

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

January 19, 2025 The Second 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 Charles Puthota
January 19, 2025

Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

New Year 2025: About three weeks into the New Year, we are still in the freshness of the newness of 2025, a new gift of time given to us by God to continue to work out our destiny. We are still luxuriating in the brightness and beauty of the New Year, soaked in the warm glow of Christmas. What is the meaning of the "New Year"? There is nothing out there that is new. Time flows continuously like a river. It's we who have divided time as days, weeks, months, and years. But seconds and minutes and hours keep ticking away inexorably. These divisions and calculations of time are of human making. Time in itself is nothing new. What is really new is what we bring to time. What are the new things we will bring into this chunk of time called the New Year 2025? If we do not bring a fresh outlook and a desire to start anew and a determination to change ourselves for the better, then there would really be no difference between the last day of 2024 and the first day of 2025. The New Year is a reminder that God is giving us more time to catch up with things deeply human and deeply divine. It is more time given for us to get it right. It is another opportunity for us to try again and rearrange our lives --- and to become the persons according to God's plan and purpose. May we be engaged in this sacred process of being and becoming the children of God and the disciples of Jesus in 2025.

Word of God: Second Sunday in Ordinary Time: There are some insights we could keep in our hearts and ponder over them as we meditate on the first "sign" of Jesus in John's Gospel: the turning of water into wine at the wedding at Cana. One, that Jesus is present in our social events, not just spiritual events. In the church and in our homes and out there on Main Street and Market Street, Jesus is present everywhere. The mystery of the Incarnation is that he inserts himself into the thick of our lives and that he has become one with us. He is "on the way" with us. Everything is steeped in sacredness because of his constant and continuous grace and presence. Two, when the party runs out of wine, he is ready to intervene and do something about it. Wine could represent the gift of joy, the sense of well-being, a sense of security. When we run out of joy and energy in life, Jesus is there to replenish our supplies, so that we may experience "joie de vivre." Three, this event foreshadows the Last Supper and the Eucharist, when Jesus will turn wine into his blood and feed us. Four, Mary his mother too is invited to the celebration. She is always ready to speak on behalf of us to her son. Five, Mary's instruction that we must do whatever Jesus tells us to do is a reminder always for us to follow Jesus and become authentic disciples and apostles. Six, John the evangelist calls it "the beginning of the signs," implying that there are more signs to come and in all these signs, there is revelation, epiphany, of Jesus so that we could

come to believe in Jesus and receive not just life, but abundant life.

Spirituality of the Ordinary Time in the Liturgical Year ---

Focus on Jesus: The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord celebrated on January 12 brings the Christmas season to a close. The liturgical "ordinary time" begins from January 13 through March 04. Then the season of Lent begins March 05 with Ash Wednesday. The Ordinary Time in the liturgical calendar is a kind of technical term to say that this time is outside the special seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter. Though called ordinary, it is still a time when we walk with Jesus and meditate on his teachings, healings, skirmishes with the powers of evil, and the proclamation of the Kingdom in word and deed. Let's keep asking the basic questions: who is Jesus to me in my present stage of life? What does he say to me? What do I speak to him about? How does he enter my thoughts, feelings, words, and deeds? How does he relate to my joys and sorrows, my hopes and disappointments? Searching for answers to these fundamental Christological and existential questions would lead us to the discovery of meaning and purpose for our lives now and in the ultimate sense.

Saturday, January 25---Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul:

You might want to check online two famous paintings by Caravaggio entitled "Conversion of St. Paul" and "Conversion on the Way to Damascus," both of which deal with the theme of the feast day we celebrate on January 25. St. Paul's conversion marked a momentous turn for the early Church which until then had been a small sect within the Jewish religion. Paul took the gospel to the non-Jewish people such as the Romans and Greeks. He became the apostle to the gentiles. That's how Christianity spread quickly beyond the narrow geographical and religious confines. Thanks to St. Paul, our ancestors embraced the faith and that's how we are all Christians today. St. Paul was an unlikely candidate for the mission, given the fact that he had been eager to wipe out the early Christians. A persecutor became the most ardent promoter. A sinner was called to grace and entrusted with the sacred task of making Christ known to the world. Personal conversion and our proclamation of the Gospel through faith and service are themes we could pray over on this Feast Day.

Think About It: "I wish more people were fluent in silence."

Humor: 1. A Faith Formation teacher asked her class why Joseph and Mary took Jesus with them to Jerusalem. A small child replied: Because they couldn't get a baby sitter." 2 Church Bulletin Bloopers: A. Weight Watchers will meet at 7 p.m. Please use large double door at the side entrance. B. Low Self-Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 p.m. Please use the back door.

