

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 24, 2025 Twenty-First 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 24, 2025

Dear St. Elizabeth Parishioners,

Archdiocesan Annual Appeal (AAA) Gratitude Luncheon:
This Thank-You luncheon will be held on Sunday October 26 in Cantwell Hall for the 1.4% and More Circle donors, which is \$500 and more. Thank you for your generous donation to AAA. Please RSVP as early as possible to my invitation letter to be sent in the next few days. This event highlights our close relationship with the Archdiocese and our call to support the ministries undertaken at the Archdiocesan level. It also provides us an opportunity for us as a parish to work on projects collaboratively and make a success of it.

Word of God: 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year C: We are invited this Sunday to pray over themes of inclusion, discipline, and the urgency of conversion. Isaiah envisions a global gathering where people from every nation and tongue come to worship the Lord. God’s mercy and plan extend beyond borders and traditions. It’s a powerful image of a universal Church—diverse, vibrant, and open to all who seek God.

But the Gospel adds a sobering note. When someone asks Jesus, “Will only a few be saved?” He doesn’t answer directly. Instead, He urges: “Strive to enter through the narrow gate.” Salvation is not about numbers or status; it’s about effort, humility, and relationship. The narrow gate represents a life of discipline, truth, and daily conversion. It’s not enough to say we know Jesus—we must live His teachings. Many will be surprised, Jesus says, because they assumed proximity to him was enough. But the real question is: does our life reflect his love and justice?

Hebrews reminds us that discipline is a gift from a loving Father. It may be painful at first, but it yields the “peaceful fruit of righteousness.” God disciplines us not to punish, but to shape us—to strengthen our spiritual muscles, to help us walk the straight path.

God invites everyone, but we must respond with effort and humility. Let us not delay or presume. The door is open – but narrow. Let us enter with hearts that love, hands that serve, and lives that reflect the Gospel.

From the Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church: The Church: **What is the origin and the fulfillment of the Church?** The Church finds her origin and fulfillment in the eternal plan of God. She was prepared for in the Old Covenant with the election of Israel, the sign of the future gathering of all the nations. Founded by the words and actions of Jesus Christ, fulfilled by his redeeming death and Resurrection, the Church has been manifested as the mystery of salvation by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. She will be perfected in the glory of heaven as the assembly of

all the redeemed of the earth. **What is the mission of the Church?** The mission of the Church is to proclaim and establish the Kingdom of God begun by Jesus Christ among all peoples. The Church constitutes on earth the seed and beginning of this salvific Kingdom. In what way is the Church a *mystery*? The Church is a mystery in as much as in her visible reality there is present and active a divine spiritual reality which can only be seen with the eyes of faith. What does it mean to say that the Church is the universal sacrament of salvation? This means that she is the sign and instrument both of the reconciliation and communion of all of humanity with God and of the unity of the entire human race.

Feast of St. Monica, Wednesday, August 27: We honor the devoted mother of St. Augustine. Renowned for her unwavering faith, patience, and perseverance in prayer, Monica became a model of Christian motherhood. Through her tears and petitions for over 30 years, she helped lead Augustine from a life of restlessness to conversion and sainthood. She is patroness of mothers, wives, and those who pray for wayward loved ones. Her feast reminds us of the transforming power of faith-filled persistence.

Feast of St. Augustine, Thursday, August 28: The Feast of St. Augustine, celebrated on August 28, honors one of the greatest Doctors of the Church, bishop of Hippo, and brilliant theologian. Born in North Africa in 354, Augustine lived a restless youth before being converted through the prayers of his mother, St. Monica, and the guidance of St. Ambrose. His famous words, “*Our hearts are made for Thee, O Lord, and they are restless until they rest in Thee,*” capture his lifelong search for truth and love. As bishop, he defended the faith against heresies, wrote profound works such as *Confessions* and *The City of God*, and laid the foundations of Western Christian thought. His feast calls us to ongoing conversion, deeper love for God, and trust in divine grace that transforms our restless hearts into peace. Our current Pope Leo XIV is an Augustinian and is shaped by Augustinian spirituality and ideals.

Feast of the Martyrdom of St. John the Baptist, Friday, August 29: The Feast of the Martyrdom of St. John the Baptist commemorates the prophet who courageously prepared the way for Christ. John fearlessly proclaimed truth and called people to repentance, even confronting King Herod for his unlawful marriage. His bold witness cost him his life when he was beheaded at Herod’s command. This feast reminds us of the cost of discipleship, the power of truth, and the call to bear faithful witness to Christ.

