

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 29, 2024 ~ Twenty Sixth 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 Spiritual Reflection by
Father Charles Puthota
September 29, 2024

Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

A FRANCISCAN BENEDECTION

May God bless you with discomfort at:

Easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships—
So that you may live deep within your heart.

May God bless you with anger at:

Injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people,
So that you may work for justice, freedom and peace.

May God bless you with tears to shed:

For those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation, and war,
So that you may reach out your hand to comfort them
and to turn their pain into joy.

May God bless you with enough foolishness to believe
that you can make a difference in this world;

So that you can do what others claim cannot be done. Amen.

(Posted at National Council of Churches)

Reflection: We will do well to meditate on these gifts coming from the hands of our loving God: discomfort, anger, tears, and foolishness. These seem strange, even undesirable, gifts because the world appears set on marching to a set of values diametrically opposed to these gifts. Who would want to go through discomfort when we could try to attain comfort? Why should anyone be angry when what we are aspiring for is peace? Who would ask for tears when we should be laughing? How could anyone possibly seek foolishness while knowledge and wisdom are what we would like to achieve? And yet these are gifts we as Christians are called to embrace joyfully. We are not only to be enriched by these values and virtues but also defined by them.

St. Paul exhorts us to have the “mind” of Jesus (Phil 2:5). This would imply having the “heart” of Jesus as well, so that we can think and feel like Jesus. Delving into the mind and heart of Jesus, we come to realize that the strange gifts of discomfort, anger, tears, and foolishness are completely in consonance with the values Jesus spoke about and put into practice in his life. St. Paul says: “We are fools on Christ’s account...When ridiculed, we bless; when persecuted, we endure; when slandered, we respond gently.” (1 Cor. 4). St. Paul also says: “God chose the foolish of the world to shame the wise, and God chose the weak of the world to shame the strong and God chose the lowly and despised of the world, those who count for nothing, to reduce to nothing those who are something, so that no human being might boast before God.” (1 Cor. 1)

A quick glance at the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew chapters 5, 6, & 7 --- a must read for all Christians) will clarify this abundantly. Speaking paradoxically, Jesus yokes together apparently contradictory things, such as tears and laughter, being first and the last, master and servant, the meek and mighty, giving and receiving, persecution and glory, foolishness and wisdom, the cross and resurrection --- and God and people.

Hence, from the perspective of Jesus whom we seek to follow earnestly, if we would like to be really comfortable, we have to become uncomfortable. The saying that God disturbs the comfortable and comforts the disturbed is true. St. Augustine said that our hearts are restless until they rest in God. There must be a sacred restlessness and a holy discomfort deep down in our souls at the shallow lives that we may be leading, at our dependence on appearances rather than reality, facile rationalizations, and a stubborn refusal to confront truth in all its various forms.

We are conditioned to think that anger is bad, but there is a brand of anger which Jesus himself practiced when he cleansed the temple and confronted hypocrites and religious fanatics who pretended to love God but thought nothing of compassion toward fellow human beings. Jesus invites us to feel a righteous anger at poverty, hunger, disease, exploitation, bondage, loneliness, misery, hypocrisy, and violence. Wherever human dignity and decency are trampled upon, the followers of Jesus have to be outraged. The only disciples of Jesus worth the salt are those who can work for the spread of peace, justice, and freedom.

Jesus wept at the death of Lazarus. He wept (“Dominus Flevit”) over Jerusalem. He was moved to tears by human suffering and plight. We cannot remain hardhearted at --- and indifferent to --- the enormity of human suffering. Anger at such suffering is not enough; we have to suffer with the suffering, like Jesus, in order for us to be able to alleviate suffering, pain, and heartbreak. Collaborators with the Redeemer, we have to do our part in redeeming the world in a continuous way. This is highly possible because of the redemptive grace of Jesus Christ offered to all of us.

Action: Become “foolish” enough to know that the situation is not hopeless; and that individually and by building alliances of hope-filled people you can make a difference. Believe that God chooses the foolish, the weak, the lowly, and the despised---to shame the so-called powerful people. Become an authentic person and Christian and go out of yourself to confront evil in your own humble and simple ways and embrace suffering in the world. Redemption of the world with Jesus begins now in and through you.

Your Friend and Pastor,
Father Charles Puthota

Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time September 29, 2024

The law of the LORD is perfect,
refreshing the soul;
the decree of the LORD is trustworthy,
giving wisdom to the simple.
— *Psalm 19:8, 10, 12-13, 14*



NOT AGAINST US

Like Moses before him, Jesus corrects his disciples’ misunderstanding of the gift of the Spirit. They saw people who were not of their company casting out demons and doing other works such as Jesus had done. Jesus points out that no one who does a good deed in his name can be opposed to him at the same time. He goes on to point out the importance of the “little ones,”: the poor, simple people, children, the meek ones who are not important in the world. It is to them that he was sent, not to the wealthy and the self-righteous. He underscores the importance of small works done in faith, as well as big works like driving out demons. “Anyone who gives you a cup of water . . . because you belong to Christ . . . will surely not lose his reward” (Mark 9:41). God builds the coming reign little by little in our actions, however small and unassuming, when they are done out of love of God and neighbor. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

TODAY’S READINGS

First Reading — Moses said, “Would that all the people of the LORD were prophets!” (Numbers 11:25-29).

