

# **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)*

*September 17, 2023~Twenty-Fourth 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**

<b>Patti Spiteri</b>	Administrative Assistant / Pastoral Coordinator
<b>Sandy Mehrwein</b>	Secretary
<b>Fred Spence</b>	Maintenance
<b>Laurie Digneo</b>	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 17, 2023

### Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

**Catechetical Sunday, September 17, 2023:** The theme of this year's catechetical Sunday is: "Come to me all who labor and are burdened" (Mt. 11:28). It's an occasion to recognize and thank our catechists in Faith Formation program for the faith they hand on to children and for being witnesses to the gospel. I would like to thank our catechists on your behalf for their faith and commitment to the important mission of teaching and witnessing. The names of our catechists are: Laurrie Digneo (Coordinator), Richard John, Fran Oropeza, Maria Oropeza, Cypriano Peneyra, Mike Walsh, Ron Chang and Patti Spiteri (Pastoral Coordinator). Thank you! This Catechetical Sunday at the 10:30 a.m. Mass, we shall be commissioning the Catechists for another year of catechetical work in our parish's Faith Formation program. Catechetical work is vital to the life of the parish and the church at large. As you may know, the Catechism of the Catholic Church is presented in four parts: 1. The Profession of Faith (the Creed), 2. The Celebration of the Christian Mystery (the Sacraments), 3. Life in Christ (Christian morality), 4. Christian Prayer. Our children and young people need to be urgently introduced to the content and practice of faith. May the catechists of our parish be filled with the Spirit of Christ and wisely lead their students toward the mysteries of faith. This year, as you may know, I have asked the students to join the 8:30 a.m. Mass each Saturday as part of their class, and the parents are most welcome to join them as well.

**Word of God:** This 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, forgiveness is the theme. Because God is loving and forgiving, we ought to be the same to one another. "The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger, and rich in kindness." We are to reflect these divine qualities to one another. God's forgiveness is gratefully and joyfully received in our individual lives and passed on to others generously.

**The Synod on Synodality 2021-2024:** The Synod on Synodality, initiated by Pope Francis in October 2021, is a three-year, worldwide undertaking during which Catholics were asked to submit feedback to their local dioceses on the question, "What steps does the Spirit invite us to take in order to grow in our 'journeying together'?" Every diocese in the world has participated. A synodal Church, in announcing the Gospel, "journeys together" as the people of God. The Synod on Synodality seeks to answer: How is this "journeying together" happening today in your local Church? What steps does the Spirit invite us to take in order to grow in our "journeying together"? It indicates a way of listening to one another to understand how God might be speaking to all of us. It means a way of living out our faith that calls for speaking and listening to one another and the Holy Spirit in order to find a path forward in addressing the issues facing the Church in our day as we work to carry out our mission of making known the Good News of salvation in Jesus. The three interrelated dimensions of the theme are **Communion, Participation, and Mission**. "Without the spirit of prayer, there is no synodality," the Pope recently said. "There

is one thing that we have to keep---'the synodal atmosphere.'" The synod should not be like a television talk show where everything is discussed, the Pope explained, but a "dialogue between the baptized." The First Session of the Synod will meet in Rome next month from October 4 to 29, 2023. The Second Session will take place in October 2024. Let's keep the Synod in our hearts and prayers.

**Filipino Gala:** The 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Filipino Gala at the Cathedral takes place on Sunday, October 15, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. Those interested, please see the details on the last page of this bulletin.

**Thursday, September 21, Feast of St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist:** The calling of St. Matthew is a famous painting by Caravaggio, depicting the moment at which Jesus calls him to follow him. This painting, now in Contarelli Chapel in Rome, is dear to Pope Francis. The beam of light leads the viewer's eye from the figure of Christ to St. Matthew. Jesus's hand points to Matthew in a manner of God's hand pointing to Adam in Michealangelo's famous fresco "Creation of Adam" in the Sistine chapel. God in Jesus is re-creating Matthew. Matthew in the painting points to himself, in a kind of disbelief, to ask as if it was truly him that Jesus was calling. This painting is worth meditating on by checking it out online. Jesus calls Matthew, a tax-collector. Matthew leaves everything and follows Jesus. He also later writes the Gospel, the life of Christ, from his perspective and for the Jewish audience, emphasizing that Jesus is truly the Messiah and fulfills the promises of the law and the prophets of the past. Two things we could take away from this Feast: 1. That we are called by Jesus to be apostles in our own time. We are "missionary disciples" of today to proclaim the good news to our families, friends, and neighborhoods. 2. We could go to the Gospel of Matthew and other books in the Bible to read prayerfully (Lectio Divina) and meditate on what God is speaking to us for our circumstances.

**A Story to Ponder:** An elephant broke loose from the herd and charged across a little wooden structure that stretched across a ravine. The worn-out bridge shivered and groaned, barely able to support the elephant's weight. Once it had gone safely to the other side, a flea that had lodged itself in the elephant's ear exclaimed in mighty satisfaction, "Boy, did we shake that bridge!"

