

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 26, 2025 The Third 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 26, 2025

Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

Jubilee Year 2025: Theme: Pilgrims of Hope: Jubilee 2025 opened Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, at 7 p.m., with the rite of the opening of the Holy Door at St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican immediately before Pope Francis celebrated midnight Mass. Holy Doors were also opened at Rome's three other major basilicas: St. John Lateran on Dec. 29, St. Mary Major on Jan. 1, and St. Paul's Outside the Walls on Jan. 5. A Holy Door was also opened Dec. 26 at Rebibbia Prison, a Roman prison Pope Francis has visited twice before to celebrate Mass and wash inmates' feet on Holy Thursday.

The doors represent the passage to salvation Jesus opened to humanity. In 1423, Pope Martin V opened the Holy Door in the Basilica of St. John Lateran — the Diocese of Rome's cathedral — for the first time for a jubilee. For the Holy Year of 1500, Pope Alexander VI opened Holy Doors at Rome's four main basilicas. At the end of a holy year, the Holy Doors are formally closed and then bricked over by masons. (America Magazine).

The Jubilee Year will offer the faithful opportunities to participate in various jubilee events at the Vatican and in their own dioceses. For pilgrims who cannot travel to Rome, bishops around the world are expected to designate their cathedrals or a popular Catholic shrine as special places of prayer for Holy Year pilgrims, offering opportunities for reconciliation, indulgences, and other events intended to strengthen and revive faith. (USCCB)

Word of God, Third Sunday in Ordinary Time: In the Gospel Jesus reads in the Nazareth synagogue a passage from Isaiah. It is a towering statement of prophecy that is to be fulfilled in Jesus. Jesus says that "this scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing." The Spirit of God anoints Jesus to proclaim the good news to the poor and to bring liberty to those in bondage, sight to the blind, and freedom to the oppressed. Jesus' mission is being fulfilled in our lives today. To us who are poor (those who depend on God for everything in life), Jesus brings the glad tidings. We will be blessed, graced, upheld, empowered, and healed. Our areas of blindness to truth, peace, love, and justice, Jesus will heal and give us a new sight, a new vision. To us who are oppressed by various forces and situations, to us who are in bondage of various powers, addictions, and attachments, Jesus brings freedom and joy. He wants us to be free with the inner freedom that the children of God deserve. He wants us to be able to see clearly and deeply into life. Unless we enjoy these blessings, we cannot help others on their journey. Jesus' mission is being fulfilled in our lives and families, in the Church and the world.

Tuesday, January 28, Feast of Saint Thomas Aquinas, Priest and Doctor of the Church: "To one who has faith, no explanation is necessary. To one without faith, no explanation is possible," said Thomas Aquinas. St. Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274) was a Dominican friar, theologian, and philosopher, regarded as one of the greatest minds in Western thought. He synthesized Christian theology with Aristotelian philosophy, emphasizing the harmony between faith and reason. His masterpiece, *Summa*

Theologica, is a systematic exploration of theology, addressing topics like the nature of God, ethics, and salvation. Aquinas formulated the Five Ways, logical arguments for God's existence, based on observation and natural law. A proponent of Scholasticism, he profoundly influenced Catholic doctrine and Western philosophy. Canonized in 1323, he was later declared a Doctor of the Church, earning the title "Angelic Doctor." Aquinas' thought continues to shape theological and philosophical discussions, and his integration of reason and faith remains central to Catholic education.

Archdiocesan Annual Appeal 2025 Launch, February 16-17 Weekend: I'm looking forward to your continued support as in previous years. My letter to the whole parish with the details will be sent in the next three weeks or so.

Friday, January 31, Feast of St. John Bosco: Canonized in 1934, Don Bosco is a patron saint of youth, educators, and vocational training. He is also known as the "Apostle of Youth." St. John Bosco (1815-1888), popularly known as Don Bosco, was an Italian Catholic priest, educator, and founder of the Salesians of Don Bosco. Born in a poor family in Castelnuovo d'Asti, he dedicated his life to the education and spiritual growth of disadvantaged youth. Inspired by his deep faith and vivid dreams about his mission, Bosco pioneered the "Preventive System" of education, emphasizing reason, religion, and kindness. He created oratories as safe spaces where young people could learn, play, and grow morally. In 1859, he founded the Salesians, a religious order focused on youth education, and later co-founded the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians with St. Mary Mazzarello for young women. His legacy endures in schools and charitable works worldwide, embodying his motto: "Give me souls, take away the rest." He is first canonized saint in whose honor a national holiday was declared in Italy. He is patron saint of editors. The Salesians today number over 15,270 members.

