

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

December 1, 2024 ~ First Sunday of Advent



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 Charles Puthota
December 1, 2024

Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

The Season of Advent: Some Musings: This Sunday we begin the season of waiting for the Lord. With the mournful yet hopeful song of "O come, o come, Emmanuel and ransom captive Israel" we plead with the Son of God to visit us and free us from all sorts of bondages and patterns of sin and alienation. We join all those through the centuries who longed with a burning desire for the coming of Jesus the Messiah into their lives.

This season of Advent is something like the time before a wedding. In the months leading up to the wedding, the couples have to prepare for the wedding by sitting down and talking about all kinds of things connected with their marriage and have heart-to-heart conversations. They also need to make all sorts of spiritual, liturgical, social preparations for the day of the wedding. How will the wedding ceremony be? Who will do what? How will the families be involved? How to pay for all the expenses? Where will the reception be held and what food will be served and who will make the speeches? What songs to dance to? Where will the newly married for their honeymoon? And so many such details of preparation! Jesus in the Gospels refers to himself as the bridegroom who comes to meet the bride represented by God's people. The Advent season is exactly like these various preparations we need to make internally and externally for the Christmas day and the whole Christmas season if this sacred time has to become a source of pure joy and blessing.

We cannot put Christmas already in Advent any more that we can put the wedding day into the phase of preparation for the wedding. Therefore, let's put on the spirit of Advent, which is readiness, vigilance, awareness, waiting, expectation, longing, penance, prayer, rearranging our lives, listening to God more deeply, reassessing our relationships, making room for love. When we do all these, then when the Christmas season dawns, it would truly be like the overflowing joy of a wedding, when Jesus will be united with the Church and the whole creation in an ecstasy of intimacy and union. Are we ready to do what we need to do during Advent in order for us to get ready to do what we need to do at Christmas? Let our longing and hope be crystallized in this simple prayer: "Come, Lord Jesus!"

Advent Quotes: "Advent: the time to listen for footsteps --- you can't hear footsteps when you're running yourself." --- Bill McKibben. "Advent, like its cousin Lent, is a season for prayer and reformation of our hearts."--- Edward Hays. "Each of us is an innkeeper who decides if there is room for Jesus." --- Neal A. Maxwell. "Hope sees the invisible, feels the intangible, achieves the impossible." "Advent: Arrival, Start, Beginning, Dawn, Initiation, Introduction." "Advent: Close your eyes and open your mind."

The Word of God: First Sunday of Advent: In the Gospel of Luke this Sunday, we are given a warning: "Be vigilant at all times and pray... That you have the strength...to stand before the Son of Man." Reminding us of the apocalyptic end of time

and the destruction that would happen at that time, Jesus calls us to be ready, watchful, and prayerful. In Jeremiah, there is a

message of hope: "In those days Judah shall be safe and Jerusalem shall dwell secure." Judah and Jerusalem would be metaphors for our lives and communities that shall receive God's blessings at the time of his visitation. Paul, too, in the Letter to the Thessalonians instructs us "to be blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his holy ones." In short, the Word of God invites us this First Sunday of Advent to be vigilant, prepared, ready, and alert. It's a wake-up call! Are we ready to be awakened?

Monday, December 9, Immaculate Conception, a Holy Day of Obligation, Masses at 8:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.: As you know, this year this glorious feast has been moved to Monday December 9 because December 8 falls on a Sunday. We love, esteem, and honor Mary our mother. We think of the mystery of Mary's glory as connected with Advent. Because Jesus was coming into the world, his mother Mary had to be prepared right from the moment of her conception, that is, when Mary was conceived in her mother Anne's womb. Mary was protected from any tainting of sin because she would be chosen to give birth to the Son of God. This is the belief that we celebrate in the Immaculate Conception. William Wordsworth celebrates it in his poem "The Virgin": "Mother! whose virgin bosom was uncroft / With the least shade of thought to sin allied; /Woman! above all women glorified, / Our tainted nature's solitary boast..."

Parish Advent Retreat, Saturday December 7: I'll be giving three talks on the theme of "The Church we love and cherish." The Retreat will start with the 8:30 a.m. Mass followed by coffee and light breakfast." We will have some singing at the sessions and reflections and plenty of time to socialize and renew friendships. After the sessions are over, we will have lunch. Please register! The forms are available at the parish office and in the church.

Parish Advent / Christmas Confessions: On Saturday, December 21 at 10:30 a.m. as a way of preparing ourselves for Christmas.

Simbang Gabi Masses: These Masses will be held December 16 through 24 at the regular 8:30 a.m. Masses. On Sunday Dec. 22, it will be at the 10:30 a.m. Mass. Coordinator of these Masses is Gloria Trinidad and her team May Devera and Beth Pasco. If you'd like to sponsor or participate in any way, please do contact them. Let's make our Simbang Gabi tradition a special way of preparing ourselves for Christmas.

Humor: Dear Belinda, I have been unable to sleep since I broke off our engagement. Won't you forgive and forget? Your absence is breaking my heart. I was a fool --- nobody can take your place. I love you. All my love, Jack. P.S. Congratulations on winning this week's lottery.

