

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 14, 2025 Exaltation of the Cross



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 14, 2025

Dear St. Elizabeth Parishioners,

Faith Formation: Last Sunday at the 8:30 a.m. Mass, the Faith Formation students, families, and catechists started their religious school year followed by their classes in Cantwell Hall. I welcomed and congratulated them on the task ahead this year. Thank you all for the great spirit of collaboration. It’s wonderful for us to be able to participate at the Sunday Mass each week before attending the classes. That the families and catechists are all in agreement with this new development is most heartening. It’s the mission of every parish to catechize and evangelize, especially the children and young people. Thanks to all for making the accommodation and reserving the front pews for Faith Formation families at 8:30 a.m. Sunday Masses.

Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross: September 14: This Sunday we observe the Feast of the Cross. The popular hymn captures the spirit: “O Cross, erected above the world, cross of our Savior King.” Tradition holds that in the fourth century, Saint Helena, mother of Emperor Constantine, looking for the holy places of Jesus’ life, found three crosses during an excavation in Jerusalem and the cross of Jesus was identified by its miraculous powers. The cross immediately became an object of veneration. Tradition also has long held that the Holy Sepulcher Church in Jerusalem is built over the place of Jesus’ death, burial, and resurrection. I have had the privilege and honor of celebrating Mass inside the tomb of Jesus and venerating the very place where the cross of Jesus stood. The cross, though a shameful means of death, became the holiest symbol of life, redemption, and reconciliation because of Jesus’ death on the cross. We look upon Jesus on the cross and derive meaning and purpose for our own suffering: through the cross to the resurrection; through suffering to glory. This is the Christian way. It is the way of Christ our Lord.

Word of God: Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross: In the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, we pray over how the instrument of suffering became the sign of salvation. In the first reading, we hear of the prophet’s call to lift up God’s word and live it faithfully, even in the midst of trials. Similarly, in the Gospel, Jesus tells Nicodemus: “*Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.*” The readings remind us that God’s plan often unfolds in ways that appear paradoxical. What seems like weakness – the cross – becomes strength; what seems like defeat – death – becomes life. The cross is a sign of God’s love, a love willing to endure suffering for the sake of humanity. In our own lives, we carry crosses in the form of challenges, disappointments, and sacrifices. When united with Christ, these crosses are not burdens alone – they become means of growth, compassion, and holiness. Today, we not only venerate the cross but also

embrace it in our lives, trusting that through every trial, God’s glory and love are revealed.

Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows September 15: This feast day falls on the day after the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross. Jesus and his mother Mary were profoundly with suffering. The Blessed Virgin Mary is closely aligned with the life of Christ. Mary’s suffering is intimately connected with the suffering of Christ. Mary suffered because her only son Jesus suffered. Mary understands our suffering and shows us the redemptive meaning in suffering. The seven sorrows of Mary are: 1. The prophecy of Simeon. 2. The flight into Egypt. 3. The loss of Jesus for three days. 4. The carrying of the cross. 5. The crucifixion of Jesus. 6. Jesus is taken down from the cross. 7. The burial of Jesus.

Pope Leo XIV Inaugurates Borgo Laudato Si: On September 5, the Holy Father inaugurated Borgo Laudato Si at Castel Gaddolfo, the Papal Summer Residence. This is an expansive ecological and educational center, spanning about 135 acres, combining gardens, villas, archaeological sites, and farmland. It serves as a model for living out the teachings of Pope Francis’ 2015 environmental encyclical *Laudato Si*. The Pope greeted workers, collaborators, students, benefactors, and their families, a gesture emphasizing the Village’s community-oriented mission. The Pope traveled around the estate in an electric golf cart, underlining the Village’s commitment to sustainable and eco-friendly practices. In the Liturgy of the Word and Rite of Blessing, the Holy Father said: “The care of creation...represents a true vocation for every human being....we are creatures among creatures, not creators.” The renowned tenor Andrea Bocelli and his son Matteo performed a song at this event. The project reflects a holistic vision of faith, sustainability, education, love of creation, stewardship, and social justice. The vision of Pope Francis lives on!

A Widsom Story to Ponder: The Pebble in the Shoe: A traveler complained of the long, tiring road. Another noticed he walked unevenly. Inside his shoe was a small pebble. Sometimes, it is not the great distance but the small, unaddressed burdens that make the journey hardest.

