

ST. ELIZABETH CHURCH

Established 1912 / Present Church dedicated 1962

Mailing Address: 449 Holyoke Street, S.F. CA 94134 **Phone:** 415-468-0820

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January 11, 2026 The Baptism of the Lord



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
Office: 415-468-0820 Fax: 415-468-1457

Parish Office Hours

Monday through Thursday
8:30 am to 12:00 pm

Closed Fridays

Parish Staff

Suzanne Brachna	Admin Assistant
Fred Spence	Maintenance
Laurie Digneo	Faith Formation

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).

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

Call the Parish Office for information.

Sacrament of Marriage

Call the Parish Office six months before the desired date.

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



From the Pastor's Desktop

A Message from
Father Charles Puthota
January 11, 2026

Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

Baptism of the Lord: Following the celebrations of Christmas, the Holy Family, and the Epiphany, we reach a pivotal moment: the Baptism of the Lord. This event marks the beginning of Jesus' public ministry. As He emerges from the Jordan, the heavens open, the Holy Spirit descends like a dove, and the Father declares, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." What was hidden in Bethlehem is now revealed at the Jordan.

This feast is rich in meaning and offers five profound insights for our own spiritual journey. 1. **Divine Guidance:** Jesus' baptism reveals a life lived in complete openness to the Spirit. He does not act on his own initiative but allows himself to be led by the Father's will. Immediately after this moment, the Spirit will guide him into the desert and onward into his mission. For us, this feast is a reminder to pause and ask: Whose voice guides my decisions? In prayer, Scripture, and the quiet movements of interiority, the same Spirit continues to lead us today. 2. **Shared Humanity:** Jesus did not need baptism for repentance, yet he willingly stepped into the waters with sinners. By doing so, he fully embraced our human condition—its weakness, longings, and existential angst. Standing shoulder to shoulder with humanity, he sanctified our struggles and assured us that God meets us precisely where we are. 3. **Purpose and Mission:** At the Jordan, Jesus is publicly anointed for his mission: to proclaim good news to the poor, freedom to captives, and sight to the blind. This anointing reminds us that baptism is not merely a private blessing but a sending forth. Each of us has a unique role in God's saving work, whether in our families, workplaces, or communities. 4. **Beloved Identity:** The Father's words—"You are my beloved Son"—are spoken before Jesus performs any miracle or preaches a single sermon. Love comes first. In baptism, we receive the same identity. God delights in us not because of our achievements but because we belong to him. We are loved and cherished by God. This truth frees us from discouragement and restores hope. 5. **Renewal of Grace:** Our baptism marked the beginning of a lifelong journey toward holiness. This feast invites us to renew that grace, to rekindle faith, and to live more consciously as baptized missionary disciples. As we move forward, let us remember that when Jesus lives at the center of our lives, we are given the strength and grace to face every challenge with trust.

Ordinary Time Begins: Spirituality of the Ordinary Time in the Liturgical Year --- Focus on Jesus: The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord celebrated on January 11

brings the Christmas season to a close. The liturgical "ordinary time" begins from January 12 through February 17. Then the season of Lent begins February 18 with Ash Wednesday. The Ordinary Time in the liturgical calendar means that this time is outside the special seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter. Though called ordinary, it is still a time when we walk with Jesus and meditate on his teachings, healings, skirmishes with the powers of evil, and the proclamation of the Kingdom in word and deed. Let's keep asking the basic questions: who is Jesus to me in my present stage of life? What does he say to me? What do I speak to him about? How does he enter my thoughts, feelings, words, and deeds? How does he relate to my joys and sorrows, my hopes and disappointments? Searching for answers to these fundamental Christological and existential questions would lead us to the discovery of meaning and purpose for our lives now and in the ultimate sense.

New Year Quotes: "For last year's words belong to last year's language, and next year's words await another voice. And to make an end is to make a beginning." — T.S. Eliot. "We will open the book. Its pages are blank. We are going to put words on them ourselves. The book is called Opportunity and its first chapter is New Year's Day." — Edith Lovejoy Pierce "May all your troubles last as long as your New Year's resolutions!" — Joey Adams. "Write it on your heart that every day is the best day in the year." — Ralph Waldo Emerson. "Come, gentlemen, I hope we shall drink down all unkindness." — William Shakespeare. "Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving." — Albert Einstein.

Think About It: A spiritual master was asked: "How does one find God in action?" He replied: "By loving the action wholeheartedly, regardless of the fruit it brings." When this proved somewhat difficult for the disciples, he told them of a man who bought a painting for a million dollars, then framed the cancelled check. "What he really loved was not art, but status," said the Master.