Wishing you a hope-filled Season of Advent,

Your Friend and Pastor,

Fr. Charles Puthota

First Sunday of Advent December 1, 2024

I will raise up for David a just shoot;
he shall do what is right and just in the land.
— *Jeremiah 33:15*



THE PROMISE OF JUSTICE

We are in fairly good company when we ask God for justice. Often enough we hear and agree with the lament of the people of Israel asking God why the wicked prosper. However, when we call out for justice, we usually want someone to get his or her comeuppance. God's justice is something other than this, of course. God's justice comprises a wonderful rightness between God and humankind.

Today, Jeremiah looks ahead to a time when a just one will sprout from the shorn-off stump of Jesse of the house and family of David. Life was not fair in Jeremiah's time. Israel's kings held the promise of God's fidelity, but it was difficult to see how God's promise could be realized through them.

Nevertheless, Jeremiah lifts his voice and announces that the Promised One will come. Luke's Gospel echoes that announcement, and Paul is filled with sturdy encouragement. And so Advent begins with a promise. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — The days are coming when the LORD will fulfill the promise made to Israel and Judah (Jeremiah 33:14-16).

Psalm — To you, O Lord, I lift my soul (Psalm 25).

Second Reading — Abound in love for one another and for all (1 Thessalonians 3:12 — 4:2).

Gospel — Stand erect and raise your heads; your redemption is at hand (Luke 21:25-28, 34-36).

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 November 23 - 24

Weekly Need: \$ 5,000.00
First Collection: \$ 2,574.00
Parish Ministries: \$ 723.00
Over/Under: \$ 1,703.00

Mass Intentions † Denotes deceased – (L) Living

Monday 8:30 am	December 2 † Filomena and † Emanuel Scerri † Ricardo and † Illuminada Pamisa
Tuesday 8:30 am	December 3 † Joseph, † Tessie and † Saviour Schembri † Bill O'Sullivan
Wednesday 8:30 am	December 4 † Paul, † Theresa and † Joe Vella
Thursday 8:30 am	December 5 † Fernando Camba
Friday 8:30 am	December 6 Good Shepherd Guild living and deceased members and their families
Saturday 8:30 am 4:30 pm	December 7 † Charles Spiteri † Mary and † Manuel Marquez Family † John Budesca
Sunday 8:30 am 10:30 am	December 8 People of the Parish Maria Conception Ruiz (L) † Aurora T. Mallari NAIC Alliance in Northern California

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday, 12/2	Is 2:1-5; Ps 122:1-9; Mt 8:5-11
Tuesday, 12/3	Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Lk 10:21-24
Wednesday, 12/4	Is 25:6-10a; Ps 23:1-6; Mt 15:29-37
Thursday, 12/5	Is 26:1-6; Ps 118:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a; Mt 7:21, 24-27
Friday, 12/6	Is 29:17-24; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Mt 9:27-31
Saturday, 12/7	Is 30:19-21, 23-26, Ps 147:1-6 Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8
Sunday, 12/8	Bar 5:1-9; Ps 126:1-6; Phil 1:4-6, 8-11; Lk 3:1-6

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday, 12/1	First Sunday of Advent
Tuesday, 12/3	St. Francis Xavier
Wednesday, 12/4	St. John Damascene
Friday, 12/5	St. Nicholas
Saturday, 12/7	St. Ambrose

On The Horizon at St. Elizabeth

● Parish Advent Retreat

Saturday, December 7th .
Starts at the 8:30 am Mass.

● Immaculate Conception

Monday, December 9th , a Holy Day of Obligation. Masses 8:30 am and 6:00 pm.

● Simbang Gabi

Monday, December 16th through Tuesday, December 24th at the 8:30 am Mass.
(December 22nd at the 10:30 am Mass.)

● Advent /Christmas Confessions

Saturday, December 21st at 10:30 am.

● Christmas Mass Schedule

Tuesday, December 24th 4:30 pm Vigil Mass,
Wednesday, December 25th 8:30 am and
10:30 am Mass.

● New Year's Day

Wednesday, January 1, 2025,
a Holy day of Obligation. Mass is at 9:00 am.



Donating Poinsettias: If you are able to donate poinsettias, you are most welcome to do so. Please bring them sooner than later to church during the morning Mass timings (8:00 a.m. through 9:00 a.m.) or leave them in the office during office hours (Monday through Thursday 8:00 a.m. through 12:30 p.m.)

2025 Mass Book is now open

Please follow the guidelines below when sending in your Mass requests.

Due to the large volume of Mass requests and in order to be fair to the needs of all our parishioners, the following is the Mass Book policy as set by Father Charles Puthota:

All Masses including the Saturday Vigil Mass and Sunday Mass (10:30 am), will be accepting two intentions per Mass. The Sunday 8:30 am Mass is designated for the People of the Parish only.

We do not accept individual Mass Intentions for holidays or holy days including the following: Ash Wednesday, Easter, Mother's Day, Father's Day, All Saints All Souls, Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve and Christmas. The intentions will be for the entire St. Elizabeth Community.

Masses cannot be reserved by phone or in person.

Requests must be submitted in writing or by email (preferred): stelizabethchurchsf@gmail.com

Not all dates are available for Mass Intentions, so we ask that you be prepared with alternate dates and times. **If your requested date is not available an alternate date will be chosen for you.**



At Thessaloniki Church, Greece.