

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

August 4, 2024 ~ Eighteenth 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 Fridays

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
August 4, 2024

Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

My Personal, Private Retreat at the Jesuit Retreat House, El Retiro, Los Altos: I made my personal retreat last week at the Jesuit Retreat Center named "El Retiro San Inigo" in Los Altos. It was a time to be "alone with God," a time for tranquil reflection and intimate connection with God. El Retiro retreat house provides a uniquely conducive atmosphere for a personal or group retreat. The "38 beautiful acres of ecologically diverse hillside land" with almost a 100-year old tradition on the Los Altos hills provides charming trails to walk and the various shrines to visit. Along the trails under the canopy of the trees and bushes are the Stations of the Cross and the Mysteries of the Rosary. At various points along the routes there are shrines to Jesus and Mary. The bookstore has a well-stocked collection of spiritual books. I took the opportunity to buy two books: "The Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius Loyola" and "The Autobiography of St. Ignatius Loyola." The three-meals-a-day supplemented by various fruits and refreshing juices were enjoyable. The mood of serene silence and deep prayer that prevails in the retreat house has been highly helpful for the experience of God and the journey into one's own inner space. I highly recommend this retreat center for your individual or group retreats. If a group from our parish of St. Elizabeth would like to make a retreat there for two or three days or longer, please would you let me know. I would love to accompany you through your spiritual journey there by celebrating Mass with you and being available for Confessions and spiritual direction. Or you could go on your own as individuals or couples to make your retreat there. I can assure you that you'll return having had a pleasant and memorable experience of closeness to God and a sense of renewal. As you know, this Jesuit Retreat Center specializes in the spirituality of St. Ignatius Loyola based on his famous *Spiritual Exercises* (whose feast was on July 31, on the occasion of which I wrote a whole blog for our bulletin on the various insights of St. Ignatius). Please do take a look at the possibility of a spiritual retreat that you might want to make at El Retiro San Inigo.

Word of God, 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time--Jesus the Bread of Life: Starting from last Sunday, for five consecutive Sundays, we read from John chapter 6, which is the memorable chapter on the Eucharist. Last Sunday, we prayed over the multiplication of five loaves and two fish. Jesus feeds a large crowd. All he is given is five loaves and two fish. He blesses it and breaks it and gives it to them and they all eat to their satisfaction. Years ago in my theology courses, I remember reading some articles by the late Julius Nyerere, former president of Tanzania, a devout Catholic. I was touched by his sincerity and desire to help and serve selflessly. I would paraphrase his reflections as follows: "It's not that we do not have enough resources for everyone; it's that people do not want to share. All our poverty and hunger

may be attributed to the fact that we do not place our five loaves and two fish at the service of everyone. God will

turn our generosity into an overflow of blessings for everyone so that no one will go hungry or without the basic necessities." This Sunday, as is the style of John's composition of the gospel, the long discourse follows the miracle. Jesus says: "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst." I invite you to reflect and pray over the invitation to allow Jesus to be our bread of life. We feed on his Word and his Body so that we might have life and have it abundantly.

From the Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church: What is the importance of the Old Testament for Christians? Christians venerate the Old Testament as the true word of God. All of the books of the Old Testament are divinely inspired and retain a permanent value. They bear witness to the divine pedagogy of God's saving love. They are written, above all, to prepare for the coming of Christ the Savior of the universe. **What importance does the New Testament have for Christians?** The New Testament, whose central object is Jesus Christ, conveys to us the ultimate truth of divine Revelation. Within the New Testament the four Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John are the heart of all the Scriptures because they are the principle witness to the life and teaching of Jesus. As such, they hold a unique place in the Church.

A Story to Ponder: Said a traveler to one of the disciples, "I have traveled a great distance to listen to the Master, but I find his words quite ordinary." "Don't listen to his words. Listen to his message." "How does one do that?" "Take hold of a sentence that he says. Shake it well till all the words drop off. What is left will set your heart on fire."

Quotable Quotes: "Obsessed is just a word the lazy use to describe the dedicated" --- Russell Warren. "The price of anything is the amount of life you exchange for it" --- Henry David Thoreau. "The more I want to get something done, the less I call it work" --- Richard Bach. "To avoid criticism, do nothing, say nothing, be nothing" --- Elbert Hubbard. "What we fear doing most is what we most need to do" --- Tim Ferriss. "If there is no struggle, there is no progress" --- Fredrick Douglass. "Do what you can, where you are, with what you have" --- Teddy Roosevelt.

Humor: A Rare Book: A collector of rare books ran into an acquaintance who told him he had just thrown away an old Bible he found in a dusty, old box. He happened to mention that Guten-somebody-or-other had printed it. "Not Gutenberg?" gasped the collector. "Yes, that was it!" "You idiot! You've thrown away one of the first books ever printed. A copy recently sold at auction for half a million dollars!" "Oh, I don't think this book would have been worth anything close to that much," replied the man. "It was scribbled all over in the margins by some guy named Martin Luther."

