

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

August 17, 2025 Twentieth 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
August 17, 2025

Dear St. Elizabeth Parishioners,

Word of God: 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C: Jesus makes a startling declaration in the Gospel this Sunday: “I have come to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled!” These are not the soothing words of peace and comfort we often expect. Instead, Jesus speaks of division—even within families—as a result of his mission. What is this fire? It is the fire of God’s love, truth, and justice that purifies and transforms. Jesus is not advocating conflict for its own sake, but acknowledging the reality that following him demands courageous choices that may not always be popular, even with those closest to us.

There is a saying: God comforts the disturbed and disturbs the comfortable. Discipleship is not always peaceful or comfortable. Sometimes, it calls us to stand up for the truth, to challenge injustice, and to remain faithful to Gospel values in a world that often resists them. The values of Jesus are countercultural. This can create tension—even division—but it also brings integrity, freedom, and the joy of living in God’s truth.

The fire Jesus speaks of is the passion of the Holy Spirit, urging us to live not lukewarm lives but ones marked by zeal, conviction, and purpose. Look at the transformation that happened on Pentecost day when the fire of the Holy Spirit burned away the fear and anxiety of the disciples and transformed them into courageous and fearless witnesses to the Risen Christ. In a culture tempted by compromise and comfort, Jesus invites us to burn with love, to light up the world with faith, and to have the courage to stand firm when it counts.

August 19, My Ordination Anniversary: 36 Years a Priest: Please see pictures of my Ordination Day, August 19, 1989, on the last page of the bulletin. I have now been a priest for 36 years, 13 of those as a Jesuit priest and 23 as a priest of the Archdiocese of San Francisco. Including my seminary years before my Ordination, I have been in God’s service now for 52 years. I was not fortunate enough to have my mother Martha alive at my Ordination. My father Isaac was proudly in attendance, but he went home to God in 2017. My three brothers and two sisters were present. Immediately following my Ordination, at the same Mass, I presided over my brother John Nicholas’ (and Prema) wedding and baptized my niece and nephew. Please keep me and my family in your prayers. Service to God and His people continues. I’m deeply grateful for all your affection and inspiration, for your support and encouragement, your goodwill and friendship. On a daily basis, day after day in my ministry, you have become my family, and we together form God’s family. The Opening Prayer in the Roman Missal for the Priestly Ordination Anniversary captures my sentiments joyfully and gratefully:

“Holy Father, who, by no merit of my own, chose me for communion with the eternal priesthood of your Christ and for the ministry of your Church, grant that I may be an ardent yet gentle preacher of the Gospel and a faithful steward of your mysteries.”

From the *Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church*: **In what way is the Church the body of Christ?** The risen Christ unites his faithful people to himself in an intimate way by means of the Holy Spirit. In this way, those who believe in Christ, in as much as they are close to him especially in the Eucharist, are united among themselves in charity. They form one body, the Church, whose unity is experienced in the diversity of its members and its functions. **Who is the Head of this body?** Christ “is the Head of the body, the Church” (*Colossians* 1:18). The Church lives from him, in him and for him. Christ and the Church make up the “whole Christ” (Saint Augustine); “Head and members form, as it were, one and the same mystical person” (Saint Thomas Aquinas). **Why is the Church called the “Bride of Christ”?** She is called the “Bride of Christ” because the Lord himself called himself her “Spouse” (*Mark* 2:19). The Lord has loved the Church and has joined her to himself in an everlasting covenant. He has given himself up for her in order to purify her with his blood and “sanctify her” (*Ephesians* 5:26), making her the fruitful mother of all the children of God. While the term “body” expresses the unity of the “head” with the members, the term “bride” emphasizes the distinction of the two in their personal relationship.

The Sound System in the Church: Having listened to the concerns of many of you over several months, I have proceeded to order further improvements to our sound system We have added two new speakers on either side in the church---and delicate fine tuning has been made, all at the cost this time of almost \$13,000. There seems to be a general satisfaction from most of you about the results of this new version of our sound system. Now people are able to hear clearly from any section of the area inside the church. If you have any feedback, please do pass it on to me. All this effort and expense is worth it if only we could hear well inside the church. The purpose is so that we could all pray and worship together with deeper faith and more active participation. I would like to thank our sacristans David Gemignani and Phil McCarthy for their assistance.

