

# **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 24, 2023~Twenty-Fifth 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 24, 2023

### Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

**Deanery Meeting at St. Elizabeth:** A Deanery Meeting was held last Tuesday September 19 in our Cantwell Hall. As you may know, a Deanery is made up of several neighborhood parishes. Our Deanery called Alemany Deanery consists of parishes of St. Elizabeth, Corpus Christi, Epiphany, Visitacion, St. Paul of the Shipwreck, St. Emydius, Our Lady of Lourdes, All Hallows, and St. Michael Korean Catholic Church. Pastors, some parishioners, and staff from these parishes were present as well as some from the departments of the Archdiocesan Chancery. Information from various parishes was shared and the meeting ended with a delicious meal. I'd like to thank our own sacristans and Fred Spence for setting up the Hall for this event.

**Catechetical Sunday Last Week:** Congratulations to Laurrie Digneo (Coordinator), Richard John, Fran Oropeza, Maria Oropeza, Cypriano Peneyra, Mike Walsh, and Patti Spiteri (Pastoral Coordinator)! Last Sunday, celebrating Catechetical Sunday, we had the opportunity to encourage and thank them for their excellent work in sharing faith and being witnesses to the gospel values. I had the honor of commissioning them for another year of catechetical work. Let's keep our Faith Formation program in our prayers. If there is any who would like to volunteer as a catechist, please let us know. If you'd like to enroll your child or grandchild in this program, we'd love to have them.

**Word of God: God's Ways are Different from Ours:** The Gospel reading this 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time presents Jesus' powerful and subversive parable about the Kingdom of God. The landowner hires laborers at various times of the day for work in his vineyard but pays them all the same wages, starting from the last ones to arrive to the first ones. The early laborers feel cheated, but their agreed-upon wages are justly paid to them. They are upset because the last ones are paid the same as them. More work, more pay, is their logic. That would be the logic in the workplace. But in the Kingdom of God, in the system of God's values, things are quite different. It's not the amount of work, but the spirit in which all work is done. It's not the length of our life but the quality of love and service rendered to God and others. God's ways are radically different from ours, which is highlighted in the first reading from Isaiah: "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. As high as the heavens are above the earth, so high are my ways above your ways and my thoughts above your thoughts."

The gospel parable needs to be read in the religious and social context of Jesus' ministry. The Pharisees and Sadducees, the religious and political authorities, believed that they were the chosen ones of God and so they automatically merited the rewards from God. They thought they didn't have to respond to God's grace in a continuous and consistent way. They didn't care about the Kingdom of God that Jesus came to inaugurate.

Whereas the socially and politically oppressed people, the so-called sinners and tax collectors, who came into the vineyard late, were looked down upon by the elites and shunned as unworthy of respect and God's blessings. To those elites whose ways are far from God's ways and thoughts, there's a wake-up call that God's grace is unmerited. It belongs to those who are humble and simple, the poor and those crushed by society, the sinners and lowly. If we would like to belong to God's Kingdom, if we would be the disciples of Jesus, then we must open our lives entirely to God's ways and surrender to his love. Regardless of who came early or who came late, God has a warm welcome to everyone, as he looks into our hearts and evaluates our life on the basis of love and service. Jesus' beatitudes would be an authentic measure of our discipleship. Therefore, let's "seek the Lord while he may be found, call him while he is near."

**Feast of Saint Vincent de Paul (1580-1660), Wednesday September 27, 2023:** St. Vincent founded the Congregation of the Mission (the Vincentians), established confraternities of charity for physical and spiritual help of the poor and sick, founded along with St. Louise de Marillac another Religious Order called the Daughters of Charity. He is the patron saint of all charitable societies. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul, which does admirable charitable work in many parishes and dioceses, was founded by Blessed Frédéric Ozanam.

**Feast of St. Lorenzo Ruiz, Thursday September 28:** Protomartyr of the Philippines. Happy Feast to the Filipino Community of St. Elizabeth.

**Feast of Archangels Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, Friday September 29:** St. Michael appears in Daniel's vision and in the Book of Revelation. St. Gabriel appears in Daniel's visions and in the Annunciation to the Blessed Virgin Mary. St. Raphael appears in the Book of Tobit. The Archangels carry out God's mission and communicate his message to the human beings. They wage battles on behalf of God and against the powers of evil. It's amazing that in a secularized world, angels are still spoken of positively in popular culture and media and are believed in.

**Feast of St. Jerome, Saturday September 30:** Famous for translating the Bible into Latin (Vulgate) from Greek and Hebrew. He said: "Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ." We would do well as Catholics to pay more attention to reading and meditating on the sacred Scriptures. Why not just start with one Gospel and complete reading it prayerfully?

**Humor:** 1. Some things are best left as they are: An enthusiastic young man who had just graduated as a plumber was taken to see the Niagara Falls. He studied it for a minute, then said. "I think I can fix this." 2. A teacher was giving a lecture on modern inventions. "Can any of you mention something of importance that did not exist fifty years ago?" she asked. One bright lad in the front row raised his hand eagerly and said. "Me!"

