

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 15, 2026 The Sixth 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, San Francisco, CA 94134
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
February 15, 2026

Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

Ash Wednesday: February 18. Mass times: 8:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday, February 18: Let's get spiritually and psychologically ready for the season of Lent. How could this season of Lent help us as we try to nourish and nurture our body, mind, heart, and spirit? How could we rearrange our priorities and values according to the mind and heart of Jesus Christ?

Abstinence and Fasting in Lent: Everyone 14 years of age and older is required to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, each Friday of Lent, and Good Friday. **Fasting:** Those 18-60 years of age are to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. On these two days the law of fasting allows only one full meal a day, but does not prohibit taking some food during the day, as long as this does not constitute another full meal. Drinking liquids during the day is permitted. Please do not neglect to take your medications.

Stations of the Cross in Lent: Starting on February 20, on Fridays, immediately following the 8:30 a.m. Mass, there will be Stations of the Cross. Please do come join these spiritual devotions. If possible, catch a daily Mass during the Lenten season. It may be inconvenient, but that's the whole point: we would do well to do some inconvenient things during Lent in order for us to reflect and pray more deeply about such things as life, love, faith, and health.

Parish Lenten Retreat: Saturday, February 28: As part of our Lenten practices and observances, I'll be giving a retreat for half a day on Saturday, February 28. 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 are available in the Church and the parish office.

Word of God: 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A: On this Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time, the Word of God invites us to go deeper—beyond appearances, beyond minimum requirements, and into the heart of discipleship. In today's Gospel from Matthew, Jesus tells us clearly: *"I have come not to abolish the law but to fulfill it."* He is not interested in relaxing God's commandments; rather, He radicalizes them by bringing them to their true purpose—conversion of the heart. Jesus contrasts external obedience with interior transformation. It is not enough, He says, simply not to kill; we must also confront the anger, resentment, and contempt that can kill relationships long before any physical harm is done. It is not enough to avoid adultery; we must purify our desires and intentions. In other words, Jesus calls us from a checklist religion to a relationship-centered faith.

The first reading from Sirach reminds us that God respects our freedom. *"Before you are life and death, good and evil, whichever you choose shall be given you."* God does not force holiness upon us. He places before us a choice: to live according to wisdom or to settle for mediocrity. Holiness is not accidental; it is a daily decision. St. Paul, in the second reading, speaks of God's wisdom—hidden, yet revealed to those who love Him. This wisdom is not the cleverness of the world but the wisdom of the Cross, where love goes to the very end. Only the Spirit can help us see and live this deeper righteousness that Jesus demands.

This Gospel can feel demanding, even unsettling. Yet it is ultimately good news. Jesus does not merely command; he empowers. He knows our hearts and offers His grace to heal them. The Lord wants more than correct behavior; he desires transformed hearts—hearts that forgive quickly, speak truthfully, love generously, and seek reconciliation. As we examine our lives today, the question is not simply, *"Have I broken the law?"* but rather, *"Have I loved as Christ loves?"* The Eucharist we celebrate strengthens us for this higher calling. Nourished by Christ himself, we are sent forth not to live by the bare minimum, but to embrace the fullness of life that flows from a heart rooted in God's love.

Archdiocesan Annual Appeal (AAA) 2026: The launch date is the weekend of March 1. The amount to be raised is: \$34,588. If you could give 1.5% which is \$500, it would make us reach the goal quickly. My letter will be mailed to you next week and the same letter will also be published in our parish bulletin. The names of donors who give \$25 and above will be carried in the bulletin for weeks starting in the first week of March.

Suscipe Prayer of St. Ignatius of Loyola: "Take, Lord, and receive all my liberty, my memory, my understanding, and my entire will, All I have and call my own. You have given all to me. To you, Lord, I return it. Everything is yours; do with it what you will. Give me only your love and your grace, that is enough for me. Amen."

Humor: 1. A guest is ordering at a restaurant. "Do you think you could bring me what that gentleman over there is having?" The waiter: "No, sir, I'm very sure he intends to eat it himself." 2. Patient: "Oh, Doctor, I'm starting to forget things." Doctor: "Since when have you had this condition?" Patient: "What condition?" 3. Wife: "Honey, soon there will be three of us here. Isn't that great?" Husband: "Oh, darling, that's simply wonderful!" Wife: "I'm so happy you feel that way! I did tell my mom you won't mind her moving in!" 4. Dentist: "You need a crown." Patient: "Finally someone who understands me." 5. "99.8% of people have problems with math." "I'm glad I'm in the remaining 1%".

