

# ***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)***

***February 18, 2024 The First Sunday of Lent***



## **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 /<br>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  
February 18, 2024

Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

**Musings on the Season of Lent:** This sacred season started on a good note on Ash Wednesday. At St. Elizabeth parish, we celebrated two well-attended Masses that day: at 8:30 a.m. and 6.00 p.m. Crosses of ashes were traced on our foreheads with the words, “Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return.” Dust and death are strong reminders on Ash Wednesday. An intense language indeed! And a wake-up call! This external ritual of ashes has a profound inner meaning. We are called to wear them on our hearts as God is calling us to prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. The ashes and the words about our returning to dust are reminders that our lives in this world are not permanent. In fact, we do not own anything in the world, even though we have an illusion of it. If we really owned anything, we would be able to take it into the next world. This season of Lent, we are to gain perspective on what to do in this life, how to live and love, how to relate to people and things, what is important and what is not, what is eternal and what is not, what matters and what doesn’t, what is true happiness and what isn’t. When we are able to see these things a bit more clearly, when we awaken to the reality of life, it is then we will truly begin to live from the soul. Lent is a special time to figure these things out. Sometimes, we can go through decades of life or a whole lifetime, without discovering what God wants us to do and how he wants us to live. As we are engaged in all sorts of spiritual activities, devotions, and rituals this season, let all these efforts converge on a deepening and maturing relationship with God in Jesus Christ---and others---where love and humility will shine forth. Happy hunting this season of Lent---for all the blessings money cannot buy!

**Lenten Retreat on Saturday March 02:** You are most welcome to sign up for this retreat that I’ll be preaching on Saturday, March 02. **Theme: Spirituality and Some Practices.** It will start with the 8:30 a.m. Mass followed by light breakfast and coffee; then I’ll give three sessions of reflections. It will all end with a catered lunch. Registration fee: \$15. Contact the sacristans or parish office.

**The Word of God this First Sunday of Lent:** Jesus in Mark’s gospel goes into the desert for forty days. He is tempted by the evil one. He lives among wild beasts and is ministered to by the angels. Then he comes into his public ministry proclaiming: “This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.” Lent is the time of fulfillment. It simply means, “It’s about time we realized that we are being encountered by Jesus.” The Kingdom of God is here and now. God’s rule over our lives is happening right now. Will we let him take control of our lives to lead and guide us? Or are we going to go on our own ways that are contrary to God, love, and the deepest and greatest longings of our life? Are we going to go on making poor choices that bring sadness and grief or are we going to hear Jesus speaking clearly and creatively in the midst of all our preoccupations? Repentance is not a sad thing, but a happy

form of growth and development. It is to forget the harmful things we do to ourselves and others.

**Parish Consultors Meeting (PCM):** On Tuesday February 13, after the 8:30 a.m. Mass, 22 of us met to share our experiences in the various ministries and organizations of the parish. It was an occasion also for me to have a pulse on the life of the parish and to explore together with those actively involved about what more we could do for God and his people in our parish. I salute all those who actively and energetically contribute to the faith and service in our faith community. The meeting ended with a delicious lunch. Thank you to all who set up this meeting and made all the arrangements and purchases, especially Phil McCarthy and Dave Gemignani.

**Archdiocesan Annual Appeal (AAA) 2024: Week III:** Archbishop’s Annual Appeal (AAA): We are beginning the third week of the month-long drive to raise \$32,089 toward our support for the Archdiocese. Please see the donors’ names in the bulletin on the last page. If you could give 1.5%, which is \$500, it would be highly helpful in making our goal quickly. Please give whatever you can generously and quickly.

**Stations of the Cross on Fridays in Lent:** Immediately following the 8:30 a.m. Mass on Fridays in Lent, there will be Stations of the Cross. Please come and join to walk spiritually with Jesus as he carries the cross to his crucifixion.

**Devotion to Our Lady of Perpetual Help and Benediction:** The devotion to Our Lady of Perpetual Help will continue with adoration and benediction on all Wednesdays throughout the year immediately following the 8:30 a.m. Mass. Please come join!

**Quotable Quote:** “You be the change you wish to see in the world” --- Mahatma Gandhi.

**A Story to Ponder:** 1. A conductor was rehearsing with his orchestra and said to the trumpet player, “I think this part calls for a more Wagnerian approach, if you get what I mean, something more assertive, so to speak, more accentuated, with more body, more depth, more...” The trumpet player interrupted. “Do you want it louder, sir?” All that the poor conductor could say was. “Yes, that’s what I mean!”

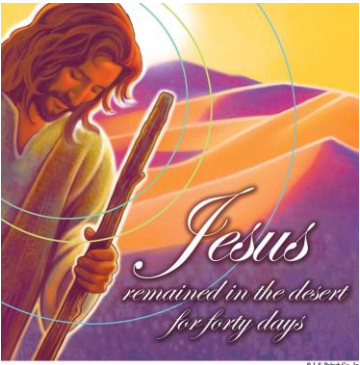
**Humor:** 1. Doctor: Mr. Erickson, you are in good health. You should live to be 90. Mr. Erickson: I’m 91! Doctor: See, what did I tell you? 2. A 75-year-old woman in a retirement home was admiring a 90-year-old-man. “Why do you keep looking at me so much?” asked the man. “Well,” she responded, “you look just like my third husband.” “How many husbands have you had?” “Two.” 3. You can tell you’re getting older when you stop lying about your age and start bragging about it.

