

# ST. ELIZABETH CHURCH

Established 1912 / Present Church dedicated 1962

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

## Second Sunday of Advent

December 5, 2021



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

### Mission Statement of St. Elizabeth Church

“The joys and hopes, the griefs and anxieties of the people of our time, especially of those who are poor or in any way afflicted, are the joys and hopes, the griefs and anxieties of the followers of Christ as well. Indeed, nothing genuinely human fails to raise an echo in their hearts. For theirs is a community of people united in Christ and guided by the Holy Spirit in their pilgrimage towards the Kingdom of their Father, bearers of a message of salvation for all of humanity. That is why they cherish a conviction of deep solidarity with the human race and its history.”

(From the Preface of *The Church in the Modern World*---Gaudium Et Spes---of Vatican II)

### Parish Staff

**Sandra Mehrwein** Secretary  
**Patricia Spiteri** Pastoral Coordinator  
**Fred Spence** Maintenance  
**Lily Codd** Faith Formation  
650-771-3176  
[lilycodd2015@gmail.com](mailto: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.stelizabetsf.org](http://www.stelizabetsf.org)

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

### 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.

**Per the Archdiocese of San Francisco:**

**Congregants are to wear masks during Mass indoors. Social distancing reduced to 3 ft between households.**

## From the Pastor's Desktop

A Message from  
Father Charles Puthota  
December 5, 2021



Mary was protected from any tainting of sin because she had to give birth to the Son of God. This is the belief that we celebrate in the Immaculate Conception. William Wordsworth celebrates it in his poem "The Virgin": "Mother! whose virgin bosom was uncrust / With the least shade of thought to sin allied; / Woman! above all women glorified, / Our tainted nature's solitary boast..."

**Synod of Bishops:** Pope Francis will convene the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops in October 2022, with the theme, "For a synodal Church: communion, participation and mission." **Synodality: the path of the Church in the third millennium:** The topic of synodality has been an important feature in Pope Francis' pontificate. In October 2015, on the occasion of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the Synod of Bishops by St Paul VI, Pope Francis said, "From the beginning of my ministry as Bishop of Rome, I sought to enhance the Synod, which is one of the most precious legacies of the Second Vatican Council... it is precisely this path of synodality which God expects of the Church in the third millennium." More recently, speaking to the International Theological Commission in 2018, the Holy Father said the theme of synodality "is very close to my heart: synodality is a style, it is walking together, and it is what the Lord expects of the Church in the third millennium." (Vatican News)

**A Story to Ponder:** The old miser was overheard at his prayers: "If the Almighty, may His holy name be blessed forever, would give me a hundred thousand dollars, I would give ten thousand to the poor. I promise I would. And if the Almighty, may He be glorified forever, were not to trust me, let Him deduct the ten thousand in advance and just send me the balance."

**Wedding Humor:** 1. A young couple came into the pastor's office to fill out the prenuptial-questions form. The young man had never talked to a priest before and was nervous, so the pastor tried to put him at ease. When they came to the question, "Are you entering this marriage of your own free will?" there was a long pause. Finally, his fiancée looked at the young man and said, "Put down 'yes.'" 2. A pastor received the following thank-you note from a newlywed in his congregation: "Dear Father: I want to thank you for performing our marriage ceremony. It was beautiful the way you brought my happiness to conclusion."

**Christmas Liturgy Schedule:** Christmas Eve at 4:30 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. Christmas Day at 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Wishing you the blessings of the Advent Season,

Your Friend and Pastor,

Father Charles Puthota

**Advent:** The word "advent" itself means "coming" or "arrival." It is obviously about the coming of Jesus. Remember the words of Jesus before his ascension into heaven: "I'll be with you always." Jesus is with us always. Only we do not see and recognize him. We do not hear and touch him. We can imagine him saying: "You have eyes, but you don't see; have ears, but don't hear." There are many things in life that prevent us from being in touch with Jesus. Our preoccupations and anxieties may leave us with no time or space for Jesus in our lives. That is why the concept of "coming" is very helpful. It has the sense of dynamism built into it. It has the meaning that it is happening in our lives now, in our present situations and circumstances. It's not about the past or the future so much as it is about how Jesus is coming into our lives now, encountering us, calling us, sending us, fulfilling us, and blessing us. As we go about our daily, ordinary lives, how can we prepare ourselves in our minds and hearts for his coming? Or as we face difficult situations such as disease, death in the family, failure, rejection, depression, panic, and all sorts of sad experiences, how can we let Jesus come into our lives today so that he can make a difference and lift us up with his grace and love?

