

# ***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)***

***January 28, 2024 The Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time***



## **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**

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 28, 2024

Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

**The Importance and Necessity of the Liturgy of the Word in the Mass: Some personal musings:** Sometimes I observe some good, well-meaning Catholics who would like to attend Mass as quickly as possible and get back home or wherever they are going. They give the impression that if there is no Word of God and homily, they would be happier because that way they could get to the Communion as quickly as possible and go home. The Mass is ended, go in peace! Since we take the trouble after all of getting out of bed, giving up certain morning comforts and of being in the church, why not participate in the Mass by putting our heart and soul into it. One of the ways in which we could do this is by saying the liturgical prayers with more energy and volume. We are called to be active participants, not mere spectators.

Another way is to pay close attention to what the Word of God is challenging us to do and be. The Second Vatican Council over sixty years ago came up in its document called “Dei Verbum” (God’s Word) with a vision about the importance of the Word of God. The misunderstanding that the Protestants took the Bible with them and we Catholics took the sacraments had to be dispelled. We Catholics are people of the Word and the Eucharist. That’s why each Mass is a union of the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist. We cannot celebrate the Eucharist without first hearing, meditating and interpreting the Word of God. How many of us really pay attention to the Word of God? Hearing the Word of God and having it interpreted wakes us up from our at-times passive way of attending Mass. The purpose of the homily is to make some connection between the Word of God and life, and to let the scriptures come alive. We need to make a more serious effort, through our alertness and attention, at staying with the Word of God and exploring what it means for our lives, our families, and the world. After all, God speaks to us through these scriptures.

Remember how Jesus faces his three temptations by falling back on the scriptures? You may also recall how Jesus interprets the scriptures to the Emmaus disciples before he breaks the bread with them. When we go away from Mass, the questions we could be asking are: what did the Word of God interpreted in the homily speak to me for my life today? How can I be a better person and Catholic because of God’s message for me today? Mass is not a passive ritual but a dynamic form of worship at which our mind (by being enlightened) and the heart (by being in communion with Jesus) are “nourished.” Here’s an is an example of how the Word of God changed a man completely from the annals of Jesuit history: St. Ignatius of Loyola kept asking Francis Xavier at the University of Paris in the 1530s: “What does it profit for someone to gain the whole world and forfeit one’s soul?” This question of Jesus kept working in the soul of St. Francis Xavier; he gave up his wordly ambitions, joined the first group of Jesuits, and became the greatest missionary, second only to St. Paul.

**Word of God this Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time:** The responsorial psalm today calls us to think about this: “If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.” This is something important not only in our faith-related matters but also in simple relationships. We are to hear others’ voices. We have to open our ears to listen. It is possible that in our family, workplaces, and communities, we are so preoccupied with our own needs and desires that we are unable to hear others’ voices. Once we are able to let others’ voices reach our ears, we are better able to open also our hearts. This would apply in our relationship with God as well. God speaks and we have to hear his voice. There are other competing voices that drown out God’s voice. It’s like in the parable of the seeds and weeds---that the thorns choke the seeds to death. The same way, other voices can prevent us from hearing God’s voice. When we hear God’s voice, our hearts have to be ready and supple---not hard---to let that voice penetrate our hearts. Then our love can flower as a response to God speaking to us. Then discipleship can happen. We will hear the voice of Jesus and let it go straight to our hearts and we will follow him, giving up certain things and embracing certain other things. Therefore, if today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts!

**AAA 2024: Archdiocesan Annual Appeal:** Next Week February 03-04, we’ll be launching the 2024 AAA. My letter is being mailed to the whole parish. Please give it all the support you can, as you have done in previous years.

**Coming Up Soon: Ash Wednesday, February 14:** Lent begins! Easter is on March 31.

**Lenten Retreat on Saturday March 02:** Please do come join if you are able to. Forms will soon be available for registration. Starts with the 8:30 a.m. Mass. Breakfast. Three talks on Spirituality. Then lunch! \$15 registration fee.

**Think About It: Love’s Forgetfulness:** “Why do you keep talking about my past mistakes?” said the husband. “I thought you had forgiven and forgotten.” “I have, indeed,” said the wife. “But don’t you ever forget that I have forgiven and forgotten.” Sinner: “Remember not my sins, oh Lord!” Lord: “What sins? I forgot them long ago. You’ll have to prod my memory. Love keeps no record of wrongs.” (1 Cor. 13) (ADM) When we confess our sins, God throws our sins into the deepest ocean and posts a sign that reads: “No fishing!”

**Religious Humor:** A distinguished minister and two elders from his congregation attended an out-of-town meeting that did not finish until rather late. They decided to have something to eat before going home, but unfortunately, the only spot open was a seedy bar-and-grill with a questionable reputation. After being served, one of the elders asked the minister to say grace. "I'd rather not," the clergyman said. "I don't want him to know I'm here."