Your Friend and Pastor,

Fr. Charles Puthota

First Sunday of Lent  
February 18, 2024

Your ways, O LORD, make known to me;  
teach me your paths.  
— Psalm 25:4



PEOPLE OF THE COVENANT

If there is one word that stands out in today’s readings, it is “covenant.” God’s faithfulness and goodness serve as examples to us of how to live. Genesis tells the story of Noah and of God’s covenant not only with all people, but with all of nature. Never will the cleansing waters of the flood bring their destructive power to all the earth again. The sign, the reminder to both God and nature, is the rainbow in the heavens.

The psalm reminds us of this compassion of God, and begs God to remember us, not because of our goodness, but because of God’s goodness and fidelity to the promise. God shows us how to be good, not by decree, but by example.  
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TODAY’S READINGS

**First Reading** — God’s covenant with Noah when he was delivered from the flood (Genesis 9:8-15).  
**Psalm** — Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant (Psalm 25).  
**Second Reading** — The water of the flood prefigured baptism, which saves you now (1 Peter 3:18-22).  
**Gospel** — This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand (Mark 1:12-15).  
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:  
February 10-11

|                    |             |
|--------------------|-------------|
| Weekly Need:       | \$ 5,000.00 |
| First Collection   | \$ 4,811.00 |
| Parish Maintenance | \$ 551.00   |
| Over/Under         | \$ 362.00   |

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

|                                      |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Monday</b><br>8:30 am             | <b>February 19</b><br>† Lolita Madriaga<br>Daniel Swanson (L)                  |
| <b>Tuesday</b><br>8:30 am            | <b>February 20</b><br>† Gideon Fabia<br>Sharon Soares (L)                      |
| <b>Wednesday</b><br>8:30 am          | <b>February 21</b><br>† Minviluz B. Nacor                                      |
| <b>Thursday</b><br>8:30 am           | <b>February 22</b><br>† Rita and † Stan Turner                                 |
| <b>Friday</b><br>8:30 am             | <b>February 23</b><br>† Lolita Madriaga  |
| <b>Saturday</b><br>8:30 am           | <b>February 24</b><br>† Francesco Pucci<br>† Carmencita Palma<br>† John Ziomek |
| 4:30pm                               | <b>February 25</b><br>People of the Parish<br>Italian Catholic Federation      |
| <b>Sunday</b><br>8:30 am<br>10:30 am | † Alice Soriano<br>Erlinda Urbi (L)  |

READINGS FOR THE WEEK  
February 19-25

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| Monday 2-19    | Lv 19:1-2, 11-18; Ps 19:8-10, 15; Mt 25:31-46                          |
| Tuesday 2-20   | Is 55:10-11; Ps 34:4-7, 16-19; Mt 6:7-15                               |
| Wednesday 2-21 | Jon 3:1-10; Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19; Lk 11:29-32                       |
| Thursday 2-22  | 1 Pt 5:1-4; Ps 23:1--6; Mt 16:13-19                                    |
| Friday 2-23    | Ez 18:21-28; Ps 130:1-8; Mt 5:20-26                                    |
| Saturday 2-24  | Dt 26:16-19; Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8; Mt 5:43-48                          |
| Sunday 2-25    | Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18; Ps 116:10, 15-19; Rom 8:31b-34; Mk 9:2-10 |

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES  
February 18-24

|                |                                |
|----------------|--------------------------------|
| Sunday 2-18    | 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent |
| Monday 2-19    | Presidents’ Day                |
| Wednesday 2-21 | St. Peter Damian               |
| Thursday 2-22  | Chair of St. Peter the Apostle |
| Friday 2-23    | St. Polycarp; Abstinence       |



## On The Horizon at St. Elizabeth

### ● Archdiocesan Annual Appeal

February 18 ~ Week three

### ● President's Day

Monday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, Office Closed.

### ● Lenten Retreat

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

Registration forms are available in the Church and the parish office.

## **2024 Archdiocesan Annual Appeal Campaign launched on February 3-4**

### ***Theme:***

***"Love your neighbor as yourself"***

***Matthew 22:29***

### **Supporters**

Puthota, Fr. Charles \*  
Alviar, Feliciano and Annabelle  
Barba, Gilbert and Alicia \*  
Clement, Edward and Lucille \*  
Contreras, Felix  
Crow, Lilia \*  
Gemignani, David \*  
Ghiglieri, Norene  
Grima, John and Carmen  
John, Richard \*  
Landstorffer, Patricia and Franz  
McCarthy, Phil \*  
Micallef, Emmanuel and Carmen \*  
Padua, Richard and Maria \*  
Quiton, Aurora \*  
Sanchez, Virginia \*  
Sifuentes, Teresa

\* 1.5% Circle donors have an asterisk next to their name. (\$500.00 and more)  
If contributing by check directly to St. Elizabeth please make your check payable to the Archdiocesan Annual Appeal.

**Amount Assessed: \$32,089.00**

**Amount collected to date: \$7,025.00**

**Balance: \$25,064.00**



### **LENTEN REMINDERS AND REGULATIONS:**

The following regulations are in place for abstaining and fasting during Lent:

**During Lent, every Friday the 8:30 am Mass will be followed by the Stations of the Cross.**

**Abstinence** : Everyone fourteen years of age and older is bound to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, the Fridays of Lent and Good Friday.

**Fast**: Everyone eighteen years of age and older but under the age of sixty is bound to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

On these two days, the law of fast allows one full meal a day, but does not prohibit taking some food during the day, so long as this does not constitute another full meal. Drinking liquids during the day is permitted. When health or the ability to work would be seriously affected, the law does not oblige. In doubt concerning fast or abstinence, a priest assigned to pastoral ministry or confessor should be consulted.

In the spirit of penance, the faithful should not lightly excuse themselves from this obligation.



**It is with great joy we welcome Miliano Geniali into our church and community. Miliano received the Sacrament of Baptism at our Rectory Chapel on February 10, 2024.**