

# **ST. ELIZABETH CHURCH**

*Established 1912 / Present Church dedicated 1962*

*Mailing Address: 449 Holyoke Street, S.F. CA 94134*

***Twenty Second Sunday in Ordinary Time***

***August 29, 2021***

**Rev. Charles Puthota, Ph.D., *Pastor***

## **Parish Staff**

<b>Sandra Mehrwein</b>	Secretary
<b>Patricia Spiteri</b>	Pastoral Coordinator
<b>Fred Spence</b>	Maintenance
<b>Lily Codd</b>	Faith Formation
	650-771-3176
	<a href="mailto:lilycodd2015@gmail.com">lilycodd2015@gmail.com</a>

## **Parish Office Hours**

Monday through Thursday  
8:00 am to 12:00 pm (unless otherwise posted)

### **Closed Friday**

449 Holyoke Street (**Parish Office**)  
415-468-0820 Fax 415-468-1457

**Website:** [www.stelizabethsf.org](http://www.stelizabethsf.org)

**Email:** [stelizabethchurchsf@gmail.com](mailto:stelizabethchurchsf@gmail.com)



## **Per the Archdiocese of San Francisco:**

**Congregants are to wear masks during Mass indoors.**

**Social distancing reduced to 3 ft between households.**

## **Liturgy Schedule**

Saturday **4:30 pm**

Sunday **9:30 am**

Monday through Saturday

Divine office: 8:00 am

Mass: 8:30 am

Holy Day 8:30 am & 6:00 pm

## **Confession Schedule**

After the 8:30 am Daily Mass

4:15 pm before the 4:30 pm Mass

9:15 am before the 9:30 am Sunday Mass

**Baptism Preparation Classes** Call the Parish Office for more information.

## **Sacrament of Marriage**

Call the Parish Office at least six months before the desired date.

**Benediction and Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena:** Wednesdays after the 8:30 Mass.

**Legion of Mary Meeting** 5:00 pm Monday in the Rectory.

**Second Saturday** after the 4:30 pm Mass: Sto Nino Prayer and Benediction in Mary's Chapel.

**1000 Hail Mary's** Third Saturday after the 8:30 am Mass until 3:30 pm: A Day of Prayer and Adoration.

**Light of God Prayer** 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of the month after the 8:30 am Mass.

## From the Pastor's Desktop



With these things exerting undue pressure on the frailty of the vessel, there is a danger of the vessel breaking and collapsing. That is why God keeps emptying this vessel, if we but allow him. Our conversion implies the emptying of the vessel. "If you want to follow me, deny yourself, take up your cross and follow me," says Jesus. "If you want to be perfect, go sell everything you have, come, follow me." Our "freedoms from" (emptying) will lead us to "freedoms for" (filling).

Tagore sees our life not only as a frail vessel but also as a little flute of a reed. When God plays the flute, everything comes into existence and finds fulfillment. We exist by participating in the eternal music God makes for the world's existence and sustenance. By emptying us of our old, tedious melodies, God fills us with new ones that enthrall us. Further, each one of us is made in the manner of a flute. The flute is created by being emptied; the reed has to be hollowed out. However painful this process may be for the bamboo, it is the only way if it has to produce life-giving music. The bamboo has to become lighter by shedding part of itself in order to become the flute. Only then God can carry the flute over hills and dales, breathing through it eternally new melodies. When we were created, God breathed into us by giving us His own spirit. Our breath is the breath of God Himself. In our breathing is mingled God's own breath. God continues to breathe through us to renew and refresh us and to make us produce music to fill the world with beauty and joy.

Tagore's symbols continue to work magic: while death is notorious for touching us mortally, God touches us immortally, making our little hearts lose their limits in joy and burst out in an inexpressible song. Our hearts are little no more because of God's healing and magical touch, which makes us transcend our finiteness and enter the limitlessness of God. Not only our hearts, but our hands are little as well. On our tiny hands God pours His infinite gifts age after age and still there is more room in our hands for His gifts to rest. Our small hands are made to carry the eternal gifts of God for eternity! Our little hearts and our tiny hands are fashioned by God to bear His infinite gifts and blessings.

