

ST. ELIZABETH CHURCH

Established 1912 / Present Church dedicated 1962

Mailing Address: 449 Holyoke Street, S.F. CA 94134 Phone: 415-468-0820

Website: www.stelizabetsf.org Email: stelizabethchurchsf@gmail.com

February 26, 2023 – First Sunday of Lent



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 Office

449 Holyoke Street
415-468-0820 Fax 415-468-1457

Parish Office Hours

Monday through Thursday
8:00 am to 12:00 pm

Closed Friday

Parish Staff

Patti Spiteri	Administrative Assistant / Pastoral Coordinator
Sandy Mehrwein	Secretary
Fred Spence	Maintenance
Laurie Digneo	Faith Formation

Mass 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 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**

February 26, 2023

Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

Season of Lent: This special season started with a bang on Ash Wednesday, when Catholics come out into the church in big numbers. We had our foreheads marked with the words, "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return." It's pretty strong language; a wake-up call. The meaning of the ashes accompanied with this reminder is that our lives in this world are not permanent. In fact, we do not own anything, even though we have an illusion of it. If we really, really owned anything, we should be able to take it into the next world. Since obviously we cannot take anything beyond this world, we are only entrusted with certain things and blessings in this world, which we need to be responsible stewards of. In other words, we are to gain perspective on what to do in this life, how to live and love, how to relate to people and things, what is important and what is not, what is eternal and what is not, what matters and what doesn't, what is true happiness and what isn't. When we are able to see these things better, it is then we truly begin to live from the soul. Lent is a special time to figure these things out. Sometimes, we can go through decades of life or a whole lifetime, without discovering what God wants us to do and how he wants us to live. While we are engaged in all sorts of spiritual activities this season, let all these efforts converge on a deepening and maturing of our relationship with God and others where love and humility flourish. Happy hunting this season of Lent---for things money cannot buy!

Archdiocesan Annual Appeal (AAA): It's final week of our concerted month-long campaign. Our goal is \$37,462. Donation of 1.33% would be \$500. Please give as early and as generously as possible. We are starting the fourth and final week of the month-long drive of AAA. You may have seen the names of all the donors so far for AAA 2023 in the bulletin. We are making steady progress, but without your help we cannot accomplish it. Last week at all the Masses, after the homily, Antonia and Carol Valasco spoke reminding us of the need for AAA in our support for the Archdiocesan ministries. I thank them for their generosity in spending time for the parish and the Archdiocese and for sharing their thoughts on AAA with the whole parish. I encourage and urge everyone to participate in AAA so that we can make a success of this project once again. Please keep in mind that even during the pandemic, our parish reached the goal and even exceeded it. Please give 1.33% (\$500), if possible. As I said before, if everyone could think about a minimum AAA

donation of \$100 to \$200, it would be fantastic! Any excess funds will be returned to us and we could use them for our parish projects, especially toward the maintenance of the buildings.

Word of God: Temptation & Sin: In the first reading from Genesis this First Sunday of Lent, we are told how the first parents were tempted and succumbed to sin. In the gospel, Jesus is tempted, but he stands his ground and overcomes temptations. In the second reading from the Letter to the Romans, Paul contrasts the first Adam with the second Adam, Jesus, on the basis of sin and grace. Jesus is faithful to his Father and to all of us. This Lenten season of reappraisal and renewal, the Word of God challenges us to look at the many situations, where we are being led astray by all sorts of enticements, allurements, and attractions. While none of us is perfect, we are invited to keep making the effort at holiness and wholeness. Awareness of our situation would be a big part of this process. If we can see deeply and inwardly, we would awaken to God's love and our sinfulness. With God's grace we shall be purified, redeemed, anointed, and empowered for the way to be human and Christian according to the mind and heart of Christ. This is what Lent is all about.

Quotable Quote: "The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched---they must be felt with the heart."---Helen Keller.

A Story to Ponder: A young author once told Mark Twain that he was losing confidence in his ability to write. "Did you ever get that feeling yourself?" he asked. "Yes," said Twain. "Once, after I had been writing for nearly fifteen years, it suddenly struck me that I did not possess the slightest talent for writing." "What did you do then? Did you give up writing?" "How could I? By then I was already famous."

Humor: 1. God in a parking lot: A man is struggling to find a parking space. "Lord," he prays. "I can't stand this. If you open a space up for me, I swear I'll give up the drink and go to mass every Sunday." Suddenly, the clouds part and the sun shines on an empty parking spot. Without hesitation, the man says: "Never mind, I found one!" 2. **Follow the light:** A guy walks into a dentist's office and says, "I think I'm a moth." The dentist replies, "You shouldn't be here. You should be seeing a psychiatrist..." The guy replies, "I am seeing a psychiatrist." The dentist says, "Well then what are you doing here?" And the guy says, "Your light was on."