Wishing you the joys, hopes, and blessings of God in the New Year 2025!

Your Friend and Pastor,

Fr. Charles Puthota

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time January 19, 2025

Nations shall behold your vindication,
and all the kings your glory.
— *Isaiah 62:2*



We find it difficult to convey ideas to people unless we can actually show them something, demonstrate what we mean. God, who is invisible and truly beyond human understanding, apparently faces the same difficulty. People want to see, not just listen to an idea. So God gave us Jesus Christ, God made visible in the world.

During these past weeks we have seen how Jesus was revealed as an infant to the shepherds and the magi, and then began his adult "public life" at his baptism by John. Today's Gospel reading tells us of his "first sign," providing wine for the wedding guests at Cana.

Of course, even Jesus, God made visible, was not always easily understood in his own day, nor is he even now. So we have to ponder what we see: the poverty and simplicity of his birth, his humility and openness before John the Baptist, his kindness and compassion toward people in their ordinary problems, such as running short of wine at a wedding. Yet it is in coming to know Jesus that we come to know God.

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TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — As a bridegroom rejoices in his bride, so God rejoices in the chosen ones (Isaiah 62:1-5).

Psalms — Proclaim his marvelous deeds to all the nations (Psalm 96).

Second Reading — All the varied gifts in the Christian community are from one Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:4-11).

Gospel — Rejoicing at a wedding celebration in Cana, Jesus replenishes the wine supply (John 2:1-11).

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 January 11 - 12

Weekly Need: \$ 5,000.00
First Collection \$ 2,740.00
Parish Maintenance \$ 620.00
Over/Under \$ 1,640.00

Mass Intentions † Denotes deceased – (L) Living

Monday 8:30 am	January 20 † Lorenzo Tanquilut
Tuesday 8:30 am	January 21 Nenita Bowman (L)
Wednesday 8:30 am	January 22 † James O'Sullivan Sr.
Thursday 8:30 am	January 23 † Richard Joseph Fambrini
Friday 8:30 am	January 24 † Rodolfo C. Trinidad
Saturday 8:30 am 4:30 pm	January 25 Linda Martinez (L) † Francisca Fabia Marta Padilla (L)
Sunday 8:30 am 10:30 am	January 26 People of the Parish † Marlene Belluomini

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday, 1/20	Heb 5:1-10; Ps 110:1-4; Mk 2:18-22
Tuesday, 1/21	Heb 6:10-20; Ps 111:1-2, 4-5, 9, 10c; Mk 2:23-28
Wednesday, 1/22	Heb 7:1-3, 15-17; Ps 110:1-4; Mk 3:1-6
Thursday, 1/23	Heb 7:25 - 8:6; Ps 40:7-10, 17; Mk 3:7-12
Friday, 1/24	Heb 8:6-13, Ps 85:8,10-14, Mk 3:13-19
Saturday, 1/25	Acts 22:3-16 or 9:1-22; Ps 117:1bc, 2; Mk 16:15-18
Sunday, 1/26	Neh 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10; Ps 19:8-10, 15; 1 Cor 12:12-30 [12-14, 27]; Lk 1:1-4; 4:14-21

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday, 1/19	2 nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Monday, 1/20	St. Fabian
Tuesday, 1/21	St. Agnes
Thursday, 1/23	St. Vincent; St. Marianne Cope
Friday, 1/24	St. Francis de Sales
Saturday, 1/25	The Conversion of St. Paul the Apostle

On The Horizon at St. Elizabeth

●Santa Nino de Cebu

Sunday, January 19th, 10:30 am Mass.

●Martin Luther King Jr.

Monday, January 20th.

The parish office is closed.

●Archdiocesan Annual Appeal 2025

Sunday, February 16th

Launch of 2025 Appeal

●Presidents Day

Monday, February 17th.

The parish office is closed.

●Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, March 5th.

●Lenten Retreat

Saturday, March 22nd.

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.**

End of Year Statements

As we prepare to close the books on 2024, please contact the parish office in writing or email if you need a year-end statement of your donations. We can provide statements to parishioner who have donated using Sunday Envelopes.

Please note any donations received after December 31st will be credited to 2025.

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.

Annual Wedding Anniversary Mass at St. Mary of the Assumption Cathedral

Saturday, Feb. 22, 2025, 10:00am

1111 Gough Street, San Francisco

Principal Celebrant: His Excellency
Salvatore J. Cordileone

Registration required
www.anniversarymass.info

or call 415-614-5574

Please register by: February 14, 2025

All sacramentally married couples in the Archdiocese are invited to celebrate Mass with Archbishop Cordileone, followed by a reception. Couples celebrating "5-year anniversaries" (5, 10, 15, 20...) will receive special recognition. Donation is \$20/couple.