

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

April 2, 2023 Palm Sunday



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

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
4:00 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**

April 2, 2023

Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth.

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord: On Palm Sunday, we commemorate our King’s triumphant entry into Jerusalem. Henry Hart Milman says: “Ride on, ride on in majesty! In lowly pomp ride on to die; O Christ, thy triumphs now begin, O’er captive death and conquered sin.” Jesus’ triumphal entry will turn into dark, sad days of excruciating suffering and shameful death. But it will all pale in the resplendent glory that will dawn on Easter. The profound Christian insight is that it’s always through the cross that we find our glory. Without suffering, there is no love, no redemption, no new life. Suffering is redemptive. Death is the way to resurrection. Let’s look at the face of Christ this Holy Week. Let’s look into his tender eyes. Let’s place our hand on the heart of Christ. Let’s strive to enter his mind and heart and dwell on his thoughts and feelings.

St. Elizabeth Parish Holy Week Schedule in the Mail: I mailed last Tuesday March 28 to each parishioner of St. Elizabeth Parish my Easter letter with the Holy Week schedule. Please see the schedule also in this weekend’s bulletin. I invite you wholeheartedly to participate in the holy rituals and services of the Holy Week at our parish. All these mysteries we celebrate are intimately connected with our life, death, and eternal life.

Archdiocesan Annual Appeal (AAA): Our goal is \$37,462. 1.33% is \$500. So far, we have made \$29,065.00. The balance to reach is \$8397. Please donate as early and as generously as possible to assist our Archdiocese in carrying out their mission, ministry, and services.

A Practical Suggestion I’ll make for the Holy Week is this: Can you choose one of the passion narratives from one of the four gospels? Every gospel, toward the end, has the account of Jesus’ suffering and death. You may go to a church or any other quiet place or your living room or kitchen. Turn the TV and cell phone off. Sit quietly. Read slowly and prayerfully the passion narrative and be silent for a few minutes after reading it. It will only take about 20 minutes or so to do this. You will not regret spending some quality time on this simple form of prayer, Lectio Divina. If you feel inspired, speak to Jesus in your words. St. Ignatius of Loyola suggests in the “Spiritual Exercises” to stand before the cross and ask: “Lord, what have I done for you? What am I doing for you? What shall I do for you?”

Via Dolorosa: On my four visits to the Holy Land so far, one of the memorable devotions we practiced was to walk the holy route, Via Dolorosa, which in Latin means “the way of suffering”. It’s in the Old City of Jerusalem. Tradition has long held that Jesus walked through this particular route toward Calvary. This path winds through narrow streets with hundreds of shops on either side. That is why we had to wake up early in the morning by 4:30 a.m. and get to this place and start the Way of the Cross by 5:30 a.m. so that we could complete our prayers by the time shops opened. Our Way of the Cross along this holy

route ended with the Mass I celebrated at the Church of Holy Sepulchre, my most favorite church in the whole wide world, the church of veneration of Jesus’ death and resurrection. It was one of the most memorable walks of our life ever. We walked the same way Jesus did! We were filled with sadness for Jesus carrying the cross, but we were also filled with hope and gratitude for what Jesus brought for us through his ultimate sacrifice.

Morning Prayer: During the Holy Week, please do join the Morning Prayer on Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday at 8:30 a.m. There will be no Masses on those three days. Please see the Holy Week schedule for all the services of the Holy Week.

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 parish office during office hours (Monday through Thursday 8:00 a.m through 12:30 p.m.)

Good Friday, A Day of Fast and Abstinence.

The offering taken up on Good Friday is called Pontifical Good Friday Collection, which goes toward supporting the holy shrines, parishes, and ministries (liturgical, ecumenical, communications, educational [Terra Sancta Schools], pastoral, social, & charitable works) in the Holy Land entrusted to the Franciscans. Please donate generously.

