

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

March 30, 2025 Fourth Sunday of Lent



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 |
| Laurrie 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
March 30, 2025

Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

Archdiocesan Annual Appeal 2025 (AAA): Our goal is \$36,292. We have raised so far \$34,460. The balance to be raised is: \$1832. Please give early and generously. See the names of all the donors on the last page of the bulletin. Thanks to all those who donated so far, including those who have generously donated \$500 and above (1.4%). Your donations in support of the Archdiocesan ministries and mission are much appreciated and gratefully received.

The Season of Lent: What shall we give up for Lent? Give up complaining — focus on gratitude. Give up pessimism — become an optimist. Give up harsh judgments — think kindly thoughts. Give up worry — trust Divine Providence. Give up discouragement — be full of hope. Give up bitterness — turn to forgiveness. Give up hatred — return good for evil. Give up negativism — be positive. Give up anger — be more patient. Give up pettiness — become mature. Give up gloom — enjoy the beauty all around you. Give up jealousy — pray for trust. Give up gossiping — control your tongue. Give up sin — turn to virtue. Give up giving up — hang in there!

Parish Lenten Retreat: Last Saturday March 22, I preached the Lenten Retreat in our Cantwell Hall attended by 50 people. The themes of "The Emmaus Event as a Model of New Evangelization" and "Some Christian Spiritual Practices." The retreat started with the 8:30 a.m. Mass followed by a light breakfast and three sessions and lunch. Each session started and ended with a hymn. There was plenty of joy and a spirit of friendships in the group. As we reflect on spiritual themes as part of our Lenten observances, we also benefit by the social aspect of people coming together, working together to get everything ready, celebrating friendships together, and eating together. The social aspect of the retreat is also spiritually uplifting and a big help in building up the parish community. I thank all those who worked so hard, especially David Gemignani, Phil McCarthy and their team (Richard & Marycon Padua, Beth Pasco, Belma Enriquez, and Lilia Crow) for their dedicated service.

Word of God: The Prodigal Son: The gospel this Fourth Sunday of Lent is about the Prodigal Son from Luke's gospel, chapter 15. It is an absolute and pure masterpiece. It presents the parable of the Prodigal Son, a powerful story of mercy, repentance, and love. Jesus is a brilliant storyteller, full of imagination, insight, and wisdom. Instead of merely stating that God is a merciful father, he gives that truth in parables, thus appealing to our whole being. As you know, there are two other parables in this

chapter: the Lost Sheep and the Lost Coin. The parable about the lost, prodigal son is all about sin and redemption, thanks to God's astonishing love and mercy. The younger son broke the heart of the father, but he changes his mind and returns to the father, begging to be accepted not as a son but a servant. But the father restores him to full sonship, symbolized in the ring, sandals, and the robe. He even orders a feast to celebrate his return.

The older son is angry and unhappy. The younger son stands for the sinners and tax-collectors. The older son represents the religious and civil authorities. This parable may be considered the gospel within the gospel. Such is the feeling of loss and heartbreak, but also the joy of returning to where we belong. We need to be where our God in Jesus Christ is. That's where we find our home. What are the ways in which I have strayed from my Father? What are the ways in which I am not in consonance with the teachings and values of Jesus? We need to recognize our being lost and make the wise decision of returning to where we belong, to "remain" in Jesus and in the Father. As the responsorial psalm says, let's "taste and see the goodness of the Lord." In the second reading, the same theme of our return to God is echoed: "Whoever is in Christ is a new creation: the old things have passed away; behold, new things have come."

Queen Wilhelmina Tulip Garden: The other day I visited this garden in Golden Gate Park with a couple of friends. In March, the place is bursting with tulips in full bloom. Thousands of colorful tulips adorn the garden beneath the historic Dutch Windmill. The garden was designed by Roy L. Hudson in 1962 and named for the long-reigning queen of the Netherlands who died the same year. The Dutch windmill was donated by Queen Wilhelmina herself in 1902. Attendance is free. If you have the time, do visit. Visiting places of beauty is refreshing and uplifting for the mind and heart.