**Advent Quotes:** "At this Christmas when Christ comes, will He find a warm heart? Mark the season of Advent by loving and serving the others with God's own love and concern." - Mother Teresa. "The word advent means "expectation." What advent can do for us is create a sense of hope." - Louie Giglio. "The Lord is coming, always coming. When you have ears to hear and eyes to see, you will recognize him at any moment of your life. Life is Advent; life is recognizing the coming of the Lord." - Henri Nouwen. "It is the beautiful task of Advent to awaken in all of us memories of goodness and thus to open doors of hope." - Pope Benedict XVI. "A prison cell, in which one waits, hopes - and is completely dependent on the fact that the door of freedom has to be opened from the outside, is not a bad picture of Advent" - Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

### Immaculate Conception, a Holy Day of Obligation,

**Masses at 8:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.:** As you know, Wednesday, December 08th is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, a holy day of obligation. We love, esteem, and honor Mary our mother. We think of the mystery of Mary's glory as connected with Advent. Because Jesus was coming into the world, his mother Mary had to be prepared right from the moment of her conception, that is, when Mary was conceived in her mother Anne's womb.

## Second Sunday of Advent

December 5, 2021

God has commanded  
that every lofty mountain be made low.  
— Baruch 5:7



### A DEEP CHANGE OF HEART

When John proclaimed a baptism of repentance, as today's Gospel relates, he called people to a deep change of heart. For John the Baptist, repentance was not simply regret for past failings, but a commitment to orient life around God's desires and purposes. What might living in alignment with God's desires look like? Our readings offer some clues. Baruch indicates that when mercy and justice are embraced like a royal garment, we may see the fruits of repentance. Paul notes how the Holy Spirit has been active within the church in Philippi, forming them to live in a loving and united community of faith, so they may witness to the love of God. And John himself suggests that a repentant heart clears a path for God to enter, leveling the mountains and valleys of our resistance, so that God might dwell within. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

### TODAY'S READINGS

**First Reading** — Stand on the heights, Jerusalem; see your children rejoicing that they are remembered by God. A merciful and just God leads Israel in joy (Baruch 5:1-9).

**Psalm** — The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy (Psalm 126).

**Second Reading** — May your love increase in knowledge to discern what is valuable that you may be blameless for the day of Christ (Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11).

**Gospel** — John proclaims a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All flesh shall see the salvation of God (Luke 3:1-6).

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 November 28, 2021

Weekly Need: \$ 6,000.00  
First Collection \$ 3,681.00  
Parish Ministries \$ 317.00  
Over/Under \$ 2,002.00

Catholic Relief Services /Thanksgiving Collection  
\$ 845.00

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

<b>Monday</b> 8:30 am	<b>December 6</b> † Pierina, † Tina and † Emilia Delfino
<b>Tuesday</b> 8:30 am	<b>December 7</b> Neneng Arreolo (L) † Richard Petrocchi
<b>Wednesday</b> 8:30 am 6:00 pm	<b>December 8</b> Maria Ruiz (L) St. Elizabeth Parishioners
<b>Thursday</b> 8:30 am	<b>December 9</b> † Annie Cruz † Bruna Gutierrez
<b>Friday</b> 8:30 am	<b>December 10</b> † Jenny Sant † Tessie Spiteri
<b>Saturday</b> 8:30 am 4:30 pm	<b>December 11</b> † Victor Da Silva † Virginia Walsh
<b>Sunday</b> 9:30 am	<b>December 12</b> En Maog (L) † Tessie, † Joseph and † Saviour Schembri 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.

## RETIREMENT FUND FOR THE RELIGIOUS

Next weekend the annual collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious will be taken. Your gift will help defray some of the costs needed to care for our elderly religious and relieve the genuine financial crisis in many religious congregations. Whatever you give will be greatly appreciated. Please be generous. Most importantly, please remember in your prayers the more than 500 women and men religious living and serving in the Archdiocese of San Francisco.



Wednesday December 8<sup>th</sup> is the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a Holy Day of Obligation. Masses will be at 8:30 am and 6 pm.

**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)



It is wonderful to have new members  
into our church and community. Ava received the  
Sacrament of Baptism at our Rectory Chapel on  
November 27, 2021. Ava is pictured with her parents  
Larry Li and Van Lu.

**2022 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  
**10 Masses per year. Only 2 of those Masses may be on weekends depending on availability.**

**All Masses including the Saturday Vigil Mass and Sunday Mass will be accepting two intentions per Mass.**

**We do not accept individual Mass Intentions for the holidays and holy days including: 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](mailto:stelizabethchurchsf@gmail.com)

Not all dates are available for Mass Intentions, so we ask that you be prepared with alternate dates and times. 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.**



As we prepare for the Solemnity of Christmas we look forward to the joy of the birth of Christ. We hope to express our joy by filling the church with a bountiful display of poinsettias. We are asking each organization to donate six poinsettias. We are also asking parishioners to donate poinsettias to the Church. We will need a great number of them to beautify the sanctuary. Please bring them directly to Church.