

ST. ELIZABETH CHURCH
Established 1912 / Present Church dedicated 1962
Mailing Address: 449 Holyoke Street, S.F. CA 94134
Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
January 22, 2023



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 From the Pastor
Father Charles Puthota

January 22, 2023

Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

HE COMES, COMES, EVER COMES

“Have you not heard his silent steps? He comes, comes, ever comes. Every moment and every age, every day and every night he comes, comes, ever comes. Many a song have I sung in many a mood of mind, but all their notes have always proclaimed, ‘He comes, comes, ever comes.’ In the fragrant days of sunny April through the forest path he comes, comes, ever comes. In the rainy gloom of July nights on the thundering chariot of clouds he comes, comes, ever comes. In sorrow after sorrow it is his steps that press upon my heart, and it is the golden touch of his feet that makes my joy to shine.”

Reflection: The author of this poem from Gitanjali (“Song-Offering”) is Rabindranath Tagore, a poet, mystic, playwright, artist, philosopher, novelist, composer, from India, who won the Nobel prize for literature in 1913. His Nobel Prize-winning *Gitanjali* explores possibilities and prospects of our personal relationship with God, whom we can recognize in the world, in our works, and through song, music, and art. He is a God who comes, comes, ever comes.

Christmas is a special time when we dwell on the mystery of God’s coming in Jesus. Easter is a time when we celebrate the beauty of Jesus’ immanent as well as transcendent presence in our lives. During the holy seasons of Advent and Lent, and through the Ordinary Time of the liturgical seasons we seek purification and clearer vision of God’s coming into our lives and filling us with every grace and blessing. Even though our vision may get somewhat clouded by our preoccupations and distractions, this mystery has the power to shine through, reminding us of our union with the God who comes throughout the year, every day, and every moment. The reality and mystery of God coming into our lives can lead us into a continuous engagement with a God who comes, rain or shine, in season and out of season.

It is one thing to say that God is present in our lives; quite another to believe that God comes into our lives. The God who comes engages us in a dynamic relationship in our ongoing growth and struggles. In the unfolding of our personhood throughout the life

journey, God comes and meets us. As we go about fulfilling our calling and destiny, His encounter is ever fresh and new and relevant to the present moment of our lives because he is a God who comes. The God who comes by engaging us in a process of growth offers a sense of flow to our lives and removes possibilities of our being stagnant and stranded. That God comes in our lives implies that we cannot remain in icy isolation, frozen in our ideas and experiences, constantly looking back to what has been. It does not matter what the past experiences and old notions have been. We have to confront ourselves and the world of today without bias, prejudice, and melancholic nostalgia, taking responsibility for what we can do now to find our happiness and fulfillment and make this world a better place. We have to humanize and spiritualize the world. God invests us with this sacred mission because He is a God who comes.

Since our God is a God who comes, we cannot become complacent to His transforming and healing presence. He will surprise us by popping up in our lives when we least expect Him. We might often discover Him serendipitously. We cannot keep Him out of our lives because He comes, comes, ever comes. As Tagore says, He comes with silent steps. In the midst of the din of our lives, we will do well to develop a special hearing by which we can discern his silent steps. If He came in the past, He comes now. Why are we so preoccupied with His coming in the past that we become deaf to His coming in the present time? Every age, every moment He comes. In our joyful moments, in sad times, and in our various moods He comes. In sunny weather, in rainy season, in the fog, in snowy times, in storms and tornadoes, He comes, comes, ever comes. In our sorrow, it is His steps that press upon our heart and make us breathless with love and peace. In joy, it’s His steps that make us shine like fluffy clouds suffused with the sun.

Action: Become aware --- from the moment you wake up in the morning until you fall asleep at the end of the day --- that God comes in your life in various forms and shapes and sizes and colors and sounds and faces and moods and feelings and thoughts. Experiment with this awareness in an intense manner on a given day and evaluate it at the end of the day before you go to bed. Your personal awareness and appreciation of the God who comes is vital for your wellbeing as well as in your quest to help bring about peace, love, and justice to the world.

Your Friend and Pastor,
Father Charles Puthota

**Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
January 22, 2023**

Wait for the LORD with courage;
be stouthearted,
and wait for the LORD.
— *Psalms 27:14*



GOD’S LOVING CARE

Two readings today refer to the northeast region of ancient Israel: “the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali.” Upon hearing these names, some of us might consult maps and determine exactly where these regions lie. Others might let the unfamiliar names drift by unnoticed. If no maps are handy—but we don’t want to ignore the references completely—consider this: we might not know the latitude and longitude of Zebulun and Naphtali, but God does. We praise God for watching over every inch of land and sea, caring perfectly for each creature on the planet. While Isaiah celebrates the depth of God’s care with “abundant joy and great rejoicing,” Saint Paul begs us to remember how the Lord shows this loving care: through the cross. In today’s Gospel, Jesus calls Peter, James, and John to follow him. We follow too, confident that God accompanies us, wherever we are.

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TODAY’S READINGS

First Reading — The burdens that were once laid upon the people have been vanquished (Isaiah 8:23 — 9:3).

Psalms — The Lord guides and saves me (Psalm 27).

Second Reading — Paul exhorts the believers at Corinth: As there is one Christ, so too must there be no divisions among you. (1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17).

Gospel — After calling his first disciples, Jesus goes throughout Galilee teaching, proclaiming the gospel, and curing the people (Matthew 4:12-23 [12-17]).

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday 8:30 am	January 23 † Jim Gilbert
Tuesday 8:30 am	January 24 † Rodolfo C. Trinidad
Wednesday 8:30 am	January 25 Francisca Oropeza (L) and Timothy Carter (L) † Francisca C. Fabia
Thursday 8:30 am	January 26 Communion Service
Friday 8:30 am	January 27 Communion Service
Saturday 8:30 am 4:30 pm	January 28 † Olivia Abranches Francisca Oropeza (L) and Timothy Carter (L) † Ricardo Tagle, Jr.
Sunday 9:30 am	January 29 People of the Parish † Patricia Hendricks † Milagros Galimba

†Denotes deceased – (L) Living

**Saturday/Sunday Collection
January 14 and 15, 2023**

Weekly Need:	\$ 5,000.00
First Collection	\$ 2,813.00
Church Environment	\$ 496.00
Over/Under	\$ 1,691.00

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 Calendars are available.

Please be sure to pick up a copy in the church or rectory during office hours.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

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

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

2023 MASS INTENTIONS ARE 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

END OF YEAR STATEMENTS

We are preparing to close the books on 2022. Please contact the parish office in **writing** or **email** if you are in need of a year-end statement of your donations. We are able to provide statements to parishioners who have donated using **SUNDAY ENVELOPES**.

Please note that any donations received after December 31st will be credited to 2022.

We will not be responsible for donations not credited due to missing envelope numbers, (or not having a Sunday collection envelope.)

St. Elizabeth Parish
On the Horizon:

Maltese St. Paul of the Shipwreck Feast:
Saturday, February 11th –Details to Follow

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: January 22nd Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Monday: January 23rd Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children; St. Vincent; St. Marianne Cope

Tuesday: January 24th St. Francis de Sales

Wednesday: January 25th The Conversion of St. Paul; Week of Prayer for Christian Unity ends

Thursday: January 26th Ss. Timothy and Titus

Friday: January 27th St. Angela Merici

Saturday: January 28th St. Thomas Aquinas

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