

ST. ELIZABETH CHURCH

Established 1912 / Present Church dedicated 1962

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

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 19, 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.



A Christmas Message from Father Charles Puthota
Christmas 2021 New Year 2022

Dear St. Elizabeth Parishioners,

Christmas is Unique: Together at St. Elizabeth Church we celebrate a whole new Christmas. This Christmas will be different from any other Christmas because of the journey of life that places us amidst people, situations, and the world at this specific juncture in human history. What is more, the Covid pandemic has put us in a place we never thought was possible. Shall we, therefore, welcome wholeheartedly the freshness and newness of the grace and blessing of this Christmas?

Christmas is Enchanting: Christmas never ceases to enchant us, no matter how young or old we are. There is always a delight, a sweetness, a sense of cozy intimacy and safety that come with Christmas. We are filled with a spirit of beauty and loveliness. That is the reason playwrights, poets, and painters go wild over the endless charm of the feast of Christmas. Shall we, too, enter more deeply the magic and mystery of Christmas?

Christmas is Christ: There is no Christmas without Christ. He is the reason for the season. It is his birthday. Everything is centered on him. History is viewed as before (BC) or after (AD) Christ. All generations before him waited for him. All generations after his birth look up to him. He is the little baby born again now in our lives, entering as softly and tenderly as only a baby can. Our hearts melt at the sight of this divine baby and long to let him be part of our lives. He is our life and love, our peace and joy.

Christmas at St. Elizabeth: Joyfully and gratefully we embrace Christmas at St. Elizabeth. Let Christmas be an impetus and inspiration for the building up of our community with Christ at the center. I thank you for your engagement in the life of the parish and for your participation in the various ministries. The quality of volunteers who give of their time and talents is amazing. I thank you for your generous weekly offerings and the support you continue to give for God's work at St. Elizabeth Church.

Christmas Mass Schedule: Christmas Eve Masses: 4:30 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. Christmas Day Masses: 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Simbang Gabi: This devotion will be celebrated at the regular 8:30 a.m. Masses from December 16 through 24, except on Sunday Dec. 19 at the 9:30 a.m. Mass.

The parish staff and I wish you and your families the exquisite and exuberant Christmas blessings now and throughout the New Year.

Merry Christmas! Happy New Year!

Your Friend and Pastor,

Father Charles Puthota, Ph.D.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 19, 2021

O LORD of hosts,
look down from heaven and see;
take care of this vine,
and protect what your right hand
has planted.

— Psalm 80:15-16



AUDACITY

There is a spirit of audacity in our readings today. During a time of injustice and threat of invasion, the prophet Micah boldly announces that the God of insignificant Israel will raise up a leader from backwater Bethlehem, and this leader will bring justice and peace to the whole world. In the Gospel, Elizabeth and Mary, marginalized women, brazenly celebrate that their sons will be world-changing instruments of God. We further learn that this audacity is rooted in trust in God. The author of Hebrews describes the faithful obedience of Jesus. Mary is shown as the exemplar of faithful trust in God. This is the way God often seems to work, in the ordinary and marginalized in our world. Those who seem weak have learned to trust in God's strength. These have the audacity to become instruments of God's peace and justice.

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TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — From Bethlehem-Ephrathah shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel (Micah 5:1-4a).

Psalm — Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved (Psalm 80).

Second Reading — We have been consecrated through the offering of the body of Christ once for all (Hebrews 10:5-10).

Gospel — Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken by the Lord would be fulfilled (Luke 1:39-45).

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 12, 2021

Weekly Need: \$ 6,000.00
First Collection \$ 2,693.00
Immaculate Conception \$ 660.00
Over/Under \$ 2,647.00

Retirement for Religious \$ 783.00

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

December 20

† Tony Falzon
† Theresa Spiteri

Tuesday

8:30 am

December 21

† Giuseppe Moretto
Karl Kronenberg (L)

Wednesday

8:30 am

December 22

Sifuentes Family (L)

Thursday

8:30 am

December 23

† Leo Viscarra

Friday

8:30 am

December 24

No Intentions

4:30 pm

Christmas

8:00 pm

Christmas

Saturday

9:30 am

December 25

Christmas

11:00 am

Christmas

Sunday

9:30 am

December 26

† Pedro C. Songco
Italian Catholic Federation
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.



**Opportunities for Participation
in Pope Francis's Synod**

Pope Francis invites the whole Church to participate in the preparatory process for the upcoming Synod of Bishops on Synodality. This unprecedented opportunity will facilitate discussion and reflection to help shape the Church's understanding of herself and her mission of evangelization and forming disciples. The Archdiocese of San Francisco will kick-off the local synodal process in January by asking every Catholic to participate in the Disciple Maker Index survey. The process will continue in February and March with engagement sessions offered throughout the Archdiocese. The Disciple Maker Index survey is a nationally recognized survey administered at parishes around the United States and Canada since 2013 by The Catholic Leadership Institute. The results from this survey will provide baseline feedback from which content for engagement sessions will be developed. More details will be available through the Archdiocesan website beginning in January - <http://www.sfarch.org/synod>.

**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.

Pray for our Dear Departed



Maria Caraffi

"Eternal Rest Grant unto Them, O Lord . . ."