

ST. ELIZABETH CHURCH

Established 1912 / Present Church dedicated 1962

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

Twenty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 5, 2021

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

Parish Staff

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Sandra Mehrwein | Secretary |
| Patricia Spiteri | Pastoral Coordinator |
| Fred Spence | Maintenance |
| Lily Codd | Faith Formation |
| | 650-771-3176 |
| | lilycodd2015@gmail.com |

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

Email: 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 2nd and 4th Friday of the month after the 8:30 am Mass.

From the Pastor's Desktop

A Spiritual Reflection

September 05, 2021



What a speck human history is! How vast the universe is! When we focus on the human race, as the wise man says, "one generation goes, and another generation comes, the earth abides forever" (Ecclesiastes 1:4). Within the vastness of human history itself, our individual lives are not even a drop in the ocean. Most of us may not even know the names of our great grandparents and their parents are lost forever in the misty past. When we stand on the seashore gazing at the vast ocean or on a mountain surrounded by other mountains under the vast blue sky or on a cloudless starry night, we cannot but be struck by the majesty of the universe and the smallness of our individual life. Our lives are mere footprints on the sands forever being washed away by the waves.

On the other hand, our individual lives are precious and significant because of the love we have for one another. We forge relationships from the moment of our conception and strive to find meaning in our place in the universe. We are proud of our identity and develop a strong sense of belonging to family, community, organizations, and social groups, through which we realize our potential and find fulfillment. Most importantly, we are precious in the eyes of our God in Jesus Christ, who has remembered each one of us in a unique way and brought us into existence, giving us a purpose and role so that we can understand the significance of our existence in the vastness of the universe and the panorama of time. In other words, even though we are insignificant and lost in the grandeur of time, we are made for eternity. We came from God and are destined toward God. Eternity is written into our very genes. The universe is sanctified by the mystery of the incarnation and the glory of the resurrection. We are small and weak, but God has made us for glory and grandeur. We are God's own children, bearing His image and likeness.

Action: Because of your insignificance, set aside your illusion that you are the center of the universe. In your relationship with God, people, and the universe, strive to bring them into the center of your life; become selfless and self-effacing. Let humility become your way of life. Because of your significance, however, act in ways that your life is worthwhile. Rise to the calling God has given you. Wake up to the reality and mystery of God. Spend your time in love and service. You can make a difference; you can help the situation; you can light a candle instead of cursing darkness. You can help change the world for the better by changing yourself. With God you can re-create the world. With Jesus you can co-redeem the world. Are you ready? Are you adventurous? Are you generous?

Your Friend and Pastor,

Father Charles Puthota

Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

O Great Spirit!

"O Great Spirit, whose voice I hear in the winds, and whose breath gives life to all the world, hear me!

I am small and weak. I need your strength and wisdom.

Let me walk in beauty, and make my eyes ever behold the red and purple sunset.

Make my hands respect the things you have made and my ears sharp to hear your voice.

Make me wise so that I may understand the things you have taught my people.

Let me learn the lessons you have hidden in every leaf and rock.

I seek strength not to be greater than my brother, but to fight my greatest enemy---myself.

Make me always ready to come to you with clean hands and straight eyes.

So when life fades, as the fading sunset, my spirit may come to you without shame."

Author Unknown

Reflection: This Native American prayer invites us, as do fundamental teachings in all religions, to wake up to the mystery of God by perceiving the insignificance as well the significance of our lives.

On the one hand, we are to view our lives against the backdrop of the cosmic dimensions of the universe. In the post-Hubble era, says Dennis Hamm, some astronomers and astrophysicists have postulated, by considering the age of the chemical elements, of star clusters, and of the oldest white dwarf stars (collapsed stars), that the universe is between 12 and 20 billion years old and that it may be around for 200 trillion more years! This calculation is framed by theories of the Big Bang and the Big Crunch.

Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time September 5, 2021

Did not God choose those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs to the kingdom?

— James 2:5



THE MESSIAH FORETOLD

Today's story of the cure of a deaf man with a speech impediment is a good example of how much is contained in a simple miracle story. The Greek word *mogilalos* appears only here in all of the New Testament. It is a technical term referring to someone with a stammer. It is also used only once in the entire Jewish scriptures, in the passage that we read today as our first reading from Isaiah. Clearly, by his choice of this precise word Mark wants us to recognize that what Jesus is doing is the fulfillment of what Isaiah had predicted centuries earlier. In fact, Mark wants us to recognize that Jesus is the Messiah foretold by Isaiah and the other Jewish prophets of old.

The word *epiphatha*, "be opened," used to describe the restoration of the man's speech, is another example of a subtle allusion to an earlier prophecy. This time the prophecy in question is from Ezekiel, when he foretells that in the messianic age, "your mouth shall be opened to speak" (24:26). The sophistication of Mark's narrative is further revealed when we realize that there are multiple levels within a single reference. Mark not only draws our attention back to Israel's prophetic past, he also points to the initiatory practice of his contemporaries by his mention of such things as spittle, touching of ears, and the use of the word *epiphatha*, all of which were practices incorporated into the early Church's baptismal ritual. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — Say to those whose hearts are frightened: Be strong, fear not! Here is your God (Isaiah 35:4-7a).

Psalms — Praise the Lord, my soul! (Psalm 146).

Second Reading — Show no partiality as you adhere to the faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ (James 2:1-5).

Gospel — Jesus makes the deaf hear and the mute speak (Mark 7:31-37).

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

Sunday Collection August 29, 2021

Weekly Need: \$ 6,000.00

First Collection \$ 2,220.00

Over/Under \$ 3,780.00

No second collection this week

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

9:30 am

September 6

Living and deceased members of Marge Obre Family

September 7

† Paul † Theresa and † Joseph Vella

September 8

† Josip Skropanich † Marcos Valledor † Helen Le Blanc

September 9

† Gertrudes and † Perfecto Vinluan

September 10

† Belen Ramos

September 11

Edgard Gonzalez (L) and Family

† Zoilo Ramos

September 12

† John Sant † Delia Gemignani
People of the Parish

†Denotes deceased – (L) Living

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

A Prayer for Labor Day

Lord on this Labor Day,
we thank You for the blessing of work.
We ask for strength to complete each day.
We ask for rest when we are weary.
We ask Your guidance
for everyone seeking employment,
and we ask that
You be with those whose faces
we might never see
but who work tirelessly each day
for the good of us all.
Amen.

**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
 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 25th 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 | www.gsgracenter.org

See you there!



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

Save the Date

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

Baptisms

Please contact the Parish Office
 for available dates.