

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 31, 2025 Twenty-Second 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: 3:00 pm Tuesday 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 31, 2025

Dear St. Elizabeth Parishioners,

Faith Formation: Mass on Sundays at 8:30 a.m. followed by Classes: Starting next Sunday, September 7, Faith Formation students with their families will attend the 8:30 a.m. Mass on Sundays. Please would you be kind enough to make the front three or four pews on the right side (as you face the altar) available for them. Immediately following the Mass, the students will go to Cantwell Hall to continue their class requirements. Attending Mass will be part of their Faith Formation class every Sunday. I am heartened by the fact that the families and catechists are welcoming this arrangement with a lot of support. I thank the families and teachers for all their collaboration in passing on faith to students and their generosity with their time and talents.

Word of God: 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year C: The theme of the readings is the virtue of humility – God’s invitation to lower ourselves in a world that constantly urges us to rise above others. Sirach offers timeless wisdom: “Conduct your affairs with humility... you will be loved more than a giver of gifts.” True greatness, the reading reminds us, isn’t found in showing off, but in quiet wisdom, gentleness, and self-awareness. The humble heart draws God's favor because it is teachable, grateful, and open to others. The Gospel brings this wisdom to life. Jesus observes how people scramble for the best seats at a banquet. He teaches, “Take the lowest place.” In God’s kingdom, honor isn’t grasped; it is given by God to the humble. Even more striking, Jesus tells us to invite those who cannot repay us – the poor, the crippled, the outcast. This is Gospel hospitality: giving without calculating, loving without expecting return. It is a radical shift from social climbing to compassionate giving. The Letter to the Hebrews places our humble journey in a majestic context. We are not approaching a fearful mountain but a heavenly celebration – “Mount Zion... the city of the living God.” Our humble acts on earth prepare us for a joyful communion with saints and angels. The message is clear: God lifts up the lowly. Pride builds walls; humility opens doors. As disciples, we are called to seek the lowest place – not to be diminished, but to be raised up by the God who sees what is done in secret and blesses the humble with glory.

From the Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church: The Church: Why is the Church the ‘people of God’? The Church is the ‘people of God’ because it pleased God to sanctify and save men not in isolation but by making them into one people gathered together by the unity of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. **What are the characteristics of the people of God?** One becomes a member of this people through faith in Christ and Baptism. This people has for its *origin* God the Father; for its *head* Jesus Christ; for its *hallmark* the dignity and freedom of the sons of God; for its *law* the new commandment of love; for its *mission* to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world; and for its *destiny* the Kingdom of God, already begun on earth.

Labor Day, Monday, September 1: A Theology and Spirituality: Labor Day is more than a civic holiday; it is a spiritual moment to reflect on the dignity of human work. Catholic theology teaches that work is not merely about earning a wage, but about participating in God’s ongoing creation. From the beginning, in Genesis, God placed humanity in the garden “to till and keep it.” Work, therefore, is a vocation – an expression of stewardship, creativity, and service. The Church reminds us that labor has primacy over capital because it involves the human person, created in the image of God. St. John Paul II, in *Laborem Exercens*, emphasized that through work, we not only transform the world but also grow in holiness. When done with love and offered to God, even the simplest task becomes a prayer.

Spiritually, Labor Day invites us to honor workers everywhere – especially the poor, the marginalized, and those whose labor is hidden or underpaid. It also calls us to examine issues of justice: fair wages, safe conditions, and the rights of workers. Ultimately, we remember that Jesus Himself labored as a carpenter, sanctifying human work by His hands. To celebrate Labor Day as Catholics is to see work not as a burden, but as a blessing, a path to holiness, and a way of building God’s Kingdom.

Feast of St. Gregory the Great, Wednesday, September 3: St. Gregory the Great was one of the most remarkable popes in the history of the Church. Born in Rome around 540, Gregory first served as a Roman prefect but soon renounced worldly honors to embrace monastic life as a Benedictine monk. Known for his humility and love of prayer, he was unexpectedly called to the papacy in 590 during a time of famine, plague, and social unrest. As pope, Gregory organized charitable relief for the poor, negotiated peace with warring powers, and offered spiritual guidance with wisdom and compassion. He reformed Church governance and liturgy, promoted Gregorian chant, and strengthened missionary outreach, most notably by sending St. Augustine of Canterbury to evangelize England. Gregory’s writings – especially his *Pastoral Rule* and homilies – shaped Christian spirituality for centuries. He died in 604. Remembered as “Servant of the Servants of God,” he is honored as a Doctor of the Church and model of humble, holy leadership.

