

ST. ELIZABETH CHURCH

Established 1912 / Present Church dedicated 1962

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

Website: www.stelizabethsf.org Email: stelizabethchurchsf@gmail.com

January 18, 2026 The 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
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
Sandra Mehrwein	Secretary
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 18, 2026

Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

Word of God: 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, year A: In the Second Sunday of Ordinary Time the liturgy transitions from the Christmas season into the public mission of Christ. The readings center on the theme of vocation and witness, showing us that our identity is found in pointing others toward the Lord. First Reading (Isaiah 49:3, 5-6): The Prophet Isaiah describes the "Servant of the Lord" who is called from the womb. God declares that being a savior for Israel is "too little"; the Servant must be a "light to the nations" so that salvation reaches the ends of the earth. Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 40): We respond with, "Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will." This reflects the internal disposition of a disciple—replacing ritual sacrifice with an "open ear" and a heart ready for service. Gospel (John 1:29-34): John the Baptist sees Jesus and proclaims, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world." John testifies that he recognized Jesus because he saw the Spirit descend and remain upon Him.

Ordinary time is not "plain" time; it is "ordered" time, where we learn to follow Jesus in the everyday. 1. Recognition through Prayer: John the Baptist did not know Jesus' true identity by sight alone, but through the Spirit. We, too, must cultivate a prayerful "eye of the soul" to recognize Christ's presence in our neighbors and in the mundane moments of our lives. 2. The Humility to "Decrease": John's greatness lay in his willingness to step aside. He defines his entire life by his relationship to the "One who ranks ahead of me." We are called to live with that same humility, using our talents not for self-glory, but to shine God's light into the world's dark corners. As we begin this season, let us ask: To whom am I being sent to say, "Behold, the Lamb of God"?

Monday January 19: Martin Luther, Jr's Birthday: Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday is observed as a U.S. federal holiday on Monday, January 19, 2026, the third Monday of January, honoring his January 15 birth. On this day, federal offices and many schools and workplaces close in national recognition. For Catholics, the occasion invites prayerful reflection on Dr. King's life through the light of the Gospel. Grounded in Scripture and inspired by Jesus' command to love one's enemies, Dr. King witnessed to justice, peace, and the inviolable dignity of every human person. His commitment to nonviolence mirrors Christ's own way of the cross, where love overcomes hatred and forgiveness dispels fear. Proclaiming that all are created in God's image, he challenged racism and exclusion with courage and hope. His vision of equality and solidarity resonates deeply with Catholic social teaching on the common good. Honoring his birthday calls us not only to remember his words, but to imitate his faith-filled pursuit of justice and peace.

Wednesday, January 21, Feast of St. Agnes, Virgin and Martyr: On the Feast of St. Agnes, we remember a young Roman martyr of the early fourth century, killed during the persecution of Emperor Diocletian around AD 304. According to ancient tradition, Agnes refused marriage because she had consecrated her life to Christ. Though threatened with shame and death, she remained steadfast, confessing Christ with remarkable courage. Her witness was so powerful that St. Ambrose and St. Augustine praised her faith in their writings. St. Agnes reminds us that true strength flows from fidelity to God. Her life challenges us to remain faithful to Christ amid trials, trusting that love is stronger than fear and death.

Saturday, January 24, Feast of St. Francis de Sales, Bishop and Doctor of the Church: On the Feast of St. Francis de Sales, we honor a gentle saint and great teacher of the faith. Born in 1567 in Savoy, he lived during the turmoil of the Protestant Reformation. As Bishop of Geneva, he patiently brought many back to the Church not by argument alone, but through kindness, clarity, and charity. Unable to preach publicly, he wrote pamphlets and slipped them under doors—an early use of the media for evangelization. Declared a Doctor of the Church, St. Francis de Sales teaches us that holiness is possible in everyday life and that hearts are won more by love than by force.

A Story to Ponder: Who is the real menace?: The Ministry of Agriculture decreed that sparrows were a menace to crops and should be exterminated. When this was done, hordes of insects that the sparrows would have eaten descended on the harvest and began to ravage the crops, whereupon the Ministry of Agriculture came up with the idea of costly pesticides. The pesticides made the food expensive. They also made it a hazard to health. Too late it was discovered that it was the sparrows who, through feeding on the crops, managed to keep the food wholesome and inexpensive.