Your Friend and Pastor,

Father Charles Puthota

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time August 4, 2024

Do not work for food that perishes
but for the food that endures for eternal life.
— John 6:27a



GOD'S WORK

We are so busy! Most of us have more than one job to do, and we never seem to have enough time. We are workers, volunteers, parents, friends, and most of us are more than one thing at a time. But which of these is the work of God?

We seldom view our ordinary work as being the work of God. We may think that we have to be ministers or priests, missionaries or charity workers, engaged full-time in works formally identified as being "God's work." But everything we do with a faithful heart and with love for others is God's work. We each have our own role to fill in the world, and many gifts are necessary. We cannot always see the direct connection of our daily work to the plan of God. But we trust and we believe that God leads us to do what is needed, where it is needed. What is "God's work?" "This is the work of God, that you believe in the one he sent" (John 6:29).

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TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — I will rain down bread from heaven for you (Exodus 16:2-4, 12-15).

Psalm — The Lord gave them bread from heaven (Psalm 78).

Second Reading — Put on the new self that has been created in God's way (Ephesians 4:17, 20-24).

Gospel — Whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst (John 6:24-35).
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

July 27 – 28

Weekly Need:	\$ 5,000.00
First Collection	\$ 1,859.00
Parish Ministries	\$ 525.00
Over/Under	\$ 2,616.00

If you make your offertory donation by check, without using parishioner envelopes, it would be most helpful if you placed your parishioner/envelope # in the "memo" section of the check. This helps us input your donation to the offertory data system.

Mass Intentions † Denotes deceased – (L) Living

Monday 8:30 am	August 5 † Renee Lobo
Tuesday 8:30 am	August 6 † Juanita D. Mendoza † Cenen J. Songco
Wednesday 8:30 am	August 7 † Joseph, † Tessie and † Saviour Schembri
Thursday 8:30	August 8 Good Shepherd Guild living and deceased members and their families
Friday 8:30 am	August 9 † Paul, † Theresa and † Joe Vella
Saturday 8:30 am	August 10 † Prudencio and † Lily Caldito † Rosalia Pilare Villegas † Cipriano Perez † Sesta Tosti
4:30 pm	
Sunday 8:30 am 10:30 am	August 11 People of the Parish † Aurora T. Mallari † Italo Zarich

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday, 8/5	Jer 28:1-7 Ps 119-29, 43,79-80, 95,102; Mt 14:13-21
Tuesday, 8/6	Dn 7:9-10, 13-14, Ps 97:1-2,5-6,9 , 2 Pt 1:16-19 Mk 9:2-10
Wednesday, 8/7	Jer 31:1-7; Jer 31:10, 11-12ab, 13; Mt 15:21-28
Thursday, 8/8	Jer 31:31-34; Ps 51:12-15, 18-19; Mt 16:13-23
Friday, 8/9	Na 2:1, 3: 3-1,6-7 Ps Dt 32:35c-36b,39abcd, 41 Mt 16:24-28
Saturday, 8/10	2 Cor 9:6-10, Ps 112:1-2, 5-9, Jn 12:24-26
Sunday, 8/11	1 Kgs 19:4-8; Ps 34:2-9; Eph 4:30 - 5:2; Jn 6:41-51

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday, 8/4	18 th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Monday, 8/5	Dedication of the Basilica of St. Mary Major
Tuesday, 8/6	The Transfiguration of the Lord
Wednesday, 8/7	St. Sixtus II, St. Cajetan
Thursday, 8/8	St. Dominic, Priest
Friday, 8/9	St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross
Saturday, 8/10	St. Lawrence

On The Horizon at St. Elizabeth

●The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Thursday, August 15th. A holy day of obligation.
Masses at 8:30 am and 6:00 pm.

●Maltese Champagne Bingo

Sunday, August 25th



St. Elizabeth Maltese Society Champagne Bingo Sunday, August 25, 2024 Cantwell Hall

Doors open at 12:00 pm
Lunch served at 1:00 pm
Bingo begins at 2:00 pm

\$25.00 per person

Ticket includes Lunch (Pasta with Meat
Sauce, Salad, Bread, Champagne and
dessert and 1 Bingo packet

R.S.V.P. by August 16th

(Reservation required,
No Day of Ticket Sales)

Jeanette Santos 415-225-5315

Mary Sammut 415-467-1686



FAITH FORMATION REGISTRATION IS OPEN FOR 2024-2025

Registration forms may be requested
by calling

Laurie Digneo at 415-672-4903

email: sophielady7@aol.com. Forms
can also be picked up at the parish office
or at the Church. Annual registration fees
are \$50.00 per child.

Greece & Medjugorje Pilgrimage In the Footsteps of St. Paul with Greek Isles Cruise!

Spiritual Director: **Fr. Charles Puthota, Ph.D.**

October 4 – 20, 2024



**Thessaloniki · Philippi · Kavala · Kalambaka ·
Delphi · Corinth · Athens · Kusadasi· Ephesus (M
ary'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.

Faith Formation Teachers needed

We need teachers for the 2024-2025 school year.

If you enjoy working with children and have a general knowledge of the Catholic religion, we would love to have you be part of the Faith Formation program. If interested, please contact
Laurie Digneo.

Pray for our Dear Departed



Thomas Perez
Auguste Indart

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