Your Friend and Pastor,

Father Charles Puthota

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time February 15, 2026

What eye has not seen, and ear has not heard,
and what has not entered the human heart,
what God has prepared for those who love [God],
this God has revealed to us through the Spirit.

— 1 Corinthians 2:9-10



CHOICE

“If you choose you can keep the commandments,” Sirach tells us. God “has set before you fire and water; to whichever you choose, stretch forth your hand” (Sirach 15:15, 16). This is a great mystery: God does not control us so completely that we cannot choose our own path. We have certain boundaries, of course, but no one but we can choose our way within those boundaries.

In today’s reading from Matthew’s Gospel, Jesus reminds us of our freedom and our responsibility for our lives. He calls us to look beyond the words of the commandments, all the way to their meaning. Look beyond the adultery to the selfishness that poisons our love. Look beyond the murder to the anger that eats away at our compassion. Look beyond the perjured testimony to the lies and deception that drive our behavior.

Our vocation is to choose life for ourselves, and to choose a path through our part of the world that helps make life possible and more abundant for others as well.

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TODAY’S READINGS

First Reading — God allows us to make choices, but we are not to choose injustice or sinfulness (Sirach 15:15-20).

Psalms — Blessed are they who follow the law of the Lord! (Psalm 119).

Second Reading — God’s wisdom is mysterious and hidden (1 Corinthians 2:6-10).

Gospel — Jesus has come not to abolish but to fulfill the law and the prophets (Matthew 5:17-37).

The English translation of the Psalms Responses from *Lectionary for Mass* © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

Sunday Collection February 7 - 8, 2026

Weekly Need:	\$ 5,000.00
First Collection	\$ 2,204.00
Faith Formation	\$ 631.00
Over/Under	\$ 2,165.00

Mass Intentions

† Denotes deceased – (L) Living

Monday

8:30 am

February 16

† Tessie, † Joseph and
† Saviour Schembri

Tuesday

8:30 am

February 17

† Ray Garibaldi
† JR Brown

Wednesday

8:30 am

February 18

Ash Wednesday
Ash Wednesday

Thursday

8:30 am

February 19

Caitlyn Trinidad (L) and
Renz Valencia (L)

Friday

8:30 am

February 20

† Rita and † Stan Tanner

Saturday

8:30 am

February 21

† Albi and † Bruna Salvi
The Ruiz Family (L)

4:30 pm

† Eduardo Sunga

Sunday

8:30 am

February 22

People of the Parish

10:30 am

† Renzo and † Tina

Fontana

ON THE HORIZON AT ST. ELIZABETH

- **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
- **Maltese Society Champagne Bingo**
Sunday, March 8, 2026,
Tickets/RSVP by February 27th
- **Daylight Savings**
Sunday, March 8, 2026
- **Easter**
Sunday, April 5, 2026

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday, 2/15	6th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Tuesday, 2/17	The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order
Wednesday, 2/18	Ash Wednesday
Saturday, 2/21	St. Peter Damian

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE 2026

ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2026

8:30 am and 6:00 pm

PALM SUNDAY VIGIL, SATURDAY MARCH 28, 2026

Confessions: 4:00 pm Mass 4:30 pm

PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 29 2026

Masses: 8:30 am and 10:30 am

HOLY THURSDAY, APRIL 2 2026

No Morning Mass Morning Prayer at 8:30 am

6:30 pm – Mass of the Lord's Supper

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 9 pm

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 3 2026

No Morning Mass Morning Prayer at 8:30 am

12:00 – 12:45 pm Stations of the Cross

12:45 – 1:30 pm Reflections on the Cross

1:30 – 3:00 pm Good Friday Liturgy

HOLY SATURDAY, APRIL 4 2026

No Morning Mass Morning Prayer at 8:30 am

Confessions: 9:00 – 10:00 am

EASTER VIGIL, SATURDAY APRIL 4 2026

Mass: 8:00 pm

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 5 2026

Masses: 8:30 and 10:30 am



Fr. Charles Puthota and
Archbishop of Naga City
Most Rev. Rex Alaron

St. Elizabeth Church Lenten Retreat

Saturday, February 28, 2026 9am-1pm

**“The Second Vatican Council:
Some Reflections”**

Registration Forms in the Church lobby or Rectory
Deadline to RSVP – February 18, 2026



The Taal Basilica in Batangas
Largest Church in the Philippines



Northern Ireland Pilgrimage 2026

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

August 21 – September 1, 2026 – 12 Days

For more information:

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



Cagsawa Ruins, Daraga, Albay Philippines –
Mayon volcano active in the background