

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 10, 2023 Twenty Third 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

September 10, 2023

Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

Musings on 9/11 Anniversary: Some years ago, I visited the 9/11 Memorial & Museum in New York City and spent several hours going over the exhibits. Located at the World Trade Center, the museum tells the heartbreaking story of 9/11 through "media, narratives, and a collection of monumental and authentic artifacts, presenting visitors with personal stories of loss, recovery, and hope." No one could come away without being deeply distressed. It's not uncommon for people to break down and cry. The solemn silence in the museum is born of disbelief and profound sorrow. 9/11 is a reminder that the world is desperately in need of peace and justice. Hatred and animosity are to be eliminated and gentleness and kindness are to be embraced more and more. The unjust and unnecessary war in Ukraine has darkened the world. In our own nation, in politics, religion, law, government, culture, media and social media, are there signs of peace or anger? Are there signs of kindness or hostility? We have to confront honestly what is going on in the public square as well as in our own hearts. There is a great need for restoration of respect and compassion at all levels of society. Jesus' teaching in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew, chapters 5, 6, & 7) is all the more relevant and urgent for our nation and the world at large. "Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me."

Word of God: The responsorial psalm is: "If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts." God speaks to us and reveals himself to us in a continuous way. He tries to get our attention in many different ways. He comforts, strengthens, and enlighten us. He calls us to conversion. His presence is everywhere, but it is subtle. Unless our hearts are soft, we cannot feel him. If our hearts are hard, we cannot hear his voice and open up to his love and grace.

Feast of St. John Chrysostom September 13: John Chrysostom warns against giving honor to Christ by adorning the Church building to the neglect of the poor and suffering members of Christ's body, the Church in the truest sense. He makes a powerful connection between the Eucharist and the care for the poor. He says: "Do you want to honor Christ's body? Then do not scorn him in his nakedness, nor honor him here in the church with silken garments while neglecting him outside where he is cold and naked. For he who said: *This is my body*, and made it so by his words, also said: *You saw me hungry and did not feed me, and inasmuch as you did not do it for one of these, the least of my brothers, you did not do it for me.* (Mt. 25: 34). What we do here in the church requires a pure heart, not special garments; what we do outside requires great dedication."

Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross September 14: "O Cross, erected above the world, cross of our Savior King." Tradition holds that in the fourth century, Saint Helena, mother of Emperor Constantine, looking for the holy places of Jesus' life, found three crosses during an excavation in Jerusalem and the cross of Jesus was identified by its miraculous powers. The cross immediately became an object of veneration. Tradition also has long held that the Holy Sepulcher Church in Jerusalem is built over the place of Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection. I have had the privilege and blessing of celebrating Mass inside the tomb of Jesus and venerating the very place where the cross of Jesus stood. The cross, though a shameful means of death, became the holiest symbol of life, redemption, and reconciliation because of Jesus' death on the cross. We look upon Jesus on the cross and derive meaning and purpose for our own suffering. Through the cross to the resurrection. Through suffering to glory. This is the Christian way; the way of Christ.

Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows September 15: This feast day falls on the day after the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross. The Blessed Virgin Mary is closely aligned with the life of Christ. Mary's suffering is intimately connected with the suffering of Christ. Mary suffered because her only son Jesus suffered. Our Mother Mary understands our suffering as well and shows us the redemptive meaning in suffering. The seven sorrows of Mary are: 1. The prophecy of Simeon. 2. The flight into Egypt. 3. The loss of Jesus for three days. 4. The carrying of the cross. 5. The crucifixion of Jesus. 6. Jesus is taken down from the cross. 7. The burial of Jesus.

A Story to Ponder: 1. The old rabbi had become blind and could neither read nor look at the faces of those who came to visit him. A faith healer said to him, "Entrust yourself to my care and I will heal your blindness." "There will be no need for that," replied the rabbi. "I can see everything that I need to." *Not everyone whose eyes are closed is asleep. And not everyone with open eyes can see.*

Quotable Quotes: "The only person you are destined to become is the person you decide to be."---Ralph Waldo Emerson. "You must be the change you wish to see in the world."---Mahatma Gandhi. "Your talent is God's gift to you. What you do with it is your gift back to God."---Leo Buscaglia.

Birthday Humor: 1. It's my wife's birthday tomorrow. Last week I asked her what she wanted as a present. "Oh, I don't know," she said. "Just give me something with diamonds." That's why I'm giving her a pack of playing cards. 2. "When's your birthday?" "June 2nd." "What year?" "Every year!" 3. Forget about the past, you can't change it. Forget about the future, you can't predict it. Forget about the present, I didn't get you one. 4. Q: Why do we put candles on top of a birthday cake? A: Because it's too hard to put them on the bottom! 5. I like birthdays, but I think too many can kill you.

