

# **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](http://www.stelizabetsf.org) Email: [stelizabethchurchsf@gmail.com](mailto:stelizabethchurchsf@gmail.com)*

**March 26, 2023 Fifth 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  
8:30 am to 12:00 pm

### **Closed Friday**

### **Parish Staff**

<b>Patti Spiteri</b>	Administrative Assistant / Pastoral Coordinator
<b>Sandy Mehrwein</b>	Secretary
<b>Fred Spence</b>	Maintenance
<b>Laurrie Digneo</b>	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  
4:00 pm before the 4:30 pm Mass  
9:00 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.



## From the Pastor's Desktop

**A message from  
Father Charles Puthota  
March 26, 2023**

### Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

**Archdiocesan Annual Appeal (AAA) 2023: Launch date was February 05, 2023. Goal to reach: \$37,462. Amount collected to date: \$27,665. Balance to reach: \$9,797. 1.33% is \$500. Please see names of donors in the bulletin, including those who donated 1.33%.** We have completed the four weeks of the annual campaign for reaching our goal of \$37,462. We are making good progress, but we have not still achieved our goal. I want to thank all those who have donated so far. Please find the names of donors in this week's bulletin as well. If you have donated and your names are not in the bulletin, please call the parish office ASAP. Some have told me that they are still getting their checks in. I thank you in anticipation of your participation. Those who have not given, please you still have time to give. The brochures are in the pews. Or you can put your donation in a regular envelope and mail it in. Please keep in mind that you may not be able to go preach directly within the Archdiocese and get involved in concrete ministries. But your AAA donation reaches those who are preaching the good news within our three counties and are engaged in all kinds of good works connected with the gospel.

**Lent: We are in the Fifth week of Lent. Next Sunday is Palm Sunday. The Sunday after is Easter.** We are drawing closer to the mysteries of our new life with God. These mysteries are directly related to the final events in the life of Christ. So let's listen to the voice of God, to the voice deep within, to prepare ourselves for these holy events that have everything to do with our happiness, peace, and fullness of life. Pope Francis says: "Lent comes providentially to reawaken us, to shake us from our lethargy." The Holy Father also wants us to reflect on good and evil: "Each of us has a vision of good and of evil. We have to encourage people to move towards what they think is good. Everyone has his own idea of good and evil and must choose to follow the good and fight evil as he conceives them. That would be enough to make the world a better place." May this holy season of Lent somehow help us become better persons, better Catholics, and better Christians.

**Parish Lenten Retreat:** Last Friday March 17, I preached a retreat to our parishioners on the theme of Spirituality. 35 people attended it. It started with the Mass at 8:30 a.m. followed by the Stations of the Cross. After an enjoyable breakfast in Cantwell Hall, I shared my reflections on some practical suggestions on spirituality and on the theological criteria for authentic Catholic spirituality. The Retreat ended with a splendid St. Patrick's Day luncheon, served with corned beef and cabbage. We sang hymns at the before and after sessions. There was a very cordial and happy atmosphere among the participants throughout. I would like to thank the volunteers, including Phil McCarthy, Sharon Soares, David Gemignani, Richard John, the Paduas, Luz Bansuelo, and others for their dedicated service in making this event not only successful but really enjoyable. Maybe, we could have a Retreat again next in Advent and again in Lent. Apart from the spiritual insights and inspiration, such events bring people together in a social setting and provide opportunities for people to work together as a team. It's service to God and God's people. It's one of the enjoyable ways in which we can keep building up our parish community and the Kingdom of God.

