

ST. ELIZABETH CHURCH

Established 1912 / Present Church dedicated 1962

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

Third Sunday of Advent

December 12, 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

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

Email: 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 2nd and 4th 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 12, 2021**



According to the Code of Canon Law, the synod is "a group of bishops who have been chosen from different regions of the world and meet together at fixed times to foster closer unity between the Roman Pontiff and bishops, to assist the Roman Pontiff with their counsel in the preservation and growth of faith and morals and in the observance and strengthening of ecclesiastical discipline, and to consider questions pertaining to the activity of the Church in the world".

Normally, the Synod of Bishops meets for Ordinary General Assemblies every 3-4 years, with other meetings (Extraordinary General Assemblies or Special Assemblies) taking place at the discretion of the Pope. An Extraordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops was convoked by Pope Francis in 2014 on "The Pastoral Challenges of the Family in the Context of Evangelization"; one year later, the Ordinary General Assembly considered the topic of "The Vocation and Mission of the Family in the Church and in the Contemporary World". In 2018, the Ordinary General Assembly focused on "Young People, Faith, and Vocational Discernment". Most recently, in October of 2019, Pope Francis called a Special Assembly of the Synod of Bishops for the Pan-Amazon region, "to identify new paths for the evangelization of God's people in that region". (Vatican News)

Christmas Mass Schedule: Christmas Eve Friday December 24 Masses at 4:30 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. Christmas Day Saturday December 25 Masses at 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Simbang Gabi Christmas Novena Mass Schedule: December 16 through 24 at 8:30 a.m. except on Sunday Dec. 19 which would be the 9:30 a.m. Mass. To plan, support, and sponsor, please contact Gloria Trinidad.

A Story to Ponder: Every day in the corner of a library in Japan an old monk was to be found sitting in peaceful meditation. "I never see you read the sutras," said the librarian. "I never learnt to read," replied the monk. "That's a disgrace. A monk like you ought to be able to read. Shall I teach you?" "Yes. Tell me," said the monk pointing to himself, "what is the meaning of this character?"

Humor: 1. Pilot to passengers in mid-flight: "I regret to inform you we are in terrible trouble. Only God can save us now. "A passenger turned to a priest to ask what the pilot had said and got this reply: "He says there's no hope!" 2. A devout, church-going father was trying to teach his son that lying is a sin and that he shouldn't lie about fishing and other things. "Do you know what happens to fishermen who lie when they die?" he asked. The son quickly replied, "They lie still!"

Wishing you the blessings of the Advent Season,

Your Friend and Pastor,

Father Charles Puthota

Advent Season: We are steadily journeying through this season of hope, the season of coming, the season of Advent. Deep down, through all our hectic activities, we perceive a person who is precious and beautiful, central and vital, to our lives. That is Jesus Christ. He came historically over 2000 years ago, but amazingly he comes into our lives now mystically---and mysteriously. Our spiritual awakening to the presence of someone who is intimate in our lives and yet all pervasive and transcendent brings us face to face with Christ, the giver of all gifts and blessings this holy season. Awake, my heart! Awake, my soul to Christ who has everything to do with my deepest and noblest longings and hopes! He it is who has brought us into life, he it is who has endowed us with blessings upon blessings, he it is who guides us through thick and thin, he it is who shines and smiles in our joys, he it is who comforts and consoles in our fears and anguish, he it is who shepherds us even after death---into life eternal. As we come closer to Christmas, we could keep humming in our hearts the longing-laden song: "O come, O come Emmanuel and ransom captive Israel." There is joy and sadness, longing and hope---all rolled into one in this ancient hymn. Let the Lord come into our lives and families---and let him stand with us, walk with us, and gaze upon us with love and tenderness

Word of God this Rejoice Sunday: This Sunday, the third Sunday of Advent, is called Gaudete (Rejoice!) Sunday. As we draw closer to Christmas, the Church invites us to rejoice at the soon-awaited birth of the Savior of the world. In Zephaniah we read: "Shout for joy, O daughter Zion! Sing joyfully, O Israel! Be Glad and exult with your heart, O daughter Jerusalem!" Are we ready to rejoice at the presence of Christ who is going to turn his abiding presence into a "coming" in our lives this holy season? We need to be filled with joy because Jesus is delighted with us and rejoices over us. Our most authentic joy this season can come from the personal experience of a God in Jesus who rejoices over us and from the way we can share this joy with family and friends and all those we are called to help and serve.

