

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 25, 2026 The 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
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 25, 2026

Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

Word of God: 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A: In today's Gospel, we witness the official "launch" of Jesus' public ministry. After the arrest of John the Baptist, Jesus doesn't retreat in fear; instead, he moves into the heart of "the land of gloom." By settling in Capernaum—the region of Zebulun and Naphtali—Jesus fulfills Isaiah's prophecy: *"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light."*

Jesus' first message is direct: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." This isn't just a call to feel sorry for sins; the Greek word *metanoia* implies a total "change of mind"—a 180-degree turn in how we see the world. We see the immediate fruit of this repentance in Peter, Andrew, James, and John. When Jesus says, "Follow me," they don't ask for a business plan or a salary range. They immediately leave their nets. Their "nets" represent their security, their identity, and their past. To follow the Light, they had to let go of the shore.

St. Paul, in our second reading, reminds us that this Light is meant to unite us, not divide us. He chastises the Corinthians for breaking into factions. When we focus on our "nets"—our personal preferences, politics, or egos—we create darkness. When we focus on the Call, we find unity. Today, Jesus is walking along the "shore" of your life—in your office, your home, or your struggles. He is the Light that dispels the gloom of our anxiety and the "yoke" of our burdens. What "nets" is He asking you to drop today so that you can walk more freely in His light?

Catholic Quotes for the New Year: St. Augustine of Hippo: "Let us sing a new song—not with our lips, but with our lives." St. John Henry Newman: "We shall have no success in life without self-denial and discipline, and this every new beginning especially demands." St. Teresa of Avila: "Every time we begin again, we are closer to God." St. John Paul II: "Do not abandon yourselves to despair. We are the Easter people and 'Alleluia' is our song." Pope Benedict XVI: "Time is a gift entrusted to us, to be used wisely and responsibly." Pope Francis: "God is the God of new beginnings. He always gives us another chance." Thomas Merton: "Every moment and every event of every man's life on earth plants something in his soul."

Wednesday, January 28, Feast of St. Thomas Aquinas, Priest and Doctor of the Church: On the Feast of St. Thomas Aquinas, the Church honors one of her greatest minds and a humble servant of truth. Born in 1225 into a noble family in Italy, Thomas became a Dominican friar against his family's wishes and devoted his life to the study of God. Living in the high age of **Scholasticism**, he helped

shape a method that sought harmony between **faith and reason**, drawing deeply from Scripture, the Fathers of the Church, and the newly rediscovered philosophy of Aristotle. In the universities of Paris and Naples, Thomas taught that reason, when rightly used, does not threaten faith but serves it. His masterwork, the *Summa Theologiae*, reflects the scholastic method: precise questions, careful objections, reasoned responses, and clear conclusions. Yet Thomas never reduced theology to intellectual exercise alone. For him, study was prayer, and truth led to worship. Near the end of his life, after a profound mystical experience, he called his writings "straw" compared to the reality of God. St. Thomas reminds us that learning is meant to deepen love, and that the ultimate goal of all knowledge is not argument, but holiness.

Saturday, January 31, Feast of St. John Bosco, Founder of the Salesian Order: On the Feast of St. John Bosco, we honor a 19th-century priest whose life transformed the care of youth. Born in 1815 in Castelnovo d'Asti, Italy, John Bosco grew up during the social upheavals of the Industrial Revolution, when poverty, child labor, and moral neglect threatened many children. Ordained in 1841, he ministered tirelessly in Turin, opening oratories, schools, and workshops to educate and protect young people. In 1859, he founded the **Salesians of Don Bosco**, inspired by St. Francis de Sales' gentle approach, to continue his work. Using reason, religion, and loving kindness, he showed that faith and joy could guide hearts. St. John Bosco's witness teaches us that patience, creativity, and compassionate care can bring God's light to the most vulnerable, forming not only minds but souls for Christ.

Pilgrimage to Northern Ireland: I'll be spiritual director to a pilgrimage to Northern Ireland for 12 days from August 21 through September 1, 2026. Please see more information on the last page of the bulletin. If you are interested in joining, please contact 206 Tours at 800-206-8687. Email: sales@206tours.com

Archdiocesan Annual Appeal 2026: We'll be officially launching AAA 2026 at Masses on the weekend of March 1. The amount to be raised is \$34,588. Can you consider donating \$500, which is 1.4% of the total amount? I'll be writing a letter to each one of you in the next few weeks. I humbly ask again for your generosity and collaboration.

