

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

December 10, 2023~Second 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

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| 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

December 10, 2023

Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

Advent: The word “advent” itself means “coming” or “arrival.” It is obviously about the coming of Jesus. Remember the words of Jesus before his ascension into heaven: “I’ll be with you always.” Jesus is with us always. Only we do not see and recognize him. We do not hear and touch him. We can imagine him saying: “You have eyes, but you don’t see; have ears, but don’t hear.” There are many things in life that prevent us from being in touch with Jesus. Our preoccupations and anxieties may leave us with no time or space for Jesus in our lives. That is why the concept of “coming” is very helpful. It has the sense of dynamism built into it. It has the meaning that it is happening in our lives now, in our present situations and circumstances. It’s not about the past or the future so much as it is about how Jesus is coming into our lives now, encountering us, calling us, sending us, fulfilling us, and blessing us. As we go about our daily, ordinary lives, how can we prepare ourselves in our minds and hearts for his coming? Or as we face difficult situations such as disease, death in the family, failure, rejection, depression, panic, and all sorts of sad experiences, how can we let Jesus come into our lives today so that he can make a difference and lift us up with his grace and love?

Advent Quotes: “Each of us is an innkeeper who decides if there is room for Jesus.” --- Neal A. Maxwell. “Hope sees the invisible, feels the intangible, achieves the impossible.” “Advent: Arrival, Start, Beginning, Dawn, Initiation, Introduction.” “Advent: Close your eyes and open your mind.” “Advent: the time to listen for footsteps --- you can’t hear footsteps when you’re running yourself.” --- Bill McKibben. “The season of Advent means there is something on the horizon the likes of which we have never seen before. So stay. Sit. Linger. Tarry. Ponder. Wait. Behold. Wonder. There will be time enough for running.”---Jan Richardson. “Advent, like its cousin Lent, is a season for prayer and reformation of our hearts.”--- Edward Hays.

Thank-You Note from Catholic Charities Hawaii for our Parish Gift: You may recall that in October, in the wake of the tragic Maui wildfires, our parish took up a second collection at the weekend Masses and I forwarded \$1,188.00 to the Catholic Charities Hawaii. They have sent me a letter, which, in part, reads: “Dear Fr. Charles, Mahalo for your gift of \$1,188 received on 10/31/2023 from St. Elizabeth Church to Catholic Charities Hawai’i Maui Relief Fund. Through your partnership, we are able to provide vital relief efforts in recovery through services such as financial assistance, mental health counseling, supporting those with the greatest need, and more.... On behalf of Catholic Charities Hawai’i and the people we serve, thank you for the impact your gift has allowed us to make. With your gift, we are able to help the people of Maui with the resources they need to overcome this tragedy and rebuild their lives. A sincere mahalo for your thoughts, prayers, and kokua as we navigate through this challenging time together.” Letter signed by Kellie Schmidtke, Director, and Be-Jay Kodama, Vice-President.

Word of God, Second Sunday of Advent, Year B: “Comfort ye, comfort ye, my people” is the cry in Isaiah. God comforts, heals, and forgives. A voice cries out to prepare the way. Mountains will be made low; valleys shall be filled. Glad tidings will be spoken. God comes with power; like a shepherd he feeds the flock and gathers the lambs, carrying them in his bosom, leading them with care. In the gospel, too, there is a voice crying out in the wilderness, echoing the sentiments of Isaiah. This voice is John the Baptist’s, as he prepares the way for Jesus. He acknowledges his unworthiness before the Lord, the one mightier than John. He will baptize with the Holy Spirit. We could look into our hearts and minds and see how we can prepare ourselves and others for the coming of Jesus this season, how we can let him straighten the crooked paths and receive wholeheartedly the new and bold things he is willing to accomplish in our lives and the world.

ICF Christmas Luncheon: On December 1, our local ICF chapter met at the Basque Cultural Center for a Christmas luncheon. Thanks to Eva Perata, her sister Mary, Florence, and their team for arranging this gathering and the meal as we begin to look forward to the heartwarming season of Advent and Christmas. Such events help put the spirit of Christmas in the air.

