

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

February 9, 2025 The Fifth 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
Laurie Digneo	Faith Formation Coordinator

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 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

Benediction and Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena: Wednesdays after the 8:30 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.



From the Pastor's Desktop

A Message from Charles Puthota
February 9, 2025

Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

Archdiocesan Annual Appeal (AAA) 2025: I'm giving you a heads-up on the letter I'm putting in the mail on February 11 for each parishioner of St. Elizabeth about this year's concerted campaign to raise \$36,292 in support of the Archdiocesan ministries. Next weekend, February 15-16, at Masses I'll be speaking about AAA and officially launching our annual drive. I humbly seek your support in making this drive successful as quickly as possible. Thank you for supporting it whole heartedly the last four years and I'm hoping this year too you will support it with the same enthusiasm and fervor.

Parish Lenten Retreat on Saturday, March 22: As you know, Lent starts with Ash Wednesday on March 05. As part of our Lenten practices and observances, I'll be giving a retreat for half a day on Saturday March 22. It will start with the 8:30 a.m. Mass, followed by light breakfast and coffee in Cantwell Hall. Then there will be three sessions with intervals in between. It will end with lunch about 1:00 p.m. Registration fee: \$15. Registration forms will be made available next week.

Word of God, Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time: Isaiah has an awesome vision of God in the temple which leads him to the deep realization of his sinfulness. The angel of God purifies him. God's grace has now claimed him to be his prophet, and Isaiah says: "Here I am, send me."

Paul includes himself among those who met the Risen Christ. Acknowledging that he persecuted the church, Paul calls himself "the least of the apostles, not fit to be called an apostle." He quickly adds though: "But by the grace of God I am who I am, and his grace to me has not been ineffective." Where is Paul the fierce persecutor of the church? He is now the most ardent promoter of the same church.

At Jesus' word, Peter puts out into the deep, after a night's failed effort. The abundance of fish fills him with the divine presence of Jesus. Deeply aware of his unworthiness, he says, "Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man." But Jesus has other plans for him. Peter now has to become the catcher of people for the Kingdom of God.

A pattern emerges in these accounts. With a personal experience of God in Jesus, we become acutely aware of our sinfulness, but God calls us all the same, graces us, and uses us for his work. Charles C. Morrison says, "The Christian Church is a society of sinners. It is the only society in the world in which membership is based upon a single qualification: that the candidate be unworthy of membership."

The Word of God this Sunday is a perfect vocation promotion material. The Church needs young women and men for God's service in religious life and priesthood. In the wake of their personal encounter of Jesus, their rising sense of sinfulness will not be an insurmountable obstacle. Jesus has the power to purify and grace them. But they have to rise to the occasion and say, "Here I am, Lord. Send me."

A Story to Ponder: A man went to see a psychiatrist and said that every night he was visited by a twelve-foot dragon with three heads. He was a nervous wreck, could not sleep at all and was on the verge of total collapse. He had even thought of suicide. "I think I can help you," said the psychiatrist, "but I must warn you that it will take a year or two and will cost three thousand dollars." "Three thousand dollars!" the man exclaimed. "Forget it! I'll just go home and make friends with it."

A Prayer of St. Thomas Aquinas: Grant me grace, O merciful God, to desire ardently all that is pleasing to You, to examine it prudently, to acknowledge it truthfully, and to accomplish it perfectly, for the praise and glory of Your name. Amen.

Oscar Wilde Quotes: 1. "To live is the rarest thing in the world. Most people exist, that is all." 2. "Always forgive your enemies; nothing annoys them so much." 3. "Be yourself; everyone is already taken." 4. "We are all in the gutter, but some of us are looking at the stars." 5. "A good friend will always stab you in the front." 6. "Every saint has a past, and every sinner has a future." 7. "I am not young enough to know everything." 8. "Hearts are made to be broken." 9. "The very essence of romance is uncertainty." 10. "Who, being loved, is poor?"

Humor: 1. **The Preacher and the Bus Driver:** A bus driver and a preacher arrive at the gates of heaven. St. Peter welcomes them both but gives the bus driver a higher place in heaven. The preacher protests, "Why does he get a better spot than me? I devoted my life to God!" St. Peter replies, "Reverend, when you preached, people slept. When he drove, people prayed." 2. **The Confession Surprise:** A man goes to confession and says, "Bless me, Father, for I have sinned. I stole a rope." The priest asks, "And what did you do with the rope?" The man replies, "Well, Father... there was a cow attached to it." 3. **God Alone Knows:** The smart-alec seminarian thought he had pulled a good one. On the final exam, which asked students to delve into the complexities of theology, he simply wrote: "Only God knows the answers to these questions!" Grading the paper, the professor wrote, "Nice proposition. If true, God gets 100. You get a 0."

Your Friend and Pastor,

Father Charles Puthota

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time February 9, 2025

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?" "Here I am, "I said, "send me!"
— *Isaiah 6:8*



GOD'S SUMMONS

Confronted with God's power and majesty, the first response of the prophet Isaiah was to acknowledge his sinfulness. "Woe is me, I am doomed! For I am a man of unclean lips," he said aloud. Likewise, with his empty fishing nets dramatically filled at Jesus' instruction, Peter fell to his knees and cried out, "Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man."

