

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

August 20, 2023 Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time



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
Laurrie Digneo	Faith Formation Coordinator

Mass Schedule

Saturday **4:30 pm**
Sunday **8:30 am and 10:30 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
10:00 am before the 10:30 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 Church.

1000 Hail Mary's: Third Saturday after the 8:30 am Mass until 3:30 pm.

Over 50 Group: Thursdays at 12 pm in Cantwell Hall.



From the Pastor's Desktop

A message from
Father Charles Puthota

August 20, 2023

Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

Faith Formation Catechists Meeting: Last Saturday August 12, I had called for a meeting of the catechists of the Faith Formation program as we look forward to the start of classes on September 9. I listened to their experiences and suggestions. I spoke to them about the vision of the program and expressed my expectations. Among other things, I have encouraged them to gear all their classes and their activities toward inspiring the children to come to experience Jesus in a personal way. Jesus asks: "Who do you say that I am?" Christianity and particularly our Catholic faith is primarily the person of Jesus Christ. Our faith, prayer, our sacraments and rituals, and our moral life---all need to converge on the person of Jesus Christ. I have requested the teachers to somehow find creative ways to awaken children into a love of Christ, knowledge of Christ and an excitement about the presence of Jesus Christ in their lives. They could become more familiar with: What did Jesus say and do? What did Jesus stand for? What are his values and vision? What did he proclaim? What are his parables about? How did he relate to his Father and others, especially those in need? How's the mystery of Jesus Christ connected with us in the 21st century? If we could focus on some of these things, our Faith Formation program could have a life-changing and lifelong impact on the children and their families. We grown-up parishioners, too, could keep exploring our personal encounter and experience of Jesus as central to our faith journey.

Word of God: 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time: Our God is a God of all nations and peoples. In Isaiah, God invites the "foreigners who join themselves to the Lord" to hold on to the covenant because God's "house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples." People of good will, no matter what culture or religion, are to unite to give glory to God. This would be God's will and purpose. The psalm proclaims: "O God, let all the nations praise you." Paul, apostle to the gentiles, in Romans, is convinced that both Jews and gentiles have received the call of Jesus Christ because "the gifts and the call of God are irrevocable." The Gospel reading gives us the story of the Canaanite woman who doesn't give up her faith in Jesus Christ: "Please, Lord, for even the dogs eat the scraps that fall from the table of their masters." Jesus heals her daughter, praising her: "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." Looking at all the readings, we joyfully recognize that the whole human family, with all its diversity, belongs to God. God's purpose is for every human person to attain the destiny for which God has created each person, in every country and culture and race and religion. God shows no partiality!

Ecological Musings: What is the Connection between Meat Consumption and Environment?: There is a lot of research

leading to an emerging consensus about meat production which accounts for 57% of the greenhouse gas emissions of the entire food production industry. Experts say that reducing meat eating would contribute toward reversing the climate change, which is bringing about all sorts of natural disasters, including the current heatwaves in many parts of the world and the recent wildfires in Maui, Hawaii. "Meat agriculture is one of the major drivers of greenhouse gas emissions," said Shaun Larcom, Cambridge University Land Economy researcher. "If the Pope was to reinstate the obligation for meatless Fridays to all Catholics globally, it could be a major source of low-cost emissions reductions."

How does eating less meat reduce greenhouse gases? For example, grazing animals requires a lot of land, often created through deforestation. Livestock also produce large quantities of methane, a particularly harmful greenhouse gas. Eating less meat or forgoing meat one day a week could considerably reduce the carbon footprint, researchers have found. It certainly helps the environment. With over 1.3 billion Catholics around the world, what we do as a church could make a big impact on environment.

The following may be considered as benefits deriving from reducing or forgoing meat one day a week, perhaps on Fridays: 1. It would be a practice of devotion and penance. Friday has for centuries been a day of penance, as it is believed Jesus died on a Friday. It would be a way of active remembrance of and strong connection with Jesus. 2. It would be a step in the right direction toward reducing greenhouse gases and helping the environment. 3. It might be helpful as part of our efforts toward personal and physical health. 4. It might be a way for us to practice restraint, discipline, and renunciation. 5. It would be a way to empathize with millions of people who cannot afford to eat food, let alone eat meat. 6. It would create a sense of solidarity with Catholics all over the world engaged in the same effort of caring for our "common home." 7. It might have a "witness" value to other churches and religions that the Catholic church is genuinely concerned about the global warming/boiling and the Church's determination to do something concrete about it. No one is saying that the Church should institute a church law to prohibit meat eating one day a week. If at all, people could take upon this practice on themselves on a purely voluntary basis as one of the ways of protecting and preserving the planet earth.... Think about it! Go online and read about it and do your own little research to keep yourself informed.

Jokes: 1. Patient: "Doctor! You've got to help me! Nobody ever listens to me. No one ever pays any attention to what I have to say." Doctor: "Next please!" 2. "Excuse me. Do you know the way to the zoo?" "No, I'm sorry I don't." "Well, it's two blocks this way, then one block to the left." 3. Teacher: "Do you have trouble making decisions?" Student: "Well...yes and no." 4. Man: "I could go to the end of the world for you." Woman: "Yes, but would you stay there?" 5. Man: "I offer you myself." Woman: "I am sorry. I never accept cheap gifts."