**Action:** If you are indeed a vessel that God fills with new life and a flute He fills with enchanting melody, will you help Him in our self-emptying process? Drop the obsession and constant preoccupation with self and all its manifestations and attachments, making space for God to fill your life. Empty your heart and hands of clinging to people and things so that you are receptive to God's love as expressed in the love of people. Through selfless, human love, you will be led into the sanctuary of God's infinite and eternal love, but not before you are hollowed out.

Your Friend & Pastor,

Father Charles Puthota

## A Spiritual Reflection August 29, 2021

Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

### THOU HAST MADE ME ENDLESS

*"Thou hast made me endless, such is thy pleasure. This frail vessel thou emptiest again and again, and fillest it ever with fresh life. This little flute of a reed thou hast carried over hills and dales, and hast breathed through it melodies eternally new. At the immortal touch of thy hands my little heart loses its limits in joy and gives birth to utterance ineffable. Thy infinite gifts come to me only on these very small hands of mine. Ages pass, and still thou pourest, and still there is room to fill."*

From *Gitanjali* by Rabindranath Tagore,  
Poet from India, Nobel Laureate for Literature in 1913

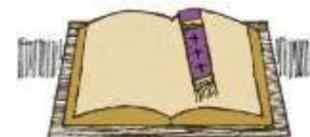
**Reflection:** God's infinity is an endless panorama against which the human finiteness is not even a speck. God's infinity could be viewed from space and time. In terms of space, He is limitless; in terms of time, He is eternal. God's infinity can also be applied to every form of perfection, such as truth, beauty, goodness, power, wisdom, happiness, and love. All these qualities that we experience in a finite manner in our lives flow from their infiniteness residing in God.

God's infinity, therefore, is not only an abstract, transcendental reality. It's a concrete, immanent reality as well, accessible to the human beings. God shares His infinity with us by making us participate in His perfection. In that sense, as Tagore sings, we have been made endless, limitless, eternal, and infinite. God has made us in His own image and likeness. We have been made the children of God. We have been drawn into the heart of God's infinity because of what Christ has done with and for us, in taking on our nature. By God-with-Us becoming one with us, eternity has met our time; infinity has met our finiteness.

Tagore employs several haunting images to help us deepen our awareness of being eternal on account of God's continuous, dynamic interaction with us in a loving relationship. We are a frail vessel God empties again and again and fills it ever with new life. God is the potter and we are the clay (Jer. 18:6; Is 64:8). He is the one who has fashioned us into who we are. God has searched us and known us, and knit us together in our mother's womb (Ps. 139). We are the earthen vessels filled with God's power (2 Cor. 4:7-10). Sadly, we keep filling ourselves often times with things that don't belong in this frail, fragile vessel.

## Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time August 29, 2021

Humbly welcome the word that has been planted in you and is able to save your souls.  
— James 1:21b



### DOERS OF THE WORD

The second reading for today begins a five-week series of selections from James, a letter that is classified among the so-called "catholic" (or universal) epistles because they are addressed to a general audience rather than to one particular community. Today's text offers important advice for Christians of every generation. God is first cited as the author of all gifts, and in particular, reference is made to the gift of baptism by which we have been made the "first fruits" of the new creation.

What follows is advice based on a very Jewish understanding of the "word" as an active force, operative in the world. We are reminded that unless we, too, become "doers" of the word, our claim to faith is empty. Today and in subsequent weeks the author reminds us that it is equally important to do the "works" of love, for example, by caring for the "orphans and widows in their affliction."  
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### TODAY'S READINGS

**First Reading** — Moses directs the people to observe the commandments of the Lord (Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-8).

**Psalm** — The one who does justice will live in the presence of the Lord (Psalm 15).

**Second Reading** — Welcome the word that you have received and become doers of the word, not hearers only (James 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27).

**Gospel** — You disregard God's commandment but cling to human tradition (Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23).

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

## Sunday Collection August 22, 2021

**Weekly Need: \$ 6,000.00**

**First Collection \$ 2,636.00**

**Second Collection \$ 431.00**

**Over/Under \$ 2,933.00**

*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.)*

## MASS INTENTIONS

### Monday

8:30 am

### Tuesday

8:30 am

### Wednesday

8:30 am

### Thursday

8:30 am

### Friday

8:30 am

### Saturday

8:30 am

4:30 pm

### Sunday

7:30 am

9:30 am

11:30 am

### August 30

† Ariel Ramos

### August 31

† Pepito O. Camba

### September 1

† Annie Cruz

† Domingo Ramos

### September 2

† Thomas Conlon

### September 3

† Victor Da Silva

### September 4

Velasco Family Intentions

† Manuel Scerri

† Joseph Vella

### September 5

People of the Parish

† Domenica Quilici

† Mariamma Paulose

† Denotes deceased – (L) Living

Masses were scheduled pre-Covid. All Sunday intentions will be celebrated at the 9:30 am Mass.

