

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 22, 2026 The First Sunday of Lent



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 22, 2026

Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

Season of Lent: Lent begins with the stark ritual of Ash Wednesday. As ashes are traced upon our foreheads, we hear the humbling reminder: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." This moment is designed to shatter spiritual complacency, confronting us with the fragile, temporary nature of earthly life. It strips away the illusion of ownership; if we truly "owned" our lives or possessions, we could carry them beyond the grave. This realization shifts our identity from owners to stewards. We begin to see that our time, talents, and relationships are gifts entrusted to us by God, not assets we've earned. Lent provides a sacred clarity, urging us to evaluate how we love and what we prioritize. It asks us to distinguish between what endures and what merely distracts, moving our focus from outward appearances to the depth of the soul.

Far too often, we drift through life without discerning God's specific call. Through the Lenten pillars of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, we are invited to recalibrate. These practices are not mere routines but tools to deepen our connection with the Creator and our neighbors. This season, may we embrace humility and allow our hearts to be transformed, seeking the spiritual treasures that no money can buy and that death cannot take away.

Word of God, First Sunday of Lent, Year A: On this First Sunday of Lent, the Scriptures place before us the enduring reality of temptation and the hope of grace. The first reading from Genesis recalls how our first parents were tempted and gave in to sin, disrupting their relationship with God. In contrast, the Gospel presents Jesus facing temptation in the desert, yet remaining steadfast and faithful, choosing obedience to the Father. In the second reading, Saint Paul reflects on this contrast by setting the first Adam against the second Adam, Christ, showing how sin entered through one, but grace and new life come through the other.

Jesus' fidelity becomes a source of strength for us. Lent, as a season of reappraisal and renewal, invites us to examine the many ways we are drawn away from God by subtle enticements, attractions, and false promises. Though none of us is perfect, we are called to persist in the journey toward holiness and wholeness. Honest self-awareness is essential. When we look inward with sincerity, we become aware both of our sinfulness and of God's abiding love. Sustained by grace, we are purified, redeemed, and empowered to live more fully as human beings and Christians, shaped by the mind and heart of Christ. This is the true meaning of Lent.

AAA 2026 Launch Weekend of Feb. 28-March 1: The amount to raise is: \$34,588. This is in support of the Archdiocesan mission and ministries. If you could give

1.5%, which is \$500, it would be wonderful, but give whatever you can. My letter to the whole parish is on the way to you. Please give it all the support you can as I request you for the last time before my retirement. If we complete this campaign in the next six or seven weeks, I would like to schedule the AAA thank-you luncheon in April or May for the 1.5% Circle.

Parish Lenten Retreat: Saturday, February 28, starts at the 8:30 a.m. Mass. The theme: The Second Vatican Council. Please sign-up! The registration forms are in the church and the parish office. It includes breakfast and lunch. Registration fee is \$15.

Stations of the Cross: On Fridays in Lent, immediately following the 8:30 a.m. Mass.

Quotable Quote: "The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched---they must be felt with the heart."---Helen Keller.

Wisdom Stories: 1. The Long Road: A traveler complained that the road was long. A wise man replied, "You are counting the miles, not the moments." When the traveler began helping others along the way, the road felt shorter. Wisdom taught him that purpose lightens every journey. 2. The Silent Bell: A monastery bell rang only once a year. When asked why, the monk replied, "So we remember to listen." Silence teaches what constant noise cannot. 3. The Cracked Pot: A pot with a crack apologized for leaking. The water carrier smiled, pointing to flowers along the path. "Your flaw watered them," he said. What we call weakness often becomes a hidden gift.

Memorare Prayer: Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thy intercession, was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence I fly unto thee, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother. To thee do I come, before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me. Amen.

