

ST. ELIZABETH CHURCH
Established 1912 / Present Church dedicated 1962
Mailing Address: 449 Holyoke Street, S.F. CA 94134
Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
July 24, 2022



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

Patricia Spiteri Administrative Assistant/
Pastoral Coordinator
Saydha Henderson Secretary
Fred Spence Maintenance
Laurie Digneo Faith Formation Coordinator
415-672-4903
sophielady7@aol.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

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.

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

Over 50 Group Meet Thursdays at 12pm in Cantwell Hall.

Per the Archdiocese of San Francisco:

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



From the Pastor's Desktop

A Spiritual Reflection

July 24, 2022

Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

BETTER THAN LIGHT

"I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year: 'Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown!'

And he replied: 'Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God.

That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way.'

Minnie Louise Haskins (1875-1957) in "God Knows"; quoted by King George VI during his broadcast to the UK at the outbreak of World War II.

Reflection: Jesuit Father John F. Kavanaugh narrates an unforgettable encounter he had with Mother Teresa. Volunteering years ago for a month at the "house of the dying" in Calcutta, India, he waited on the first day after the early morning mass to meet with her. When she appeared and wanted to know what she could do for him, he requested her to pray for him. Mother Teresa wanted to know what she should pray for. John said, "That I may have clarity." She refused to pray for that intention. Taken aback, John persisted, "But you always seem to have clarity." She laughed and said, "I have never had clarity; what I have always had is trust. So I'll pray that you trust."

Mother Teresa herself was not free from lingering doubts and gloomy confusion. The dark night of the soul was to be her constant companion. It wasn't always the dawn on the horizon of her soul. She had to take one step at a time. If she had had clarity, there was no need for her trust. Faith and trust are necessary because we do not see clearly and cannot pick our way without seeming to miss our footing.

This is precisely what we see in the book "Mother Teresa: Come Be My Light. The Private Writings of the 'Saint of Calcutta'". Compiling chronologically her private correspondence with various people, the book highlights the fact that Mother Teresa had to deal with darkness and the absence of God for over fifty years. Her interior struggles were characterized by spiritual desolation and dryness, loneliness, emptiness, and pain. For example, she wrote, "There is so much contradiction in my soul, no faith, no love, no zeal.... I find no words to express the depths of the darkness.... My heart is so empty.....so full of darkness... I don't pray any longer. The work holds no joy, no attraction,

no zeal.... I have no faith, I don't believe." Through her conversations with her confessors, however, she came to the conclusion that despite her desert experience and inner turmoil, God was calling her to continue to serve the poorest of the poor. In her inner suffering, she identified with all those who suffer and ultimately with Christ himself.

Her launching out into the new religious order was filled with doubts and uncertainties. Things did not move at the pace any reasonable person would have wanted. Even after the new Order "Missionaries of Charity" was established, the path was strewn with obstacles and hurdles that the only way of survival for her was to continue to trust. Without that trust, she couldn't have lived through another day with strength and courage. Through inner struggles and external obstacles, which made life uncertain and unclear, through the trials and tribulations, Mother Teresa kept trusting and longing for God.

We strive for clarity. Rational minds seek lucidity. We want to carry a light so we can tread safely into the dark unknown. No matter what lights we may carry, we will still have the unknown in our lives as it is part and parcel of our lives to live without knowing how things are going to turn out. That's why we have to put our hand into the hand of God and walk boldly into the unknown. The trust we put in God, even though everything might seem bleak and dreary, will give us strength to deal with the darkness of life. That trust is actually better than the light we can have; it is safer than the known way.

Jesus too faced this element of the unknown. Life was confusing and overwhelming for him. He didn't know his future clearly. He was human like us in everything but sin. He couldn't understand always why he had to suffer and die a cruel and undeserving death. He felt abandoned and forsaken. He was tempted to flee from terrible suffering and death. Even though he prayed, "let this cup pass from me," he did not want the unknown and uncertain taken away from his life. Instead, he put his trust in his loving Father, knowing that that was the best and safest way for him to deal with the dark and dangerous challenges of life.

Action: Appreciate the truth that no matter where and what you are, you will have to deal with darkness, uncertainty, and the unknown outside of yourself and inside of your soul. Instead of wishing them away, learn to take God's hand in yours, like a child takes his mother's, and face boldly what life brings. As you become aware of the causes of anguish and anxiety, let the trust you have in God lead you through the night and the storms.

Your Friend and Pastor,
Father Charles Puthota

**Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
July 24, 2022**

You were buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead.

— *Colossians 2:12*



CONVERSATION WITH GOD

Prayer is our focus this weekend. In the Gospel, Jesus gives his disciples, and us, the Lord's Prayer, which we have cherished through the centuries. The first two words encompass much about our faith—unity among all Christians (Our), and a sense that we are in a deeply bonded relationship with God (Father).

