

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

March 3, 2024 Third 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

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

March 3, 2024

Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

Reflections on Lent: We are progressing steadily through the season of Lent and find ourselves in the third week. There are five Sundays this Lent followed by Palm Sunday (March 24) followed, of course, by Easter Sunday (March 31). It would be fruitful for us and our families to continue reflecting on the meaning of Lent. Jesus lived in the desert for forty days, prayed to his Father, felt guided by the Spirit, did penance, overcame temptations, reflected on his life, drew up plans for his public ministry, and opened his mind and heart to the possibility of opposition and suffering leading up to his crucifixion. Jesus felt the need for this desert experience. We look upon Jesus and realize that we too need the “desert” experience---to think about what is going on in our lives and reorient ourselves towards God, family, and faith. Lent is that desert experience, a time for repentance and awareness of our mortality. Our fasting, abstinence, and devotions continuously remind us of the meaning of this season and the need for some practical decisions we need to make. For example, is my life rooted in love or selfishness? Is my life marked by giving or hoarding? Is my life guided by the Spirit of God or by my own desires and passions? Do I feel connected to Jesus or not? What are the values of Jesus that I practice or don’t follow? Am I humble like Jesus or do I put myself at the center of the universe in adoration of myself? Do I understand that love means respect, kindness, forgiveness, and sharing? How am I connected with the faith community I call the Church? What do I do to others in terms of service and compassion? Do I keep in mind those who are fragile, vulnerable and on the margins of society and culture? We could examine ourselves along these lines and enter more deeply into the meaning and purpose of this Lenten season. Happy searching for meaning! Happy hunting for faith! Happy journeying to the heart of Christ!

What to Give Up for Lent: As we are engaged in the Lenten practices of fasting, praying, and almsgiving this Lent, we could think about these sad things that we need to give up as part of our Lenten observances. Give up complaining ... focus on gratitude. Give up pessimism ... become an optimist. Give up harsh judgments ... think kindly thoughts. Give up worry ... trust Divine Providence. Give up discouragement ... be full of hope. Give up bitterness ... turn to forgiveness. Give up hatred ... return good for evil. Give up negativism ... be positive. Give up anger ... be more patient. Give up gloom ... enjoy the beauty that is all around. Give up jealousy ... pray for trust. Give up sin ... turn to virtue. Give up giving up ... hang in there.

Archbishop’s Annual Appeal (AAA) 2024: We need to raise \$32,089 as our commitment toward the Archdiocese this year. Please see in the bulletin the names of all donors so far to AAA 2024. We have collected so far \$15,653.00. The balance we need to raise is \$16,436.00. .We do not consider it a burden but a privilege; not a problem but an opportunity. The purpose of this fundraiser, which is actually a “faithraiser,” is for the Archdiocese to continue do God’s work that they are called to do. Even as our parish runs with the offerings you give from the pews weekend after weekend, the Archdiocese runs from the offerings that come from all the parishes in the Archdiocese

through the AAA. We do this campaign in our parish for only one month. This Sunday we are completing this monthlong campaign. If everyone participates, this can be a success quickly. We are making progress, but we need more people to come onboard and help. While I thank all those who have donated, I request everyone else to give and exercise the spirit of stewardship. Last weekend at all Masses, David Gemignani spoke persuasively about AAA and his personal connections with our parish and the Archdiocese. If everyone could give a tax-deductible donation to AAA, it would indeed be wonderful and highly helpful in our support for the Archdiocese. If possible, can you give 1.5%, which is \$500? Please consider this donation prayerfully as part of our Lenten giving.

The Word of God: The gospel from John is about Jesus cleansing the temple. He drives out all those who sell the animals and says, “Take these out of here, and stop making my Father’s house a marketplace.” Jesus is angry. His raw emotions are on display. He uses this as an opportunity to warn people about his own death and resurrection: “Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up.” Opposition to Jesus is hardening, but he will move inexorably toward the cross. Our Lenten journey merges with the journey of Jesus himself toward the cross and resurrection. The cross and the accompanying humiliation and brutality may seem like failure in the eyes of the world, but in the eyes of God, through those terrible realities new life will come to the world. By dying, Jesus saves us from sin, death, and evil. We are made free for love, joy, and service. The cross becomes a plus sign; a source of life, not death. This truth Paul expresses eloquently in the second reading: “For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.”