Psalm — The precepts of the Lord give joy to the heart (Psalm 19:8,10,12-13,14)

Second Reading — Come now, you rich. The wages you withheld from the workers who harvested your fields are crying aloud (James 5:1-6).

Gospel — Whoever is not against us is for us (Mark 9:38-43, 45, 47-48).

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 September 21 - 22

Weekly Need:	\$ 5,000.00
First Collection	\$ 2,175.00
Over/Under	\$ 2,825.00
Priest Retirement	\$ 909.00

Mass Intentions

† Denotes deceased – (L) Living

Monday

8:30 am

Tuesday

8:30 am

Wednesday

8:30 am

Thursday

8:30 am

Friday

8:30 am

Saturday

8:30 am

4:30 pm

Sunday

8:30 am

10:30 am

September 30

† Froreino and † Delia Gemignani

October 1

† Giovanni Rossi

† Bill O’Sullivan

October 2

Good Shepherd Guild living and deceased members and their families

October 3

† Aurora T. Mallari

October 4

† Jewell Coccellato

Faye Crow (L)

October 5

Souls in Purgatory

† Luisa S. Gito

Vito Devera (L)

October 6

People of the Parish

† Ivy Wilson

† Melita Bazor

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday, 9/30

Jb 1:6-22; Ps 17:1-3, 6-7;
Lk 9:46-50

Tuesday, 10/1

Jb 3:1-3, 11-17, 20-23;
Ps 88:2-8; Lk 9:51-56

Wednesday, 10/2

Jb 9:1-12, 14-16; Ps 88:b10-15;
Mt 18:1-5,10

Thursday, 10/3

Jb 19:21-27; Ps 27:7-9, 13-14;
Lk 10:1-12

Friday, 10/4

Jb 38:1, 12-21; 40:3-5;
Ps 139:1-3, 7-10,
13-14; Lk 10:13-16

Saturday, 10/5

Jb 42:1-3, 5-6, 12-17;
Ps 119:66, 71, 75, 91, 125, 130;
Lk 10:17-24

Sunday, 10/6

Gn 2:18-24; Ps 128:1-6;
Heb 2:9-11; Mk 10:2-16, or 10:2-12

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday, 9/29

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Monday, 9/30

St. Jerome

Tuesday, 10/1

St. Therese of the Child Jesus

Wednesday, 10/2

The Holy Guardian Angels

Friday, 10/4

St. Francis of Assisi

Saturday, 10/ 5

St. Faustina Kowalska, Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos, Priest

On The Horizon at St. Elizabeth

● Cantwell Hall

Painting project has begun, the hall is closed.

● Blessing of the Animals

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

● Columbus Day

Monday, October 14th Office Closed



Faith Formation

REGISTRATION IS STILL OPEN

Faith Formation classes began Saturday, September 7th. Registration is still being accepted for the 2024-2025 Faith Formation program. Registration forms may be requested by calling Laurrie Digneo at 415-672-4903 or email: sophielady7@aol.com.

Forms can also be picked up at the Rectory office or at the Church.
Registration Fees are \$50.00 per child.

ALTAR FLOWERS

If you are interested in donating flowers for the high altar in celebration of a special occasion, birthday, anniversary, and more, please see the sign-up sheet in the front of church. Please see a sacristan before or after Mass for more information.

BAY AREA ROSARY RALLY

IN HONOR OF
"OUR LADY WHO
UNITES ALL PEOPLES"

The Mass of the Americas will
be offered for All Immigrants by
Archbishop Salvatore J. Cordileone

**SATURDAY,
OCT. 12, 2024**

Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption
1111 Gough Street @ Geary, San Francisco

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

9:30 a.m. Confessions

10:00 a.m. Talk: History of the Rosary
with Father Michael Hurley, OP

10:30 a.m. Rosary in the Cathedral

11:00 a.m. Mass followed by Procession
and Benediction

1:00 p.m. Ethnic Food Festival,
information tables (Patrons' Hall),
and Immigrant Rights workshop (Hall A at 1:15 p.m.)



Those who participate in praying the rosary
in common can obtain a plenary indulgence

* In addition to having no attachment to sin, gaining a plenary indulgence requires participants to fulfill three conditions: sacramental confession, Eucharistic Communion, and vocal prayer for the intention of the Pope.



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SAN FRANCISCO



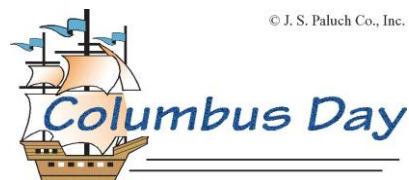
www.sfarch.org/event/rosary-rally



SECTION OF MARY
FOUNDED 7 SEPTEMBER 1924

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 Laurrie Digneo at 415-672-4903.



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The parish office will be closed on
Monday, October 14th for Columbus
Day.