

ST. ELIZABETH CHURCH
Established 1912 / Present Church dedicated 1962
Mailing Address: 449 Holyoke Street, S.F. CA 94134
Third Sunday of Advent
December 18, 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 18, 2022**

Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

Advent: We are at the fourth Sunday of Advent. This is the Sunday before Christmas, which falls this year on a Sunday. That Jesus is coming into our lives all over again in fresh new ways and meeting us where we are on the journey of life is at the heart of this Advent season. Coming is a concept that is dynamic, not static. It's active, alive, with movement and dynamism. It's like the difference between static water and running water. The running water of the river flows, bringing new life all around, with fruit and medicinal trees. Jesus' coming has such power, newness, fullness, and healing in our lives. The Greek philosopher Heraclitus said: "You never step into the same river twice." With the river constantly flowing, it's always a new river. Jesus coming into our lives has the same qualities. Our lives are flowing like the river, changing, transforming, and developing. We are in flux! Jesus steps into our lives, not like he did yesterday or in the past anytime, but he enters our lives today. He knows our changed circumstances and struggles. He speaks to where we are now. He meets us and upholds us and graces us as he finds us now. That's why this Advent we can let him into our lives with joyful abandon so he can bring about the magic only he can.

Faith Formation Families at Last Sunday Mass: Our Faith Formation (formerly CCD) children were present last Sunday, December 11, at the 9:30 a.m. Mass wearing Santa's hat and participating in the various parts of the Mass. At the end of the Mass, they sang Christmas carols. I would like to express my joy and gratitude to the children and their families for their participation. Also, my special thanks to Laurrie Digneo, Patti, Spiteri, and the dedicated catechists.

Parish Advent Retreat on Tuesday December 13: A group of 35 people attended this retreat that I preached. The theme of the retreat was: "To Know Jesus, To Love Jesus, and To Follow Jesus." The Retreat started with the 8:30a.m. Mass followed by arroz caldo, croissants, coffee, and fruits. We sang hymns at the beginning and end of each session. There was plenty of time to socialize and renew friendships. After the sessions were over, we had Chinese food for lunch. Thanks for all those who attended this retreat. Also, thanks to all the volunteers who put in so much work to make this spiritual event a success.

Over 50 Club and Italian Catholic Federation (ICF): On Friday, December 09, there was a Christmas luncheon of Over 50 Club at the Basque Cultural Center. It was well-attended and the room was packed with people. I would like to thank the organizers for this event and for their regular meetings in Cantwell Hall on Thursdays. Our social events are very important, and they serve to bring people together and keep the blues of loneliness away. Also, the ICF Christmas luncheon was held at the Basque on

Friday, December 16. Thank you, Eva and Mary Perata and your team for putting on this enjoyable event.

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 is in the mail already.

New Year Mass Schedule: Saturday, January 31 Vigil Mass at 4:30 p.m. Sunday, January 1 Mass at 9:30 a.m.

A Story to Ponder: Change the World by Changing Me:

The Sufi Bayazid says this about himself; "I was a revolutionary when I was young and a/I my prayer to God was: 'Lord give me the energy to change the world. "As I approached middle age and realized that half my life was gone without my changing a single soul, I changed my prayer to: 'Lord, give me the grace to change all those who come in contact with me. Just my family and friends, and I shall be content, 'Now that I am an old man and my days are numbered, my one prayer is, Lord, give me the grace to change myself. ' If I had prayed for this right from the start I should not have wasted my life." (ADM; TSOTB)

Advent / Christmas Humor: A little girl was pushing the limits of her mother's very last nerve. Mom was nearing the end of a hectic season of cooking, cleaning, shopping, wrapping and church stuff. She was also nearing the breaking point with her little pre-schooler. Finally, the little girl was bathed and ready for bed. As she knelt to say her prayers, Mom listened as her sweet three-year-old theologian "customized" her evening prayer, "... And forgive us our Christmases, as we forgive those who Christmas against us!"