Parish Lenten Retreat: Saturday, March 22, 2025: Please put it on your calendar.

A Story to Ponder: Husband: "I'm going to work hard, and some day we are going to be rich." Wife: "We are rich already, dear, for we have each other. Some day we may have money."

Quotable Quote: "Don't believe everything you think."

Humor: 1. Mrs. Smartt was fumbling in her purse for her offering when a large television remote fell out and clattered into the aisle. The curious usher bent over to retrieve it for her and whispered, "Do you always carry your TV remote to church?" "No," she replied, "but my husband refused to come with me this morning, and I figured this was the most evil thing I could do to him legally." 2. During a Sunday service, the pastor asked the congregation for their intentions. There were the usual requests to pray for sick people and the acknowledgments for those who helped when a parishioner died. The somber mood was broken when the last intention was heard. A woman stood up and said, "My granddaughter turned 16 this week and received her driver's license. Let us pray for us all."

Your Friend and Pastor,

Father Charles Puthota

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time January 26, 2025

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor.
— Luke 4:18a



TIME

The holidays are well behind us; the year stretches out ahead. And what sort of year will it be? To judge by the words of Jesus in today's Gospel, it will be "a year acceptable to the Lord." And Jesus surely didn't mean only the next three hundred sixty-five days facing his listeners at that time.

When Jesus announced the "arrival" of God's favor, it was a message for all time, for every year. Similarly, we read today in Nehemiah how the people gathered with solemnity to hear God's word as though for the first time. They listened, and then fell to the ground and wept. But the prophet said, "Today is holy . . . do not be sad, and do not weep."

The "year acceptable to the Lord" is this year. The day that is "holy" is this day. The time to listen is now. What sort of year will you have? What sort of day? God's help is always here. What you do with each day can be holy and acceptable to the Lord if you but listen to and act on God's word.

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TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — Rejoicing in the LORD must be your strength (Nehemiah 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10).

Psalms — Your words, Lord, are Spirit and life (Psalm 19).

Second Reading — In one Spirit we were all baptized into one body (1 Corinthians 12:12-30 [12-14, 27]).

Gospel — The Spirit of the Lord has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives (Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21).

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 18 - 19

Weekly Need: \$ 5,000.00
First Collection \$ 1,901.00
Church Environment \$ 589.00
Over/Under \$ 2,510.00

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

January 27

Souls in Purgatory

January 28

† Irene Hebert

Arturo Monsanto (L)

January 29

† Michelle Gemignani

January 30

Corazon Pilare (L)

January 31

† Paul Gemignani

February 1

Arturo Padilla (L)

† Froreino and † Delia

Gemignani

February 2

People of the Parish

† Antonio Rocha

† Bruna Salvi

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday, 1/27 Heb 9:15, 24-28; Ps 98:1-6; Mk 3:22-30
Tuesday, 1/28 Heb 10:1-10; Ps 40:2, 4ab, 7-8a, 10, 11; Mk 3:31-35
Wednesday, 1/29 Heb 10:11-18; Ps 110:1-4; Mk 4:1-20
Thursday, 1/30 Heb 10:19-25; Ps 24:1-6; Mk 4:21-25
Friday, 1/31 Heb 10:32-39; Ps 37:3-6, 23-24, 39-40; Mk 4:26-34
Saturday, 2/1 Heb 11:1-2, 8-19, Lk 1:69-75, Mk 4:35-41
Sunday, 2/2 Mal 3:1-4; Ps 24:7-10; Heb 2:14-18; Lk 2:22-40 [22-32]

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday, 1/26 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Monday, 1/27 St. Angela Merici
Tuesday, 1/28 St. Thomas Aquinas
Friday, 1/31 St. John Bosco

On The Horizon at St. Elizabeth

● St. Paul of the Shipwreck Festa

Saturday, February 15th, 4:30 pm
Mass

● Archdiocesan Annual Appeal

Saturday February 15th and
Sunday, February 16th
2025 Archdiocesan Appeal launch.

● Presidents Day

Monday, February 17th.
The parish office is closed.

● Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, March 5th.
Masses are at 8:30 am and 6:00 pm

● 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.

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.