

**ST. ELIZABETH CHURCH**  
*Established 1912 / Present Church dedicated 1962*  
*Mailing Address: 449 Holyoke Street, S.F. CA 94134*  
**Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**October 23, 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](http://www.stelizabethsf.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.

**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 Scripture Reflection from  
Father Charles Puthota

October 23, 2022

**Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,**

*I would like to share with you my thoughts on the Word of God this 30<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time.*

Two elderly women in the front pew of their church were listening to a fiery preacher. When he condemned the sin of stealing, they cried out: "Amen, Brother." When he condemned the sin of lust, they cried out all the more: "Preach it, Reverend." When he condemned the sin of lying, they jumped to their feet screaming: "Tell it as it is, Brother. Amen." But when the preacher condemned the sin of gossip, they got very quiet. One said to the other, "He's quit preaching and now he's meddling"

Self-righteousness is more common than we think. Over 2000 years ago, Jesus addressed the parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector "to those who were convinced of their own righteousness and despised everyone else." There is a tendency in us to be quite sure of our own rightness and be smugly moralistic and intolerant of others' actions and beliefs. It is a false conviction that we are better or more moral than others, something entertained inside and expressed outwardly. Jesus addresses it through parables and, at times, in strong language.

Richard Crashaw, a 17<sup>th</sup> Century English metaphysical poet, who was also an Anglican cleric converted to Catholicism, has a poem on this Sunday's gospel: "Two went to pray? O rather say / One went to brag, th' other to pray: / One stands up close and treads on high, / Where th' other dares not send his eye. / One nearer to God's altar trod, / The other to the altar's God."

Crashaw's poetic interpretation captures Jesus' contrasts in the two men's posture and prayer. One brags while the other prays. One takes up position in pride while the other feels unworthy even to raise his eyes. One gets only as far as the altar while the other gets close to God. The parable seeks to persuade us

toward the nature of our relationship with God, with one another, in particular, with the poor, and the practice of prayer. The context is provided in Sirach where the poor of the world, the weak, oppressed, orphan, and the widow are close to God: "The prayer of the lowly pierces the clouds." The rich and the powerful are on notice because with wealth and position there is a grave danger of self-righteousness and lack of need for God. The poor in their lowly status have God on their side because, as the psalm says, "the Lord hears the cry of the poor."

Jesus the prophet par excellence continues and fulfills the Old Testament theme of God standing by the poor. In his words and actions, Jesus upholds the poor and those crushed by society, culture, and even religion. He keeps company with sinners and tax collectors. He challenges the oppressive structures arrayed against the poor and suffering. Jesus calls people to an authentic and loving relationship with his Father and one another as essential for the Kingdom.

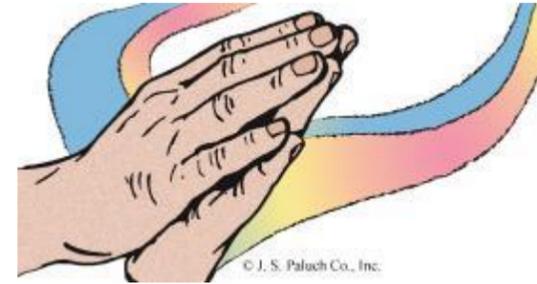
Three insights stand out. One, our relationship with God is based on grace, not on the merits of our deeds. It is not the quantity, but the spirit in which we live and love. Undeserved though we are, God shares his superabundant love with us freely and joyfully. Prayer is self-emptying before God who alone can fulfill us. Two, our relationship with one another is based not on pride but humility, not on comparison but compassion. We are all in the same boat of sinfulness. The Church is a fabulously sacred place to find our identity. As Charles Morrison has said, "The Christian church is a society of sinners. It is the only society in the world in which membership is based upon a single qualification, that the candidate be unworthy of membership." Three, poverty and suffering in the world are humongous and heartbreaking. God in Jesus Christ is stirred up to compassion, urging us to be his devotees in alleviating pain and healing the planet earth.