Mark Twain Quotes: 1. If you don't read the newspaper, you're uninformed. If you read the newspaper, you're misinformed. 2. Why waste your money looking up your family tree? Just go into politics and your opponent will do it for you. 3. Continuous improvement is better than delayed perfection.

Humor: 1. Some things are best left as they are: An enthusiastic young man who had just graduated as a plumber was taken to see Niagara Falls. He studied it for a minute, then said. "I think I can fix this. 2. "So this was your first flight. Were you scared?" "Well, to tell you the truth, I didn't dare put my full weight down on the seat."

Your Friend and Pastor,

Father Charles Puthota

Fourth Sunday of Lent March 30, 2025

Whoever is in Christ is a new creation: the old things have passed away; behold, new things have come.
— 2 Corinthians 5:17



GOD FORGIVES

The Lord said to Joshua, "Today I have removed the reproach of Egypt from you." After forty years of wandering in the desert, this hard-headed people have finally reached the Promised Land. No more do they eat the manna in the desert, but they partake of the fruits of their new homeland. God has kept the promise to their parents in Egypt. Even though they were a sinful people, many times questioning God and even worshiping false gods, God has forgiven them and fulfilled the promise. The "take-away" for us is that there is no sin that is unforgivable. We may have offended our neighbors, given a bad example to someone, even worshiped the false gods of money and power. But God is a merciful God, true to the words spoken to us. God forgives all and calls us back to love.

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TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — The Israelites ate of the yield of the land of Canaan *1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7 10-13a.*

Psalm — Taste and see the goodness of the Lord *Psalm 23.*

Second Reading — Whoever is in Christ is a new creation *Ephesians 5:8-14.*

Gospel — This man welcomes sinners and eats with them *John 9:1-41 [1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38.*

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 March 22- 33

Weekly Need: \$ 5,000.00
First Collection \$ 2,190.07
Parish Ministries \$ 630.00
Over/Under \$ 2,179.93

Mass Intentions † Denotes deceased – (L) Living

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Monday 8:30 am | March 31 Eric Michael Padua (L) |
| Tuesday 8:30 am | April 1 † Herlinda Gomez |
| Wednesday 8:30 am | April 2 Ramon Gonzalez and Family (L) |
| Thursday 8:30 am | April 3 † Alice J. Brown |
| Friday 8:30 am | April 4 † Filomena and † Emanuel Scerri † Paul, † Theresa, and † Joe Vella |
| Saturday 8:30 am 4:30 pm | April 5 † Romy Leonardo † Agnes Stagnaro |
| Sunday 8:30 am 10:30 am | April 6 People of the Parish † Herminia Mendoza Teresita Madriaga (L) Erlinda Viray (L) |

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

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|----------------|---|
| Monday, 3/31 | Is 65:17-21; Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-13b; Jn 4:43-54 |
| Tuesday, 4/1 | Ez 47:1-9, 12; Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9; Jn 5:1-16 |
| Wednesday, 4/2 | Is 49:8-15; Ps 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18; Jn 5:17-30 |
| Thursday, 4/3 | Ex 32:7-14; Ps 106:19-23; Jn 5:31-47 |
| Friday, 4/4 | Wis 2:1a, 12-22; Ps 34:17-21, 23; Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30 |
| Saturday, 4/5 | Jer 11:18-20; Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-12; Jn 7:40-53 |
| Sunday, 4/6 | Is 43:16-21; Ps 126:1-6; Phil 3:8-14; Jn 8:1-11 |

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

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|----------------|--------------------------------|
| Sunday, 3/30 | 4 th Sunday of Lent |
| Wednesday, 4/2 | St. Francis of Paola |
| Friday, 4/4 | St. Isidore |
| Saturday, 4/5 | St. Vincent Ferrer |