Holy Spirit Prayer of Saint Augustine (354-430): "Breathe in me, O Holy Spirit, That my thoughts may all be holy. Act in me, O Holy Spirit, That my work, too, may be holy. Draw my heart, O Holy Spirit, That I love but what is holy. Strengthen me, O Holy Spirit, To defend all that is holy. Guard me, then, O Holy Spirit, That I always may be holy."

Humor: The Logic of a Child: A Sunday school teacher was testing the children's knowledge of the Bible and asked, "Does anyone know why Joseph and Mary took Jesus with them to Jerusalem?" A small boy in the front row raised his hand and answered with total confidence, "I know! Because they couldn't get a babysitter."

Your Friend and Pastor,
Father Charles Puthota

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 25, 2026

Wait for the LORD with courage;
be stouthearted, and wait for the LORD.

— Psalm 27:14



LIBERATION AND REFORM

While you might have to reach for an atlas to determine that Isaiah is speaking about Galilee, today's first reading (part of which was read at Christmas) is prophetic of Jesus' future ministry in that province. The light that brings salvation and rejoicing is, ultimately, Christ. Liberation is the theme: liberation from both ignorance ("darkness") and sin (the "yoke").

As Isaiah identifies a place, so Paul describes an attitude: the attitude that develops, even among good people, of equating their own will with the common good. This always brings dissension, and so it has done in Corinth. Paul will not allow this; we are all members of "Christ's party." The gospel is not to divide us.

Matthew quotes from Isaiah in today's Gospel, presenting Jesus as the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecies. The theme is "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matthew 4:17). To spread this message, Jesus begins to select disciples, four of whom we meet today: Peter, Andrew, James, and John.

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TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — The burdens that were once laid upon the people have been vanquished (Isaiah 8:23 — 9:3).

Psalm — The Lord is my light and my salvation (Psalm 27).

Second Reading — Paul exhorts the believers at Corinth: As there is one Christ, so too must there be no divisions among you. (1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17).

Gospel — After calling his first disciples, Jesus goes throughout Galilee teaching, proclaiming the gospel, and curing the people (Matthew 4:12-23 [12-17]).

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 17 – 18, 2026

Weekly Need:	\$ 5,000.00
First Collection	\$ 2,708.07
Church Environment	\$ 733.00
Over/Under	\$ 1,558.93
Donation	\$ 250.00

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 26

† Melody Descalzo

January 27

Arturo and Linda Monsanto (L)

† Oscar T. Mallari

January 28

† Manolito and † Teresita

Amorado

January 29

Amelia Dunbar (L)

† Edson Escoto

January 30

Cora Pilare (L)

Good shepherd Guild and its benefactors, living and deceased

January 31

Moises and Andres

Oropeza (L)

Gloria Trinidad (L)

† Ricardo Tagle

February 1

People of the Parish

Arturo Padilla (L)

ON THE HORIZON AT ST. ELIZABETH

•Santa Nino de Cebu – Bay Area

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

•Parish Office will be closed:

Monday, February 16, 2026 President's Day

Monday, April 6, 2026

•Archdiocesan Annual Appeal 2026

Launches on March 1st

•Ash Wednesday

February 18, 2026

•Parish Lenten Retreat

Saturday, February 28, 2026

•Easter

Sunday, April 5, 2026

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday, 1/25

Monday, 1/26

Tuesday, 1/27

Wednesday, 1/28

Saturday, 1/31

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sts. Timothy & Titus

St. Angela Merici

St. Thomas Aquinas

St. John Bosco



Northern Ireland Pilgrimage 2026

Spiritual Director: Fr. Charles Puthota, Ph.D.

August 21 – September 1, 2026 – 12 Days

St. Patrick succeeded in bringing Catholicism to Ireland, and in time, the whole country converted from their pagan gods to the one true God. Although a small country, Ireland has played a large role in saving and bringing Christianity throughout the world. During the early Dark Ages, the Irish monasteries preserved Western writings while Europe remained in darkness. But as the Catholic country remained solidly Catholic, the Irish spread the faith to all corners of the world.

Locations: Dublin – Boyne Valley –

Monasterboice – Armagh – Downpatrick –

Belfast – Giants Causeway – Derry – Sligo –

Knock – Westport – Ballinubber Abbey –

Connemara – Galway – Aran Islands – Cliffs of Moher

For more information:

<https://www.206tours.com/cms/frputhota/ireland/>

Pray for our Dear Departed



Lourdes A. Villanueva

“Eternal Rest Grant unto Them, O Lord . . .”

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

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.

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 _____