Your Friend and Pastor,

Father Charles Puthota

**Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**January 28, 2024**  
Come, let us bow down in worship;  
let us kneel before the LORD who made us.  
— *Psalms* 95:6



**TRUE PROPHETS**  
In Deuteronomy today we hear that God’s very words will fill the mouth of a true prophet, but a false prophet will, in a manner of speaking, put mere mortal words into God’s mouth. In Mark’s Gospel, we see Jesus teaching and healing as a true prophet, one filled with the authority of God’s own voice. The whole history of our church is filled with both true and false prophets. Some false prophets were extremely popular and quite well-versed in scripture, and even held positions of authority. But in today’s Gospel we learn that Jesus’ fame spread because he taught with authority; he wasn’t an authority because he was popular or famous. Elsewhere, we also learn from him, in his desert temptation confrontations with Satan, that anyone can quote scripture, even against God’s purposes. Today we hear that his authority was not like that of the scribes, who held the official positions of religious authority in his day. Our work is to do our best to discern the true prophets in our midst, and to be true prophets as well. The psalmist tells us how to do this: by not hardening our hearts when God speaks. If we truly listen to God, it will be God’s very words filling our mouths. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

**TODAY’S READINGS**  
**First Reading** — Moses spoke to all the people, saying: “A prophet like me will the LORD, your God, raise up for you” (Deuteronomy 18:15-20).  
**Psalms** — If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts (Psalms 95).  
**Second Reading** — Brothers and sisters: I should like you to be free of anxieties (1 Corinthians 7:32-35).  
**Gospel** — The people were astonished at Jesus’ teaching (Mark 1:21-28).  
The English translation of the Psalms Responses from *Lectionary for Mass* © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

**Saturday/Sunday Collection:**  
**January 20-21**

<b>Weekly Need:</b>	<b>\$ 5,000.00</b>
<b>First Collection</b>	<b>\$ 2,230.00</b>
<b>Church Environment</b>	<b>\$ 616.00</b>
<b>Over/Under</b>	<b>\$ 2,154.00</b>

*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*

<b>Monday</b> 8:30 am	<b>January 29</b> Nenita Bowman (L) Calvin Trinidad (L)
<b>Tuesday</b> 8:30 am	<b>January 30</b> Corazon Pilare (L) Good Shepherd Guild Living and Deceased Members and their Families
<b>Wednesday</b> 8:30 am	<b>January 31</b> †Joseph, †Tessie and † Saviour Schembri Souls in Purgatory
<b>Thursday</b> 8:30 am	<b>February 1</b> Arturo Padilla (L)
<b>Friday</b> 8:30 am	<b>February 2</b> † Filomena and † Emanuel Scerri Nicole Soares (L) Richard and Abigail Lugonja (L)
<b>Saturday</b> 8:30 am 4:30pm	<b>February 3</b> Jose Pilare Sr. (L) † Antonietta and † John Perata † Charles Spiteri
<b>Sunday</b> 8:30 am 10:30 am	<b>February 4</b> People of the Parish St. Paul of the Shipwreck

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**  
**January 29 -February 4**

<b>Monday, 1-29</b>	2 Sm 15:13-14, 30; 16:5-13; Ps 3:2-7; Mk 5:1-20
<b>Tuesday, 1-30</b>	2 Sm 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30 — 19:3; Ps 86:1-6; Mk 5:21-43
<b>Wednesday, 1-31</b>	2 Sm 24:2, 9-17; Ps 32:1-2, 5-7; Mk 6:1-6
<b>Thursday, 2-1</b>	1 Kgs 2:1-4, 10-12; 1 Chr 29:10-12; Mk 6:7-13
<b>Friday, 2-2</b>	Mal 3:1-4; Ps 24:7-10; Heb 2:14-18; Lk 2:22-40 [22-32]
<b>Saturday, 2-3</b>	1 Kgs 3:4-13; Ps 119:9-14; Mk 6:30-34
<b>Sunday, 2-4</b>	Jb 7:1-4, 6-7; Ps 147:1-6; 1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23; Mk 1:29-39

**SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES**  
**January 28 -February 3**

<b>Sunday, 1-28</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time
<b>Wednesday, 1-31</b>	St. John Bosco
<b>Friday, 2-2</b>	The Presentation of the Lord; First Friday
<b>Saturday, 2-3</b>	St. Blaise; St. Ansgar; First Saturday; Blessed Virgin Mary

### On The Horizon at St. Elizabeth

#### ●Parish Consultors Meeting

Tuesday, February 13<sup>th</sup> 9:15 am Cantwell Hall.

#### ●Ash Wednesday

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

#### ●Lenten Retreat

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

### 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.

### **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 Street, 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***

### **February through December** **2024 Mass Intention** **dates 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:

**All Masses including the Saturday Vigil Mass and Sunday Mass, (10:30 am) will be accepting two intentions per Mass. The Sunday 8:30 am Mass is designated for the People of the Parish only.**

**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(prefered):

[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.**

### **Pray for our Dear Departed**



Jose Legion

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