2025 Archdiocesan Annual Appeal Donors

All donors \$25.00 and above
Campaign launched on February 15/16

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|--|--|---|
| Anonymous Alano, Adolfo / Teresita * Alipio, Marietta * Alviar, Feliciano / Annabelle Arnold, Sharon * Barba, Gilberto / Alicia Barbieri, M/M Mark * Benton, Andrew * Borg, Ron * Brady, Peter & Dolores * Camingue, M / M Michael Casazza, Anna Centeno, Mario / Mary Chang, Mario / Patricia Clement, Edward / Lucille * Crow, Lilia * De los Reyes, Herminia * Devera, Vito / May * Dunleavy, M / M Brian Francis, M / M George Gaddini, Ronald / Linda Galimba, Rodrigo / Rachel * Gagliardo, Grace Gee, Linh * Gemignani, David * | Ghiglieri, David / Huii * Ghiglieri, Norene Gonzalez, Phillip / Jennifer * Grima, John / Carmen Gughemetti, M/M Al Handy, Cathy * Hendricks, Michael / Alona Holmes, Gregory / Clara * Imbellino, Robert * John, Richard * Loza, Fernando / Natalie Mambretti, Diana McCarthy, Phillip * Manalo, Gildo / Elsa * Mandani, Edilberto / Aleja Micallef, Emmanuel / Carmen * Moretto, Ilia * Nacor, Eriberto Ngo, Hung Oropeza, M / M Moises * Orton, Thomas / Carmen * Ouano, Carmelita Padua, Richard / Maria * Pasco, Beth Pascual, Florante * Pilare, Corazon * | Puccineli, M / M Sergio Puthota, Fr. Charles * Resurreccion, Lourdes * Reyes, Dolores Reyes, Carmen Reyes, Guadalupe Reyes, Maria Roja, Michael / Carmen Romias, Editha Rossi, Elisabetta Ruiz, Efrain * Sammut, Anthony / Mary Sanchez, Virginia * San Pedro, Contessa * Sisters of the Good Shepherd * Soares, Sharon * Springer, John * Sunga, Maria * Tablante, Eric Tablante, Victor / Patricia * Trinidad, Gloria * Velasco, Carol * Valledor, Julie Vinluan, Tessie * Walsh, Deborah * Walsh, Michael * |
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*1.4% Circle donors have an asterisk next to their name (\$500.00 and more)
If contributing by check directly to St. Elizabeth, please make your check payable to the Archdiocesan Annual Appeal.

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|-------------------|-----------|
| Amount Assessed: | 36,292.00 |
| Amount Collected: | 34,460.00 |
| Balance: | 1,832.00 |

Immigration Info Fair and Consultations

Sunday, Mar. 30, 2025
12:30 PM – 5:00 PM

Know your Rights Presentation

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

St. Peter's Parish Hall
1249 Alabama, St. SF CA 94110

For More Information, Email:
Immigration@sfarch.org

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE 2025

PALM SUNDAY VIGIL, SATURDAY, APRIL 12

Confessions: 4:00 pm • Mass: 4:30 pm

PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 13

Confessions: 10:00 am • Masses: 8:30 and 10:30 am

HOLY THURSDAY, APRIL 17

No Morning Mass • Morning Prayer at 8:30 am
6:30 pm - Mass of the Lord's Supper
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 9:00 pm

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 18

No Morning Mass • Morning Prayer at 8:30 am
12:00 - 12:45 pm • Stations of the Cross
12:45 - 1:30 pm • Reflections on the Cross
1:30 - 3:00 pm • Good Friday Liturgy

HOLY SATURDAY, APRIL 19

No Morning Mass • Morning Prayer at 8:30 am
Confessions: 9:00 – 10:00 am

EASTER VIGIL: SATURDAY, APRIL 19

Mass: 8:00 pm

EASTER SUNDAY: APRIL 20

Masses: 8:30 and 10:30 am