Humor on Humility: 1. The Monk’s Confession: A young monk kept saying, “I am nothing, I am nothing” during prayer, trying to be humble. The abbot, hearing him, shook his head. Then the gardener walked in and also said, “I am nothing, Lord.” Suddenly the monk whispered to his neighbor, “Look at him – who does he think he is, claiming to be nothing like me?” **2. St. Teresa’s Prayer:** St. Teresa of Ávila used to laugh at herself when she made mistakes. Once she tripped in the convent hallway and fell flat on her face. Instead of being embarrassed, she prayed aloud, “Lord, if this is how You treat Your friends, no wonder You have so few of them!” Everyone laughed – including Teresa – reminding all that true humility is joy, not gloom.

Your Friend and Pastor,

Father Charles Puthota

**Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time
August 31, 2025**
You have approached Mount Zion
and the city of the living God.
— *Hebrews 12:22a*



HUMILITY
Humility is a virtue we don’t see much in our times. It seems that bragging, swaggering, and arrogance dominate our fashion for everything and our Internet conversations. Who hasn’t been irritated by the “trolls” who try (usually with bad grammar and poor spelling) to start an online fight with those whose opinions do not align with theirs? Our stores, catalogs, and online shopping sites are full of useless items geared in use and price to the very rich, as ordinary, useful things seem to fade off the sales scene. As the rich get richer, the poor get poorer and the middle class is fading away. What is the antidote to this? Humility is a good place to start. Devotion to God is worth more than riches. “The father of orphans and the defender of widows is God in his holy dwelling. God gives a home to the forsaken; [God] leads forth prisoners to prosperity.” Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

TODAY’S READINGS
First Reading — Conduct your affairs with humility (Sirach 3:17-18, 20, 28-29).
Psalms — God, in your goodness, you have made a home for the poor (Psalm 68).
Second Reading — You have approached the city of the living God (Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-24a).
Gospel — Those who humble themselves will be exalted (Luke 14:1, 7-14).
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.

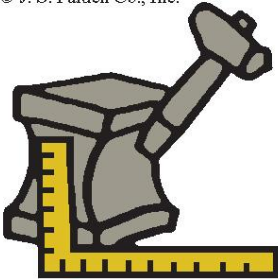
Sunday Collection August 23 - 24	
Weekly Need:	\$ 5,000.00
First Collection	\$ 2,117.00
Over/Under	\$ 2,883.00
Parish Ministries	\$ 692.00

Mass Intentions † Denotes deceased – (L) Living	
Monday 8:30 am	September 1 † Leo Gerardo † Crescencio Alipio
Tuesday 8:30 am	September 2 † Angela Fazio
Wednesday 8:30 am	September 3 † Margie Belluomini
Thursday 8:30 am	September 4 † Olinda Menezes
Friday 8:30 am	September 5 † Margie Belluomini
Saturday 8:30 am	September 6 Dezalyn DeVera (L)
4:30 pm	† Jane Falzon
Sunday 8:30 am	September 7 People of the Parish
10:30 am	† Rafael Medina † Joe Macias

ON THE HORIZON AT ST. ELIZABETH
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● Labor Day Monday, September 1 st Office closed
● Faith Formation Sunday, September 7 th .
● Maltese Champagne Bingo Sunday, September 14 th .
● AAA 1.4% Luncheon Sunday, noon October 26 th . Invitations to be mailed.

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES	
Sunday, 8/31	22 nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Monday, 9/1	Labor Day
Wednesday, 9/3	St. Gregory the Great
Friday, 9/5	St. Theresa Of Calcutta

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Labor Day



**Bay Area Rosary Rally
in honor of St. Francis of Assisi
and the Jubilee Year of Hope**

October 4, 2025
7:00am - 12:00pm
Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption
1111 Gough St.
San Francisco, CA 94109

Schedule:

7:00 a.m. Gather for the Jubilee Pilgrimage Walk at St. Anthony of Padua (SF)
7:15 am. Procession begins to the Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption Cathedral
9:15 a.m. Talks on St. Francis and the Blessed Mother
Fr. Bobby Barbato, OFM. Cap (English)
Fr. Alberto Villafan, OFM (Spanish)
**Confessions available*
10:00 a.m. Mass with Archbishop Salvatore J. Cordileone
11:30 a.m. Eucharistic Procession and recitation of the Rosary
12:00 p.m. Benediction

Due to safety concerns, no banners are permitted in the processions; however, religious images and statues are allowed



**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)