Pope John the 23rd’s Wit and Wisdom: What did John XXIII expect from the Second Vatican Council? “The Council?” he said as he moved toward the window and made a gesture as if to open it. “I expect a little fresh air from it... We must shake off the imperial dust that has accumulated on the throne of St. Peter since Constantine.” If the Eternal Father says to me, ‘Roncalli, you need to be harsher and more strict at times,’ I will say, ‘Eternal Father, it is you who sent your Son to give me a bad example!’ As Nuncio in Bulgaria, Roncalli once said: “This morning, I must receive cardinals, princes, and important representatives of the government. But in the afternoon, I want to spend a few minutes with some ordinary people who have no other title save their dignity as human beings and children of God.”

Lenten Prayer: “O Lord, make this Lenten season different from the other ones. Let me find you again. Amen.” --- Henry Nouwen.

Quotable Quote: “Try to be a rainbow in someone’s cloud.” --- Maya Angelou

Be well! Stay swell! Be healthy and happy! May this Lent bring peace to our hearts and harmony with others! May everyone and the whole creation enjoy God’s blessings!

Your Friend and Pastor,

Father Charles Puthota

Third Sunday of Lent
March 3, 2024

I, the LORD, am your God . . .
You shall not have other gods besides me.
— Exodus 20:2a, 3



KEEP HOLY THE SABBATH

There’s no better way to deepen our Lenten practice than to review the Ten Commandments. The first three, having to do with our right relationship to God, get the most ink. The one we busy people probably have the most problem with is keeping holy the Sabbath.

If we take this commandment literally, babies will go undiapered and dishes will stay on the table, or perhaps meals will not be served. The sick will go unattended and nothing that has anything to do with physical labor will be done. Is mental labor really work? How about changing that dirty diaper (poor baby!)?

We need to depend on God to discern how to observe real Sabbath time in our lives. The point of this commandment is that God has given us a great gift: one whole day per week when we are free to rest, worship God, sing, feast, love, and rejoice. As Psalm 19 proclaims: “The law of the LORD is perfect, / refreshing the soul” (19:8). Our Sabbath rest is a great gift, to be received from God with joy, not with nitpicking.
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TODAY’S READINGS

First Reading — God gives the law through Moses (Exodus 20:1-17 [1-3, 7-8, 12-17]) *or Exodus 17:3-7.*
Psalm — Lord, you have the words of everlasting life (Psalm 19) *or Psalm 95.*

Second Reading — We proclaim Christ crucified (1 Corinthians 1:22-25) *or Romans 5:1-2, 5-8.*

Gospel — Many began to believe in Jesus’ name when they saw the signs he was doing (John 2:13-25) *or John 4:5-42 [5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42].*

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 24-25

Weekly Need:	\$ 5,000.00
First Collection	\$ 2,685.00
Parish Ministries	\$ 754.00
Over/Under	\$ 1,561.00

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	March 4 † Maria and † Giuseppe Moretto
Tuesday 8:30 am	March 5 † Hermie G. Icban
Wednesday 8:30 am	March 6 † Danilo Manalang Mahou Monsanto (L)
Thursday 8:30 am	March 7 † Paul Galea † Pacita A. Gotauco
Friday 8:30 am	March 8 Good Shepherd Guild Members and Families living and deceased
Saturday 8:30 am	March 9 Andres and Angelica Oropeza Family (L)
4:30pm	† Joseph, †Tessie and †Saviour Schembri
Sunday 8:30 am 10:30 am	March 10 People of the Parish † Juanita G. Villasica Marita Peneyra (L)