In Genesis, we see Abraham in conversational prayer, in his creaturely humility before his Creator, seeking mercy and compassion for the innocent. The psalm is a lyrical prayer of thanksgiving and praise for the God who answered the sincere prayers of a people who had called out for help, showing them mercy. In Luke's Gospel, the disciples want to pray like Jesus, with the same intimacy—to experience God as Abba in the depths of their being.

Do we try to talk to God? Do we listen for answers? This relationship is always a work in progress.

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TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — Abraham bargains with God to spare the city (Genesis 18:20-32).

Psalms — Lord, on the day I called for help, you answered me (Psalm 138).

Second Reading — Buried with Christ in baptism, we were also raised with him; all our transgressions are forgiven (Colossians 2:12-14).

Gospel — Jesus speaks of God's sure response to those who pray (Luke 11:1-13).

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.

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

July 25

† Nieves and † Julian Nunag
Alejandro Sapanlay (L)

July 26

† Marcos Palencia Jr.
† Vivencia Perez

July 27

† Joan Higgins
† Jeanette Borg

July 28

† Olivia Abranches
David Bartling (L)

July 29

† Martha Puthota

July 30

† Rita Buchta
Blanca Dominguez (L)

July 31

People of the Parish
† Juana Tamondong
† Giuseppina Rinaldi

†Denotes deceased – (L) Living

Saturday/Sunday Collection

July 16 and 17, 2022

Weekly Need:	\$ 5,000.00
First Collection	\$ 2,450.00
Church Environment	\$ 503.00
Over/Under	\$ 2,047.00

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS!

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 are unable to credit your contribution without your envelope number.



2023 MASS INTENTIONS NOW AVAILABLE!

Please follow the guidelines below when sending in your Mass requests.

Due to the large volume of Mass requests, in order to be fair to the needs of our parishioners, the following is the Mass Book policy.

Parishioners can a request up to 12 masses per year. Only 2 of those Masses may be on weekends depending on availability. This makes it fair to all parishioners who wish to have a weekend mass.

Mass Intentions cannot be reserved by phone or in person. Requests must be submitted in writing or emailed.

Not all dates are available, 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.

Please note: Mass Intentions are \$10.00 each. Please send payment with your Mass Intention requests.

Please allow time for processing.

Please email or mail your Mass Intention to: Saydha at stelizabethchurchsf@gmail.com

MASS INTENTIONS

Mass Intentions are still available for the 2022 year. Most dates in July, August, September, October, November, and December are open. Please submit your request by mail or email.

WELCOME TO ST. ELIZABETH PARISH COMMUNITY

We extend our hands and hearts to you here celebrating with us, whether long-time or newly arrived in our parish. We thank God that you are with us. If you are not registered or have changes to your registration, please fill in the form and submit it to the office.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Zip: _____ Phone: _____

New Parishioner

New Address/Phone

Send Sunday Envelopes

FAITH FORMATION REGISTRATION OPEN

New and continuing registration is being accepted for the 2022-23 Faith Formation program. Registration forms may be requested by calling the Faith Formation Coordinator at 415-672-4903 or email sophielady7@aol.com. Forms can also be picked up at the Rectory office or after mass at the back of Church.

Even if your child will be a returning student, a 2022-23 Registration Form is required. Registration Fees are \$45.00 per child per year. Classes begin on September 10th on select Saturday mornings from 9-11:00 am.

Preparation for First Holy Communion and Confirmation are each two-year programs, beginning no earlier than 1st grade for Communion and no earlier than 8th grade for Confirmation. There is no upper age limit for Communion.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Sacrament of Baptisms are arranged through the Parish Office. Please call for information and to make arrangements.

OTHER SACRAMENTS

For Weddings, Quinceañeras, Anointing of the Sick, and Funerals. Please contact the parish office

AAA 1% Circle Gratitude Dinner

SAVE THE DATE

Mark your calendars!

Sunday, September 11th

Look for your invitation in the mail.

LEGION OF MARY AND PLENARY INDULGENCE

At the 9:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday August 07 at St. Elizabeth Church, you are invited to receive a Plenary Indulgence on the occasion of the centenary celebrations of Legion of Mary. A plenary (meaning "full") indulgence is a special type of indulgence that, if all the requirements are met, removes all temporal punishment due to one's sin. To obtain, Catholics are invited to be in the state of grace, go to confession, receive Holy Communion, and pray for the intentions of the Holy Father (Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be...). Our own parish Legion of Mary members would be present and be actively involved in various ways at this Mass. We wish our Legion of Mary members and everyone else in our parish God's abundant blessings.