Humor: 1. The Atheist and the Bear: An atheist is hiking when a bear chases him. He cries, “Oh God, help!” Time freezes. A voice says, “You denied Me.” The man pleads, “Can you at least make the bear a Christian?” Time resumes. The bear kneels and prays, “Bless this food I am about to receive...” **2. The Honest Lawyer:** God decides to reward an honest lawyer. Surprised, the man says, “But I’m only 35!” God replies, “According to your billable hours, you’re 97.” **3. The Preacher’s Golf Miracle:** On Sunday, a preacher sneaks out his church to play golf. On the first hole—hole in one! Second—hole in one! An angel asks God, “Why reward him?” God replies, “Who’s he going to tell?”

Your Friend and Pastor,

Father Charles Puthota

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time
August 17, 2025

[Jesus] endured the cross, despising its shame, and has taken his seat at the right of the throne of God.
— *Hebrews* 12:2



LISTEN TO JESUS AND THE PROPHETS

Prophets have always had a tough row to hoe. Their words, often unwelcome, are used against them to persecute and even kill them. Such was the fate of the Old Testament prophets, and Jeremiah is a great example of this. Jesus endured opposition from sinners, and did not turn back from a shameful death in order to rise to a glorious new life. The ultimate prophet, Jesus sought to warn the people of his time and ours of the divisions that his words would cause, showing himself to be the prophet of all time. We all need to look at our divisions and dilemmas in light of Jesus’ teachings and warnings, and seek to understand all that he has proclaimed and taught about what will happen if we fail to listen.

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TODAY’S READINGS

First Reading — They took Jeremiah and threw him into the cistern (Jeremiah 38:4-6, 8-10).
Psalm — Lord, come to my aid! (Psalm 40).
Second Reading — Let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, the leader and perfecter of faith (Hebrews 12:1-4).

Gospel — I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing (Luke 12:49-53).
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.

Sunday Collection
August 9 - 10

Weekly Need:	\$ 5,000.00
First Collection	<u>\$ 2,585.69</u>
Over/Under	\$ 2,414.31
Parish Maintenance	\$ 604.00

Mass Intentions
† Denotes deceased – (L) Living

Monday 8:30 am	August 18 Richard Kern (L)
Tuesday 8:30 am	August 19 † Elena Santiago
Wednesday 8:30 am	August 20 † Sister Anne Kelley, RGS
Thursday 8:30 am	August 21 † Barbara Bonczek † Livia Gemignani
Friday 8:30 am	August 22 Marycon Padua (L)
Saturday 8:30 am	August 23 † Leandra Solis † Giuseppe Del Fava † Mike and † Assunta Perata
4:30 pm	August 24 People of the Parish † Bill O’Sullivan and Sophia Van de Zandt (L) † Noemie B. Nacor and † Wilfredo B. Nacor
Sunday 8:30 am 10:30 am	

ON THE HORIZON AT ST. ELIZABETH

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● Father Charles’ Ordination Anniversary
36th Anniversary ~ ordained August 19th, 1989
●Labor Day
Monday, September 1st Office closed
●Faith Formation
Sunday, September 7th.
●Maltese Champagne Bingo
Sunday, September 14th. More information to follow.
●AAA 1.4% Luncheon
Sunday, noon October 26th. Invitations to follow.

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday, 8/17	20 th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Tuesday, 8/19	St. John Eudes
Wed, 8/20	St. Bernard
Thursday, 8/21	St. Pius X
Friday, 8/22	The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Saturday, 8/23	St. Rose of Lima



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!



Fr. Charles processing with his family to the Altar to be ordained a priest on August 19, 1989.



Father Charles at his Ordination Mass baptizing his nephew and niece on August 19, 1989.



ARCHDIOCESE OF
SAN FRANCISCO
FILIPINO MINISTRY



13th ANNUAL GALA

One Faith | One People | One Mission

Sunday | October 5, 2025 | 5:00 PM
Patrons Hall, Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption
1111 Gough Street, San Francisco, CA 94109

Dinner Ticket: \$100 ★ Raffle Ticket: \$20
1st Prize: \$3,000 | 2nd Prize: \$2,000 | 3rd Prize: \$1,000
To purchase dinner & raffle tickets, contact:
415.595.9248 (Estelle) | 415.317.5481 (Willie) | 415.336.9193 (Estrelle); 415.521.6934 (Sherry)



Fr. Charles' sister-in-law, Vijayakumari Mallavarapu welcoming Father just before starting his "first Mass" on August 20, 1989.