READINGS FOR THE WEEK
March 4-10

Monday 3-4	2 Kgs 5:1-15b; Ps 42:2, 3; 43:3, 4; Lk 4:24-30
Tuesday 3-5	Dn 3:25, 34-43; Ps 25:4bc-5ab, 6-7bc, 8-9; Mt 18:21-35
Wednesday 3-6	Dt 4:1, 5-9; Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20; Mt 5:17-19
Thursday 3-7	Jer 7:23-28; Ps 95:1-2, 6-9; Lk 11:14-23
Friday 3-8	Hos 14:2-10; Ps 81:6c-11ab, 14, 17; Mk 12:28-34
Saturday 3-9	Hos 6:1-6; Ps 51:3-4, 18-21ab; Lk 18:9-14
Sunday 3-10	2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23; Ps 137:1-6; Eph 2:4-10; Jn 3:14-21

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES
March 3-9

Sunday 3-3	3rd Sunday of Lent
Monday 3-4	St. Casimir
Thursday 3-7	Ss. Perpetua and Felicity
Friday 3-8	St. John of God

2024 Archdiocesan Annual Appeal Campaign launched on February 3-4

Anonymous
Puthota, Fr. Charles *
Abranches, Sandra *
Alviar, Feliciano and Annabelle
Barba, Gilbert and Alicia *
Barbieri, M/M Mark *
Canlas, Beverly
Casazza, Anna
Clement, Edward and Lucille *
Contreras, Felix
Crow, Lilia *
de los Reyes, Herminia *
Falzon, Tony and Mary
Feliciano, Lester & Lola Jean
Gemignani, David *
Ghiglieri, Norene
Grima, John and Carmen
Gughemetti, M/M Al
Holmes, Gregory and Clara *
Imbellino, Bob *
John, Richard *
Lampa, Lourdes
Landstorfer, Patricia and Franz
Mambretti, Diana
McCarthy, Phil *
Micallef, Emmanuel and Carmen *
Moretto, Ilia *
Ouano, Carmelita
Padua, Richard and Maria *
Perata, Mary *
Puccinelli, M/M Sergio
Pugh, Tom and Jackie
Quiton, Aurora *
Romias, Editha
Rossi, Elisabetta *
San Diego, M/M Gavin *
Sanchez, Virginia *
Sifuentes, Teresa
Sisters of the Good Shepherd *
Soares, Sharon *
Tablante, Victor and Patricia *
Tablante, Eric
Welsh, Dolores *
Zarich, Ennio and Marianne

* 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.

**Please note: Donations made directly to the Archdiocese
will be acknowledged once we receive the monthly report
from the Office of Development.**

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

Amount collected to date: **\$15,653.00**

Balance: **\$16,436.00**

On The Horizon at St. Elizabeth

● Archdiocesan Annual Appeal

March 3 ~ Week five

● Daylight Savings Time begins

Greece & Medjugorje Pilgrimage In the Footsteps of St. Paul with Greek Isles Cruise! Spiritual Director: **Fr. Charles Puthota, Ph.D.** October 4 – 18, 2024



**Thessaloniki • Phillippi • Kavala • Kalambaka •
Delphi • Corinth • Athens • Kusadasi
• Ephesus (Mary's House)
• Patmos • Santorini • Medjugorje**

For eleven days you will follow the footsteps of St. Paul and experience beautiful sites throughout Greece. Visit Philippi where Paul the Apostle delivered his first sermon and established the first Church in Europe, Mars Hill in Athens where he spoke to the Athenians, Corinth and the site of St. Paul's trials by Gallio, and more! You will even visit the House of the Virgin Mary in Ephesus in Turkey where she lived until her Assumption according to Catholic Doctrine. A popular Pilgrimage site, this Shrine has even received several papal visits and blessings. On your 3-day cruise you will discover the captivating and beautiful Greek Islands like Mykonos, Crete, and Santorini.

**For more information and pricing please contact:
Jon at 206 Tours at 1-800-206-8687**



Altar servers Chelsa, Rodrigo, Catherine, and Claire with Fr. Charles.