

ST. ELIZABETH CHURCH
Established 1912 / Present Church dedicated 1962
Mailing Address: 449 Holyoke Street, S.F. CA 94134
Third Sunday of Advent
December 11, 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 message from
Father Charles Puthota
December 11, 2022**

Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

Gaudete Sunday of Advent: We are at the Third Sunday of Advent, also called Gaudete (Rejoice) Sunday. Usually, rose-colored vestments are worn by the priest. The readings, especially the one from Isaiah, point to the invitation to rejoicing. Looking to the most auspicious and life-giving birth of Christ, we begin to rejoice. This process of rejoicing will culminate at Christmas time and spread throughout the Christmas season. The Advent season is going forward as it invites us to the person of Christ. The advent is about the advent of Christ. It's all about his coming into our lives. His coming is a dynamic reality, in that it happens as life happens for us. We are not the same as we were before. Our pilgrimage of life progresses with all sorts of new experiences of joy and struggle. In our current situation, Jesus meets us; he joins our journey; he walks with us and talks with us. He engages us wherever we are in our life-situations. Jesus Christ is ever ancient, ever new. Even as he changed to become a human person, he changes himself, adapts himself, incarnates himself, into our human situations. In joy, he rejoices with us. In our sorrows, he weeps with us. In our fears, he comforts us. In our despair, he hopes with us. While we anchor ourselves to Jesus Christ the Son of God, we know that Jesus is ever human, ever fresh, ever new, ever adaptable so that he can constantly capture our imagination and appeal to our deep desires and dreams, our laughter and longings. This is my personal prayer for you and me: **"Jesus, come meet me where I'm at this juncture of my life. Speak to me to my present needs. Heal me as I carry the burdens of my illnesses. Save me from myself and my loneliness and sadness. Touch me with your grace. Make my humdrum life shine with your love."**

Advent Quotes: "You keep us waiting. You, the God of all time, want us to wait. For the right time in which to discover who we are, where we are to go, who will be with us, and what we must do. So thank you ... for the waiting time." --- John Bell. "Christmas is fast approaching. And now that Christ has aroused our seasonal expectations, he'll soon fulfill them all!" --- St. Augustine. "God is coming! God is coming! All the element we swim in, this existence, echoes ahead the advent. God is coming! Can't you feel it?" --- Walter Wangerin, Jr

Parish Advent Retreat on Tuesday, December 13: Please be in touch with the parish office for the update on this event. The plan: I'll be giving three talks on the theme of "To Know Jesus, To Love Jesus, and To Follow Jesus." The Retreat starts with 8:30 a.m. Mass, followed by "coffee and donuts/bagels." We will have singing at the sessions and reflections and plenty of time to socialize and renew friendships. After the sessions are over, we will have lunch. Do come join, if you are able to.

Parish Advent Confessions: On Saturday, December 17 at 10:30 a.m. as a way of preparing ourselves spiritually and internally for Christmas.

Simbang Gabi Masses: At the regular 8:30 a.m. Masses from December 16 through 24, Simbang Gabi tradition will be followed. Do come join! As we will be busy with the external preparations such as gift-buying, decorations, food, etc., it would be highly beneficial to prepare ourselves internally, spiritually, for the Birth of Christ at Christmas. I'd like to thank all those who have begun the preparations for making this tradition a success in our parish as in the past.

Christmas Mass Schedule: Christmas Eve December 24 Mass at 4:30 p.m. Christmas Day December 25 Masses at 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. My Christmas letter to the whole parish will be in the mail in the next few days.

New Year Mass Schedule: Saturday, December 31 at 4:30 p.m. and Sunday, January 01 at 9:30 a.m.

A Story to Think About: Confucius the Sage: Pu Shang once said to Confucius, "What kind of sage are you that you can say that Yen Hui excels you in straightforwardness? That in clarifying things Tuan-mu Tz'u is superior to you? That Chung Yu is more courageous than you? And that Chuan-sun is more dignified than you?" In his eagerness to get a reply Pu Shang moved to the edge of the mat and nearly fell off it. "If these things' are true," he said, "then why are these four men your disciples?" Confucius replied, "Stay right where you are and I shall tell you. Yen Hui knows how to be straight-forward, but he does not know how to be flexible, Tuan-mu Tz'u knows how to clarify things, but he does not know how to give a simple Yes or No for answer. Chung Yu knows how to be courageous, but he does not know how to be cautious. Chuan-sun Shih knows how to be dignified, but he does not know how to be, unassuming. This is why these four men are glad to study under me." Jalal-ud-din Rumi says, "A hand that is always open or always closed is a crippled hand. A bird that cannot open and close its wings cannot fly." (ADM;TSOTB)

