

# **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 31, 2023 The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph*



## **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)

**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**

<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**

**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 31, 2023

**New Year 2024:** As we are ready to welcome the brand new year 2024, let's place this whole new gift of time in God's hands. May the good Lord guide and protect us. May he make our lives shine. May he transform us into his channels of grace and love. Let bygones be bygones. Let's start anew and afresh to share our lives. We cannot allow pessimism or cynicism to taint the quality of life in the New Year. Let hope spring eternal in our hearts, motivating us to grapple with this new chunk of time with optimism and joy. If God is for us, who can be against us? Thanks to all that has been in 2023! Yes to all that shall be in 2024! As Moses says: "The Lord bless you and keep you! The Lord let his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you! The Lord look upon you kindly and give you peace!" (Numbers 6: 24-26).

**Thank You:** The Advent Season, the Simbang Gabi Masses and Reception for nine days before Christmas and Christmas day itself went very well, thanks to the volunteers at our parish who gave so much of themselves joyfully. Especially the "Morning Worshippers" were most generously invested in the success of all our spiritual and social celebrations connected with this holy season. My heartfelt thanks to each and every one of them for making a success of these celebrations. We gave glory to God and served the parish community. I'm not only grateful but also proud of your active participation in the life of the parish. You help build up the family of God in our own parish and help further God's Kingdom. Maraming salamat po! Muchas gracias!

**Sunday, December 31, Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph:** Love God and love one another. This is the love commandment practiced wholeheartedly by the Holy Family. Family is the "school of love." What we do in family right from our earliest stages shapes the course of our life. The Holy Family made up of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph admirably loved God and loved one another. This family love led them outside of the family into the larger arena of life to love people--and help and heal and transform the world. Joseph had to accept the divine promptings and take Mary into his home, a situation fraught with some uncertainty and confusion. Mary herself had to conceive the child by the overshadowing of the Holy Spirit. Not everything was crystal clear. Mary and Joseph had to pick their way with God's guidance and light. This Holy Family filled with God's blessings faced danger and vulnerability. They had to flee to another country in the face of death threats to the divine baby. Through it all, they were faithfully obedient to God's will and purpose. With Jesus in their house, God's blessings profoundly filled their lives. Jesus grew in wisdom and knowledge. When Jesus was lost on their pilgrimage to Jerusalem, they had to deal with anxiety and anguish. The Holy Family was not at all free from worry and sorrow and sadness. But they said yes to God's will generously,

continuously, joyfully, and totally. The Holy Family is a perfect model for all families to live in love and trust and obedience; a model for us about to give and take; a shining example of simplicity and authenticity. They didn't have much in the material sense, but they were rich in love; they had everything needed to be the family God called them to be.

**Monday, January 1, Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God:** Not a Holy Day of Obligation this year. Parish Mass at 8:30 a.m. We begin a whole new year with the feast of Mary, the Mother of God. Let's entrust this year in the hands of the loving Mother. Elizabeth declares at the Visitation: "Most blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me?" (Luke 1:42-43). May this "mother of our Lord" look upon us always with the eyes of a loving and protecting mother. Let the new beginnings this year, perhaps with some new resolutions, be based on love that Mary the Mother of God began by becoming the Mother of the Son of God. Mary started a whole new beginning by bringing Jesus into the world and letting the Kingdom of God be manifested in Jesus like never before. Let the new year for us be a new, fresh start for what we could be and for what we could do for God and family and the world. Through the affection of Mary, the Mother of God, may we come closer to Christ our Lord and do whatever he tells us to do this new year of 2024.

**Think About It:** "Your future depends on a lot of things, but mostly on you."

**New Year Humor:** 1. "Hope you are not too exhausted from your yearly visit to the gym on New Year's Day." 2. "I don't need a New Year's resolution. You don't need that nonsense when you're perfect." 3. "I don't know what's so special about the New Year's Eve. I drop the ball at least once a day." 4. "A New Year's resolution is something that goes in one year and out the other." 5. Biggest joke of the century: "Computers and mobile were invented to save our time." 6. "Tell me a joke" --- "I don't think you'd understand a joke in my language. They are not so funny, anyway." 7. "Life is short. Smile while you still have teeth." 8. "I started thinking about the dangers of drinking on New Year's Eve. After that, I decided to stop thinking." 9. "If people could read my mind, I'd get punched in the face a lot." 10. "Of course, women don't work as hard as men. They get it right the first time."

**An Irish Blessing for the New Year:** "May God give you, for every storm, a rainbow; for every tear, a smile; for every care, a promise; a blessing in each trial; for every problem life sends, a faithful friend to share; for every sigh, a sweet song; and an answer for each prayer. Amen."

**Wishing you a Happy New Year!** Feliz año nuevo! Maligayang Bagong Taon! Felice anno nuovo! Is-sena it-tajba! Athbhliain faoi mhaise daoibh! Urte berri on! Feliz Ano Novo! Bonne année!

