

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

September 3, 2023 Twenty Second 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 |
| Laurie 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

September 3, 2023

Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

The Synod on Synodality: Theme: Communion, Participation, Mission:

As you well know, Pope Francis has called the universal church to be engaged in a synodal discernment process from October 2021 to October 2024. The Synod on Synodality is a three-year process of listening and dialogue that began with a solemn opening in Rome on October 9 and 10, 2021. The synodal process will conclude in 2024. Each individual diocese in the whole world has gone through a process of preparation for the Synod. The Synod is both an event and a process in which the whole People of God are called to walk to gather together toward what the Holy Spirit helps it to discern as being the Lord's will for his Church. Pope Francis has invited the entire Church to reflect on a theme that is decisive for its life and mission: "It is precisely this path of synodality which God expects of the Church of the third millennium. This journey, which follows in the wake of the Church's "renewal" proposed by the Second Vatican Council, is both a gift and a task: by journeying together and reflecting together on the path that has been made, the Church will be able to learn through Her experience which processes can help Her to live communion, to achieve participation, and to open Herself to mission." The 16th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops will be held in two sessions. The first one from October 4 to 29, 2023. The second session will be in October 2024.

The Word of God: This 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, the Word of God speaks movingly of what it means to be a follower of Christ and the consequences of discipleship. Jeremiah in the first reading speaks some of the most memorable lines with utter vulnerability: "You duped me, O Lord, and I let myself be duped." He speaks to God as if to another person in real life. The prophet's enemies are arrayed against him, mocking him viciously and seeking to destroy him. Even though his prophetic message invites cruel vengeance from his listeners, he cannot help himself speaking God's word. If he thinks of not speaking in God's name, "it becomes like a fire burning in my heart, imprisoned in my bones...I cannot endure it." Are we all called to be God's prophets? Are we all called to be "missionary disciples"? Speaking God's message and standing up for God's ways of truth and justice can have serious implications. The responsorial psalm could be our constant prayer: "My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God." It's what St. Augustine prayed: "Our hearts are made for Thee, O Lord, and they are restless until they rest in Thee." In the Gospel, Jesus cannot accept Peter's insistence that Jesus should not suffer: "Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle to me. You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do." Then Jesus speaks about following him: "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me." He says

that if we lose our life for his sake, we'll save it. Even if we gained the whole world, what use would it be if we lost our life. "What can one give in exchange for his life?" The purpose of our Christian journey is to be a pilgrim follower of Christ with the consequences and implications, with the joys and sufferings, that accompany discipleship.

A Story to Ponder: Joneyed and the Barber: The holy man Joneyed, dressed in beggar's clothes, entered the barber's shop in Mecca. The barber, who was shaving a nobleman, left his wealthy customer to shave this beggar first. And not only did he not charge him for his services, he even gave him alms and sent him on his way. Joneyed was so impressed; he resolved he would hand over to the barber whatever he got in the way of alms that day. It so happened that a well-to-do pilgrim gave him a purse full of gold coins. Overjoyed, he ran to the barber's shop and offered him the purse. When the barber understood why he was being given the gold, he was enraged. "What kind of a holy man are you," he yelled, "I that you come to reward me for an act of love!"

Quotable Quotes from Poets: "Some cause happiness wherever they go; others whenever they go." --Oscar Wilde. "We shall not cease from exploration, and the end of all our exploring will be to arrive where we started and know the place for the first time." --T. S. Eliot. "Don't think, just do." --Horace. "In three words I can sum up everything I've learned about life: it goes on." --Robert Frost. "Let the beauty of what you love be what you do." --Rumi. "Beauty is a fragile gift." --Ovid. "Our sweetest songs are those that tell of saddest thought." --Percy Bysshe Shelley. "The only journey is the one within." --Rainer Maria Rilke. "Let us be grateful to the mirror for revealing to us our appearance only." --Samuel Butler. "Out of suffering have emerged the strongest souls; the most massive characters are seared with scars." --Khalil Gibran.

Humor: 1. A: "Hey, man! Please call me a taxi." B: "Yes, sir. You are a taxi." 2. Student: "Would you punish me for something I didn't do?" Teacher: "Of course not." Student: "Good, because I haven't done my homework." 3. A: "Why are you crying?" B: "The elephant is dead." A: "Was he your pet?" B: "No, but I'm the one who must dig his grave." 4. Principal: "I've had complaints about you, Johnny, from all your teachers. What have you been doing?" Johnny: "Nothing, sir." Principal: "Exactly." 5. Little Johnny: "Teacher, can I go to the bathroom?" Teacher: "Little Johnny, MAY I go to the bathroom?" Little Johnny: "But I asked first!" 6. "What did the Buddhist monk say to the hot dog vendor at the ballpark?" "Make me one with everything."

