

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

September 8, 2024 ~ Twenty-Third 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
September 8, 2024

Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

Cantwell Hall Parking Lot: I have been hearing positive feedback from many of the parishioners about the new Cantwell Hall fence. I'm glad that finally, after decades of having lost control of that parking lot, we have it now for our exclusive parish use. The pavement of the parking lot, though, is in a rather worn-out condition. On **September 10, 11 and 12 (Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday)**, the parking lot in front of Cantwell will be repaved and striped. The parking lot, therefore, will not be available those two days as well as on the following Friday and Saturday (Sept. 13 and 14th) in order to let the new pavement settle and cure. For the weekend Masses, we do not need that parking lot anyway as the school parking lot is available. I thank you all for your patience as we get the necessary maintenance and renovation works done. The theological and pastoral vision is that all our parish facilities are to help us as a community of believers, as followers of Christ, for us to come together and celebrate our communion with Jesus and one another.

Cantwell Hall Interior Renovation Work: I have been meeting with the prospective painters and gym floor folks to get these jobs done. As you know, the interior of the hall needs much work and some of you have been letting me know about it again and again. There is a whole list of things to be done along with the painting and the resurfacing of the wooden gym floor: windows, chairs, restrooms, and kitchen. As and when these various jobs are undertaken, the use of the hall will not be available. Alta Vista School (our tenants) uses Cantwell Hall on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. The "Over 50 Club" uses it every Thursday. The parish Faith Formation program uses it Saturday mornings. Thanks again for the goodwill and collaboration.

Word of God--23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B: Last Sunday in the second reading, James had called us to be not only hearers but also doers of the Word. This Sunday he concretizes the message by asking us not to show partiality and discrimination. James asks: "Did not God choose those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom...?" To be able to treat others as we would like to be treated is the key to our relationships. Every human being is precious and beautiful, created in God's own image and likeness. Our minds and hearts have to be opened to this faith-filled way of looking at others. The gospel about Jesus opening the ears and the mouth of the deaf and mute man might be an invitation for us to examine ourselves about our ability to hear well and to speak "plainly" as the healed man did. Are we able to remove all sorts of noise and din in our minds and hearts to be able to listen to the subtle and gentle voice of the Lord? Part of our hearing well and speaking plainly would mean that we treat everyone with dignity and respect as we are all God's daughters and sons. That is integral to the love commandment of Jesus.

Pope Francis' Current Apostolic Journeys to Asia: Pope Francis, who will be turning 88 in December, is right now in Asia Pacific region, visiting Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Singapore, and Timor-Leste. During his 12-day visit to these countries (September 2 - 13), as he proclaims and preaches the Gospel, he will also be highlighting environmental concerns and the necessity of inter-religious dialogue. Let's pray for the Holy Father's successful journeys to these nations, as the numbers of Catholics and religious vocations are increasing in these regions.

A Story to Ponder: An old monk was making his way to the Himalayan mountains in the bitter cold of winter when it began to snow. An innkeeper said to him, "How will you ever get there in this kind of weather, my good man?" The old man answered cheerfully, "My heart got there first, so it's easy for the rest of me to follow" (ADM).

September 8, Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary: We do not celebrate this traditional feast this year because it falls on a Sunday, and as you know, Sunday liturgical celebrations take precedence over most of the feast days. However, we still keep the BVM close to our hearts and minds. Her birth was the preparation for the birth of her Son Jesus, the Savior of the world. Mary our mother is always on our side and pleads on our behalf. May she always look upon us with love and affection and with motherly love lead us to her Son Jesus so that we may always strive to "do whatever he asks us to do."

Monday September 9: Feast of St. Peter Claver: A Spanish Jesuit, he served in the Colombian mission in Cartagena. For 38 years he devoted to caring for African slaves, baptizing over 300,000 of them. He called himself "the slave of the slaves forever." He died on Sept. 8, 1654. He is the patron saint of Colombia and of all missions to black people. (Source: ORDO).

Saturday September 14: Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross: This feast has its origins in the discovery of the cross of Jesus by Empress Helena, mother of Emperor Constantine, and the famous churches built by him. The theological significance is the celebration of the new life Jesus brought us by dying on the cross. He has freed us from sin, death, and evil. All our human longings and desires are fulfilled by the death of Jesus on the cross. The shameful, negative sign of the cross has become in Christ the most positive sign of life and love. "O Cross erected above the world, Cross of our Savior King!"

Think About It: "I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel." - *Maya Angelou.*

Humor: One beautiful Sunday morning, a preacher announced to his congregation: "My good people, I have here in my hands three sermons...a \$100 sermon that lasts five minutes, a \$50 sermon that lasts fifteen minutes, and a \$10 sermon that lasts a full hour. "Now, we'll take the collection and see which one I'll deliver."