Your Friend and Pastor,

Father Charles Puthota

### **The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph**

**December 31, 2023**

My eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in the sight of all the peoples.  
—Luke 2:30-31



#### **BEARERS OF THE WORD**

The Church has placed a number of notable feast days immediately after Christmas. The feasts of Stephen, John the Evangelist, and the Holy Innocents form a summary of the life lived in Christ, the Word made flesh. What do these have to do with the feast of the Holy Family, which crowns the Octave of Christmas? These feasts remind us that suffering will continue in fulfilling the mission of Christ, and that we are all called to be bearers of this Word whose birth we celebrate.

We also see this manifested in the lives of Joseph and Mary, both of whom took social and religious risks in obedience to the will of God, and both of whom were open to the word of God sent to them from on high. In these ways they prefigured the life of Jesus himself.

Most likely, few of us found ourselves at Mass this past Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday, but the essence of these feasts and the essence of the holiness of Joseph, Mary, and Jesus remain central, a holiness we celebrate today. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

#### **TODAY'S READINGS**

**First Reading** — Those who honor their parents will be greatly blessed and will atone for sins  
*Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3.*

**Psalms** — Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways or *Psalms 105.*

**Second Reading** — Be thankful; do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19.

**Gospel** — The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom (Luke 2:22-40).

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 23-25**

**Weekly Need:** \$ 5,000.00  
**First Collection** \$ 2,646.00  
**Over/Under** \$ 2,354.00

**Christmas Eve** \$ 2,788.00  
**Christmas Day** \$ 5,354.00  
\$ 8,142.00

**If you make your offertory donation by check, without using parishioner envelopes, it would be most helpful if you put your envelope number in the memo section of the check. Thank you for your continued generosity.**

### **MASS INTENTIONS**

† Denotes deceased – (L) Living

<b>Monday</b> 8:30 am	<b>January 1</b> New Year's
<b>Tuesday</b> 8:30 am	<b>January 2</b> † Bruna and † Italo De Rosa † Rinaldo Schenone
<b>Wednesday</b> 8:30 am	<b>January 3</b> † Al Caturegli
<b>Thursday</b> 8:30 am	<b>January 4</b>
<b>Friday</b> 8:30 am	<b>January 5</b> † Josephine Zaragoza † Gervacio R. Pilare
<b>Saturday</b> 8:30 am 4:30pm	<b>January 6</b> † Paul, † Theresa, and † Joe Vella
<b>Sunday</b> 8:30 am 10:30 am	<b>January 7</b> People of the Parish

### **READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

**January 1-7**

<b>Monday, 1-1</b>	Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21
<b>Tuesday, 1-2</b>	1 Jn 2:22-28; Ps 98:1-4; Jn 1:19-28
<b>Wed., 1-3</b>	1 Jn 2:29 — 3:6; Ps 98:1, Jn 1:29-34
<b>Thursday, 1-4</b>	1 Jn 3:7-10; Ps 98:1, 7-9; Jn 1:35-42
<b>Friday, 1-5</b>	1 Jn 3:11-21; Ps 100:1-5; Jn 1:43-51
<b>Saturday, 1-6</b>	1 Jn 5:5-13; Ps 147:12-15, 19-20; Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-28 [23, 31-34, 36, 38]
<b>Sunday, 1-7</b>	Is 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

### **SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES December 31-January 6**

<b>Sunday, 12-31</b>	The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph
<b>Monday, 1-1</b>	Mary, the Holy Mother of God; The Nativity of the Lord; New Year's Day
<b>Tuesday, 1-2</b>	Ss. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen
<b>Wed., 1-3</b>	The Most Holy Name of Jesus
<b>Thursday, 1-4</b>	St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
<b>Friday, 1-5</b>	St. John Neumann; First Friday
<b>Saturday, 1-6</b>	St. André Bessette; First Saturday

## On The Horizon at St. Elizabeth

### ●New Years Day

Monday, January 1<sup>st</sup> (not a Holy Day of Obligation)  
Mass is at 8:30 am

### ●Office Closed

Monday, January 1<sup>st</sup>

### ●Office Closed

Monday, January 15<sup>th</sup> Martin Luther King Jr.  
Holiday

### ●Lenten Retreat

Saturday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>.

## Wedding Anniversary Mass at St. Mary of the Assumption Cathedral

Saturday, February 3, 2024, at 10:00am

1100 Gough Street, San Francisco

Contact: Ed Hopfner

415-614-5547 [HopfnerE@sfarch.org](mailto:HopfnerE@sfarch.org)

## Wedding Anniversary Mass at St. Mary of the Assumption Cathedral

Saturday, February 3, 2024, at 10:00am

1100 Gough Street, San Francisco

Contact: Ed Hopfner

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## End of Year Statements

We are preparing to close the books on 2023. Please contact the parish office in writing or email if you are in need of a year-end statement of your donations. We are able to provide statements to parishioners who have donated using Sunday Envelopes.

Please note that any donations received after December 31<sup>st</sup> will be credited to 2024.

We will not be responsible for donations not credited due to missing envelope numbers.

## **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](mailto: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.**

**Mass Intentions are available for January and February. Please contact the office.**

## Pray for our Dear Departed



Virginia Cerenio

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