Synod of Bishops in 2023: Pope Francis formally launched the two-year global consultation process leading to the 2023 synod on synodality with a call to "look others in the eye and listen to what they have to say." Preaching at Mass at St. Peter's Basilica on Oct. 10, the pope said that Catholics taking part in the synodal path should strive to "become experts in the art of encounter." **To foster unity and assist the Pope:** The Synod of Bishops was established by Pope St Paul VI toward the end of the Second Vatican Council.

Third Sunday of Advent December 12, 2021

With joy you will draw water
at the fountain of salvation.
— Isaiah 12:3



REJOICE

The prophetic writings we hear in today's scriptures call us to rejoice and celebrate the goodness of God. Zephaniah, Isaiah, Saint Paul, and John the Baptist in Luke's Gospel all follow the rich tradition of the Biblical prophets, a tradition that reaches full expression in Jesus. The prophets warn that human failings have truly disastrous consequences. All are summoned to repent, and to change their lives. Today we hear the Good News that God's gracious love exceeds and overcomes all human corruption. God has not given up on us. Indeed, God keeps pursuing us, and eagerly seeks to reconcile with us. God's initiative to set the world aright culminates with Jesus, whose coming John the Baptist announces. John's prophetic message summons us to join in God's reconciling work, by living generously and justly in our daily lives. As we rejoice in God's grace, we then extend the fruits of this grace to all.
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TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — Shout for joy! Sing joyfully! Be glad and exult! The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a mighty savior (Zephaniah 3:14-18a).

Psalms — Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel (Isaiah 12).

Second Reading — Rejoice! The Lord is near. Make your requests known to God (Philippians 4:4-7).

Gospel — John tells his hearers to share their possessions with the needy; be honest; do not threaten or accuse others falsely (Luke 3:10-18).

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 December 5, 2021

Weekly Need: \$ 6,000.00

First Collection \$ 3,041.00

Faith Formation \$ 724.00

Over/Under \$ 2,235.00

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

9:30 am

December 13

Good Shepherd Guild

December 14

† Manuel Scerri

† Joseph Vella

December 15

† Lola Gomez

December 16

† Theresa Spiteri

Jesusa Galang (L)

December 17

† Joseph Spiteri

December 18

† Ibrahim Hadad

† Virginia Walden

December 19

† Arturo Alforque Bura

† Norma Obitnario

Maltese Society

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

Today the annual collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious is being taken. The women and men Religious of the Archdiocese are appreciative of any help you can give and count on your assistance as they face retirement with limited resources. More importantly, though, please remember in your prayers the more than 500 women and men religious living and serving in the Archdiocese of San Francisco.

FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

Our Lady of Guadalupe Day, on December 12, draws millions of Catholics every year from across Mexico and other countries to pay pilgrimage to see an image of Mary in the Basilica of Guadalupe. It is the site of her apparitions to Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatz in 1531, now the most visited Catholic site in the world. Children are dressed in traditional costumes and are blessed in churches. Thousands of people come to church to pray. Guadalupe's famous image, a brown-skinned woman in a starry blue mantle, hands folded in prayer, is cherished in Mexico. She is a remarkable part of believers' daily lives — in their homes, churches, prayers, and community life.

**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)

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE



Simbang Gabi Christmas Novena Mass

Schedule: December 16 through 24 at 8:30 a.m. except on Sunday Dec. 19 which would be the 9:30 a.m. Mass.

Christmas Mass Schedule:

Christmas Eve Friday December 24 Masses at 4:30 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.

Christmas Day Saturday December 25 Masses at 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

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

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.