Your Friend and Pastor,

Father Charles Puthota

## Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time September 24, 2023

Turn to the LORD for mercy;  
to our God, who is generous in forgiving.  
—Isaiah 55:7b



### CALL UPON THE LORD

The very first line of today's first reading summons us to seek the Lord and to call upon God. This sentiment is echoed in the refrain for today's responsorial psalm: "The Lord is near to all who call upon him" (Psalm 145:18a). Saint Paul is the embodiment of someone who constantly sought the Lord. In the excerpt we read today from his letter to the Philippians, we find Saint Paul toward the end of his life, a life he describes as completely consonant with Christ. He writes, "For to me life is Christ" (Philippians 1:21). To find out what it means to live life completely in accord with Christ we need look no further than today's Gospel. There we find that God's love and mercy are immeasurable for all those who seek and call upon the Lord.

Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

### TODAY'S READINGS

**First Reading** — Turn to the LORD, who is generous in forgiving (Isaiah 55:6-9).

**Psalms** — The Lord is near to all who call upon him (Psalm 145).

**Second Reading** — Live your lives in a way worthy of the gospel of Christ (Philippians 1:20c-24, 27a).

**Gospel** — The last will be first, and the first will be last (Matthew 20:1-16a).

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 16-17

Weekly Need:	\$ 5,000.00
First Collection	\$ 1,771.00
Over/Under	\$ 3,229.00
Maui Relief Fund	\$ 1,188.00

*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

<b>Monday</b> 8:30 am	<b>September 25</b> Arlene Vinluan (L) † Gertrudes and † Perfecto Vinluan
<b>Tuesday</b> 8:30 am	<b>September 26</b> † Lulu Abranches
<b>Wednesday</b> 8:30 am	<b>September 27</b> † Maria Dolores Oropeza
<b>Thursday</b> 8:30 am	<b>September 28</b> † Maria Moretto † Milagros Macaspac
<b>Friday</b> 8:30 am	<b>September 29</b> † Teresa, † Paul and † Joseph Vella Garibaldi Family Members Living and Deceased
<b>Saturday</b> 8:30 am 4:30 pm	<b>September 30</b> † Maggie Campos Lopez † Delia and † Froreino Gemignani
<b>Sunday</b> 8:30 am 10:30 am	<b>October 1</b> People of the Parish † Giovanni Rossi † Rita Crumly

### READINGS FOR THE WEEK September 25 – October 1

<b>Monday:</b>	Ezr 1:1-6; Ps 126:1-6; Lk 8:16-18
<b>Tuesday:</b>	Ezr 6:7-8, 12b, 14-20; Ps 122:1-5; Lk 8:19-21
<b>Wednesday:</b>	Ezr 9:5-9; Tb: 13:2, 3-4, 7-8; Lk 9:1-6
<b>Thursday:</b>	Hg 1:1-8; Ps 149:1-6, 9, Lk 9:7-9
<b>Friday:</b>	Dn 7:9-10, 13-14; Ps 138:1-5; Jn 1:47-51
<b>Saturday:</b>	Zec 2:5-9, 14-15a; Jer 31:10-13; Lk 9:43b-45
<b>Sunday:</b>	Ez 18:25-28; Ps 25:4-9; Phil 2:1-11, Mt 21:28-32

### SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES September 24 – September 30

<b>Sunday:</b>	25 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time
<b>Tuesday:</b>	Ss. Cosmas and Damian
<b>Wednesday:</b>	St. Vincent de Paul
<b>Thursday:</b>	St. Wenceslaus; St. Lawrence Ruiz and Companions
<b>Friday:</b>	Ss. Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, Archangels;
<b>Saturday:</b>	St. Jerome

## Parish Events on the Horizon

- **Monday, October 9<sup>th</sup>**  
Columbus Day Holiday: office will be closed
- **Sunday, October 15<sup>th</sup>**  
Maltese Society Champagne Bingo
- **Wednesday, November 1<sup>st</sup>**  
All Saints Day (a Holy Day of Obligation)  
Masses are at 8:30 am and 6:00 pm
- **Thursday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
All Souls' Day

## Fall 2023 Lay Minister Training

Looking for recertification or refreshing your lay minister's knowledge serving as Readers and Extra-ordinary ministers? The Office of Worship will be offering training for new and experienced Extra-ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and Readers over two consecutive Saturdays during the month of October.

- St. Raymond Church 10/7 & 10/14
- Holy Name Church 11/5 & 11/12

This training fulfills the requirement of the Archdiocese to be certified every three years for these ministries.

Registration: \$20.00 pre-registered; or \$25.00 for same-day registrants.

Registration forms are available in the Parish office.



### **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



**It is with great joy we welcome Logan Manuel into our church and community. Logan received the Sacrament of Baptism at our Rectory Chapel on September 16, 2023.**

## **The Synod on Synodality**

October 2021 to October 2024

**Theme: Communion, Participation, Mission:** 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.