## Liturgical Minister's Training and Certification Workshop at St. Elizabeth Church:

Dates: Saturdays: September 11 and September 18, 2021.  
Every three years, new certification is needed.

For St. Elizabeth Parishioners registering for this training, our parish will pay the fee of \$20 for each participant if you undertake to attend both days' sessions and receive a certificate. Please pick up the registration form from our parish office or from a sacristan in the church.

Contact: Office of Worship Laura Bertone | 415-614-5586  
| [bertonel@sfarch.org](mailto:bertonel@sfarch.org) or Sandra Kearney | 415-614-5505  
| [kearneys@sfarch.org](mailto:kearneys@sfarch.org)

The Office of Worship will be offering training for new and experienced Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion as well as for Readers over two consecutive Saturdays during the months of September, October & November.

- During the first Saturday, ministers are introduced to sacramental theology, particularly that of the Eucharist.
- The following Saturday presenters who are trained offer technical and spiritual direction for the minister's specific liturgical role.
- Finally, Extraordinary Ministers prepare for bringing Holy Communion to the sick and homebound, while Readers conclude with coaching in proclamation and oral interpretation.

This training fulfills the requirement of the Archdiocese to be certified every three years for these ministries. Fee: \$20.00 pre-registered; \$25.00 for same-day registrants.

**JOIN Fr. Charles Puthota, Ph.D. ON A  
PILGRIMAGE TO  
JORDAN AND THE HOLY LAND**



**OCTOBER 5 – 17, 2022**

**\$4,639.00 from San Francisco, CA  
PER PERSON BASED ON DOUBLE OCCUPANCY)**

**PRE-TOUR JORDAN Oct 5 - 9, 2022**

**\$790.00 (PER PERSON BASED ON DOUBLE  
OCCUPANCY)**

**[www.pilgrimages.com/frputhota](http://www.pilgrimages.com/frputhota)**

**For more information, please contact Jon or  
Rinda: 1-800-206 TOUR (8687)**



**Faith Formation**

(Formerly known as Religious Education)

New and continuing registration forms for the 2021-2022 Faith Formation program are available in the parish office and shortly will be available online.

A reminder that preparation for the Sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation are each a two-year program.

Please return registrations ASAP so that books can be ordered.

**Saturday September 25<sup>th</sup> is the first day of class, 9 to 11 am.**

*Save The Date*

Good Shepherd Gracenter invites you to

**Our online Gala for 2021**

will mark the 60th anniversary of the construction of the Gracenter facility—built entirely through the generosity of 11 local labor unions and 52 businesses donating their time, talent and materials!



**We want to honor those incredible partnerships and build new ones for the future!**

**Come, partner with us during September, National Recovery Month!**

**Stay tuned!!** An invitation will follow in mid-August with more details and will direct you to our on-line Gala platform: **GSG2021.givesmart.com** which you will be able to access, beginning **September 8th**

For more info: [sr.marguerite@gsgracenter.org](mailto:sr.marguerite@gsgracenter.org) | [www.gsgracenter.org](http://www.gsgracenter.org)

*See you there!*

**ICF ANNIVERSARY LUNCHEON**

**All parishioners are invited to attend the ICF Anniversary Luncheon on Friday September 10<sup>th</sup> at the Basque Cultural Center, 599 Railroad Avenue, South San Francisco.**

**No host cocktails at 12:00 noon, Lunch 12:30.**

**Menu will consist of Chicken Cordon Bleu or Salmon with champagne sauce, Desert/Coffee/Wine. Price is \$35.00**

**RSVP by September 2<sup>nd</sup> to:**

**Mary Perata 415-239-5936 with your entrée.**

**Save the Date**

**The AAA 1% Circle luncheon will be held on Sunday November 7<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 pm at the Basque Cultural Center. Invitations will be mailed soon. The deadline for completing the 1% goal is September 31<sup>st</sup>.**



**THE PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON  
MONDAY SEPTEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup>  
IN OBSERVANCE OF LABOR DAY.**