Simbang Gabi Masses at 8:30 a.m. from Dec. 16 through Dec. 24: We will have the Simbang Gabi related ceremonies and prayers at the daily Mass at 8:30 a.m. On the two Sundays December 17 and 24, Simbang Gabi will be combined with the 10:30 a.m. Masses. I would like to encourage everyone, especially the Filipino community, to come together for this beautiful devotional preparation for nine days before Christmas. The contact person for Simbang Gabi this year is Gloria Trinidad, who will be assisted by May Devera and Beth Pasco. Please do let them know how you would like to participate, support and sponsor Simbang Gabi.

A Story to Ponder: When the young rabbi succeeded his father everyone began to tell him how completely unlike his father he was. “On the contrary,” replied the young man. “I’m exactly like the old man. He imitated no one. I imitate no one.” Be yourself! Beware of imitating the behavior of the great if you do not have the inner disposition that inspired them to act.

Humor: 1. My wife says I’m getting fatter, but in my defense, I’ve had a lot on my plate recently. 2. I’m so good at sleeping. I can do it with my eyes closed. 3. Why did it take so long for the pirates to learn the alphabet? They got stuck at C. 4. Why did the golfer bring two pairs of pants? In case he got a hole in one. 5. What did one plate whisper to the other plate? Dinner is on me. 6. What did one hat say to the other? You stay here. I’ll go on ahead. 7. Why did the scarecrow win an award? He was outstanding in his field. 8. How do you make an octopus laugh? With ten-tickles. 9. I know a lot of jokes about unemployed people but none of them work.

Christmas Mass Schedule: Christmas Eve December 24 at 4:30 p.m. Christmas Day December 25 at 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Wishing you a blessed season of Advent,

Your Friend and Pastor,

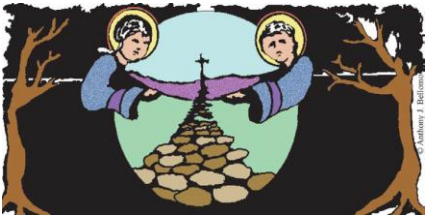
Father Charles Puthota

Second Sunday of Advent

December 10, 2023

Prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight his paths.

— Mark 1:3



NEWS OF COMFORT

In a time of preparation, much of it having to do with material things, it is good to hear the words of Isaiah, “Comfort, give comfort to my people, / says your God” (Isaiah 40:1). In a time of such stress and rush, when our usual burdens are augmented by piles of Christmas preparations, we can choose to slow down, take some time to heal, and appreciate the enormous gift we are about to receive. Christ, the Son of God, has become one of us, and knows our human limitations. Yet God, even now, is freeing us from the burdens that our inattentiveness to our God and to our deepest inner longings have heaped upon us. The Lord comes, not as a king with mighty armies, but as a shepherd leading the flocks with care and tenderness. Isaiah prophesies good news: our oppression is over, our sins forgiven. The savior we have awaited is coming, not the first time, but in the end times, as our salvation. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

TODAY’S READINGS

First Reading — The rugged land shall be made a plain; the rough country, a broad valley (Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11).

Psalm — Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation (Psalm 85).

Second Reading — Conduct yourselves in holiness, hastening the coming of the day of God (2 Peter 3:8-14).

Gospel — I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit (Mark 1:1-8).

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:
December 2-3

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|--------------------|-------------|
| Weekly Need: | \$ 5,000.00 |
| First Collection | \$ 2,641.00 |
| Faith Formation | \$ 518.50 |
| Over/Under | \$ 1,840.50 |
| 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

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Monday 8:30 am | December 11 † Yolanda Larrabe † Grace Velarde |
| Tuesday 8:30 am | December 12 † Edilberto Mandani † Maria A. Peneyra |
| Wednesday 8:30 am | December 13 † Emanuel Scerri and † Maria Vella |
| Thursday 8:30 am | December 14 † Tessie, † Joseph and † Saviour Schembri † Mei Mei Canty |
| Friday 8:30 am | December 15 † Fernando Ramirez † Monina Ferrer Pascual |
| Saturday 8:30 am | December 16 Jesusa Galang (L) Ellen Peneyra (L) † James O’Sullivan † Bianca Cerri |
| 4:30 pm | December 17 People of the Parish Olimpia M. Peneyra (L) Jesse Beau and Catherine Gotauco (L) Maltese Society Italian Catholic Federation |
| Sunday 8:30 am 10:30 am | |