Quotable Quotes: 1. "I do not pray for success. I ask for faithfulness." - *Mother Teresa*. 2. "The wise person doesn't give the right answers, but poses the right questions." - *Claude Levi-Strauss*. 3. "What happens is not as important as how you react to what happens." - *Ellen Glasgow*. 4. "The journey of a thousand miles begins with one step." - *Lao Tzu*. 5. A Ute Indian Prayer: “Treat the earth well. It was not given to you by your parents, it was loaned to you by your children. We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children.”

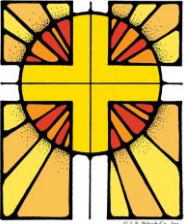
Humor: 1. **A Higher Power:** The Sunday School teacher began the week’s lesson with a recap of the previous week’s topic by saying, “We have been learning about how powerful the kings and queens were in Biblical times. But there is a higher power. Who can tell me what it is?” Six-year-old Peter blurted out, “I know, Aces.” 2. **Babysitter:** A Sunday School teacher asked her class why Joseph and Mary took Jesus with them to Jerusalem. A small child replied, “They couldn’t get a babysitter.”

Your Friend and Pastor,

Father Charles Puthota

Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross
September 14, 2025

But he, being merciful, forgave their sin and destroyed them not; often he turned back his anger and let none of his wrath be roused. – Psalm 78:38



CROSS OF OUR SAVIOR KING

The Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, celebrated annually on September 14th, commemorates the discovery of the True Cross by Saint Helena in the 4th century, and the subsequent dedication of churches on Calvary and the Holy Sepulcher built by Emperor Constantine. It also honors the recovery of the True Cross by Emperor Heraclius in the 7th century. This feast exalts the cross not as an instrument of torture, but as a symbol of salvation, God's love, and Christ's triumph over sin and death. We venerate the cross as the central image of our faith and a reminder of Christ's sacrifice and victory.

TODAY’S READINGS

First Reading – Moses accordingly made a bronze serpent and mounted it on a pole, and whenever anyone who had been bitten by a serpent looked at the bronze serpent, he lived. (Numbers 21:4-9).
Psalm – Do not forget the works of the Lord (Psalm 78).

Second Reading – God greatly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend...and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord... (Philippians 2:6-11).

Gospel – And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life. (John 3:13-17)

Sunday Collection
September 6 - 7

Weekly Need: \$ 5,000.00
First Collection \$ 3,121.07
Over/Under \$ 1,878.93

Archdiocese for Military \$ 915.00

Mass Intentions
† Denotes deceased – (L) Living

Monday 8:30 am	September 15 David Gemignani (L) † Giovanni Rossi
Tuesday 8:30 am	September 16 † Paul, † Theresa and † Joe Vella † Filomena & † Emanuel Scerri
Wednesday 8:30 am	September 17 John Padua (L)
Thursday 8:30 am	September 18 † Lina Garbarino
Friday 8:30 am	September 19 † Jose Padilla † Margaret Colvig
Saturday 8:30 am	September 20 Garibaldi Family Living and Deceased
4:30 pm Sunday 8:30 am 10:30 am	September 21 People of the Parish † Vicente Gayaban † Timoteo B. Nacor Jr. Maltese Society

ON THE HORIZON AT ST. ELIZABETH

●**Catechetical Sunday**
Sunday, September 21st. 8:30 am mass.
●**Blessing of Animals**
Sunday, October 5th after 10:30 am mass
●**AAA 1.4% Luncheon**
Sunday, noon ~ October 26th. Invitations have been mailed. Please RSVP promptly.

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday, 9/14	Exaltation of the Cross
Monday, 9/15	Our Lady of Sorrows
Tuesday, 9/16	Ss. Cornelius and Cyprian
Wednesday, 9/17	St. Robert Bellarmine
	St. Hildegard of Bingen
Friday, 9/19	St. Januarius
Saturday, 9/20	Ss. Andrew Kim Tae-gŏn and Paul Chŏng Ha-sang and Companions



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



We congratulate Violet Lexi Armenta Rivas, who was baptized at St. Elizabeth Church on September 6, 2025.

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**

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NNUAL 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)