**Catholic Humor:** 1. A six-year old was overheard reciting the Lord's Prayer at a church service: "And forgive us our trash passes, as we forgive those who passed trash against us." 2. A boy walked up to the pastor after Mass and handed him a dollar. The priest told him he should give it to the poor. "That's why I gave it to you. My dad says you're the poorest preacher we ever had." 3. Each year, a veteran Faith Formation teacher sends this note to all parents: "If you promise not to believe everything your child says happens at class, I'll promise not to believe everything he or she says happens at home." 4. A priest was asked by a politician, "Name one thing the government can do to help the church." The priest replied, "Quit making \$1 bills."

Your Friend and Pastor,

Father Charles Puthota

## **Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time September 17, 2023**

Forgive your neighbor's injustice;  
then when you pray, your own sins will be forgiven. — *Sirach 28:*



### **FORGIVENESS**

Nearly ten years before, a son and father had parted ways when the business they shared went bankrupt. The son blamed the father. They did not speak to each other again.

Then the father became seriously ill. The mother called the son and told him he had better come soon. The son walked sheepishly into the hospital room. The father motioned his son to him and whispered: "Did you ever think you could do anything that would keep me from loving you?"

Resentment and anger are foul things, the first reading from Sirach tells us. Remember the last things. Stop hating. Live by the commandments. As Saint Paul writes to the Romans, we are to live for the Lord and die for the Lord.

Jesus' parable in today's Gospel reminds us of God's compassion. The immense sin of humanity has been forgiven and stricken from the record. We are to forgive others in the same way.  
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### **TODAY'S READINGS**

**First Reading** — Remember the commandments and hate not your neighbor (Sirach 27:30 — 28:7).

**Psalm** — The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger, and rich in compassion (Psalm 103).

**Second Reading** — Whether we live, or whether we die, we do so for the Lord (Romans 14:7-9).

**Gospel** — Forgive one another from your heart (Matthew 18:21-35).

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

### **Saturday/Sunday Collection: September 9-10**

**Weekly Need: \$ 5,000.00**

**First Collection \$ 3,088.00**

**Over/Under \$ 1,912.00**

**Church of Latin America \$ 837.00**

*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

### **September 18**

† Mary Kremsreiter

### **September 19**

† Jose Padilla

† Timoteo B. Nacor Jr. and

† Vicente G. Gayaban

### **September 20**

Tricia Shaw (L)

† Krista Budesa

### **September 21**

† Astrida D. Mendoza

### **September 22**

† Bob Holt

### **September 23**

† Lulu Abranches

Caitlyn Trinidad (L)

Contessa San Pedro (L)

### **September 24**

People of the Parish

† Isaac Puthota

Italian Catholic Federation

## **READINGS FOR THE WEEK** **September 18-24**

**Monday:** 1 Tm 2:1-8; Ps 28:2, 7-9; Lk 7:1-10

**Tuesday:** 1 Tm 3:1-13; Ps 101:1-3, 5-6;  
Lk 7:11-17

**Wednesday:** 1 Tm 3:14-16; Ps 111:1-6; Lk 7:31-35

**Thursday:** Eph 4:1-7, 11-13; Ps 19:2-5;  
Mt 9:9-13

**Friday:** 1 Tm 6:2c-12; Ps 49:6-10, 17-20;  
Lk 8:1-3

**Saturday:** 1 Tm 6:13-16; Ps 100:1-5; Lk 8:4-15

**Sunday:** Is 55:6-9; Ps 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18;  
Phil 1:20c-24, 27a; Mt 20:1-16a

## **SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES** **September 17-23**

**Sunday:** 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time;  
Catechetical Sunday

**Tuesday:** St. Januarius

**Wednesday:** Ss. Andrew Kim Tae-gön,  
Paul Chông Ha-sang

**Thursday:** St. Matthew

**Saturday:** St. Pius of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio)

## Parish Events on the Horizon

- **Saturday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>**  
Faith Formation parent meeting
- **Monday, October 9<sup>th</sup>**  
Columbus Day Holiday: office will be closed
- **Sunday, October 15<sup>th</sup>**  
Maltese Society Champagne bingo

### Maui Fire Relief

This week's second collection is for the Maui Wildfire Relief. The donations received will be forward to Catholic Charities Hawaii. Thank you for our generosity.

### Faith Formation

**Every class begins with 8:30 am Mass**

2023-2024 Registration is still open  
For new and returning students  
First day of class began September 9<sup>th</sup>.  
Registration forms available in  
Church, the rectory office,  
or contact: Laurrie Digneo,  
415-672-4903 [sophielady7@aol.com](mailto:sophielady7@aol.com)



If you are interested in donating flowers for the high altar in celebration of a special occasion, birthday, anniversary, and more, please see the sign-up sheet in the front of church.

Please contact a sacristan after Mass for more information.



### St. Elizabeth's Maltese Society

**Champagne Bingo**

**Sunday, October 15, 2023**

Cantwell Hall

490 Goettingen Street

Doors Open at 12:00 pm.

Lunch served at 1:00 pm

Bingo begins at 2:00 pm

\$25 Per Person

Ticket Includes Lunch

(Pasta with Meat Sauce, Salad, Bread, Champagne, & Dessert) and BINGO Packet

### R. S. V.P. by October 8th

(Reservation Required, no tickets sold at the door)

Raffle Donations Welcome

Please Contact Jeanette Santos

to purchase tickets

415 -225 5315



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 "FANTASTIK" 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 (Estrelle)  
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