Your Friend and Pastor,

Father Charles Puthota

Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time September 8, 2024

Did not God choose those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs to the kingdom?
— *James 2:5*



SEE BEYOND OUTWARD APPEARANCES

The phrase "Sunday best" has lost much of its meaning in our society today. Some lament the loss of people dressing up for church on Sunday; others think it's a healthy sign that we're as casual in attire gathered before the Lord as we are elsewhere. No matter which school of thought on this topic we belong to, James would probably chastise us. In either case, we are still focused on external appearance, mistaking it for some sort of favored position before God. True, James criticizes the community that favors the rich and well-dressed while ostracizing the poorly clothed, but even more he criticizes the making of distinctions, making choices based on criteria that having nothing to do with the reign of God. James might turn our attention to the reign of God described by Isaiah, in which people are healed and the earth becomes ripe to bear fruit. Jesus today is focused on this reign of God, healing a Gentile man in a region hostile to his Jewish faith, not mindful of the man's origins or clothing or status or ability to repay. Isaiah, James, and Jesus in Mark's Gospel all call us to look more deeply to find where the will of God needs to be done, and has been done, on earth as in heaven.

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — Be strong, fear not! Here is your God (Isaiah 35:4-7a).

Psalm — Praise the Lord, my soul! (Psalm 146).

Second Reading — Show no partiality as you adhere to the faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ (James 2:1-5).

Gospel — Jesus makes the deaf hear and the mute speak (Mark 7:31-37).

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 August 31 – September 1

Weekly Need: \$ 5,000.00
First Collection \$ 3,258.00
Faith Formation \$ 604.00
Over/Under \$ 1,138.00

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

September 9
† Filomena and † Emanuel Scerri
† Gertrudes and † Perfecto
Vinluan

Tuesday
8:30 am

September 10
† Paul, † Theresa and † Joe
Vella

Wednesday
8:30 am

Luciana Padilla (L)
September 11
† Joseph Skropanich

Thursday
8:30 am

September 12
† Fedelina Camba
Patti Spiteri (L)

Friday
8:30 am

September 13
† Maria Mazzaferro

Saturday
8:30 am

September 14
† Ivka Skropanich

4:30 pm
Sunday
8:30 am

† Delia Gemignani

10:30 am

September 15
People of the Parish
David Gemignani (L)

† Teresa Reyes
† Joseph, † Tessie and
† Saviour Schembri
Maltese Society

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday, 9/9 Cor 5:1-8; Ps 5:5-7, 12; Lk 6:6-11
Tuesday, 9/10 1 Cor 6:1-11; Ps 149:1b-6a, 9b;
Lk 6:12-19
Wednesday, 9/11 1 Cor 7:25-31; Ps 45:11-12, 14-
17; Lk 6:20-26
Thursday, 9/12 1 Cor 8:1b-7, 11-13;
Ps 139:1b-3, 13-14ab,
23-24; Lk 6:27-38
Friday, 9/13 1 Cor 9:16-19, 22b-27, Lk 6:39
Eph 4:1-7, 11-13, Mk 4:1-10
Saturday, 9/14 Nm 21:4b-9; Ps 78:1bc-2,
34-38; Phil 2:6-11; Jn 3:13-17
Sunday 9/15 Is 50:5-9a; Ps 116:1-6, 8-9; Jas
2:14-18; Mk 8:27-35

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday, 9/8 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Monday, 9/9 St. Peter Claver
Thursday, 9/12 The Most Holy Name of Mary
Friday, 9/13 St. John Chrysostom
Saturday 9/14 The Exaltation of the Holy
Cross

On The Horizon at St. Elizabeth

●Cantwell Hall Parking Lot Paving

Tuesday, September 10th through
Friday, September 14th Parking will not be
available in Cantwell Hall lot.

●Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, September 29th after the 10:30 am
Mass at 11:45 am in front of the Church.

Good Shepherd GRACENTER'S Gala Luncheon 2024



★ **In Person Luncheon** ★

Sunday, September 22 12-3 p.m.
Dominic's SF
2850 Alemany Blvd. SF CA 94112

★ **Online Auction** ★

Bidding will open on September 16th
[GSG2024.givesmart.com](https://www.gsg2024.givesmart.com)

*Good Shepherd Gracenter's mission is to help
women without resources break free of drug
& alcohol addiction and create a hopeful future
for themselves and others*

For more info: inquiry@gsgcenter.org

Pray for our Dear Departed



James William "Bill" O'Sullivan

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



Congratulations to Teresita and Ignacio "Jun"
Madiaga Jr. who were married at St.
Elizabeth Church on Friday, August 23rd .



Celebrating Mary Perata's 100th Birthday at
the Basque Cultural Center on August 31st.