that all visitors to the office wear face coverings while in the building and maintain social distancing protocols – as will our parish staff members. We will take your temperature before entry and we will have hand sanitizer available for your use. If you are feeling ill, please call the office rather than come in person.

Dispensation from the Archbishop

The dispensation to attend Sunday Mass will remain in place, and so those who fear becoming infected may remain at home in good conscience. The usual advisories also remain in place for those who should remain at home and avoid exposure to any public gathering, including worship: the elderly, those with pre-existing health conditions making them especially vulnerable to infection, those who have recently had contact with someone tested to be COVID-19 positive, etc. Sunday, of course, is still the Christian Sabbath and so must be kept holy, even if in-person attendance at Mass is not possible. You may attend any livestreamed Mass in the Archdiocese remotely via the Archdiocesan website. You will also find there an Act of Spiritual Communion and other resources sfarch.org/keeping-the-sabbath.

2021 Mass Intentions Now Available!
Please follow the guidelines below when sending in your Mass requests.

Due to the large volume of Mass requests and in order to be fair to the needs of all our parishioners, the following is the Mass Book policy as set by Father Charles Puthota, Pastor:

Initially, each parishioner can request up to

12 Masses per year. Only 4 of those Masses may be on weekends depending on availability.

We are no longer accepting individual Mass Intentions for the following days :

Ash Wednesday, Easter, Mother’s Day, Father’s Day, All Souls, All Saints, Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve and Christmas. The intentions will be for the entire St. Elizabeth Community.

Due to the volume of requests, **Masses cannot be reserved by phone or in person**. Requests must be submitted in writing or by email: stelizabethchurchsf@gmail.com

Not all dates are available for Mass Intentions, so we ask that you be prepared with alternate dates and times. Wednesdays at **8:00 am** are available for multiple intentions. If your requested date is not available an alternate date will be chosen for you.

Once you receive your confirmation letter with your schedule of Masses, please make your check payable to St. Elizabeth Church. Please **do not** send payment with your request. Please allow time for processing. The monetary gift that has been suggested by our Archdiocese is \$10.00 per mass.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Volunteers Needed

Do you love the Lord and are you willing to share His message? Do you believe you can make a difference? Our Parish Family Needs You! School of Religious Education needs teachers/teacher aides for the 2020-2021 school year. Please consider volunteering to be a teacher at our weekly Religious Education classes. Classes are 1.5 hours a week. Jesus needs you to share His love for his children! Our students need you. For more information, please Lily Codd at 650-771-3176. (During the Covid pandemic the projected start date is on hold.)