

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

July 27, 2025 Seventeenth 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
Laurrie Digneo	Faith Formation Coordinator

Faith Formation

Classes are held every Sunday
Beginning with the 8:30 am Mass
Classes to immediately follow in Cantwell Hall
(Please note new day on Sunday).

Benediction and Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena: Wednesdays after the 8:30 am 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

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 Saturday 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 before the desired date.



From the Pastor's Desktop

A Message from
Father Charles Puthota
July 27, 2025

Dear St. Elizabeth Parishioners,

The Word of God: 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time: Today's Gospel (Luke 11:1-13) invites us into the heart of prayer. When the disciples ask Jesus to teach them to pray, he gives them the Lord's Prayer – simple, direct, and filled with trust. Jesus reminds us that God is not distant or indifferent but a loving Father who listens. Like the friend at midnight, persistence in prayer shows not nagging, but faith. Our prayers may not always be answered in the way we expect, but God always gives what is truly good. "How much more will the Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!" This is the greatest gift – God Himself. Let us deepen our trust, pray with boldness, and open our hearts to the Spirit's presence in our daily lives.

Quotes on Prayer: 1. "Prayer is not asking. It is a longing of the soul." – *Mahatma Gandhi*. 2. "To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing." – *Martin Luther*. 3. "Pray as though everything depended on God. Work as though everything depended on you." – *St. Augustine*. 4. "God speaks in the silence of the heart. Listening is the beginning of prayer." – *St. Teresa of Calcutta (Mother Teresa)*. 5. "The function of prayer is not to influence God, but rather to change the nature of the one who prays." – *Soren Kierkegaard*.

Stories on Prayer: 1. A Child's Prayer: A little girl knelt and said, "A-B-C-D-E..." Her mother asked, "What are you doing?" She replied, "I don't know the right words, so I'm giving God the letters. He can put them in the right order." Lesson: God hears the heart more than the words. Simple, honest, humble prayer is vital. 2. The Rabbi and the Farmer: A farmer told the rabbi, "I stopped praying. Nothing changed." The rabbi asked, "Do you still plow and plant even when the sky is dry?" "Yes," said the farmer. "Because I believe the rain will come." The rabbi smiled, "Then keep praying. Prayer is the seed. Trust the rain will come." Lesson: Prayer is an act of faith, not instant results. 3. The Empty Hands: A poor man went to the temple but had nothing to offer. Embarrassed, he simply stood and said, "Lord, I bring you my empty hands." A wise priest later told him, "Those may be the finest gift. Now God can fill them." Lesson: We don't need perfection or possessions to pray--just openness and humility.

July 31, Feast of St. Ignatius of Loyola, founder of the Jesuits: He offered spiritual insights that have shaped Christian thought for centuries. His most enduring contribution is the **Spiritual Exercises**, a structured guide to discernment, prayer, and self-awareness. At its core is the idea that God can be found "**in all things**", urging believers to seek

the divine not only in prayer but in everyday life. Ignatius emphasized "**discernment of spirits**", teaching that we must attentively observe our inner movements – consolation (peace, joy) and desolation (confusion, despair) – to understand God's will. His method helps individuals align decisions with their deepest, God-given desires. He also stressed "**indifference**" – not apathy, but freedom from unhealthy attachments – so one can choose what best serves God. The motto "**Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam**" (For the Greater Glory of God) reflects his drive to act with purpose and selflessness. Ignatius believed that love is shown more in **deeds than in words**, urging a faith expressed in action. His insights promote **deep self-reflection, humility, and trust in God's guidance**, encouraging believers to live intentionally, in service to others and to God. His legacy continues to inspire a spirituality that is both contemplative and mission-driven.

St. Ignatius' Prayer for Generosity: Dearest Lord, teach me to be generous; teach me to serve you as you deserve; to give and not to count the cost; to fight and not to heed the wounds; to toil and not to seek for rest; to labor and not to ask for any reward, save that of knowing that I do your most holy will. Amen.

St. Ignatius' Suscipe (Receive) Prayer: "Take, O Lord, and receive all my liberty, my memory, my understanding and my entire will - all that I have and call my own. You have given it all to me. To you, Lord, I return it. Everything is yours, do with it as you will. Give me only your love and your grace. That is enough for me."

Mission Cooperation Second Collection: On May 25, we took up the second collection for "Apostolic Life Community of Priests" working in Africa. Once a year, the Archdiocese assigns a missionary group for our support. The second collection amounted to \$836. I supplemented it by adding \$1,164 from the parish resources. The total amount of \$2000 was forwarded to the Archdiocese, who would in turn send it to the missionaries in Africa. Thank you for your generosity. Let's keep the Church's missionary activities close to our hearts and in our prayers.

A Wisdom Story: The Monk and the Scorpion: A monk saw a scorpion drowning in a river. He reached out to save it, but the scorpion stung him. Still, the monk tried again – and again, he was stung. A passerby said, "Why keep trying? It's in the scorpion's nature to sting." The monk replied, "And it is my nature to help. Why should I let his nature change mine?" Moral: Stay true to your values, even when others act against them.

