

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 8, 2024 ~ Second 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 8, 2024

Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

Advent: Delving deeper into the meaning of the season of Advent, we realize that it is all about the coming of Jesus to us. The word "advent" itself means "coming" or "arrival." Remember the words of Jesus before his ascension into heaven: "I'll be with you always." Jesus is with us always. Only we do not see and recognize him. We do not hear and touch him. We can imagine him saying: "You have eyes, but you don't see; have ears, but don't hear." There are many things in life that could prevent us from being in touch with Jesus. Our preoccupations and anxieties may leave us with no time or space for Jesus in our lives. That is why the concept of "coming" is very helpful. It has the sense of dynamism built into it. It has the meaning that it is happening in our lives now, in our present situations and circumstances. As we get ready to celebrate the first coming of Jesus and look forward to his second coming, we cannot miss Jesus coming into our lives now, encountering us, calling us, challenging us, sending us, fulfilling us, and blessing us. As we go about our daily, ordinary lives, how can we prepare ourselves in our minds and hearts for his coming? Or as we face difficult situations such as disease, death in the family, failure, rejection, depression, panic, and all sorts of sad experiences, how could we let Jesus come into our lives today so that he could make a difference and lift us up with his grace and love?

Advent Quote: "Jesus stands at the door knocking (Rev. 3:20). In total reality, he comes in the form of the beggar, of the dissolute human child in ragged clothes, asking for help. He confronts you in every person that you meet. As long as there are people, Christ will walk the earth as your neighbor, as the one through whom God calls you, speaks to you, makes demands on you. That is the great seriousness and great blessedness of the Advent message. Christ is standing at the door; he lives in the form of a human being among us." - Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *God is in the Manger: Reflections on Advent and Christmas.*

Monday, December 9, The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a Holy Day of Obligation, Masses at 8:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.: Please do come join the Masses. The usual December 8 feast has been moved to December 9 because December 8 this year falls on a Sunday.

Word of God, Second Sunday of Advent, Year C: John the Baptist is the voice crying out in the desert. Echoing Isaiah, John's rallying cry is to prepare the way for the Lord. Crooked paths will be made straight; mountains and hills will be made low; valleys will be filled; rough ways will become smooth. Everyone will see the salvation of God. Such impossible things would become a reality for us in our present times, if we but let Jesus into our lives. Prophet Baruch too expresses similar sentiments of incredible blessings for Jerusalem, in the context of the Babylonian exile, and by extension, for us, by way of hope, justice, mercy, and peace. Do we desire for such blessings that could lead to happiness and fullness of life?

Thanksgiving Day 2024 Mass Collection: Thank you for generously donating \$1,833 at the Thanksgiving Day Mass. As

promised, on your behalf I have promptly forwarded that amount with a personal note to "Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers," a highly dedicated Catholic religious society that works effectively as missionaries, proclaiming the Gospel and uplifting the poor.

Notre Dame de Paris Reopening on December 8, 2024: Last week President Emmanuel Macron of France gave a much-publicized tour to a select group of people of the 12th century Cathedral that has just been renovated after it was engulfed in fire on April 15, 2019. He spoke eloquently about the meaning and metaphor of Notre Dame and how it has come to represent art, culture, and religion for not only one country but for the whole world and is a precious treasure for the human family. The cathedral is set to open to the worshippers and public this Sunday December 8, 2024, though some renovation will continue into the next few years. To me personally, having visited Notre Dame a few times, it is metaphoric of the highest ideals of the human spirit and of what we could do to renew and renovate life in the aftermath of awful crises and loss. May this cathedral continue to draw millions of people around the world and renew them in faith, truth, beauty, and goodness.

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 with her team members 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.

Fiesta de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe: Thursday, December 12 is the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patron Saint of the Americas. Please do join the morning Mass at 8:30 a.m. There will be a light Mexican-style breakfast after the Mass. Que Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe nos mantenga siempre en su amor!

A Story Ponder: When the English playwright Oscar Wilde arrived at his club late at night after witnessing the first presentation of a play that had been a complete failure, someone asked, "How did your play go tonight, Oscar?" "Oh," said Wilde, "the play was a great success. The audience was a failure."

Humor: A family ran into their pastor at the mall, but their son couldn't place him. It was only later that it hit him. "I know that man," he said. "He goes to our church."

