

# **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)***

***December 3, 2023~First Sunday of Advent***



**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

December 3, 2023

Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

**Advent:** We have arrived at this spiritual season of Advent. The First Sunday of Advent ushers us into the time of waiting for Christ at Christmas. The hauntingly melodious and meaningful hymn “O come, O come, Emmanuel and ransom captive Israel that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel” captures the spirit of longing and sadness --- and an expectation of joy. We’ll be very busy this season of Advent with many external preparations for the upcoming Christmas. Amidst all the hectic activities, the Church invites us to prepare the heart and mind for the Lord’s coming. The focus is Christ and his coming into our lives and the world. All that we do this season should really be related to welcoming Jesus into our hearts and families. Remember there was no room in the inn some 2000 years ago? Is it possible that there is no room in the inn for Christ in our times? Christianity is Christ and the intimate connection with him and one another. Advent brings us to the center of Christianity: Christ. Our continuous and constant prayer this season will be: “Come, Lord Jesus.” The season of Advent is also a semi-penitential time. An indication of this is the violet colors and the muted decoration in the church and the non-singing of Gloria. These are reminders --- liturgical hints --- that we are to be engaged in a penitential preparation for the coming of Christ, so that when he does come at Christmas, purified of our selfishness and sinfulness, our hearts would burst with joy.

**Advent Quotes:** “At this Christmas when Christ comes, will He find a warm heart? Mark the season of Advent by loving and serving the others with God’s own love and concern.” – Mother Teresa. “The word advent means ‘expectation.’ What advent can do for us is create a sense of hope.” – Louie Giglio. “The Lord is coming, always coming. When you have ears to hear and eyes to see, you will recognize him at any moment of your life. Life is Advent; life is recognizing the coming of the Lord.” – Henri Nouwen. “It is the beautiful task of Advent to awaken in all of us memories of goodness and thus to open doors of hope.” – Pope Benedict XVI. “A prison cell, in which one waits, hopes – and is completely dependent on the fact that the door of freedom has to be opened from the outside, is not a bad picture of Advent” – Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

**Immaculate Conception, a Holy Day of Obligation, Masses at 8:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.:** As you know, Friday, December 08th is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, a holy day of obligation. We love, esteem, and honor Mary our mother. We think of the mystery of Mary’s glory as connected with Advent. Because Jesus was coming into the world, his mother Mary had to be prepared right from the moment of her conception, that is, when Mary was conceived in her mother Anne’s womb. Mary was protected from any tainting of sin because she had to give birth to the Son of God. This is the

belief that we celebrate in the Immaculate Conception. William Wordsworth celebrates it in his poem “The Virgin”: “Mother! whose virgin bosom was uncrost / With the least shade of thought to sin allied; /Woman! above all women glorified, / Our tainted nature's solitary boast...”

**Parish Advent Retreat on Saturday, December 9, 2023 at 8:30 a.m. Mass: Theme: Spirituality.** If you are able to, please do come join the retreat that starts at the 8:30 a.m. Mass followed by light breakfast and three sessions and lunch. This may be one of the ways to prepare ourselves for the season of Advent and Christmas. Please Register!

**The Word of God---The First Sunday of Advent, Year B:** “Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved” is the responsorial psalm. This frames our mood and expectation as we begin the exquisite season of Advent. We have turned away from God and it’s time to turn to see his face---and even for that effort of ours we need God’s help and grace. Hopefully this season of Advent and at Christmas, we will truly be able to turn away from all sorts of things that do not belong to God and turn toward God’s loving and forgiving face, embracing his ways and values. In order to be able to do that, our state of mind and heart needs to be alert, watchful, prepared, engaged, ready! There’s a sense of suddenness, surprise, and urgency about God’s coming into our lives, and we need to be high on the alert to receive him: “May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping.” In the poetic rendering of a confession of a guilt-laden people from Isaiah, there is an intense yearning for God’s presence and an acknowledgement of our sinfulness and straying from God, but “you, Lord, are our father, our redeemer you are named forever.... rend the heavens and come down...O Lord, you are our father, we are the clay and you the potter: we are the works of your hands.”

**A Story to Ponder:** In his autobiography, Mahatma Gandhi tells how in his days in South Africa he became deeply interested in the Bible, especially the Sermon on the Mount. He became convinced that Christianity was the answer to the caste system that had plagued India for centuries, and he seriously considered becoming a Christian. One day he went to a church to attend Mass and get instructions. He was stopped at the entrance and gently told that if he desired to attend Mass he was welcome to do so in a church reserved for blacks. He left and never returned.

**Humor:** Pope Leo XII in 1825 visited a jail. His Holiness called the prisoners before him and asked each prisoner why he had been jailed. In each case the criminal protested innocence; all except one. “Your Holiness,” said the wild-looking fellow falling on his feet, “I was a forger and an assassin and I’m here to expiate my crimes.” The Pope turned to his entourage with an ironic smile and said to the governor of the prison, “Let this rascal go at once; I do not wish that his presence should corrupt all these gallant and innocent gentlemen.”

Wishing you the blessings of the Advent Season,

Your Friend and Pastor,

Father Charles Puthota

First Sunday of Advent

December 3, 2023

Be watchful! Be alert!  
You do not know when the time will come.  
— Mark 13:33



GOD HAS A DIFFERENT PLAN

We begin the season of Advent with a heartfelt call for our own repentance. We remember God’s faithful love for us, and call upon God to help us to turn back. For “behold, you are angry, and we are sinful” (Isaiah 64:4). In the first reading and in the psalm, we recall God’s promises and lament our unfaithfulness and our guilt. We call upon God’s might and power in order to save us. With Isaiah, we ask God to “rend the heavens and come down, / with the mountains quaking before you” (Isaiah 63:19).

