

ST. ELIZABETH CHURCH

Established 1912 / Present Church dedicated 1962

Mailing Address: 449 Holyoke Street, S.F. CA 94134 Phone: 415-468-0820

Website: www.stelizabethsf.org Email: stelizabethchurchsf@gmail.com

December 24, 2023~Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 25, 2023~Christmas



Rev. Charles Puthota, Ph.D., Pastor

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
Laurrie 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.

Christmas 2023

Dear St. Elizabeth Parishioners,

New Beginnings at Christmas: As the mystique of Christmas is being wrapped around us like a warm blanket, our hearts begin to burst with joy. Who can resist the charm of our God being born as a baby? Suddenly we feel we can start all over again. We can hope again. Despite darkness and sadness, we can pick up the pieces. We may die many “deaths” in our lifetime, but new births are possible because of the birth of the one who gives birth to everyone and everything---Jesus Christ our Lord. Three simple Christmas thoughts I’d like to share with you.

Incarnation---We are one with God: Christmas means God becoming one with us. That nothing in life satisfies us fully is the clearest sign that our hearts are made for God, who alone can fulfill us completely. Christmas is the season for our deepest union with God in Jesus Christ. He is in us, with us, and around us. “The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.” Jesus mingles with every breath we take, every effort we make, with every dream and desire, in all our longings and yearnings. We are merged with God because Jesus has entered our flesh and blood, invaded our soul and spirit, and captured our heart and imagination.

Fellowship: We are one with others: Christmas means that we human beings are irrevocably bound with each other. “God so loved the world that he gave his only Son...” We celebrate the body-soul connection with every other human being in the world. Jesus has knit us together intimately as one human family. Christmas is the time to celebrate our union with one another, no matter what language, religion, nation, culture, race, or color we may belong to. We humans are stuck with each other to work out our destiny for peace and justice, love and service.

Earthen Vessels: We are one with nature: As the Incarnate God has entered history and the material world, we realize that we are earthen vessels, an integral part of nature. “The world is charged with the grandeur of God.” Everything is infused with sacredness. The elements our bodies are composed of make up the larger material world. Christmas is the time to celebrate that God, the human family, and nature have been forever joined together. That is why we are to love, cherish, protect, and preserve the Planet Earth.

Christmas Mass Schedule: Christmas Eve Mass: 4:30 p.m. Christmas Day Masses: 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Thanking You and Wishing You: This Christmas season, I wish everyone at St. Elizabeth Parish Community the celebration of our profound connection with God, others, and the world. I thank you for your faith and friendship, your stewardship and service. I look forward to your continued support for the ministries and projects of our parish now and in the New Year 2024. May the newborn baby Jesus smile on us and bless all that we are, all that we have, and all that we do!

Merry Christmas! Happy New Year!

Your Friend and Pastor,

Father Charles Puthota, Ph.D.
Pastor



Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 24, 2023

The child to be born will be called holy,
the Son of God.

—Luke 1:35



GOD'S PROMISE

The lengthy passage from Samuel is a wonderful exposition of God's promise to the house of David: that his throne would forever be gloriously occupied by his descendants. Hidden in the mystery of the prophecy is the promise of the Savior, the Messiah, Son of God and Son of David. The prophet Nathan, speaking in God's name, poetically turns around David's plan to build a house for God, and announces God's plan to build a “house,” that is, a dynasty for David. From this house of David will come the Messiah, the Christ, not in kingly splendor as David ruled, but as a humble man, destined to rule forever and over all. When God gives a gift, it's amazing what we are given—so different from what we ever could have imagined.

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TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — I will fix a place for my people. I will plant them so that they may dwell in their place without further disturbance (2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16).

Psalms — For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord (Psalm 89).

Second Reading — To the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, be glory forever and ever (Romans 16:25-27).

Gospel — Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word (Luke 1:26-38).
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 16-17

Weekly Need:	\$ 5,000.00
First Collection	\$ 3,819.00
Church Environment	\$ 523.00
Over/Under	\$ 658.00

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

10:30 am

Tuesday

8:30 am

Wednesday

8:30 am

Thursday

8:30 am

Friday

8:30 am

Saturday

8:30 am

4:30pm

Sunday

8:30 am

10:30 am

December 25

Christmas

Christmas

December 26

† Pedro C. Songco

† Kathy Fazio

December 27

† Isaac Puthota

December 28

Ellen Peneyra (L)

December 29

† Jose Padilla

Lolita Canlas (L)

December 30

† Pepito O. Camba

Pastor's Intention

December 31

People of the Parish

Pastor's Intention

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

December 25-31

Monday, 12-25

Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1-6;

Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18

Tuesday, 12-26

696: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59;

Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 8ab, 16bc, 17;

Mt 10:17-22

Wednesday, 12-27

697:1 Jn 1:1-4; Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Thursday, 12-28

698:1 Jn 1:5 — 2:2; Mt 2:13-18

Friday, 12-29

202:1 Jn 2:3-11; Lk 2:22-35

Saturday, 12-30

1 Jn 2:12-17; Lk 2:36-40

Sunday, 12-31

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14

Ps 128:1-5; Col 3:12

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

December 24-30

Sunday, 12-24

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Monday, 12-25

The Nativity of the Lord
(Christmas)

Tuesday, 12-26

St. Stephen

Wednesday, 12-27

St. John

Thursday, 12-28

The Holy Innocents

Friday, 12-29

Fifth Day within the Octave of
the Nativity of the Lord;
St. Thomas Becket

Saturday, 12-30

Sixth Day within the Octave of
the Nativity of the Lord

On The Horizon at St. Elizabeth

●Office Closed

Tuesday, December 26th

●New Years Day

Monday, January 1st (not a Holy Day of Obligation)

Mass is at 8:30 am

●Office Closed

Monday, January 1st



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.

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.



Fr. Charles with Maltese Consul Louis Vella in front of a special and rare presepe (Nativity Scene) at Maltese-American Social Club in South San Francisco on Sunday 12/17/2023.