READINGS FOR THE WEEK
December 11-17

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Monday,12/11 | Is 35:1-10; Ps 85:9ab, 10-14; Lk 5:17-26 |
| Tuesday,12/12 | Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Jdt 13:18bc, 19; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47, or any readings from the Common of The Blessed Virgin Mary, nos. 707-712 |
| Wednesday,12/13 | Is 40:25-31; Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10; Mt 11:28-30 |
| Thursday,12/14 | Is 41:13-20; Ps 145:1, 9-13ab; Mt 11:11-15 |
| Friday,12/15 | Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Mt 11:16-19 |
| Saturday, 12/16 | Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80:2ac, 3b, 15-16, 18-19; Mt 17:9a, 10-13 |
| Sunday,12/17 | Is 61:1-2a, 10-11; Lk 1:46-50, 53- 54, Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28 |

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES
December 10-14

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Sunday,12/10 | Second Sunday of Advent; International Human Rights Day |
| Monday,12/11 | St. Damasus I, Pope |
| Tuesday,12/12 | Our Lady of Guadalupe |
| Wednesday,12/13 | St. Lucy |
| Thursday,12/14 | St. John of the Cross |

On The Horizon at St. Elizabeth

- **Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass**

Tuesday, December 12th at 8:30 am

- **Advent Confessions**

Saturday, December 16th 11:00 am to 12:00 pm

- **Simbang Gabi**

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

U.S. BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION

**In re: The Roman Catholic Archbishop of San Francisco, Case No.
23-30564**

Notice of Deadline for Filing Claims: February 20, 2024

YOU MAY HAVE A SEXUAL ABUSE CLAIM OR OTHER CLAIM AGAINST THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SAN FRANCISCO

On August 21, 2023, The Roman Catholic Archbishop of San Francisco, a California corporation sole, aka Archdiocese of San Francisco (the “Debtor”), filed for protection under chapter 11 of title 11 of the United States Code (the “Bankruptcy Code”).

If you were sexually abused by any person connected with the Debtor, you must file a claim so as to be received by February 20, 2024, or otherwise you will be forever barred, estopped, and enjoined from asserting such claim against the Debtor.

Claims based on acts or omissions of the Debtor that occurred before August 21, 2023, must be filed on or before February 20, 2024, even if such claims are not now fixed, liquidated, or certain or did not mature or become fixed, liquidated, or certain before August 21, 2023.

For more information on how to obtain and file a proof of claim form and associated documents, 7 6 please visit <https://omniagentsolutions.com/RCASF>, or contact Omni Agent Solutions, Inc., the Debtor’s claims agent via email at RCASFinquiries@omniagnt.com or by phone at 888-480-6507 (U.S. and Canada toll free) or 747-293-0084 (International), between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. (prevailing Pacific Time), Monday through Friday.

****If you have questions about the bankruptcy case filed by the Archdiocese of San Francisco, please also visit the website at <https://sfarch.org> and follow the links for Chapter 11 Filing****

16th 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/>

2024 Mass Intentions Now Available! Please follow the guidelines below when sending in your Mass requests.

Due to the large volume of Mass requests and in order to be fair to the needs of all our parishioners, the following is the Mass Book policy as set by Father Charles Puthota, Pastor:

Initially, each parishioner can request up to **12 Masses per year. Only 2 of those Masses may be on weekends depending on availability.**

All Masses including the Saturday Vigil Mass and Sunday Mass, (10:30 am) will be accepting two intentions per Mass.

**We do not accept individual Mass Intentions for holidays or holy days including the following:
Ash Wednesday, Easter, Mother’s Day, Father’s Day, All Souls, All Saints, Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve and Christmas. The intentions will be for the entire St. Elizabeth Community.**

Masses cannot be reserved by phone or in person.

Requests must be submitted in writing or by email(preferred):
stelizabethchurchsf@gmail.com

Not all dates are available for Mass Intentions,so we ask that you be prepared with alternate dates and times. If your requested date is not available an alternate date will be chosen for you.

Due to the limited office hours please allow time for processing.

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.)