Humor: 1. What's the difference between in-laws and outlaws? Outlaws are wanted. 2. Einstein's mom: Are you happy? Einstein: Relatively. 3. Describe yourself in three words. Lazy. 4. Where there's a will, there's a relative. 5. A plateau is the highest form of flattery. 6. What's the difference between ignorance and apathy? I don't know and I don't care. 7. "I'm sorry" and "I apologize" mean the same thing --- unless you're at a funeral. 8. "I stand corrected," said the man in the orthopedic shoes. 9. It's difficult explaining puns to kleptomaniacs --- they're always taking things literally. 10. I went on a once-in-a-lifetime holiday. Never again.

Wishing you a grace-filled Season of Advent with great expectations,

Your Friend and Pastor,
Father Charles Puthota

**Third Sunday of Advent
December 11, 2022**

On that day, a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse, and from his roots a bud shall blossom.

--Isaiah 11:1



THE ONE FOR WHOM OUR HEARTS LONG

Put yourself in the scene of today's Gospel passage. John the Baptist is in prison. He has heard stories of what Jesus is doing, and wants reassurance that Jesus is the long-awaited Messiah. John's disciples and those who surrounded Jesus were faithful Jews who would have known Isaiah's prophecies by heart. God would send One who would bring sight to the blind, healing to those who were ill, salvation to all who longed to know God's mercy and peace. Jesus' response to the disciples' question rings as powerfully in our ears today as it surely did for the people who were with him that day. His actions are precisely those that the people had been told to expect. Jesus is the One for whom the people have been patiently yet anxiously waiting, like the farmer who waits for the fruits of his labor. Jesus is the One for whom our hearts long.

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TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — The barren deserts will rejoice and flower. Tired bodies will receive strength. Aching hearts will be made glad (Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10).

Psalms — The Lord saves us when he comes (Psalm 146).

Second Reading — Be patient, for the coming of the Lord is as sure as the rain (James 5:7-10).

Gospel — Tell of what you hear and see: The blind regain their vision, the crippled their movement, the deaf their hearing (Matthew 11:2-11).

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday
8:30 am

December 12
† Asuncion Rufo
† Marites Cerezo

Tuesday
8:30 am

December 13
† Vittorio Rossi
† Patricia Hendricks

Wednesday
8:30 am

December 14
† Mercedes Bulatao
† Renato Abalihin

Thursday
8:30 am

December 15
Layla Spiteri (L)
† Giuseppe Moretto
† Naning Obtinaric

Friday
8:30 am

December 16
Jesusa Galang (L)
† Romana S. Mamaril

Saturday
8:30 am

December 17
† Miguel and † Felipa Lundang
Grasso Family Living &
Deceased

4:30 pm

Jesse Beau (L) and
Catherine (L) Gotauco

Sunday
9:30 am

December 18
People of the Parish
Maltese Society
Italian Catholic Federation
Alfred S. Castillon (L)
† Norma Quilantang

†Denotes deceased – (L) Living

Saturday/Sunday Collection

December 3 & 4, 2022

Weekly Need: \$ 5,000.00
First Collection \$ 2,604.00
Parish Ministries \$ 551.00
Over/Under \$ 1,845.00

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 will not be responsible for donations not credited due to missing envelope numbers.*

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

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: December 11th Third Sunday of Advent
Monday: December 12th Our Lady of Guadalupe
Tuesday: December 13th St. Lucy
Wednesday: December 14th St. John of the Cross
Friday: December 16th *Las Posadas* begins

THE LOOK OF LOVE

What does love look like?
It has feet to go to the poor and needy.
It has eyes to see misery and want.
It has ears to hear
the sighs and sorrows of others.

—St. Augustine

St. Elizabeth Parish **On the Horizon:**

Third Sunday of Advent:

December 11, 2022

Parish Advent Retreat Rescheduled to:

Tuesday, December 13, 2022 at 8:30-1pm

Simbang Gabi: Saturday, December 16

through 24th, 2022 at 8:30 am

Parish Advent Confessions: Saturday,

December 17, 2022 at 10:30 am

Christmas Eve Mass: December 24, 2022 at

4:30 pm

Christmas Day Masses: December 25, 2022

at 9:30 am and 11:00 am

New Year Mass Schedule: Saturday, December

31, 2022 at 4:30 p.m. and Sunday, January 01,

2023 at 9:30 a.m.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Baptisms are arranged through the Parish Office.

Please call for information and to make arrangements.

OTHER SACRAMENTS

For Weddings, Funerals, Anointing of the Sick, and Quinceañeras. 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