

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

September 7, 2025 Twenty-Third 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
September 7, 2025

Dear St. Elizabeth Parishioners,

Faith Formation Masses and Classes Resume: On Sunday, September 07, the Faith Formation children will gather for the 8:30 a.m. Mass and then proceed to their class rooms in Cantwell Hall. Please do let the Faith Formation children and families occupy the front pews in the Church as they will regularly be attending the Sunday 8:30 a.m. Masses. I welcome the students, parents, and catechists to another year of faith and community. I thank the parents and teachers for their collaboration in this important mission of handing on the precious gift of faith to the next generation.

Word of God: 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year C: Discipleship is the theme. Following Christ requires radical commitment. Jesus tells us that unless we “hate” father, mother, spouse, children, and even life itself, we cannot be His disciples. These words sound harsh, but Jesus is using strong language to emphasize that love for Him must come before every other attachment. True discipleship is not partial or half-hearted—it calls for surrender. The two parables Jesus gives—about building a tower and a king going to war—point to the need for careful discernment. Following Christ is not a casual choice but a lifelong journey that demands sacrifice, perseverance, and daily carrying of the cross. We must count the cost and be ready to let go of possessions, pride, and comfort in order to make space for God’s will. Wisdom, in the first reading, comes from God’s Spirit, teaching us how to live rightly. St. Paul reminds Philemon of the transforming power of faith and love, urging him to welcome Onesimus not as a slave but as a brother. To be disciples today is to choose Christ above all else, trust His grace, and let Him reorder our priorities so that His love guides every decision.

9/11 Prayer for the Nation: Loving and Eternal Father, today we gather to remember the tragedy of September 11, 2001. We entrust to Your mercy all who lost their lives in New York, Washington, and Pennsylvania. Welcome them into Your eternal light, and grant comfort to their families who still carry the pain of loss. We pray for first responders, heroes who gave their lives in service and sacrifice, and for survivors who continue to bear wounds seen and unseen. Heal our nation of division, fear, and violence. Pour forth Your Spirit of peace upon the world, that hatred may give way to reconciliation, and despair to hope. Teach us to be instruments of Your love, builders of justice, and witnesses of forgiveness. May the memory of this day move us closer to You, who are our refuge and strength, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

From the *Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church*: **Why is the Church called the temple of the Holy Spirit?** She is so called because the Holy Spirit resides in the body which is the Church, in her Head and in her members. He also builds up the Church in charity by the Word of God, the sacraments, the virtues, and *charisms*. “*What the soul is to the human body, the Holy Spirit is to the members of Christ, that is, the body of Christ, which is the Church.*” (Saint Augustine) **What are charisms?** Charisms are special gifts of the Holy Spirit which are bestowed on individuals for the good of others, the needs of the world, and in particular for the building up of the Church. The discernment of charisms is the responsibility of the Magisterium.

Monday, September 8: The Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary: The Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary honors the birth of Mary, chosen by God to be the Mother of His Son. Her nativity marks the dawn of salvation, as through her “yes” to God, Christ entered the world. The Church rejoices in Mary as a sign of hope, joy, and new beginnings. Born of Saints Joachim and Anne, she embodies God’s grace and loving plan. This feast invites us to imitate her humility, purity, and trust, preparing our hearts to welcome Christ more deeply and live faithfully as God’s beloved children.

Tuesday, September 9: Feast of St. Peter Claver: St. Peter Claver, the Jesuit missionary, called himself the “slave of the slaves forever.” Serving in Cartagena, Colombia, he tirelessly ministered to enslaved Africans arriving on ships, offering food, medicine, comfort, and the love of Christ. Baptizing thousands, he defended their dignity and humanity amid cruelty and exploitation. His life reflects radical charity and justice, reminding us to see Christ in the oppressed and to work for compassion and equality.

Saturday, September 13: Feast of St. John Chrysostom: We celebrate the “golden-mouthed” preacher and Archbishop of Constantinople. Renowned for his eloquent homilies, deep spirituality, and fearless defense of the poor, he modeled holiness, justice, and pastoral care. His life inspires Christians to combine faith, charity, and moral courage in daily life.

