

**ST. ELIZABETH CHURCH**  
*Established 1912 / Present Church dedicated 1962*  
*Mailing Address: 449 Holyoke Street, S.F. CA 94134*  
**Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**January 29, 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](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 Message from the Pastor**

**January 29, 2023**

**Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,**

**Moveable Feasts in 2023:** The Christmas season was officially and liturgically over with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord on January 09th. We are now in a brief "Ordinary Time." Then we will start the Lenten Season with Ash Wednesday on February 22. Palm Sunday falls on April 02. The Holy Week will see us celebrating the holy events of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday. April 09 is Easter Sunday. May 21 is the Ascension of the Lord. Pentecost Sunday is May 28. The Ordinary Time will begin on May 29. Trinity Sunday is June 04. The feast of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ is on June 11. The Ordinary time will go on until we begin a whole new Advent Season on December 03 with the first Sunday of Advent.

As the seasons of nature repeat one after another, the seasons of the liturgical events celebrating God's mysterious repeat one after another. Each year, as we go through the cyclical seasons, we are given opportunities after opportunities, reminders after reminders, inspirations after inspirations, awakenings after awakenings --- to grapple with God's presence and love in our lives. God's mysteries are profound and far-reaching. We may be preoccupied with things that can shut us out of the deeper awareness of God's working in our lives. That is why we need seasons after seasons to help us go just a little bit deeper into the heart of God. That is why we need each year the events of the life of Christ that parallel our lives. Not only do they parallel our lives, the mysteries of Christ's life converge on our lives. Then we'll know, like St. Paul, that "it is no longer I who live but Christ who lives in me."

**The Word of God:** The Sermon on the Mount starting with the Beatitudes: As you know, the Sermon on the Mount is a collection of the central teachings of Jesus found in Matthew's Gospel chapters 5, 6, and 7. If we want to know what Jesus teaches and would like to take a quick look at them, we need to go to these three chapters. The scripture scholars tell us that this is how Jesus used to teach. The Sermon on the Mount begins with the Beatitudes. These are the "attitudes-to-be." Before we can do anything, we have to be. The world is too preoccupied with action and perhaps too little with the inner source of our being; too much action springing from too little soulfulness. The Beatitudes bring us to who we are to be, what our attitudes have to be, what our inner disposition and motivation have to be, before we can translate them into deeds.

We Christians rightly appreciate the Ten Commandments. But as you know, the Ten Commandments are from the

Old Testament. When we come to the New Testament, Jesus fulfills the Ten Commandments by giving us the Beatitudes. If we are to be happy, there's one clear way: the Beatitudes of Jesus. Not easy to follow though. Because our upbringing and culture may have conditioned us to certain attitudes that are opposed to Jesus' attitudes --- the Beatitudes --- which Jesus wants us to follow, if we have to be his disciples. So let's take a closer look at the Beatitudes and meditate on them. For example, Blessed are the poor in spirit means that we are not dependent on all the things that the world offers; rather our happiness comes from being dependent on God who alone can truly fulfill us and lead us to the purpose and goal of our life. In my opinion, if we want to post any biblical code of ethics or laws or commandments in our Court Houses and City Halls, it should really be the Beatitudes of Jesus. They enshrine the mind and heart of Jesus and impel us to embrace the authentic Christianity in all its glory and majesty, in its humility and simplicity.

**Think About It:** Love's Forgetfulness: "Why do you keep talking about my past mistakes?" said the husband. "I thought you had forgiven and forgotten." "I have, indeed," said the wife. "But don't you ever forget that I have forgiven and forgotten." Sinner: "Remember not my sins, oh Lord!" Lord: "What sins? I forgot them long ago. You'll have to prod my memory. Love keeps no record of wrongs." (1 Cor. 13) (ADM)

**A Spiritual Story:** The great Buddhist saint Nagarjuna moved around wearing only a loincloth and, incongruously, a golden begging bowl gifted to him by the King, who was his disciple. One night he was about to lie down to sleep among the ruins of an ancient monastery when he noticed a thief lurking behind one of the columns. "Here, take this," said Nagarjuna, holding the begging bowl. "That way you won't disturb me once I have fallen asleep." The thief eagerly grabbed the bowl and made off --- only to return the next morning with the bowl and a request: "When you gave away this bowl so freely last night, you made me feel very poor. Teach me how to acquire the riches that make this kind of lighthearted detachment possible." (ADM)

**Pope Francis Quote:** "How can it be that it is not a news item when an elderly homeless person dies of exposure but it is news when the stock market loses two points?"

**All 26 Letters of English in the shortest sentence:** Pack my box with five dozen liquor jugs.

**The Shortest Horror Story:** The last man on Earth sat alone in a room. There was a knock on the door.

Your Friend and Pastor,

Fr. Charles Puthota

**Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
January 29, 2023**

"Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."  
— *Matthew 5:3*



**THE PEOPLE OF GOD'S KINGDOM**

In our Gospel reading from Matthew, we hear the Beatitudes, the stirring opening to the Sermon on the Mount. Jesus is proclaiming the coming of the kingdom of God, and begins by considering what kind of people will enter and participate in this kingdom. They are the poor in spirit, the meek, the clean of heart, the peacemakers. We hear both Zephaniah and Paul echo this, as God specifically chooses the weak and the lowly to be God's agents in ushering in the reign of God. By living with humility and integrity, their hearts are open to being transformed by the grace of God. We too are called to live in this way. Jesus invites us to be people with open hearts, to receive God's blessing. And working through us, God may bless all of creation.

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**TODAY'S READINGS**

**First Reading** — You humble of the land, seek justice and humility, and the Lord will be your protection (Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13).

**Psalm** — The Lord blesses the humble and gives them the heavenly kingdom (Psalm 146).

**Second Reading** — God chose the weak of the world, those who count for nothing, so that whoever boasts should boast in the Lord (1 Corinthians 1:26-31).

**Gospel** — Jesus taught from the mountain: Blessed are the poor in spirit (Matthew 5:1-12a).

**MASS INTENTIONS**

**Monday**

8:30 am

**January 30**

Budesa Family Living and Deceased

**Tuesday**

8:30 am

**January 31**

† Augustine Sanchez  
Good Shepherd Guild Living and Deceased and Family

**Wednesday**

8:30 am

**February 1**

Arturo Padilla (L)  
† Jovito Cruz

**Thursday**

8:30 am

**February 2**

† Alice J. Brown

**Friday**

8:30 am

**February 3**

† Giovanni Rossi  
† Antonietta and † John Perata

**Saturday**

8:30 am

**February 4**

Vanessa Devera (L)

4:30 pm

Wilma Hall (L)

**Sunday**

9:30 am

**February 5**

People of the Parish  
† Lydia and † Antonio Vinluan  
Francisca Oropeza (L) and  
Timothy Carter (L)

†Denotes deceased – (L) Living

**Saturday/Sunday Collection**

**January 21 & 22, 2022**

<b>Weekly Need:</b>	<b>\$ 5,000.00</b>
<b>First Collection</b>	<b>\$ 1,966.00</b>
<b>Parish Ministries</b>	<b>\$ 524.00</b>
<b>Over/Under</b>	<b>\$ 2,510.00</b>

**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.*

**2023 Calendars are available.**

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

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**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.

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

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**Pray for our Dear Departed**



*Romana Villanueva*

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

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

**AAA 2023 Start Date:** *The launch of AAA will be February 04-05 at the weekend Masses.*

**Maltese St. Paul of the Shipwreck Feast:**  
*Saturday, February 11<sup>th</sup> –Details to Follow*

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**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 31<sup>st</sup> will be credited to 2023.

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

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**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