New Year Jokes: 1. A man who had too much to drink decides to walk home on New Year's Eve. A police officer stopped the man and asked where he was going. "I'm on my way to a lecture," the man replied. The cop scoffed, "Who gives lectures on New Year's Eve?" The man answered: "My wife." 2. A woman took an afternoon nap on New Year's Eve. When she woke up, she told her husband, "I just dreamed that you gave me a diamond ring for a New Year's present. What do you think it all means?" He replied, "Aha, you'll know tonight!" At midnight, her husband handed her a small gift-wrapped present. Excited, she opened it quickly, but was even more surprised: In it was a book titled "The Meaning of Dreams."

Wishes and prayers for the Christmas blessings to accompany you every day of the New Year 2026,

Your Friend and Pastor, Father Charles Puthota

The Baptism of the Lord

January 11, 2026

He saved us through the bath of rebirth
and renewal by the Holy Spirit.

— *Titus 3:5*



CALLED TO SERVE

For many weeks now, we have been celebrating the appearance of the divine presence in human form. As a child, he came to Mary and Joseph, was seen by the shepherds, and then by some wandering magi from the East. Today we celebrate another showing, later in time, to a group gathered at the Jordan River.

John hesitated to baptize Jesus, whom he recognized as "one mightier than I." But he did as Jesus asked, and the "Holy Spirit descended" and heaven's voice spoke to Jesus, "You are my beloved Son." Jesus was beginning his public life of teaching and service. Soon he would start calling others to join him.

Peter was one of the first to be called by Jesus. In today's second reading, he announces the heart of the message, "peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all." Peter was called, and you and I are called to spread that message and to serve God's word.

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TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — Isaiah speaks of the Servant whom the Lord upholds; he shall bring forth justice to the nations
(Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7).

Psalm — The Lord will bless his people with peace
(Psalm 29).

Second Reading — Jesus was anointed by God with the Holy Spirit; he went out healing and doing good
(Acts 10:34-38).

Gospel — A voice comes from heaven proclaiming Jesus as the beloved Son, with whom God is well pleased (Mt 3:13-17).

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

January 3 – 4, 2026

Weekly Need:	\$ 5,000.00
First Collection	\$ 3,409.00
Faith Formation	\$ 615.00
Over/Under	\$ 976.00

Solemnity of Mary **\$ 1,298.00**

Mass Intentions

† Denotes deceased – (L) Living

Monday

8:30 am

Tuesday

8:30 am

Wednesday

8:30 am

Thursday

8:30 am

Friday

8:30 am

Saturday

8:30 am

4:30 pm

Sunday

8:30 am

10:30 am

January 12

† Bruna and † Italo
DeRosa

January 13

† Augustine Sanchez

January 14

Jun and Minnie
Monsanto (L)

January 15

Alma Topasna (L)

January 16

Jun Madriaga (L)

January 17

† Mary Rita Choy
Garibaldi Family Living
and Deceased
Dorothy Kern (L)

January 18

People of the Parish
Maltese Society

ON THE HORIZON AT ST. ELIZABETH

• Santa Nino de Cebu

Sunday, January 18, 2026, 10:30 am mass

• Santa Nino de Cebu – Bay Area

Sunday, January 25, 2026, 2:00 pm mass

• Parish Office will be closed:

January 19, 2026 Martin Luther King Jr Day
February 16, 2026 President's Day

• Archdiocesan Annual Appeal 2026

Launches on March 1st

• Ash Wednesday

February 18, 2026

• Parish Lenten Retreat

Saturday, February 28, 2026

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday, 1/11

Monday, 1/12

Tuesday, 1/13

Saturday, 1/17

The Baptism of the Lord

First Week in Ordinary Time

St. Hilary, Bishop and Doctor
of the Church

St. Anthony, Abbot



Walk for Life West Coast 2026

Join fellow Catholics and Pro-Lifers from all over California and beyond as we stand up for the littlest among us at the 22nd Annual Walk for Life West Coast in San Francisco on January 24, 2026. There will be Mass at 9:30 am celebrated by Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone at St. Mary's Cathedral. The rally begins at 12:30 pm in San Francisco's Civic Center Plaza, and the Walk, down the city's Market Street, begins at 1:30 pm. For more information visit

www.walkforlifewc.com or call 415-658-1793.

END OF YEAR STATEMENTS

As the calendar year comes to an end for 2025, please contact the parish office in writing or email if you need a year-end statement of your donations.

We can provide statements to parishioners who are registered and have donated using Sunday Envelopes.

Please note any donations received after December 31, 2025 will be credited for 2026.

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 the Church. Please see a sacristan before or after mass for more information.



Christmas Dinner with Maltese Society



Simbang Gabi 2025 Coordinators
Gloria Trinidad,
May Devera &
Beth Pasco



Simbang Gabi 2025