New Year Quotes: "Tomorrow is the first blank page of a 365-page book. Write a good one." — Brad Paisley. "Be always at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors, and let each new year find you a better man." — Benjamin Franklin. "We will open the book. Its pages are blank. We are going to put words on them ourselves." — Edith Lovejoy Pierce. "Year's end is neither an end nor a beginning but a going on." — Hal Borland

Humor: During a Sunday service, the pastor asked the congregation for their intentions. There were the usual requests to pray for sick people and the acknowledgments for those who helped when a parishioner died. The somber mood was broken when the last intention was heard. A woman stood up and said, "My granddaughter turned 16 this week and received her driver's license. Let us pray for us all."

Your Friend and Pastor,

Father Charles Puthota

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 18, 2026

I will make you a light to the nations,
that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.
— *Isaiah 49:6b*



THREE MISSIONS

Today we begin with one of the “servant songs” from the book of Isaiah, a song prophetic of Jesus’ ministry of service. Isaiah’s mission is not only to bring back the children of Jacob to gather in Israel; it is also to be “a light to the nations” (Isaiah 49:6). Jesus Christ, as servant, will be the fulfillment of the ancient prophecy and the basis of the new.

This Sunday we begin a series of readings from Paul’s letter to the Corinthians. Here Paul is identified by his mission: he is an apostle of Jesus Christ. The church at Corinth to whom he addresses this letter is also identified: it is part of the universal church of God. The Corinthians are called to holiness, as are all Christians.

Though the feast of the Baptism of the Lord was celebrated last Monday, today’s Gospel also alludes to the importance of that event. The reading emphasizes that Jesus “outranks” John: his baptism in the Spirit will eradicate sin. Jesus accepts John’s baptism, even though it is he himself who is the Lamb of God.

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TODAY’S READINGS

First Reading — The glory of the Lord shows through Israel, a light to all nations, that salvation may reach to the ends of the earth (Isaiah 49:3, 5-6).

Psalms — Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will (Psalm 40).

Second Reading — All those who call upon the name of the Lord are called to be holy (1 Corinthians 1:1-3).

Gospel — John the Baptist testifies: The one who comes after me, on whom the Spirit comes down and remains, is the Son of God (John 1:29-34).

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 10 – 11, 2026

Weekly Need:	\$ 5,000.00
First Collection	\$ 2,224.00
Parish Maintenance	\$ 732.00
Over/Under	\$ 2,044.00
Donation	\$ 1,000.00

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 19

† Kristy Tanner

January 20

† Lorenza Tanquilut

† Aurora T. Mallari

January 21

† Nikko Layug

January 22

† James O’Sullivan Sr.

† Corazon Sunga

January 23

Cesar and Marilyn

Amorado (L)

January 24

† Rodolfo C. Trinidad

† Oscar and † Flo Picazo

† Paul, † Theresa and

† Joseph Vella

† Filomena and † Emanuel

Scerri

January 25

People of the Parish

† Francisca Fabia

† Mary Rita Choy

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, 1/18

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Tuesday, 1/20

St. Fabian, St. Sebastian

Wednesday, 1/21

St. Agnes

Friday, 1/23

St. Vincent, St. Marianne

Cope

Saturday, 1/24

St. Francis De Sales



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.

Pray for our Dear Departed



Luisa Aguirre Acevedo
and
Eduardo Ifurung

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

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.

ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

Wedding Anniversary Mass

Saturday, February 21, 2026 10:00AM
Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption
1100 Gough Street, San Francisco
Register at www.sfarch.org/anniversarymass
Donation requested \$20/couple

Diaconate Formation Informational Evenings

Wednesday, January 21, 2026 7PM-9PM
St. Mark Parish
Contact: Deacon Fred Totah (415) 614-5504
Email: totah.fred@sfarch.org
For men considering serving the Church as Permanent Deacons.

WELCOME TO ST. ELIZABETH PARISH COMMUNITY

We extend our hands and hearts to you here celebrating with us, whether long-time or newly arrived in our parish. We thank God that you are with us. If you are not registered or have changes to your registration, please fill in the form and submit it to the office. Check here to receive Sunday envelopes _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Zip: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____