Your Friend and Pastor,

Father Charles Puthota

Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time September 3, 2023

Be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect.
— Romans 12:2



FOLLOWING CHRIST

If you've ever had an unpleasant but somewhat amusing practical joke played on you, then you have some understanding of how Jeremiah feels today when he tells God "good one—you duped me." We can almost see him shaking his head with a bit of a rueful smile, but an angry undertone in his voice. In similar fashion, Peter thinks Jesus is "duping" him when Jesus starts to explain that being Messiah means suffering and dying, and being a follower of the Messiah means taking up a cross and doing the same. Jeremiah tries to deny God's will for him by trying to shut up; Peter—who has just been made the foundation of the church—out and out denies the teaching of Jesus, for which he is named "Satan" today. Fortunately for us, Jeremiah comes to realize that to have the word of God placed in your heart means that it will be futile to try and keep silent, even if it means scorn and derision from those around you. Luckily Peter ultimately returned to the faith he professed in last week's Gospel, and came to understand our need as baptized followers of Christ to follow in his way, even when it means following him to our very death.
Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — The name of the LORD has become like fire burning in Jeremiah's heart (Jeremiah 20:7-9).

Psalm — My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God (Psalm 63).

Second Reading — Be transformed; renew your mind; discern what is good (Romans 12:1-2).

Gospel — Those who lose their lives for Jesus' sake will find them (Matthew 16:21-27).

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 27-28

| | |
|-------------------|-------------|
| Weekly Need: | \$ 5,000.00 |
| First Collection | \$ 2,762.00 |
| Parish Ministries | \$ 480.00 |
| Over/Under | \$ 2,708.00 |

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 | September 4 Marie Garibaldi (L) |
| Tuesday 8:30 am | September 5 † Emanuel Scerri and † Maria Vella |
| Wednesday 8:30 am | September 6 Dezalyn Devera (L) |
| Thursday 8:30 am | September 7 † Joseph, † Carmen and † Tessa Spiteri |
| Friday 8:30 am | September 8 † Perfecto and † Gertrudes Vinluan |
| Saturday 8:30 am | September 9 † Alice J. Brown |
| 4:30 pm | † Lulu Abranches |
| Sunday 8:30 am | September 10 People of the Parish |
| 10:30 am | † Jane Falzon † Loreta Rodrigo |

READINGS FOR THE WEEK September 4 – 11

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Monday: | 1 Thes 4:13-18; Ps 96:1, 3-5, 11-13; Lk 4:16-30, |
| Tuesday: | 1 Thes 5:1-6, 9-11; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Lk 4:31-37 |
| Wednesday: | Col 1:1-8; Ps 52:10-11; Lk 4:38-44 |
| Thursday: | Col 1:9-14; Ps 98:2-6; Lk 5:1-11 |
| Friday: | Mi 5:1-4a or Rom 8:28-30; Ps 13:6 Mt 1:1-16, 18-23 [18-23] |
| Saturday: | Col 1:21-23; Ps 54:3-4, 6, 8; Lk 6:1-5 |
| Sunday: | Ez 33:7-9; Ps 95:1-2, 6-9; Rom 13:8-10; Mt 18:15-20 |

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES September 3 – 9

| | |
|------------------|--|
| Sunday: | 22 nd Sunday in Ordinary Time |
| Monday: | Labor Day Holiday |
| Friday: | The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary |
| Saturday: | St. Peter Claver |

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



It is with great joy we welcome **Kylo Chev** into our church and community. **Kylo** received the **Sacrament of Baptism** at our Rectory Chapel on **August 26th 2023**.

MAUI RELIEF COLLECTION

**On Saturday/Sunday
September 16th and 17th
there will be a special second collection for
the Maui wildfires.**

**Please make your check payable to
St. Elizabeth Church - in the memo section
please note Maui Relief Fund**

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**

Good Shepherd Gracenter

invites you to



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!

ARCHDIOCESE OF
SAN FRANCISCO
FILIPINO MINISTRY

11th ANNUAL GALA

RECONNECTING WITH OUR PAST
EMPOWERING OUR FUTURE

SUNDAY ★ OCTOBER 15, 2023 ★ 5:00 PM
Patrons Hall, Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption
1111 Gough Street, San Francisco, CA 94109

DINNER TICKETS: \$100 ★ RAFFLE TICKETS: \$20

GET YOUR TICKETS NOW AND WIN "FUNTASTIK" RAFFLE PRIZES:
PHILIPPINES PILGRIMAGE 2024 TOUR PACKAGES
Grand Prize: Land Package + Domestic Airfare (\$2,850)
2nd Prize: Int'l Fare: SFO-Cebu-Clark-SFO (\$1,350)
3rd Prize: \$500 | 4th Prize: \$300

To purchase dinner and raffle tickets, call or text:
415.595.9248 (Estelle) | 415.317.5481 (Willie) | 415.336.9193 (Estelle)
www.filipinoministrysf.org | email: filipinoministrysf1@gmail.com
Preferred Attire: Filipiniana or Formal