Humor: 1. God in a parking lot: A man is struggling to find a parking space. "Lord," he prays. "I can't stand this. If you open a space up for me, I swear I'll give up the drink and go to mass every Sunday." Suddenly, the clouds part and the sun shines on an empty parking spot. Without hesitation, the man says: "Never mind, I found one!" 2. Follow the light: A guy walks into a dentist's office and says, "I think I'm a moth." The dentist replies, "You shouldn't be here. You should be seeing a psychiatrist..." The guy replies, "I am seeing a psychiatrist." The dentist says, "Well then what are you doing here?" And the guy says, "Your light was on."

Wishing you a Lenten season full of fresh, new perspectives on God and the world, on life and love,

Your Friend and Pastor,

Father Charles Puthota

First Sunday of Lent

February 22, 2026

"The Lord, your God, shall you worship and him alone shall you serve."

— Matthew 4:10



STRENGTH AGAINST TEMPTATION

The first Sunday of the season of Lent always includes a Gospel account of the temptation of the Lord Jesus in the desert by the devil. This year, the story is set against the backdrop of the first reading from Genesis, which recounts the very first temptation by the devil. That story is set in a garden of delight. The Gospel story is set in the desert. As believers, we know that temptation comes our way in our own gardens of delight as well as the deserts of our lives. As Lent begins, our attention is drawn to that temptation within each of us to become like God—we want control, power, and answers to all of life's difficult questions. As communities of faith, we are given this season of repentance so that we can join our hearts with others on the difficult journey of conversion. We look to God and to one another for strength against temptation.

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TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — The man and the woman ate the fruit of the one tree that God had told them to avoid, and their shame overtook them (Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7).

Psalm — Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned (Psalm 51).

Second Reading — Death reigned from Adam to Moses, but now grace and life abound in Christ Jesus (Romans 5:12-19 [12, 17-19]).

Gospel — Jesus was led into the desert by the Spirit and there he fasted for forty days and forty nights (Matthew 4:1-11).

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.

Sunday Collection February 14 - 15, 2026

| | |
|--------------------|-------------|
| Weekly Need: | \$ 5,000.00 |
| First Collection | \$ 2,170.00 |
| Church Environment | \$ 566.00 |
| Over/Under | \$ 2,264.00 |

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

February 23

† Alfred Galindo

February 24

† Mary Rita Choy

† Oscar and † Flo Picazo

February 25

† Alice Soriano

† Aurora T. Mallari

February 26

Ines Ruiz (L)

February 27

Good Shepherd Guild and its benefactors, living and deceased

February 28

† Gilbert Gozon

Elizabeth Padua (L)

Emmanuel and Carmen

Micallef (L)

† Angelo and † Theresa

Gardini

March 1

People of the Parish

† Philomena Viscarra

ON THE HORIZON AT ST. ELIZABETH

- **Parish Office will be closed:**
Monday, April 6, 2026
- **Archdiocesan Annual Appeal 2026**
Launches on March 1st
- **Parish Lenten Retreat**
Saturday, February 28, 2026
- **Maltese Society Champagne Bingo**
Sunday, March 8, 2026,
Contact Jeanette Santos 415-225-5315
Tickets/RSVP by February 27th
- **Daylight Savings**
Sunday, March 8, 2026
- **Easter**
Sunday, April 5, 2026

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday, 2/22

Monday, 2/23

Friday, 2/27

1st Sunday of Lent

St. Polycarp

Bishop and Martyr

St. Gregory of Narek

Abbot and Doctor of the

Church

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



St. Elizabeth's Maltese Society Champagne Bingo

Sunday, March 8th

Doors open at 12:00 pm

Lunch Served at 1:00 pm

BINGO begins at 2:00 pm

\$30.00 per person

Ticket includes:

Lunch, (Pasta with Meat Sauce,
Salad, Bread, Champagne and Dessert and
1 Bingo Packet

Reservations required, no day of Ticket
Sales

For Reservations contact:

Jeanette Santos

415-225-5315

Deadline for reservations

February 27th.



At the Shrine of Our Lady of Manaog in the Philippines