

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

January 7, 2024 The Epiphany of the Lord



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

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

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

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

January 07, 2024

Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

Sunday January 7, Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord: As we celebrate this Sunday January 7 the Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord, we come like the three wise men to the manger and look upon the divine baby, bearing our own "gifts." Epiphany, as you know, means manifestation, revelation. The feast recognizes that Jesus is savior not just for one nation or one people but for the whole world. The three wise men, having adored the holy baby, will take with them the astounding news of the mysterious birth of the savior to their nations and thus help spread the good news to the ends of the earth. Therefore, at the heart of this event, there is a message--and invitation--for us to make Christ the new-born King known to the world through our love and faith. What could I say and do to make Jesus known? What are the values I need to live by in order to make Jesus be born spiritually in the world now?

There are certain things we could explore as inspiration from the event of the Epiphany. Are we ready to make the journey to the new-born baby? It would involve getting out of our familiar "places," our own positions, our own way of thinking and acting, our ideological boundaries, and undertaking a journey of spiritual and intellectual and psychological adventure. Can we see the "star" that is sent to guide and lead us? What is that star in our lives today? In what form and shape do we see that star? How does God speak and guide us in our current circumstances? Does he use our own family members and friends to send those messages of guidance and protection? Is the faith family, the Church, through its rituals and sacraments, its witness and proclamation, a place where you can discover that star? Or, do we miss God's signs of love and grace? Do the poor and disadvantaged Jesus identifies with (Matthew 25, the Last Judgment) help us see that "star"? God is speaking to us through the signs of the times. May we have the courage and discernment to make the journey to Christ our Lord, to recognize him in people and circumstances, and having adored him, let's go by another way back to where we came from, so that we could live by a new vision, a new spirit, characterized by a whole new meaning, urgency, and purpose.

Monday January 8, the Baptism of the Lord: After celebrating the heart-warming birthday of Jesus at Christmas, we meditated on the Holy Family and the Epiphany. Our families will do well in modeling themselves on the Holy Family. When Jesus is present in our families, we have everything, all the strength, grace, and courage we need to face anything. Epiphany prepared us for the conviction that Jesus is Lord for all the nations and cultures and that we are all called to help reveal Jesus to our families, neighborhoods,

and the whole world. We are moving along briskly on the journey with Christ. Now we have come to the Baptism of the Lord as he begins his public ministry. In Mark's gospel today, as Jesus is being baptized we see the presence of the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove and the Heavenly Father who says, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

There are some insights that we could dwell on. 1. Jesus is guided by the Holy Spirit and is always eager to do his Father's will. We could follow Jesus in this regard. 2. Jesus did not need the baptism and yet he insists on it as a way of inserting himself into our humanity and vulnerability. Jesus' incarnational participation in our human nature begun at his nativity continues at his baptism. 3. Jesus is called, anointed, and sent by his Father to bring new life and hope to the whole world. We too are called to fulfill the purpose for which God has brought us into the world. 4. Each of us is God's "beloved daughter or son." God is "well pleased" with us. So let's not go about carrying guilt or hopelessness. Our God loves us and delights in us, despite our sinfulness. It's precisely because of God's being "well pleased" with us that we can turn our ways around to his. 5. As Jesus begins a new journey with his public ministry after the Baptism, each of us was baptized to walk a new journey of grace and holiness. How are we doing in that regard? Is our baptismal anointing and empowerment still shining in our lives? The Baptism of the Lord is an occasion for us to take stock of our lives.

Christmas Season Concludes and Ordinary Time Begins: Christmas season continues and comes to a close with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, this year on January 8. January 9, the Ordinary Time begins. I hope your Christmas celebrations and the rest of the season went well, filling you with joy and peace. As you well know, Christmas is too important to be over in 24 hours' time. The mystery of Christ's birth continues. The beauty of the Incarnation is a never-ending reality. Jesus becoming one with us is a continuous process. The vital implication of his presence with us is that we are made sacred forever. We are sinful but sacred at the same time because of the Christmas mystery. We are sinners but graced! When God has become one with us, why should we be afraid? Because the Lord of the Incarnation has pitched his tent with us, we can keep striving for all those things that make us better human beings and Christians.

Humor: 1. A man is talking to God. "God, how long is a million years?" God answers, "To me, it's about a minute." "God, how much is a million dollars?" "To me, it's a penny." "God, may I have a penny?" God says, "Wait a minute." 2. A woman is making pancakes for her kids, and the kids start arguing over who is going to get the first pancake. Deciding it's a good time for a moral lesson, she says to them, "You know, if Jesus were sitting here, He would say 'let my brother have the first pancake.'" One of the brothers looks at the other and says, "Okay, you be Jesus!"