Next, Peter got up. He docked his boats then left to follow Jesus. Isaiah also had a dramatic change of heart. When he heard the Lord say, "Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?" Isaiah answered, "Here I am, send me."

We are summoned daily by the Risen Lord. We are reminded of the saving power of the gospel and know in our heart of hearts that, as St. Paul wrote, believing in anything else won't lead to anything.

What will it take for you to move past your sinfulness? What will it take for you to get off your knees? What will it take for you to bring to dock what is unimportant and to accept your call to be God's messenger?
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TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — Isaiah is called to be a messenger for the Lord and responds, "Send me!" (Isaiah 6:1-2a, 3-8)

Psalms — In the sight of the angels I will sing your praises, Lord (Psalm 138).

Second Reading — Paul reminds us of the gospel he preached through which we are saved, if we believe it (1 Corinthians 15:1-11 [3-8, 11]).

Gospel — Jesus directs Simon to take his boat into deep water for a miraculous catch of fish. (Luke 5:1-11).
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.

Saturday/Sunday Collection February 1 - 2

Weekly Need: \$ 5,000.00
First Collection \$ 2,470.00
Faith Formation \$ 593.00
Over/Under \$ 1,937.00

Mass Intentions † Denotes deceased – (L) Living

Monday 8:30 am	February 10 † Giuseppe Moretto
Tuesday 8:30 am	February 11 † Jessiah Anthony Sheridan
Wednesday 8:30 am	February 12 † Leo Prusso
Thursday 8:30 am	February 13 † Ponchito Aguiluz
Friday 8:30 am	February 14 † Irene Hebert
Saturday 8:30 am	February 15 Gotauco Family (L)
4:30 pm	St. Paul Shipwreck Festa
Sunday 8:30 am	February 16 People of the Parish
10:30 am	Maltese Society

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday, 9/10	Gn 1:1-19; Ps 104:1-2a, 5-6, 10, 12, 24, 35c; Mk 6:53-56
Tuesday 9/11	Gn 1:20 — 2:4a; Ps 8:4-9; Mk 7:1-13
Wednesday, 9/12	Gn 2:4b-9, 15-17; Ps 104:1-2a, 27-28, 9bc-30; Mk 7:14-23
Thursday, 9/13	Gn 2:18-25; Ps 128:1-5; Mk 7:24-30
Friday, 9/14	Gn 3:1-8; Ps 32:1-2, 5-7; Mk 7:31-37
Saturday, 9/15	Gn 3:9-24; Ps 90:2-4abc, 5-6, 12-13; Mk 8:1-10
Sunday, 9/16	Jer 17:5-8; Ps 1:1-4, 6; 1 Cor 15:12, 16-20; Lk 6:17, 20-26

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday 9/9	5 th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Monday, 9/10	St. Scholastica
Tuesday, 9/11	Our Lady of Lourdes
Friday, 9/14	Ss. Cyril and Methodius, Bishop

On The Horizon at St. Elizabeth

● **St. Paul of the Shipwreck Festa Mass**
Saturday, February 15th , 4:30 pm Mass.

● **Archdiocesan Annual Appeal**
Saturday February 15th and
Sunday, February 16th
2025 Archdiocesan Appeal launch.

● **Presidents Day**
Monday, February 17th.
The parish office is closed.

● **Ash Wednesday**
Wednesday, March 5th.
Masses are at 8:30 am and 6:00 pm.

● **Lenten Retreat**
Saturday, March 22nd.

2025 Mass Book is now open

Please follow the guidelines below
when sending in your Mass requests.

Due to the large volume of Mass requests and in order to be fair to the needs of all our parishioners, the following is the Mass Book policy as set by Father Charles Puthota:

All Masses including the Saturday Vigil Mass and Sunday Mass (10:30 am), will be accepting two intentions per Mass. The Sunday 8:30 am Mass is designated for the People of the Parish only.

We do not accept individual Mass Intentions for holidays or holy days including the following: Ash Wednesday, Easter, Mother's Day, Father's Day, All Saints All Souls, Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve and Christmas. The intentions will be for the entire St. Elizabeth Community.

Masses cannot be reserved by phone.

Requests must be submitted in writing or by email (preferred): stelizabethchurchsf@gmail.com

Not all dates are available for Mass Intentions, so we ask that you be prepared with alternate dates and times. **If your requested date is not available an alternate date will be chosen for you.**

Annual Wedding Anniversary Mass at St. Mary of the Assumption Cathedral

Saturday, Feb. 22, 2025, 10:00am
1111 Gough Street, San Francisco

Principal Celebrant: His Excellency
Salvatore J. Cordileone

Registration required
www.anniversarymass.info
or call 415-614-5574

Please register by: February 14, 2025

All sacramentally married couples in the Archdiocese are invited to celebrate Mass with Archbishop Cordileone, followed by a reception. Couples celebrating "5-year anniversaries" (5, 10, 15, 20...) will receive special recognition. Donation is 20/couple.

ALTAR FLOWERS

If you are interested in donating flowers for the high altar in celebration of a special occasion, birthday, anniversary and more, please see the sign-up sheet in the front of church. Please see a sacristan before or after mass for more information.

Pray for our Dear Departed



Sr. Anne Kelley, RGS
Sisters of the Good Shepherd

"Eternal Rest Grant unto Them, O Lord . . ."