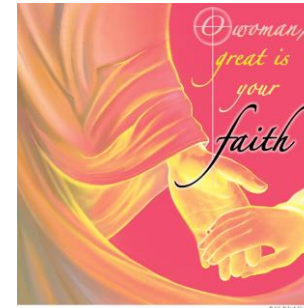
Your Friend and Pastor,

Father Charles Puthota

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 20, 2023

Observe what is right, do what is just; for my salvation is about to come, my justice, about to be revealed.
— Isaiah 56:1



CALLED TO ACT IN GOD'S NAME

"Let all the nations praise you!" (Psalm 67:4) today's psalm response exclaims. In the psalms and other Hebrew scriptures, this kind of invocation is actually an invitation to God to act, to intervene in human lives in a manner that will cause everyone—not just the Chosen People—to give praise. Stated a bit more strongly, it is something of a "put up or shut up" challenge to God, the sort of strong statement the psalmists of Israel, trusting in their intimate and loving relationship with God, were not afraid to make.

The Gospel has its own exclamation, announcing the appearance of the Canaanite woman with "Behold!" (Matthew 15:22) "Behold!" is a scriptural flag that tells us that God is about to act or announce something through an individual or a situation. In the case of Jesus, God was going to act through this woman, whom nobody among Jesus' followers would have believed to be an agent of the divine will. Like the psalmists, we might passively inform or perhaps even actively challenge God to do something so that everyone will come to belief, but God will always turn the tables on us. It becomes our calling, our duty (as it was for Jesus) to behold the situations and persons of our daily lives so that God can act through us, so the Kingdom can be announced through our living. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — Thus says the LORD: "Stand firm in justice; do what is right" (Isaiah 56:1, 6-7).

Psalm — O God, let all the nations praise you! (Psalm 67).

Second Reading — The gifts and the calling of God are unable to be revoked (Romans 11:13-15, 29-32).

Gospel — Jesus told the Canaanite woman of great faith, "It shall be done as you wish" (Matthew 15:21-28).

The English translation of the Psalm Responses from *Lectionary for Mass* © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

Saturday/Sunday Collection: August 12 - 13

Weekly Need:	\$ 5,000.00
First Collection	\$ 2,802.00
Parish Ministries	\$ 506.00
Over/Under	\$ 1,692.00

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.

MASS INTENTIONS

† Denotes deceased – (L) Living

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

8:30 am

10:30 am

August 21

† Marilyn Tolentino

August 22

† Teresa, † Paul, and † Joseph Vella

† Wilfredo B. and † Noemi B. Nacor

August 23

Mary Perata (L)

August 24

† Tessie, † Joseph, and † Saviour Schembri

August 25

† Margaret Garibaldi and † Ruth Garibaldi Lembi

August 26

† Vijayakumari Mallavarapu † Filomena Scerri

August 27

People of the Parish
Italian Catholic Federation

† Rita Crumly

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

August 21st - 27th

Monday: Jgs 2:11-19; Ps 106:34-37, 39-40, 43ab, 44; Mt 19:16-22

Tuesday: Jgs 6:11-24a; Ps 85:9, 11-14; Mt 19:23-30

Wednesday: Jgs 9:6-15; Ps 21:2-7; Mt 20:1-16

Thursday: Rv 21:9b-14; Ps 145:10-13, 17-18; Jn 1:45-51

Friday: Ru 1:1, 3-6, 14b-16, 22; Ps 146:5-10; Mt 22:34-40

Saturday: Ru 2:1-3, 8-11; 4:13-17; Ps 128:1b-5; Mt 23:1-12

Sunday: Is 22:19-23; Ps 138:1-3, 6, 8; Rom 11:33-36; Mt 16:13-20

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

August 20th – 26th

Sunday: 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Monday: St. Pius X

Tuesday: The Queenship of the BVM

Wednesday: St. Rose of Lima

Thursday: St. Bartholomew

Friday: St. Louis; St. Joseph Calasanz

Saturday: Blessed Virgin Mary

Parish Events on the Horizon

- Monday, September 4th

Labor Day holiday: office will be closed

- Saturday, September 9th

Faith Formation begins

- Saturday, September 23rd

Faith Formation parent meeting

- Monday, October 9th

Columbus Day holiday: office will be closed

- Sunday, October 15th

Maltese Society Champagne bingo

Synod on Synodality

October 2021-October 2024

Theme: Communion, Participation, Mission

A synod in the Catholic Church is both an event and a process where clergy, religious, and laity gather to discern important matters of the faith. It is a journey of search rooted in the Holy Spirit. Synods are transformative milestones that lead to renewal in the life of the Church. The current synod is called "Synod on Synodality." It's a synod that would explore the very processes of synod and examine how as the People of God we are journeying together. Pope Francis says: "Synodality is the way of being the Church today according to the will of God, in a dynamic of discerning and listening together to the voice of the Holy Spirit."

For more information: <https://www.synod.va/en.html>

Good Shepherd Gracenter

invites you to



Sing with grateful song



Gala Luncheon 2023

Sunday, September 17th noon to 3 pm
Basque Cultural Center 599 Railroad Ave. SSF 94080

GSG2023.givesmart.com

For registration, ticket purchase, auction and more!

Online auction bidding will begin on Sept. 12th



Come for a great time in support of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd and the brave women at Gracenter who are determined to break free of addiction and make a difference in our community!

Mass Intentions

Mass Intentions are available September through December for 2023. Please request by email (preferred), mail or drop by the parish office with your written request Monday through Thursday 8:30 am to 12:00 pm. Please note that dates are limited.

The 2024 Mass book is not open for intentions.

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: _____ Email: _____