Humor on Marriage: 1. Romantic Expectations: A husband asked, “What’s the key to a happy marriage?” His wife replied, “Listening.” He nodded. “Ah, so that’s why I’ve been happy for so many years—I just never knew what to say.” 2. **Marriage and Memory:** A husband told his wife he could never forget her birthday. She smiled. “Good,” she said, “because I could never forgive you if you did.” Marriage, he thought, was a combination of love and fear of anniversaries. 3. **The Question Trap:** A husband asked his wife, “Do I look fat in this shirt?” She paused, then said, “You look... comfortable.” He realized that in marriage, honesty is optional; diplomacy is mandatory.

Your Friend and Pastor, Father Charles Puthota

Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time
August 24, 2025

Strengthen your drooping hands and your weak knees. Make straight paths for your feet, that what is lame may not be disjointed but healed.
— *Hebrews 12:12-13*



WELCOME THE STRANGER

We have become accustomed to seeing pictures in the media and stories on the news about immigrants from Latin America and refugees from Syria fleeing violence and destruction in their own countries, trying to make their way to a safe place. We have also seen the reactions of people who want to keep them away from their countries, who fail to welcome the stranger and the helpless children. Have we forgotten Jesus’ call to comfort the homeless and the stranger? “They shall bring all your brothers and sisters from all the nations . . . to Jerusalem, my holy mountain, says the LORD.”

In the three readings for this day, we are told that we are to welcome these strangers, to welcome the discipline of the Lord, which leads to peace, and to “strive to enter through the narrow gate” into the glory of God’s own homeland, the reign of God.

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TODAY’S READINGS

First Reading — Brothers and sisters of every race and language will be brought to Jerusalem (Isaiah 66:18-21).

Psalm — Go out to all the world and tell the Good News (Psalm 117).

Second Reading — Strengthen your drooping hands and your weak knees (Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13).

Gospel — People from east and west, north and south recline at table in the kingdom of God (Luke 13:22-30).

The English translation of the Psalm Responses from *Lectionary for Mass* © 1969, 1981, 1997

Sunday Collection
August 16 17

Weekly Need: \$ 5,000.00
First Collection \$ 2,280.00
Over/Under \$ 2,720.00

Church Environment \$ 633.00
Assumption of Mary \$ 663.00

Mass Intentions

† Denotes deceased – (L) Living

Monday 8:30 am	August 25 † Edelia Del Fava † Erlinda Maturan
Tuesday 8:30 am	August 26 Sherwin and Lyndon Martinez (L)
Wednesday 8:30 am	August 27 David and Merlene Crow (L)
Thursday 8:30 am	August 28 † Rebecca Tanquilut Virgil Mateo Jr. (L)
Friday 8:30 am	August 29 Tessie and Jun Madriaga Jr. (L)
Saturday 8:30 am	August 30 Arturo and Gleena Monsanto (L)
4:30 pm	† Maria Tina Fontana † Manuel Palero and † Felimon Palero Jr.
Sunday 8:30 am 10:30 am	August 31 People of the Parish Sifuentes Family (L) † Teodoro Bondoc

ON THE HORIZON AT ST. ELIZABETH

• **Labor Day**
Monday, September 1st Office closed
• **Faith Formation**
Sunday, September 7th.
• **Maltese Champagne Bingo**
Sunday, September 14th.
• **AAA 1.4% Luncheon**
Sunday, noon October 26th. Invitations to be mailed.

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday, 8/24	21 st Sunday in Ordinary Time
Monday ,8/25	St. Louis, St. Joseph Calasanz
Wednesday, 8/27	St. Monica
Thursday, 8/28	St. Augustine
Friday, 8/29	The Passion of St. John the Baptist



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!



St. Elizabeth's Maltese Society
Champagne Bingo
Sunday, September 14th
Cantwell Hall

Doors open at 12:00 pm
Lunch served at 1:00 pm
BINGO begins at 2:00 pm


\$25.00 per person
Ticket includes lunch
Pasta with meat sauce, salad, bread,
champagne and dessert and 1 Bingo packet

Reservations required, no day of event tickets

For tickets or more information contact:
Jeanette Santos 415-225-5315

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.



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 (Estrella); 415.521.6934 (Sherry)