Yes, God is faithful to us, because we are the work of God’s hands. God is the potter; we are the clay. And yet, our concept of how God will come to save us is rooted in our own expectations of a warrior God who crushes mountains and thunders into our lives with great noise and glory. But God has a different plan: the Incarnation.

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TODAY’S READINGS

**First Reading** — We are the clay and you, O LORD, are the potter: we are the work of your hands (Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7).

**Psalm** — Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved (Psalm 80).

**Second Reading** — God is faithful; by God you were called to fellowship with the Son (1 Corinthians 1:3-9).

**Gospel** — Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come. (Mark 13:33-37).

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:  
November 25 - 26

Weekly Need: \$ 5,000.00  
First Collection \$ 2,139.00  
Parish Ministries \$ 644.00  
Over/Under \$ 2,217.00

Catholic Extension \$1,380.00

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>December 4</b> † Rueben Padua Fabiller Good Shepherd Guild Members and Families Living and Deceased
<b>Tuesday</b> 8:30 am	<b>December 5</b> † Theresa, † Paul and † Joseph Vella † Fernando Camba
<b>Wednesday</b> 8:30 am	<b>December 6</b> † Filomena Scerri Ellen Peneyra (L)
<b>Thursday</b> 8:30 am	<b>December 7</b> Rebecca Bondoc Banaag (L)
<b>Friday</b> 8:30 am	<b>December 8</b> Immaculate Conception Maria Conception Ruiz (L) † John Budesá Immaculate Conception
6:00 pm <b>Saturday</b> 8:30 am 4:30 pm	<b>December 9</b> † Annie Cruz † Mary and †Manuel Marquez † Joan Gallagher
<b>Sunday</b> 8:30 am 10:30 am	<b>December 10</b> People of the Parish † Jenny Sant † Virginia Walden

READINGS FOR THE WEEK  
December 4-10

<u>Monday, 12/4</u> <u>Tuesday, 12/5</u>	Is 2:1-5; Ps 122:1-9; Mt 8:5-11 Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Lk 10:21-24
<u>Wednesday, 12/6</u> <u>Thursday, 12/7</u>	Is 25:6-10a; Ps 23:1-6; Mt 15:29-37 Is 26:1-6; Ps 118:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a; Mt 7:21, 24-27
<u>Friday, 12/8</u>	Gn 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98:1-4; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38
<u>Saturday, 12/9</u>	Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Ps 147:1-6; Mt 9:35 -10:1, 5a, 6-8
<u>Sunday, 12/10</u>	Is 40:1-5, 9-11; Ps 85:9-14; 2 Pt 3:8-14; Mk 1:1-8

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES  
December 3-9

<u>Sunday, 12/3</u> <u>Monday, 12/4</u> <u>Wednesday 12/6</u> <u>Thursday, 12/7</u> <u>Friday, 12/8</u>	First Sunday of Advent St. John Damascene St. Nicholas St. Ambrose; Immaculate Conception of the BVM St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin
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## On The Horizon at St. Elizabeth

- **Immaculate Conception**

Friday December 8<sup>th</sup> a Holy Day of Obligation  
Masses at 8:30 am and 6:00 pm

- **Parish Advent Retreat**

Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup>

Registration forms available in church or the parish office.

- **Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass**

Tuesday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 am

- **Advent Confessions**

Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup> 11:00 am to 12:00 pm

- **Simbang Gabi**

Saturday, Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> to Sunday Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>  
at the 8:30 am Mass.



**At the tomb of St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus  
in Lisieux in Normandy, France.**



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 see a sacristan before or after Mass for more information.

### ***16<sup>th</sup> Annual Simbang Gabi Commissioning Mass***

*Wednesday, December 13, 2023, 6:30pm  
Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption  
Reception/Fellowship to follow  
after the Mass in Patrons Hall*

***Principal Celebrant: Cardinal Robert McElroy***

Each year, the Archdiocese holds a Commissioning Mass to herald the beginning of “Simbang Gabi Masses” widely celebrated in its various parishes throughout the Archdiocese of San Francisco during the Christmas season. “Simbang Gabi” is a prominent centuries old Filipino Catholic faith practice with roots in farming and fishing communities dating back to the 1600’s. This practice traditionally consists of attending a novena of pre-dawn, or night-time masses leading up to Christmas Eve. Please double check the dates and times of Simbang Gabi masses that may be celebrated in your parish.

We encourage you to attend our Simbang Gabi Commissioning Mass, and to bring your own Filipino Christmas “Parol”, and your family “Cresche” (or Nativity scene) to receive a special blessing after the mass.

For more information please visit:

<https://filipinoministrysf.org/events-and-activities/>

### **DONATING POINSETTIAS**

If you are able to donate poinsettias, you are most welcome to do so. Please bring them sooner than later to church during the morning Mass timings (8:30 a.m. through 9:00 a.m.) or leave them in the office during office hours (Monday through Thursday 8:30 a.m. through 12:00p.m.)



**It is with great joy we welcome Drew Jeffrey Grace De Leon into our church and community. Drew received the Sacrament of Baptism at our Rectory Chapel on November 25, 2023.**