Word of God: This Palm Sunday, the Word of God is all about suffering. The first reading is from Isaiah about the suffering servant. He suffers a lot, but he places all his trust in God. The responsorial psalm is about: “My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?” A very powerful sentiment indeed! How many times have we felt this way in our life? We sometimes feel that we are abandoned by everyone, including God. Jesus himself felt this way. He used these very words on the cross. Jesus knows our human frustrations and anguish because he himself has gone through those dark moments in his life. That’s the reason we can go to Jesus with great confidence. He knows exactly our struggles and sufferings. The second reading is the famous hymn from the letter to the Philippians, which celebrates Jesus’s humility, obedience to his Father, his dying on the cross, his exaltation by his heavenly Father above everything and everyone. The gospel reading, the passion narrative, is taken from Matthew’s gospel. On Good Friday, though, the passion narrative will be from John’s gospel. As we go through reflect on readings, the Lord will speak to us tenderly and give us the grace to enter spiritually the sufferings and death of Jesus so that we can rise with him to a new life in the glory of the resurrection.

I wish everyone at St. Elizabeth parish a reflective, prayerful, and grace-filled Holy Week,

Your Friend and Pastor,

Father Charles Puthota

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

**Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord
April 2, 2023**

God greatly exalted [Christ] and bestowed on him the name which is above every name.

— *Philippians 2:9*



ENCOUNTER WITH THE CROSS

The journey of Lent brings us to an encounter with the cross. During Lent, we have been led more deeply into questions at the heart of our faith: Who is God? And who are we, the Church? The Gospel of Matthew indicates that, in the crucifixion, God’s true nature is most fully revealed in Jesus. In Jesus, God is the self-emptying One, who embraces humility and suffers rejection, as Paul tells the Philippians. God’s power is redefined, present not in coercion and violence, but in Jesus’ unbounded love. We the Church can learn who we are, the followers of the Crucified One, when we bear crosses that offer life and hope to the world. We more fully become the Church when we empty ourselves by sharing in others’ sufferings, rejecting violence, and taking risks for justice and reconciliation. Like Jesus, we may reveal God’s power as compassion and mercy.

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TODAY’S READINGS

Gospel at the Procession with Palms — Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem (Matthew 21:1-11).

First Reading — In spite of my sufferings I am not disgraced. I am not put to shame (Isaiah 50:4-7).

Psalm — O my God, why have you cast me off? (Psalm 22)

Second Reading — Christ emptied himself, and God filled this emptiness with exaltation (Philippians 2:6-11).

Gospel — The account of Christ’s passion according to Matthew (Matthew 26:14 — 27:66 [27:11-54]).

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday

8:30 am

Tuesday

8:30 am

Wednesday

8:30 am

Thursday

8:30 am

6:30 pm

Friday

8:30 am

Saturday

8:30 am

8:00 pm

Sunday

9:30 am

11:00 am

April 3

† Alice J. Brown

April 4

† Rafael Martinez

† Robert Moore

April 5

† Maria and † Luigi Zilli

† Dick S. Visperas

April 6

Morning Prayer

Mass of the Last Supper

April 7

Morning Prayer

April 8

Morning Prayer

Easter Vigil Mass

April 9

Easter Sunday

Easter Sunday

† Denotes deceased – (L) Living

**Saturday/Sunday Collection
March 25 - 26**

Weekly Need: \$ 5,000.00
First Collection \$ 2,698.00
Parish Ministries \$ 586.00
Over/Under \$ 1,716.00

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.

New Sunday Mass Hours: As of April 16th 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.)

Thank You! 2023 Archdiocesan Annual Appeal Supporters
Campaign launched on February 04 – 05, 2023

Anonymous	O'Sullivan, James and Claire *
Anonymous*	Oropeza, Maria and Moises*
Abranches, Sandra *	Orton, Thomas and Carmen *
Acosta, M/M Neri	Ouano, Carmelita
Alviar, Feliciano and Annabelle	Padua, Richard and Maria *
Andreatta, David	Parshall, Rose and Velasco, Theresa *
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Borg, Ronald *	Pilare, Corazon *
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Ngo, Hung and Hieu *	

*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*

AAA goal: **\$37,462.00**
 Donations to date: **\$29,065.00**
Balance to reach: \$ 8397.00

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.

Upcoming Events:

Confirmation:
 Saturday April 29th
 St. Mary's Cathedral at 10:00 am

First Holy Communion:
 Sunday May 7th
 St. Elizabeth Church at 10:30 am