**Revised Sunday Mass Timings starting on April 16, 2023:** There will be two Masses on Sundays from April 16: at 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Let's try this schedule on an experimental basis for some weeks/ months. I hope this arrangement would be more convenient for those who would like to come to an earlier Mass and to those who would prefer a later Mass. However, it's not possible to make everyone happy. People who need a late, late Mass could always come to Saturday 4:30 p.m. vigil Mass. I'm eager to see if this new Mass schedule would increase our average weekend Mass attendance. If it does, then these revised timings would have achieved a good purpose. Please do let your families and friends know about this new development. Going to Mass on Sunday (or Saturday Vigil) is a foundational practice in our faith journey. Do encourage your folks in your circles to come join us to celebrate the memory of Jesus and enjoy our faith-family being called, graced and sent out to do God's work.

**Word of God: New Life in Christ:** The gospel of John recounts the "sign" of the raising of Lazarus. This is connected with the "Third Scrutiny" of RCIA and with all of us who are seeking to be raised to a new life in Christ, as we move steadily toward the paschal mysteries. The last two Sundays the themes were the living water that Jesus gives to quench all our longings and the new vision/sight after having been healed of our various forms of blindness. Do we need raising from various forms of deaths? Is it possible that some parts of our lives, our minds, hearts are lifeless on account of the death blows they may have received? From the ashes, can the embers crackle and become a huge fire, the fire of love of God and others? Jesus can raise us up to a new life; he is the life and the resurrection.

**Giving to Panhandlers---Pope Francis' View:** On March 3, 2017, the NY Times editorial was dedicated to Pope Francis' comments taken from Catholic News Service about what to do when panhandlers ask for money. The Pope's recommendation is: Give them the money, and don't worry about it. Pope's advice is that giving to someone in need is "always right." When asked about the panhandlers possibly using the money for a drink, the Pope says two things for us to think about. The first is: "If a glass of wine is the only happiness he has in life, that's OK. Instead, ask yourself what do you do on the sly? What 'happiness' do you seek in secret?" Second, "recognize how you are luckier, with a house, a wife, children, and then ask why should the responsibility to help be pushed onto someone else." The Pope further challenges us about how to give to panhandlers. He says that we should not drop the money into a cup and walk away, but must affirm the dignity and respect of the panhandler whose life has the same dignity as our own. We should stop, take the time to look in the eyes of the person, and touch his or her hands and, if possible, have a conversation.

**Humor:** 1. A pastor was delivering a children's sermon on the proper management of time. He asked the little ones seated on the floor around him, "Can you think of ways in which you waste time? One three-year-old girl replied, "How about taking a bath?" 2. A little boy offered up this simple prayer: "God bless mommy and daddy, my brother and sister; and God, do take care of yourself because if anything happens to you, we're all sunk." 3. A small boy in Faith Formation class described how powerful God is: "God is more powerful than Batman, Superman, and the Lone Ranger put together."

Your Friend and Pastor,

Father Charles Puthota

### **Fifth Sunday of Lent**

**March 26, 2023**

Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD;  
LORD, hear my voice!

— *Psalm 130:1*



#### **LIFE FROM GOD**

As we approach Holy Week, our readings speak of a God who, in the midst of death, brings new life to the people. In Ezekiel, we hear that God will open the graves of the people of Israel, who faced near extinction. In the Gospel of John, Jesus gives new life to Lazarus in a manner that prefigures the resurrection of Jesus. Paul tells the Romans that in Christ, God will not only give life to our bodies after death, but God offers us abundant life here and now. We observe that the external conditions for the people described in these readings did not radically change. Israel was still in exile. Lazarus would eventually face death again. But now God's presence and power are revealed. Even when our situation in life is difficult and perhaps not likely to change soon, we remember that the Spirit dwells within us.

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#### **TODAY'S READINGS**

**First Reading** — Thus says the LORD GOD: I will open your graves, have you rise from them, and settle you on your land. (Ezekiel 37:12-14).

**Psalm** — The Lord is kind and saves us (Psalm 130).

**Second Reading** — If Christ is in you, the spirit is alive even if the body is dead because of sin (Romans 8:8-11).

**Gospel** — Lazarus, dead for four days, came out of his tomb when Jesus called his name. Many of those who had seen what had happened began to believe in Jesus (John 11:1-45 [3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45]).

### HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE 2023

#### PALM SUNDAY VIGIL, APRIL 1

Confessions: 4:00 pm ° Mass: 4:30 pm

#### PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 2

Confessions: 9:00 am ° Masses: 9:30 and 11:00 am

#### HOLY THURSDAY, APRIL 6

No Morning Mass ° Morning Prayer at 8:30 am

Confessions at 9:00 am

6:30 pm - Mass of the Lord's Supper

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 9:00 pm

#### GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 7

No Morning Mass ° Morning Prayer at 8:30 am

Confessions at 9:00 am

12:00 - 12:45 pm ~ Stations of the Cross

12:45 - 1:30 pm ~ Reflections on the Cross

1:30 - 3:00 pm ~ Good Friday Liturgy

#### HOLY SATURDAY, APRIL 8

No Morning Mass ° Morning Prayer at 8:30 am

Confessions: 9:00 - 10:30 am

#### EASTER VIGIL: SATURDAY, APRIL 8

Mass: 8:00 pm

#### EASTER SUNDAY: APRIL 9

Masses: 9:30 and 11:00 am

### MASS INTENTIONS

#### Monday

8:30 am

#### Tuesday

8:30 am

#### Wednesday

8:30 am

#### Thursday

8:30 am

#### Friday

8:30 am

#### Saturday

8:30 am

4:30 pm

#### Sunday

9:30 am

11:00 am

#### March 27

Budesa Family Living & Deceased

#### March 28

† Sergio Tuccori

#### March 29

† Maria Rebagliati

#### March 30

† Robert Moore

#### March 31

† Laurent Thomas

#### April 1

† Joseph Micallef

Palm Sunday Vigil

#### April 2

Palm Sunday

People of the Parish

Palm Sunday

† Denotes deceased – (L) Living

### Saturday/Sunday Collection

March 18 -19

<b>Weekly Need:</b>	<b>\$ 5,000.00</b>
<b>First Collection</b>	<b>\$ 1,956.00</b>
<b>Catholic Relief Serv</b>	<b>\$ 444.00</b>
<b>Over/Under</b>	<b>\$ 2,600.00</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.*

**New Mass Hours:** As of Sunday April 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday, Mass times will be 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Mass Intentions scheduled at 9:30 am will be moved to 10:30 a.m.

**Donating Easter Lilies:** If you are able to donate Easter lilies, you are most welcome to do so. Please bring them sooner than later to church during the morning Mass timings (8:00 a.m. through 9:00 a.m.) or leave them in the office during office hours (Monday through Thursday 8:00 a.m. through 12:30 p.m.)

## St. Elizabeth Parish on the Horizon:

**Archdiocesan Annual Appeal:** A month-long campaign,

AAA goal: **\$37,462.00**

Donations to date: **\$27,665.00**

Balance to reach: **\$ 9797.00**

Thank you to all who have donated to the AAA.

If you have not yet donated, please consider doing so.

Donation envelopes can be found in the pews or the parish office.

**Chrism Mass:** Thursday March 30<sup>th</sup> 5:00 pm at the Cathedral

**Lenten Season:**

**Palm Sunday:** April 2<sup>nd</sup>

**Easter Sunday:** April 9<sup>th</sup>

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



It is with great joy we welcome Miah and Emma Aguilar into our church and community. Miah and Emma received the Sacrament of Baptism at our Rectory Chapel on March 18<sup>th</sup>.

## Thank You! 2023 Archdiocesan Annual Appeal Supporters

Anonymous  
Anonymous\*  
Abranches, Sandra \*  
Acosta, M/M Neri  
Alviar, Feliciano and Annabelle  
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*Please note: \*Donations are acknowledged once we receive the monthly report from the Archdiocese Office of Development*

*\*1.33% Circle donors have an asterisk next to their name (\$500.00 and more)*

*\*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*