Quotable Quote: “I have been bent and broken, but - I hope - into a better shape.” — *Charles Dickens, Great Expectations.*

Humor: 1. The Talking Dog: A man sees a sign: “Talking dog for sale.” Curious, he asks the owner for a demo. The dog says, “I’ve worked for the CIA, traveled the world, and saved lives.” Amazed, the man whispers, “Why sell him so cheap?” The owner shrugs, “Because he’s a liar! He never did any of that.” 2. The Genie’s Wish: A man rubs a lamp, and a genie appears. “You get one wish,” says the genie. The man asks for world peace. The genie sighs, “That’s impossible—pick something else.” The man says, “Okay, then make my mother-in-law like me.” The genie thinks, then replies, “Hmm... let’s go back to world peace.”

Your Friend and Pastor,

Father Charles Puthota

**Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time
September 7, 2025**
Fill us at daybreak with your kindness,
that we may shout for joy and gladness
all our days.
— *Psalms 90:14*



POST-SUMMER CHALLENGES
With any luck, summer delights will continue a while past last weekend’s Labor Day: refreshing recreation (with maybe an occasional swim) or enjoyable relaxation on the deck (with tasty outdoor grilling). Truth is, for some of us, this year’s Labor Day came way too early. With many schools back in session for a while already, mealtimes and driving schedules needed readjustment to coordinate youth sports with adult commitments. Some religious education and parish programs resumed, too. No surprise, then, that this weekend’s scriptures sound a little like post-summer challenges. For instance, Wisdom reminds us that believers in God can never be content with “timid deliberations” and “unsure plans.” Paul challenges longtime friend and follower Philemon to “let the good you do be voluntary.” Jesus instructs “great crowds” traveling with him—including us—on three things necessary for all true disciples to accomplish. On this early autumn weekend, our scriptures describe disciples’ lifelong labors. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

TODAY’S READINGS
First Reading — You sent your holy spirit from on high and thus were the paths of those on earth made straight (Wisdom 9:13-18b).
Psalms — In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge (Psalm 90).
Second Reading — Paul asks Philemon to accept back his slave Onesimus as a brother (Philemon 9-10, 12-17).
Gospel — Which of you wishing to construct a tower does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if there is enough for its completion? (Luke 14:25-33).
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.

<u>Sunday Collection</u> <u>August 30 - 31</u>	
Weekly Need:	\$ 5,000.00
First Collection	\$ 2,193.07
Over/Under	\$ 2,806.93
Parish Ministries	\$ 784.00

Mass Intentions † Denotes deceased – (L) Living	
Monday 8:30 am	September 8 † Tessie, † Joe and † Savior Schembri
Tuesday 8:30 am	September 9 The Good Shepherd Guild and their families, both living and deceased
Wednesday 8:30 am	September 10 John Grasso (L)
Thursday 8:30 am	September 11 Edgard Gonzales and Family (L)
Friday 8:30 am	September 12 † Fedelina Camba
Saturday 8:30 am	September 13 † Lina Garbarino
4:30 pm	† Maria Mazzaferro
Sunday 8:30 am	September 14 People of the Parish
10:30 am	† Delia Gemignani † Margie Belluomini

<u>ON THE HORIZON AT ST. ELIZABETH</u>	
● Faith Formation Sunday, September 7 th	
● Maltese Champagne Bingo Sunday, September 14 th .	
● Catechetical Sunday Sunday, September 21 st . 8:30 am mass.	
● Blessing of Animals Sunday, October 5 th after 10:30 am mass	
● AAA 1.4% Luncheon Sunday, noon October 26 th . Invitations have been mailed. Please RSVP promptly.	

<u>SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES</u>	
Sunday, 9/7	23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Monday, 9/8	The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Tuesday, 9/9	St. Peter Claver
Friday, 9/12	The Most Holy Name of Mary
Saturday, 9/13	St. John Chrysostom



**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)