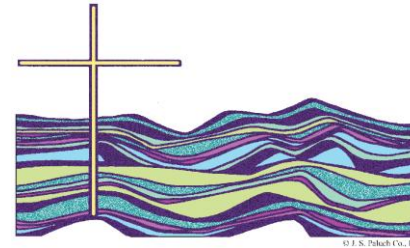
Humor: 1. Off to work: A guy shows up late for work. The boss yells, 'You should've been here at 8.30!' He replies. 'Why? What happened at 8.30?' 2. A genie and an idiot: Three guys stranded on a desert island find a magic lantern containing a genie, who grants them each one wish. The first guy wishes he was off the island and back home. The second guy wishes the same. The third guy says: 'I'm lonely. I wish my friends were back here.'

Your Friend and Pastor,

Father Charles Puthota

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time July 27, 2025

You were buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead.
— *Colossians 2:12*



ASKING FOR HELP

The Beatitudes praise the poor in spirit. One characteristic of those who are poor in spirit is their ability to ask for help; they know when others can provide what they lack. Today's readings encourage us to practice poverty in spirit by asking God for what we need. What could be more natural than to ask God for good things? God is, after all, the inventor of goodness and the giver of all good things.

Asking God for help puts us in conversation with God. These conversations take many forms. The reading from Genesis shows Abraham bantering with God like a skilled negotiator, while Saint Paul's letter to the Colossians praises God for answering us even when we don't deserve it. In Saint Luke's Gospel, Jesus not only gives us words to use in our conversations with God (the Our Father), but also promises that God always listens to our prayers.

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TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — Abraham bargains with God to spare the city (Genesis 18:20-32).

Psalms — Lord, on the day I called for help, you answered me (Psalm 138).

Second Reading — You were buried with Christ in baptism, in which you were also raised with Christ (Colossians 2:12-14).

Gospel — Everyone who asks, receives; and the one who seeks, finds (Luke 11:1-13).

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 July 19 - 20

Weekly Need:	\$ 5,000.00
First Collection	\$ 2,293.07
Over/Under	\$ 2,706.93
Church Environment	\$ 626.07

Mass Intentions † Denotes deceased – (L) Living

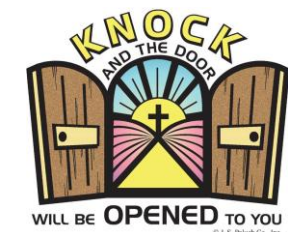
Monday 8:30 am	July 28 Jose Padilla (L)
Tuesday 8:30 am	July 29 † Martha Puthota † Patria Castro Baluyut
Wednesday 8:30 am	July 30 † Renzo and † Tina Fontana
Thursday 8:30 am	July 31 † Angel Padilla Good Shepherd Guild Families both living and deceased
Friday 8:30 am	August 1 Scott Kern (L) † Carmelita Tamondong
Saturday 8:30 am 4:30 pm	August 2 † Renato Macaspac † Marcos V. Valledor
Sunday 8:30 am 10:30 am	August 3 People of the Parish † Tessie, † Joe and † Saviour Schembri

On The Horizon at St. Elizabeth

● **The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary**
Friday, August 15th, A Holy Day of Obligation.
Masses will be at 8:30 am and 6:00 pm.

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday, 7/28	17 th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Tuesday, 7/29	Sts. Martha, Mary and Lazarus
Wednesday, 7/30	St. Peter Chrysologus
Thursday, 7/31	St. Ignatius of Loyola
Friday, 8/1	St. Alphonsus Liguori
Saturday, 8/2	St. Eusebius of Vercelli; St. Peter Julian Eymard





Mexico Pilgrimage Our Lady of Guadalupe

Spiritual Director: **Fr. Charles Puthota, Ph.D.**
November 13 – 18, 2025

Shrine of Guadalupe - Mexico City - Puebla

On this six-day Catholic pilgrimage you will bask in the beauty of the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, at the foot of the hill where Our Lady appeared to Saint Juan Diego. You will have the opportunity to celebrate Mass and pray at one of the holiest sites in the Western Hemisphere! You will visit other sites in Mexico City like the tomb of Blessed Miguel Pro and see the extraordinary Mesoamerican pyramids in the city of San Juan Teotihuacan. You will also spend a day in beautiful Puebla to see the incorrupt body of Blessed Sebastian of Aparicio, Santo Domingo Church, and local markets famous for their colorful pottery. Join us and soak in the stunning culture and faith surrounding the most well-known Marian apparition!



We congratulate Alia Amajoyi, who was baptized at St. Elizabeth Church on July 9, 2025.



Faith Formation

FAITH FORMATION REGISTRATION
IS OPEN FOR 2025-2026

Registration forms may be requested by calling Laurrie Digneo at 415-672-4903
email: sophielady7@aol.com.
Forms can also be picked up at the parish office or at the Church.

Registration fees are \$50.00 per child.

Faith Formation Teachers needed

We need teachers for the 2025-2026 school year. If you enjoy working with children and have a general knowledge of the Catholic religion, we would love to have you be part of the Faith Formation program. If interested, please contact Laurrie Digneo.

Together in Holiness Marriage Conference

Married and engaged couples are invited to the ninth annual ***Together in Holiness*** marriage conference on **September 27, 2025 from 10:45 am – 6:00 pm at the Church of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in Belmont, CA.** This one-day conference will help you strengthen your relationship with your spouse and discover God's plan for your family. Registration: \$64/couple and \$5/child for on-site childcare. An Early Bird discount is available through August 11 as well as scholarships upon request. This conference is presented by the St. John Paul II Foundation and the Archdiocese of San Francisco. For more info, visit togetherinholiness.org/sanfrancisco or email jessie@forlifeandfamily.org.