Your Friend and Pastor,

Father Charles Puthota

Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time September 10, 2023

"If two of you agree on earth about anything for which they are to pray, it shall be granted to them by my heavenly Father."
— *Matthew 18:19*



GOD'S WATCHERS

In the ancient world watchmen were extremely important people. They kept communities safe, and were there to alert them to any impending danger or attack. Before locks, alarms, and security systems, watchmen were the protectors, the safety measure. So when the Lord charges Ezekiel as a watchman today, it is a weighty charge. So weighty, we learn, that if Ezekiel fails to sound the alarm for those around him and they perish in a state of wickedness, Ezekiel will be held responsible! This profound connection between God's will on earth and in heaven is repeated in today's Gospel, where Jesus instructs us that we are to be the security force, the watchers placed on alert that nowhere in the Body of Christ, the church, will there be any two members of the one Body who are not reconciled. Scripture tells us that Jesus reconciled all things in heaven and on earth through the blood of his cross. But we are given the mission to continue that reconciliation on earth as in heaven through our ceaseless efforts to be, as Paul would write, ambassadors of reconciliation. Let us not get too comfortable thinking that we are responsible only for keeping our own lives from the path of wickedness and disagreement. We are also held accountable for the lives of the members of Christ's body around us.
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TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — Warn the wicked, trying to turn them from their ways (Ezekiel 33:7-9).

Psalm — If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts (Psalm 95).

Second Reading — Owe nothing to anyone, except mutual love (Romans 13:8-10).

Gospel — If two agree about anything for which they pray, it shall be granted to them (Matthew 18:15-20).

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: September 3 - 4

Weekly Need:	\$ 5,000.00
First Collection	\$ 2,699.00
Faith Formation	\$ 478.00
Over/Under	\$ 1,823.00

*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 11

Good Shepherd Guild Members
Living and Deceased and their
Families

Tuesday

8:30 am

September 12

† Fedelina N. Camba
† Giuliano and † Valter Guisti

Wednesday

8:30 am

September 13

† Maria Mazzaferro
† Cresencio Alipio

Thursday

8:30 am

September 14

† Delia Gemignani

Friday

8:30 am

September 15

† Tessie, † Joseph and
† Saviour Schembri

Saturday

8:30 am

September 16

† Edilberto Mandani

4:30 pm

Sunday

8:30 am

September 17

People of the Parish

10:30 am

† Rita Crumly

Maltese Society

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

September 11 -17

Monday: Col 1:24 — 2:3; Ps 62:6-7, 9;
Lk 6:6-11

Tuesday: Col 2:6-15; Ps 145:1-2, 8-11;
Lk 6:12-19

Wednesday: Col 3:1-11; Ps 145:2-3, 10-13;
Lk 6:20-26

Thursday: Nm 21:4b-9; Ps 78:1b-2, 34-38;
Phil 2:6-11; Jn 3:13-17

Friday: 1 Tm 1:1-2, 12-14; Ps 16:1-2, 5, 7-8,
11; Jn 19:25-27 or Lk 2:33-35

Saturday: 1 Tm 1:15-17; Ps 113:1-7; Lk 6:43-49

Sunday: Sir 27:30 — 28:9; Ps 103:1-4, 9-12;
Rom 14:7-9; Mt 18:21-35

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

September 10 – 16

Sunday: 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time;
Grandparents Day

Tuesday: The Most Holy Name of Mary

Wednesday: St. John Chrysostom

Thursday: The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Friday: Our Lady of Sorrows

Saturday: Ss. Cornelius and Cyprian

Parish Events on the Horizon

- **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 Celeste Aaliyah Campos- Padillapaz into our church and community. Celeste received the Sacrament of Baptism at our Rectory Chapel on September 2, 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

Pray for our Dear Departed



Lotte Murphy
Mary Kremsreiter

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

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!

Sept 16 After "I Do"

Join Us!

The Archdiocese of San Francisco offers it's first-ever
Young Married Couples' Day Retreat.

St Stephen Parish (451 Eucalyptus Drive, SF)
all couples married 5 years or less are invited.
Marriage experts insist the success of a marriage
depends heavily on the 1st five years.

Topics: The Sacrament of Matrimony,
success mindsets, and tactics
for the first five years of marriage.

Cost: \$50 per couple - limited childcare available.
Contact Joe 415-999-5071 for more information.

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: Loned Packages + Domestic Airfare (\$2,850)
2nd Prize: Intl 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 (Estrella) | 415.317.5481 (Willie) | 415.336.9193 (Estrella)
www.filipinoministrysf.org | email: filipinoministrysf@gmail.com
Preferred Attire: Filipiniana or Formal