Wishing you a Lenten season full of fresh, new perspectives on God and the world, on life and love,

Your Friend and Pastor,

Father Charles Puthota

**First Sunday of Lent
February 26, 2023
"The Lord, your God, shall you worship
and him alone shall you serve."
— Matthew 4:10**



GOD EVER PURSUES US

We hear today of God's unrelenting pursuit of us. Our readings tell stories of God's intense desire to share the divine life with us. From Exodus, we see how God shows endless persistence and compassion, even to those who grumble against God, or seem to have forgotten God. From the Gospel of John, we hear of how Jesus, in his extended conversation with the Samaritan woman, gives her dignity, names uncomfortable truths, and gradually leads her into a new path of faith. We can have confidence that as we bring our own confusions, fears, and failings to God, we may receive God's mercy and forgiveness. God always persists and continually finds new ways to invite people into unity with God. As Paul describes in Romans, in the cross we see how God will go to any length to demonstrate the depth and breadth of divine love.
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TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — When the people grumbled to Moses for water in the desert, the LORD heard and brought forth water from the rock for all to drink (Exodus 17:3-7).

Psalms — Listen to God's voice today; be not hardhearted (Psalm 95).

Second Reading — God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit (Romans 5:1-2, 5-8).

Gospel — Ask, and you will be given living water so that you will never thirst again (John 4:5-42 [5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42]).

Maltese Society

**Red Hawk Casino Trip
Saturday, March 4, 2023**

For info call:

Jeanette Santos 415-225-5315
Mary Sammut 415-467-1686

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday 8:30 am	February 27 † Filomena Scerri Mauricio Sifuentes (L)
Tuesday 8:30 am	February 28 Sant and Benedetti Family Living and Deceased
Wednesday 8:30 am	March 1 † Philomena Viscarra † Giuseppe and † Pierina Benedetti
Thursday 8:30 am	March 2 † Giuseppe Mazzaferro
Friday 8:30 am	March 3 Good Shepherd Guild Living and Deceased and Families
Saturday 8:30 am 4:30 pm	March 4 † Joseph and † Tessie Spiteri † Norma Mangonon † Richard Rodriguez
Sunday 9:30 am	March 5 People of the Parish † Filomena Scerri Jaime Gonzalez (L)

† Denotes deceased – (L) Living

**Saturday/Sunday Collection
February 18th and 19th**

Weekly Need:	\$ 5,000.00
First Collection	\$ 2,221.00
Church Environment	\$ 556.00
Over/Under	\$ 2,223.00

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.*

Pray for our Dear Departed



Elvira Hapin

"Eternal Rest Grant unto Them, O Lord . . ."

Thank You!

2023 Archdiocesan Annual Appeal Supporters

Abranches, Sandra *
Andreatta, David
Barbieri, Mr. & Mrs. Mark*
Clement, Edward & Lucille *
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*Please note: *Donations are acknowledged once we receive the monthly report from the Archdiocese*

Office of Development

**1% Circle donors have an asterisk next to their name*

**Names of those who have donated \$25.00 or more are listed in the bulletin*

**Thank you to our anonymous donors*

**If your name is missing, contact the Rectory Office*

** If contributing by check directly to St. Elizabeth please make payable to Archdiocesan Annual Appeal*



It is with great joy we welcome Aiden Jax Pelina into our Church and community. Aiden received the Sacrament of Baptism at our Rectory Chapel on February 18, 2023.

St. Elizabeth Parish on the Horizon:

Archdiocesan Annual Appeal: A month long campaign, February 18-19 is the third week.

Lenten Season:

Palm Sunday: April 2nd

Easter Sunday: April 9th

Stations of the Cross: On Fridays after the 8:30 am Mass during Lent.



LENTEN REMINDERS AND REGULATIONS:

The following regulations are in place for abstaining and fasting during Lent:

During Lent, every Friday the 8:30 am Mass will be followed by the Stations of the Cross.

Abstinence : Everyone fourteen years of age and older is bound to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, the Fridays of Lent and Good Friday.

Fast: Everyone eighteen years of age and older but under the age of sixty is bound to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

On these two days, the law of fast allows one full meal a day, but does not prohibit taking some food during the day, so long as this does not constitute another full meal. Drinking liquids during the day is permitted. When health or the ability to work would be seriously affected, the law does not oblige. In doubt concerning fast or abstinence, a priest assigned to pastoral ministry or confessor should be consulted.

In the spirit of penance, the faithful should not lightly excuse themselves from this obligation.