

ST. ELIZABETH CHURCH
Established 1912 / Present Church dedicated 1962
Mailing Address: 449 Holyoke Street, S.F. CA 94134
Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
November 13, 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 on Death and Life from Father Charles Puthota

November 13, 2022

Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

I DID NOT DIE

Do not stand at my grave and forever weep. I am not there; I do not sleep. I am a thousand winds that blow. I am the diamond glints on snow. I am the sunlight on ripened grain. I am the gentle autumn's rain. When you awaken in the morning's hush I am the swift uplifting rush of quiet birds in circled flight. I am the soft stars that shine at night. Do not stand at my grave and forever cry. I am not there. I did not die.

---Attributed to Melinda Sue Pacho

Reflection: Early November, with the Feast of All Saints and All Souls Day, we suddenly wake up from slumber, so to speak, with our minds turned toward death. Nature nudges us by gently suggesting the theme of the season. Blanketing the cold regions with a riot of color, the fall season brings incredible beauty, which will eventually make way for muted light and an ascetic look. With the leaves falling to the ground, the season will ripen into winter, when the earth will put on a bare costume, bringing darkness sooner and making daytime shorter. Nature's seasonal desire to let go and die, and later on to renew itself, dovetails into the Christian call to dwell on death and to remember the beloved dead. In November, the souls and saints come into our range of imagination, beckoning us not only to think of them in love but also to examine our own life in relation to death.

Visiting graves is a hallowed tradition in Christianity. The soft murmurs from the lips of people, "Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them," soaked in sadness and hope, have the power to pierce the heart of God. All these rituals and devotions are born of the conviction that life is only changed, not ended.

When people die, they do not cease to exist. They only change their residence; they have gone ahead to live elsewhere; they have merely changed their address. Death brings us anxiety and anguish. In the death of a dear one, we lose ourselves---a part of us dies. Even if we are not acutely aware of it, death does inflict wounds in our souls. We feel the vital links that have kept us rooted to the world are loosened, leaving us adrift and buffeted in the storms. But the truth is the departed are not really gone. Their disappearance from our midst may be likened to the disappearance of a cargo ship sailing behind the mountains, beyond the mist and fog. The ship still exists in its original size, but it appears smaller, fading into the

horizon. The ship itself is making the journey into a realm beyond our ability to see and recognize.

Emily Dickinson says famously, "Because I could not stop for death, he kindly stopped for me; the carriage held but just ourselves and immortality." Death is kind enough to stop for all of us. No one can escape from it. We are just too busy to stop for it, given our preoccupations. We consider it morbid even to think about our death. However, Christianity and other religions invite us to consider death as a friend; a gateway; a golden gate through which we enter eternal life and find release from cares and bondage. If change is good in life, death represents the ultimate change in our life. We falsely consider death outside of our lives, and yet death is embedded inside of our lives, an inseparable, inescapable part of our lives. It is the last chapter of our lives on earth.

Death foregrounds our mortality. When we mourn the dead, we come to understand the brevity of our life journey. Because life is short and death is certain, because death is a friend and the last chapter of our lives on earth, because death is the only way we can flow into the ocean of eternal life in its fullness, we will do well by keeping death in the midst of our life. Because we do not live forever in this world, because we cannot take anything with us out of this world, except our good deeds, we have to reconsider the way we live.

That is how death can help energize us toward love. That's when we will be filled with the profound desire for love, only love, always love, forever love. Love will then become the only theme, only thesis. Everything else will be a mere footnote. Our lives then will begin to be based on love, founded on love, rooted and grounded in love, directed and oriented toward love. Death is necessary for life. It's essential for love. Without the reality of death, we cannot come into the reality of life, a sentiment echoed by Angelina Jolie: "If I think more about death than some other people, it is probably because I love life more than they do."

When we challenge death, we can't escape the question, "Why did Jesus have to die?" By dying, he entered new life and has brought us eternal life. He put into practice his autobiographical parable, "Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it cannot bear fruit." Those of our beloved who have fallen to the ground bear fruit and have been born into everlasting life.

Action: While you keep your beloved dead in your thoughts and prayers, especially in November, grow in your love for them as they grow in theirs for you. Become aware of the truth that one day you'll join them and go home. Because you'll die, learn to live more fully now. Allow yourself to be jolted into a more loving and caring life by the truth, reality, and inevitability of death.

Your Friend and Pastor,

Fr. Charles Puthota

**Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time
November 13, 2022**

Sing praise to the LORD with the harp,
with the harp and melodious song.

— Psalm 98:5



THE END OF DAYS

As we prepare for next Sunday's feast of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, we hear descriptions of dire and catastrophic events. Sometimes it seems as though we ourselves are living in the end times, when life as we currently know it will cease for everyone. In answer to what must have been a fearful question, Jesus does not sugarcoat his foretelling of future days. Nor does the Old Testament prophet Malachi flinch from his pronouncements upon an evil world. Saint Paul, still writing to the Thessalonians, warns them prophetically against succumbing to "The End Is Near" syndrome—indolence in the face of the final days. However, both Jesus and Malachi speak of the recompense for living a just life—healing and vindication. Our Psalm 98, typically associated with Christmastime, helps us to rejoice for the King who is coming to rule with justice.

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TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — There will arise the sun of justice with its healing rays (Malachi 3:19-20a).

Psalm — The Lord comes to rule the earth with justice (Psalm 98).

Second Reading — Paul speaks of his hard work among the Thessalonians (2 Thessalonians 3:7-12).

Gospel — Jesus foretells the destruction of Jerusalem, the persecution of his followers. But their perseverance will be their salvation (Luke 21:5-19).

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

November 14
† Theresa Spiteri
† Vittorio Rossi

Tuesday
8:30 am

November 15
† Evaristo and † Eufecena Camba
† Mike and † Ramona Visperas

Wednesday
8:30 am

November 16
† Soledad Tanquilut Tessie Vinluan (L)

Thursday
8:30 am

November 17
† Rinaldo Schenone Jesse Beau (L) and Catherine Gotauco (L)

Friday
8:30 am

November 18
† Efren J. Songco
† Gloria Trinidad

Saturday
8:30 am

November 19
Cora Pilare (L)
Mila Sapanlay (L)
† Arthur Ghiglieri Sandra Abranches (L)

4:30 pm

Sunday
9:30 am

November 20
People of the Parish
Maltese Society
† Salvina Hili
† Theresa Spiteri

† Denotes deceased – (L) Living

Saturday/Sunday Collection
November 5 and 6, 2022

Weekly Need: \$ 5,000.00
First Collection \$ 2,695.00
Over/Under \$ 2,305.00
Saint Patrick Seminary \$ 804.00

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

November: Month of All Souls

Traditionally, November is the month when we especially remember the souls who have entered eternal life. As we prepare for these remembrances there is a specific way of preparation besides our own prayers and remembrances. You may write their names on one of the All-Souls envelopes. These envelopes will be placed on the altar for remembrances during all the Masses in November.

Pray for our Dear Departed



Patricia Hendricks

“Eternal Rest Grant unto Them, O Lord . . .”

St. Elizabeth's On the Horizon:

Parish Advent Retreat: Saturday,
December 03, 2022 at 8:30-1pm

Simban Gabi: Saturday, December 16
through 24th, 2022 at 8:30 am

Parish Advent Confessions: Saturday,
December 17, 2022 at 10:30 am

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.

Welcome to St. Elizabeth Church

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