Your Friend and Pastor,

Father Charles Puthota

**Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
October 23, 2022**

The prayer of the lowly pierces the clouds; it does not rest until it reaches its goal, nor will it withdraw till the Most High responds.  
— Sirach 35:17-18a



**MADE RIGHT BEFORE GOD**

Although the opening lines of today's first reading claim that the Lord "knows no favorites" (Sirach 35:15) and is "not unduly partial toward the weak" (35:16), the remainder of the passage makes it clear that the Lord does indeed pay special attention to the weak, the oppressed, and the orphans and widows. The psalmist reiterates: "The Lord hears the cry of the poor" (see Psalm 34:18). In the Gospel, Jesus claims that a tax collector is more justified in his prayer for mercy than the Pharisee, whose prayer was an account of his own righteous deeds. Jesus' point could not have been clearer: tax collectors in the Jewish society of Jesus' day were not just lowly; they were considered outcasts and cheaters. They collected taxes for the hated Romans and almost certainly collected enough to assure a generous income for themselves. Tax collectors were among society's outcasts; didn't this one just admit his own sinfulness? How could a tax collector be "justified" (that is, made right) before God, while the Pharisee was not? Why would God even listen to the prayer of a tax collector? This surely was a surprise, upsetting common assumptions about righteousness.

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**TODAY'S READINGS**

**First Reading** — The LORD is a God of justice who hears the cry of the oppressed, the orphan, the widow, the lowly (Sirach 35:12-14, 16-18).

**Psalm** — The Lord hears the cry of the poor (Psalm 34).

**Second Reading** — The crown of righteousness awaits me (2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18).

**Gospel** — The tax collector stood at a distance, beat his breast, and prayed, "O God, be merciful to me, a sinner" (Luke 18:9-14).

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**

<b>Monday</b> 8:30 am	<b>October 24</b> † Reynaldo G. Gayaban Ledy Tolentino (L)
<b>Tuesday</b> 8:30 am	<b>October 25</b> † Martha Puthota † Marcos V. Valledor
<b>Wednesday</b> 8:30 am	<b>October 26</b> † Rosario Deano
<b>Thursday</b> 8:30 am	<b>October 27</b> † Albert J. Songco Richard John (L)
<b>Friday</b> 8:30 am	<b>October 28</b> Richard John (L)
<b>Saturday</b> 8:30 am 4:30 pm	<b>October 29</b> Garibaldi Family Living & Deceased Erlinda Ronas (L)
<b>Sunday</b> 9:30 am	<b>October 30</b> People of the Parish Italian Catholic Federation John Buckley (L) † Esther Lobo

†Denotes deceased – (L) Living

**Saturday/Sunday Collection  
October 15 and 16, 2022**

<b>Weekly Need:</b>	<b>\$ 5,000.00</b>
<b>First Collection</b>	<b>\$ 1,976.25</b>
<b>Over/Under</b>	<b>\$ 3,023.75</b>
<b>Hurricane Ian and Disaster Relief</b>	<b>\$ 514.00</b>

*Thank you to the St. Elizabeth Maltese Society for the donation of \$1,000.00 from the Champagne Bingo!*  
*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.*

Fr. Charles praying for St. Elizabeth Parish at Golgotha, the place of Jesus' crucifixion at the Holy Sepulchre Church, Jerusalem, on his recent visit to the Holy Land.



## **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 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](mailto:stelizabethchurchsf@gmail.com)

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### **SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**

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.

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### **FAITH FORMATION**

*Faith Formation classes have begun.  
October 29<sup>th</sup> is the last day to register.*

Registration forms can be picked up at the Rectory office or at the back of church. Or you can drop into Faith Formation on a Saturday at Cantwell Hall (8:30 am-11 am) to pick up a form.

### **Catechist Teachers Needed**

The Faith Formation program is looking for teachers to teach religion. If interested please call the Faith Formation Coordinator at 415-672-4903 or email [sophielady7@aol.com](mailto:sophielady7@aol.com).

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### **Red Hawk Casino Bus Trip**

**Saturday, December 3, 2022**

Please contact Jeanette Santos for information or to reserve a seat.  
415-225-5315

Sponsored by the *Maltese Society*.