

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 22, 2024 ~ Fourth 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.



**Pastor's Christmas letter to St. Elizabeth Parishioners
Christmas 2024 ~ New Year 2025**

Dear St. Elizabeth Parishioners,

At the exquisite and exuberant Feast of the Birth of our Lord, may I share with you a couple of heartwarming Christmas stories and the profound insights they contain?

The Gift of the Magi by O. Henry

The young married couple, Jim and Della, are poor in material things but rich in love. For Christmas, Della sells her long, beautiful hair to buy a platinum chain for Jim's prized pocketwatch. Unaware of Della's plans, Jim sells his watch to buy exquisite tortoise shell combs for the lovely hair of his beloved. When they open their Christmas gifts, what sadness washes over them, and paradoxically, what joy! For the sake of love, they are eager to sacrifice the things precious to them. When they have love, they have everything else.

Insight: Christmas consists in sharing love, a love capable of sacrifice.

A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens

The stingy and greedy Ebenezer Scrooge shows no compassion or goodness---and despises Christmas. On Christmas Eve, the ghost of Jacob Marley, his late business partner, warns him of the terrible consequences if he does not change his ways. Scrooge is then haunted by the Ghost of Christmas Past (his youth when there was room for gentleness and kindness), the Ghost of Christmas Present (the heartwarming Christmas activities of people despite their crushing poverty), and the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come (dire consequences if he does not change himself as a result of what he has witnessed). Scared and shaken, Scrooge finds himself a transformed man on Christmas Day. He shocks people by showing them goodness and kindness.

Insight: Christmas consists in a generous gift of self to others in compassion and goodwill.

Christmas 2024 Mass Schedule: Christmas Eve Mass: 4:30 p.m.

Christmas Day Masses: 8:30 and 10.30 a.m.

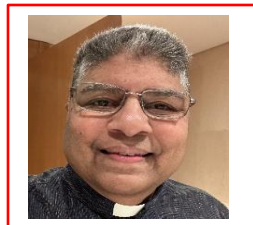
Simbang Gabi: This devotion will be celebrated at the 8:30 a.m. Mass from December 16 through December 24, except on Sunday Dec. 22 at the 10:30 a.m. Mass.

Thank You: This Christmas, as we welcome Jesus in a whole new way into our families and parish community, I thank you for your faith, service, and active participation in the life of the parish. The parish staff and I send you wishes for all the blessings of this holy season.

Merry Christmas! Happy New Year!

Your Pastor and Friend,

Father Charles Puthota, Ph.D., Pastor



Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 22, 2024

Blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of your womb.

— Luke 1:42



MEMORIES AND DREAMS

Throughout our lives, we retain the language and habits of our native region and family of origin. Should we return to our home after a long absence, we quickly revert to its familiar speech and practices. Our deep memory is reflected in old stories and words and speech patterns. This familiarity runs like an underground river and accompanies us wherever we go.

Not only do we remember, we are incorporated into and made part of a greater memory. In remembering and recollecting, we are in turn gathered up and re-collected.

Today we remember Mary, a small figure travelling the country roads to visit Elizabeth. All the great pronouncements and dreams of the prophets point to this time when the Lord's words to Mary would be gathered and fulfilled. The memories of her people are alive in her, and memories of her nourish our own living faith.

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TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — From Bethlehem-Ephrathah shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel (Micah 5:1-4a).

Psalms — Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved (Psalm 80).

Second Reading — We have been consecrated through the offering of the body of Christ once for all (Hebrews 10:5-10).

Gospel — Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken by the Lord would be fulfilled (Luke 1:39-45).

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

December 14 - 15

Weekly Need: \$ 5,000.00

First Collection \$ 3,060.00

Church Environment \$ 691.00

Over/Under \$ 1,249.00

Immaculate Conception \$ 404.00

Mass Intentions

† Denotes deceased – (L) Living

Monday

8:30 am

Tuesday

8:30 am

4:30 pm

Wednesday

8:30 am

10:30 am

Thursday

8:30 am

Friday

8:30 am

Saturday

8:30 am

4:30 pm

Sunday

8:30 am

10:30 am

December 23

† Leo Viscarra

† Ricardo Canlas

December 24

Simbang Gabi

Christmas Vigil

December 25

Christmas

Christmas

December 26

† Pedro C. Songco

December 27

† Issac Puthota

† Christopher Dispo

December 28

Layla Claire Spiteri (L)

† Irenio Bernabe

Jacqueline Maturan (L)

Cesar Amorado (L)

December 29

People of the Parish

† Jose Padilla

Loliita Canlas

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday, 12/23

Mal 3:1-4, 23,24, Ps 25:4-5b, 8-10, 14, Lk 1:57-66

Tuesday, 12/24

2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12,14a,16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Lk 1:67-79

Wednesday, 12/25

Is: 52:7-10, Ps 98:1-6, Heb 1:1-6, Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5,9-14

Thursday, 12/26

Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3c-4, 6, 8a,16b,17; Mt 10:17-22

Friday, 12/27

1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Saturday, 12/28

1 Jn 1:5 — 2:2; Ps 124:2-5, 7b-8; Mt 2:13-18

Sunday, 12/29

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28; Ps 128:1-5 or Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10; Col 3:12-21 [12-17] or 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24; Lk 2:41-52

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday, 12/22

4th Sunday of Advent

Monday, 12/23

St. John of Kanty

Wednesday, 12/25

The Nativity of the Lord, Christmas

Thursday, 12/26

St. Stephen

Friday, 12/27

St. John, Apostle

Saturday, 12/28

The Holy Innocents

On The Horizon at St. Elizabeth

●Simbang Gabi

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

●Christmas Mass Schedule

Tuesday, December 24th 4:30 pm Vigil Mass, Wednesday, December 25th 8:30 am and 10:30 am Mass.
The parish office will be closed Wednesday, December 25th and Thursday, December 26th. The office will reopen on Monday, December 30th.

●New Year's Day

Wednesday, January 1, 2025, a Holy day of Obligation.
Mass is at 9:00 am.
The parish office will be closed on Wednesday, January 1st.



We congratulate Joseph Alexander Xie, who was baptized at our Rectory Chapel on December 12, 2024.

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.**



Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Thursday, December 12th