Humorous Church Signs: 1. "Get in touch with God by knee mail." 2. "Whoever stole our AC units keep one. It's hot where you're going." 3. "Be the kind of person your pet thinks you are." 4. "Honk if you love Jesus. Text while driving if you want to meet him." 5. "God prefers kind atheists over hateful Christians." 6. "Catch up with Jesus. Lettuce praise & Relish him. 'Cuz he loves me from my head to-ma-toes." 7. "Forgive your enemies ---It Messes with their heads." 8. God expects spiritual fruit, not religious nuts." 9. "Tweet others as you would like to be tweeted." 10. "Having trouble sleeping? Try one of our sermons."

Hope you are having a happy, holy, and fun-filled Advent Season with family and friends, looking eagerly forward to the birth of Christ in our minds and hearts,

Your Friend and Pastor, Father Charles Puthota

Fourth Sunday of Advent December 18, 2022

They shall name him Emmanuel, which means "God is with us."
--Matthew 1:23



GOD WANTS TO BE ONE WITH US

What great lengths God will go to in loving and saving us! Think of the most outlandish circumstance you might conceive. That seems to be what the Lord is saying to Ahaz in today's first reading. "A virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel." Not only is the idea of a virgin conceiving beyond comprehension in Ahaz's time, so would the concept of God wanting to be with us be, as the name Emmanuel indicates. And yet, this is what we celebrate in the Incarnation—God wants so completely to be one with us that God came to be with us in a son born to a virgin, the Blessed Virgin Mary. There is more to this story than even these amazing and outlandish occurrences, however. God wants to be one with us so deeply that God partners with us to make God's presence known.
Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — You will be given this sign: the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel (Isaiah 7:10-14).

Psalms — The king of glory shall come in (Psalm 24).

Second Reading — God has called us to belong to Jesus Christ (Romans 1:1-7).

Gospel — The son born of Mary shall be called Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins. He shall be Emmanuel, "God is with us" (Matthew 1:18-24).

MASS INTENTIONS

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Monday 8:30 am | December 19 † Norma Quilantang † Monina Ferrer Pascual |
| Tuesday 8:30 am | December 20 † Joseph Spiteri Isabel Borelli (L) |
| Wednesday 8:30 am | December 21 † Giuseppe Moretto Grasso Friends Living and Deceased |
| Thursday 8:30 am | December 22 † Isaac Puthota † Louis Tosti |
| Friday 8:30 am | December 23 † Leo Viscarra † Heidi Stolte |
| Saturday 8:30 am | December 24 † Rufo Mangonon Sr. † Daisy Lem Christmas Vigil |
| 4:30 pm Sunday 9:30 am | December 25 People of the Parish Nativity of the Lord |

†Denotes deceased – (L) Living

Saturday/Sunday Collection December 8, 10 & 11, 2022

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Weekly Need: | \$ 5,000.00 |
| First Collection | \$ 2,098.00 |
| Over/Under | \$ 2,902.00 |
| Retirement for Religious | \$ 731.00 |
| Immaculate Conception 12/8 | \$ 553.00 |

THANK YOU FOR YOUR 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.

**THE PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED
DECEMBER 26, 2022 AND DECEMBER 29,
2022 FOR THE CHRISTMAS AND
NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS.**

The Faith Formation students singing Christmas Carols at the 9:30 am Sunday Mass. Led by their teachers and the Faith Formation Coordinator, Laurrie Digneo



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

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

Fourth Sunday of Advent:

December 18, 2022

Simbang Gabi: Saturday, December 16 through 24th, 2022 at 8:30 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.



St. Elizabeth's Parish would like to congratulate David and Jovic Snyder on their marriage on December 10, 2022 in the Rectory Chapel. Also with Jovic's mother Hermie de los Reyes, and their children Janet and Will.



St. Elizabeth's Parish would also like to congratulate Mike and Marilou Noonan on their marriage on December 11, 2022 at the Rectory Chapel.