

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 17, 2023~Third 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 17, 2023

Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

Advent: We are at the Third Sunday of Advent. The joyful and mournful song “O Come, O Come Emmanuel...” expressing the deep desire of expectation for the Lord is the theme of the season. Jesus is the reason for the season. This season of Advent is also a semi-penitential season as we wait for Christmas. Through prayer and penance, we shall wait for the joy of God becoming one with us. This is a time of our waiting for Jesus as we long for him to enter our lives again so we can start all over again. It is yet another chance for us to get it right. Shall we renew our hearts and minds for his presence and love? He came, he will come, but now he comes. This is also a hectic time of external preparations and commerce. In the midst of it all, we still have to keep our hearts fixed on Jesus, the holy baby to be born. The question we could ask is: Do we really feel deep down that we need Jesus in our lives? It is that deeply felt need for Jesus that will make this season of Advent meaningful and purposeful. If we think we can manage our lives without Jesus, all the preparations for Christmas would purely be a social and cultural observance and not a spiritual experience of Jesus. It would all be external--and nothing to do with the internal purification and renewal. It is Jesus who can truly bring peace and joy to us, our families, and the world torn by sadness and violence.

Christmas Mass Schedule: Christmas Eve (Sunday) December 24 Mass at 4:30 p.m. Christmas Day Monday December 25 Masses at 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Please keep in mind that the day before Christmas is a Sunday. So, I’m looking forward to seeing you at Masses both that Sunday and the next day Monday, which is Christmas!

Simbang Gabi Christmas Novena Mass Schedule: December 16 through 24 at 8:30 a.m. except on Sundays Dec. 17 and December 24 which would be the 10.30 a.m. Mass. To plan, support, and sponsor, please contact Gloria Trinidad and her team of May Devera, and Beth Pasco.

Word of God this Gaudete “Rejoice” Sunday: This Sunday, the third Sunday of Advent, is called Gaudete (Rejoice!) Sunday. A pink candle on the Advent wreath represents this Sunday. At Mass, the priest may wear rose-colored vestments, with a hint that we are to wait joyfully for the birth of our Lord. As we draw closer to Christmas, the Church invites us to rejoice at the soon-awaited birth of the Savior of the world. In Isaiah we read about the “glad tidings to the poor” that the Lord will bring. The Lord’s servant also exults: “I rejoice in the Lord, in my God is the joy of my soul...” The responsorial psalm is the Magnificat, the song of Mary: “My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my savior.” The second reading from 1 Thessalonians is the exhortation of St. Paul: “Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.” Are we ready to rejoice at the presence of Christ who is going to turn his abiding presence into a dynamic “coming” in our lives this holy season? We need to be filled with joy because Jesus is delighted with us and

rejoices over us. Our most authentic joy this season can come from the personal experience of God in Jesus who rejoices over us and from the way we can share this joy with family and friends and all those we are called to help and serve. Rejoice, the Lord is coming into our lives soon---and very soon!

Advent Parish Retreat: On Saturday December 9, I gave a parish Advent retreat in Cantwell Hall. 50 people attended. Some had come from other parishes. The topic was Spirituality. The retreat started with the 8:30 a.m. Mass in the Church followed by breakfast in Canwell Hall. I gave three sessions each lasting about 50 minutes. We sang hymns before and after each session. There was a great spirit of joy and friendship. People seemed to appreciate the reflections on the meaning of spirituality and its historical development through the 20 centuries. It’s a topic everyone could related to. I did not have the time to speak on the various practices of spirituality, which we shall probably take up for the Lenten Retreat in 2024. The retreat came to an end with a sumptuous chicken meal served by Chick N Coop catering. Everyone enjoyed the food and our time together. My deep sense of gratitude to those who worked so hard to make this retreat most enjoyable: Sharon Soares, Dave Gemignani, Phil McCarthy, Richard John, Luz Bansuelo, Tessie Vinluan, Belma Enriquez, May Devera, and Beth Pasco.

Over 50 Club Christmas Luncheon: Our parish’s Over 50 Club hosted the Christmas luncheon at the Basque Cultural Center on Friday December 8. It was attended by about 55 people. There was an unmistakable spirit of Christmas in the air. It’s always a blessing for us to get together, especially after surviving the sad times of Covid. Such social gatherings are an antidote to loneliness and sadness. The food was delicious and the company was wonderful. I’d like to thank our parish’s Over 50 Club organizers Emma Magarrell, Elsa Reginato, Florence Mangion, Helen Burchett, and their team for arranging this joyful luncheon. Also, my special thanks for organizing the weekly Thursday meetings and Bingo in Cantwell Hall throughout the year. If anyone else is interested in joining this club, please do contact the parish office.

Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe: After the Feast Day Mass at 8:30 a.m. last Tuesday December 12, an enjoyable Mexican-style food was donated and served by Maria Concepcion, Virginia Sanchez, Maria Imelda Oropeza, Fran Oropeza, Teresa Sifuentes, and Richard and Maria Padua. Many thanks to them for making this a memorable experience. **Que Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe nos mantenga siempre en su amor!**

Humor: 1. I think I would like a job of cleaning mirrors. It’s just something I could really see myself doing. 2. Why was the math book sad? Because it had too many problems. 3. My dog is a genius. I asked him what is two minus two. He said nothing. 4. I don’t want to brag, I finished the puzzle in under a week and it said 2-4 years on the box. 5. I couldn’t figure out why the baseball kept getting larger. Then it hit me. 6. The other day, my wife asked me to pass her lipstick, but I accidentally passed her a glue stick. She still isn’t talking to me. 7. Three years ago my doctor told me I was going deaf. I haven’t heard from him since. 8. Parallel lines have so much in common. It’s a shame they’ll never meet.

Wishing you an Advent season of great expectations,

Your Friend and Pastor,

Father Charles Puthota

Third Sunday of Advent December 17, 2023

Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing.

— 1 Thessalonians 5:16-17



REJOICE

Isaiah proclaims truly good news to us! God’s coming brings not sadness, guilt, fear, wrath, or condemnation. No, God’s coming is a source of comfort and joy. Saying it once is not enough, for today’s readings are full of joy. Mary’s Magnificat substitutes for our psalm today, and our second reading encourages us to rejoice, to give thanks and praise. This is the root meaning of the Greek word for eucharist. We are urged to rejoice and give thanks, because the coming of the Lord brings joy, healing, liberty, release, vindication. It makes the very earth spring up with new life! Good tidings!

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TODAY’S READINGS

First Reading — As a garden makes its growth spring up, so will GOD make justice spring up before all the nations (Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11).

Psalm — My soul rejoices in my God (Luke 1:46-48,49-50,53-54).

Second Reading — Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophetic utterances. Test everything; retain what is good (1 Thessalonians 5:16-24).

Gospel — I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, make straight the way of the Lord (John 1:6-8, 19-28).

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 9-10

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Weekly Need: | \$ 5,000.00 |
| First Collection | \$ <u>3,177.00</u> |
| Over/Under | \$ <u>1,823.00</u> |
| Retirement for Religious | \$ 949.00 |
| Immaculate Conception | \$ 635.00 |

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 18

† Mary Kremsreiter

† Mary Rowe

Tuesday

8:30 am

December 19

† Norma Obtinario

† Valeriano B. Marigmen Sr.

Wednesday

8:30 am

December 20

† Maria Grelli

† Isabel C. Bondoc

Thursday

8:30 am

December 21

† Giuseppe Moretto

† Mary E. & † Earl J. McCarthy

Friday

8:30 am

December 22

† Isaac Puthota

† Joseph Spiteri

Saturday

8:30 am

December 23

† Leo Viscarra

Gigi Vasco Basilio & Family (L)

4:30 pm

† Tim Rodrigo

Ellen Peneyra (L)

Sunday

8:30 am

December 24

People of the Parish

10:30 am

People of the Parish

READINGS FOR THE WEEK
December 18-24

Monday,12-18

Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25

Tuesday,12-19

Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4-6, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25

Wednesday,12-20

Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-6; Lk 1:26-38

Thursday,12-21

Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45

Friday,12-22

1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-7,8abcd; 1:46-56

Saturday,12-23

Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Ps 25:4-bc5ab, 8-10, 14; Lk 1:57-66

Sunday,12-24

2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES
December 17-23

Sunday, 12-17

Third Sunday of Advent

Thursday,12-21

St. Peter Canisius

Saturday,12-23

St. John of Kanty

On The Horizon at St. Elizabeth

●Simbang Gabi

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

●Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve Mass 4:30 pm

Christmas Day Mass 8:30 am and 10:30 am

●Office Closed

Tuesday, December 26th

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

Pray for our Dear Departed



Jesus Alvarez
Josefina Ramos

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

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 12:00 p.m.)



Faith Formation students at Mass last Sunday.