Wishing you and your families God's continuous presence and grace in the New Year 2024,

Your Friend and Pastor,

Father Charles Puthota

**The Epiphany of the Lord
January 7, 2024**

All kings shall pay him homage,
all nations shall serve him.
— Psalm 72:11



Magi from the east arrived

GOD'S PROMISE TO ALL PEOPLE

Today Isaiah reminds the people of God that the land shall be restored to their possession, they shall rejoice to see their people return from the bondage of exile, and that they shall be a light to the nations. In other words, through the people of Israel, the Savior shall come to all people who seek God with a sincere heart. This brings joy and the radiance of God's glory to all the world and to all people everywhere.

Through the fidelity of the people of God, and through God's fidelity to them, all people shall become God's children and rejoice in the fulfillment of God's promise to Israel.

Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — You shall be radiant at what you see, your heart shall throb and overflow (Isaiah 60:1-6).

Psalm — Lord, every nation on earth will adore you (Psalm 72).

Second Reading — The Gentiles are copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus (Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6).

Gospel — The magi were overjoyed at seeing the star (Matthew 2:1-12).

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 30-31**

Weekly Need: \$ 5,000.00
First Collection: \$ 2,784.00
Parish Ministries: \$ 542.00
Over/Under: \$ 1,674.00

January 1st
Mary Mother of God: \$ 801.00

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

MASS INTENTIONS
† Denotes deceased – (L) Living

Monday 8:30 am	January 8 † Elena P. Santiago
Tuesday 8:30 am	January 9 Souls in Purgatory
Wednesday 8:30 am	January 10 Jose Pilare Sr. (L)
Thursday 8:30 am	January 11 Dorothy Fadeff (L)
Friday 8:30 am	January 12 Jocelyn V. Pilare (L)
Saturday 8:30 am	January 13 † Alice J. Brown
4:30pm	† Augustine Sanchez
Sunday 8:30 am	January 14 People of the Parish
10:30 am	† Timoteo D. Nacor Sr. Maltese Society Santo Niño de Cebu

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK
January 8-14**

Monday, 1-8	Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or Is 55:1-11
Tuesday, 1-9	1 Sm 1:9-20 Sm 2:1,4-8
Wed, 1-10	1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20; Ps 40:2, 5, 7-10; Mk 1:29-39
Thurs, 1-11	1 Sm 4:1-11; Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25; Mk 1:40-45
Friday, 1-12	1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a; Ps 89:16-19; Mk 2:1-12
Saturday, 1-13	1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a; Ps 21:2-7; Mk 2:13-17
Sunday, 1-14	1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19; Ps 40:2, 4, 7-10; 1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20; Jn 1:35-42

**SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES
January 7-13**

Sunday, 1-7	The Epiphany of the Lord
Monday, 1-8	The Baptism of the Lord
Tuesday, 1-9	First Week in Ordinary Time begins
Saturday, 1-13	St. Hilary; Blessed Virgin Mary

On The Horizon at St. Elizabeth

● Office Closed

Monday, January 15th Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday.

● Parish Consultors Meeting

Tuesday, February 13th 9:15 Cantwell Hall.

● Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, February 14th, Masses at 8:30 am and 6:00 pm.

● Lenten Retreat

Saturday, March 2nd.

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 31st will be credited to 2024.

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



It is with great joy we welcome Coa George V. Natan-Tonge into our church and community. Coa received the Sacrament of Baptism at our Rectory Chapel on December 30, 2023.



St. Elizabeth's Maltese Society St. Paul of the Shipwreck Festa Sunday, February 4, 2024

Mass: 10:30AM

St. Elizabeth Church

(459 Somerset Street, San Francisco, 94134)

Festa:

Cantwell Hall

(490 Goettingen, San Francisco, 94134)

No Host Cocktails: 12:00PM

Lunch: 12:30PM

Menu:

Salad, Pasta, Half Chicken, Roasted Potatoes, Vegetables, Bread & Butter, Dessert

Tickets:

Adults \$30/ Children: \$15 (12 years and younger)

Reservations:

Jeanette Santos 415-225-5315

Mary Sammut: 415-467-1686

No Tickets Sold at the Door

Raffle Donations Welcome

Pray for our Dear Departed



Eloy Martinez

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