Thinking of you, thanking God for you, and sending you prayerful wishes for an Advent season of God's grace and our great expectations. Come, Lord Jesus!

Your Friend and Pastor,

Fr. Charles Puthota

Second Sunday of Advent December 8, 2024

God has commanded
that every lofty mountain be made low.
— *Baruch 5:7*



AWAITING THE SALVATION OF GOD

The world does not seem big enough to contain the jubilation of the first reading. In the Gospel reading, the Roman empire isn't big enough, either. The great powers of Rome are named and made to stand waiting for the arrival of God's salvation. And we find Paul meditating joyfully on what really matters.

According to Baruch, the city of Jerusalem is like a person standing on tiptoe looking for God's salvation, which is coming from the east. Those who were led away on foot, heads down, now come back, a proud people. Why, the very way is smoothed out. The path is lined with fragrant, lush trees.

It can't get any better than this, can it? Well, yes, it can. For a voice calls out in the desert. Here is the beginning of the salvation of God.
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TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — Take off your robe of mourning and misery; put on the splendor of glory from God (Baruch 5:1-9).

Psalms — The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy (Psalm 126).

Second Reading — I am confident that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus (Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11).

Gospel — The winding roads shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth (Luke 3:1-6).
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 30 – December 1

Weekly Need: \$ 5,000.00
First Collection \$ 2,267.00
Over/Under \$ 2,733.00

**Thanksgiving Collection \$1,833.00
for Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers**

Mass Intentions † Denotes deceased – (L) Living

Monday 8:30 am	December 9 † Andrea Caraffi † Marlene Belluomini † Froreino and † Delia Gemignani
6:00 pm	
Tuesday 8:30 am	December 10 † Jenny Sant † Timoteo D. Nacor Sr. and † Marieta B. Nacor
Wednesday 8:30 am	December 11 † Teresa Lien Linh
Thursday 8:30 am	December 12 † Mary Menicucci
Friday 8:30 am	December 13 † Tom Perez Souls in Purgatory
Saturday 8:30 am	December 14 † Inggo and † Crisanta Llorin Francis Pasco Beltran (L) † Bill O'Sullivan † Rodolfo Marquez
4:30 pm	
Sunday 8:30 am 10:30 am	December 15 People of the Parish † Erlind Perez Sifuentes Family (L) † Monina Pascual Maltese Society

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday, 12/9	Gn 3:9-15-20, Ps 98:1-4 Eph 1:3-6, Il-12 Kl 1:26-38
Tuesday, 12/10	Is 40:1-11; Ps 96:1-3, 10ac, 11-13; Mt 18:12-14
Wednesday, 12/11	Is 40:25-31, Ps 103:1-48, 10 Mt 11:28-30
Thursday, 12/12	Zec 2:14-17 Ps Jdt 13:18b-19 Lk 1:26-38
Friday, 12/13	Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Mt 11:16-19
Saturday, 12/14	Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80: 2ac, 3b, 15-16, 18-19; Mt 17:9a, 10-13
Sunday, 12/15	Zep 3:14-18a; Is 12:2-6; Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday, 12/8	2 nd Sunday of Advent
Monday, 12/9	Immaculate Conception
Tuesday, 12/10	Our Lady of Loreto
Wednesday, 12/11	St. Damascus I
Thursday, 12/12	Our Lady of Guadalupe
Friday, 12/13	St. Lucy
Saturday, 12/14	St. John of the Cross

On The Horizon at St. Elizabeth

●Immaculate Conception

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

●Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Thursday, December 12th 8:30 am Mass.

●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:

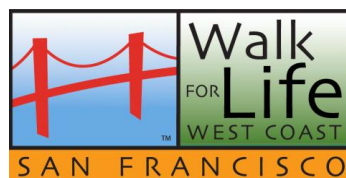
All Masses including the Saturday Vigil Mass and Sunday Mass (10:30 am), will be accepting two intentions per Mass. The Sunday 8:30 am Mass is designated for the People of the Parish only.

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.**



Join us January 25, 2025
as we Walk for the littlest among us at the
21st Annual Walk for Life West Coast

This year we have an outstanding group of speakers, and as always, there are lots of fun and faith-filled activities surrounding the Walk. For more information please email: info@WalkforLifeWC.com

Pray for our Dear Departed



Peter Bugeja

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