

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

March 8, 2026 The Third 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
March 8, 2026

Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

AAA: Archdiocesan Annual Appeal (AAA) 2026: The amount to raise is \$34,588. 1.5% Donation is \$500. Please see in the bulletin the names of those who have donated so far to AAA 2026. The asterisk indicates the 1.5% donors. Last weekend (February 28-March 01) we launched this annual appeal, a monthlong drive. I preached at the three weekend Masses, connecting the Word of God about Abraham's call to leave everything and go on a journey and Jesus' Transfiguration. The reason for this campaign is simple: the Archdiocese is entrusted with a mission to preach the good news and to provide all necessary ministries and services to the parishes within the Archdiocese. Without our assistance, at the Archdiocesan level they could not be doing what they are called to do. So we feel privileged to help and collaborate in their work. Also, let us keep in mind that we are not apart from the Archdiocese. We, our parish and all other parishes, make up the Archdiocese. When we strengthen the Archdiocese, we are actually strengthening our own St. Elizabeth Parish. So please give generously and early so that we can complete this campaign within a month. Would it be possible for you to belong to "1.5% Circle" by donating \$500 or more toward AAA? Some of you have given in the past way more than 1.5%. Your spirit of stewardship and generous donations are much appreciated.

Parish Lenten Retreat: Last Saturday, March 28, I preached the retreat--my last one at St. Elizabeth--to our parishioners on the theme of Vatican II. 53 people attended. Some came from other parishes from the Archdiocese. It started with the Mass at 8:30 a.m. followed by a light breakfast in Cantwell Hall. In the first session, I reflected on the socio-politico-religious context that directly or indirectly led to Vatican II. In the second session, I reflected on the content of the 16 documents and the way the 7 popes, starting from John XXIII to the present Pope Leo XIV, contributed to the practice of Vatican II. In the third session, I reflected on the relevance of Vatican II and what we need to do to carry the torch forward. Beyond the spiritual benefits, these retreats bring us together to foster deeper personal connections. The retreat ended with a delicious lunch. I'd like to thank the sacristans and the volunteers for their great arrangements with the food and the hall.

Word of God: Third Sunday of Lent: In today's readings, we move from the physical desert to the spiritual well. In Exodus, the Israelites grumble in the wilderness, testing God because of their parched throats: "Is the Lord among

us or not?" Their physical thirst blinds them to the reality of God's providential care. St. Paul reminds us in Romans that our hope is not found in temporary relief, but in the "love of God poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit." This is the "Living Water" Jesus offers the Samaritan woman at the well. Lent is the season to stop digging broken cisterns of superficiality -- wealth, status, or distractions -- and return to the Source. Jesus meets us in our exhaustion, looking past our "appearances" to the heart of the matter. When we drink from His grace, our parched isolation ends. We become, like the woman, witnesses who leave our heavy jars behind to lead others to the Truth.

Season of Lent: Rediscovering the Heart: We are currently immersed in Lent, a purposeful journey toward the light of Easter. Contrary to the "doom and gloom" stereotype, this is a season of profound joy rooted in renewal, peace, and fulfillment. It is an invitation to retreat from superficiality and dive deeper into the authentic meaning of life and love. Too often, we are blinded by a world that prioritizes the aesthetic over the substantial. Lent provides the space to look beyond these distractions, training us to see clearly with our hearts rather than just our eyes. While modern life bombards us with half-truths and distortions, this season serves as a "grounding" period, stripping away falsehoods to reveal our true purpose. True spiritual growth, as Jesus taught, is never performative. Our practices -- prayer, fasting, and almsgiving -- are not for public validation but are intimate responses to a Father who sees what is hidden. Ultimately, a meaningful life must be anchored in the "ground of our being." By living in union with the Divine, we gain the discernment necessary to be true to ourselves and, consequently, true to one another.

Pope Francis' Famous Quotes: 1. "I am a sinner. This is the most accurate definition. It is not a figure of speech, a literary genre. I am a sinner." 2. "The Eucharist is not a prize for the perfect, but a powerful medicine and nourishment for the weak."

A Story to Ponder: Husband: "I'm going to work hard, and some day we are going to be rich." Wife: "We are rich already, dear, for we have each other. Some day we may have money."

Tech Humor: 1. "My sister gave birth in a state-of-the-art delivery room," said one man to another. "It was so high-tech that the baby came out cordless." 2. Son to his father as they watch television: "Dad, tell me again how when you were a kid you had to walk all the way across the room to change the channel." 3. Department store automatic answering machine: "If you are calling to order or send money, press 5. If you are calling to register a complaint, press 6 4 5 9 8 3 4 8 2 2 9 5 5 3 9 2. Have a good day."

Your Friend and Pastor,

Father Charles Puthota

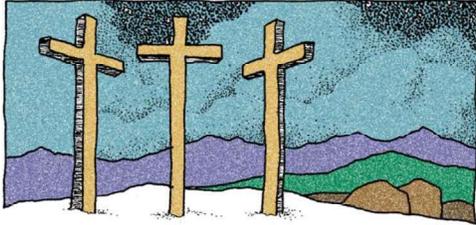
Third Sunday of Lent

March 8, 2026

While we were still sinners

Christ died for us.

— *Romans 5:8*



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THIRSTING FOR LIFE-GIVING WATERS

Especially during the Lenten, Holy Week, and Easter seasons, the prayer texts of the Eastern Church revel in paradoxical images of Christ: the eternal life who is put to death, the host of the supper who is also its meal, the thirsty crucified one with living water streaming from his side. These images flow from the evangelists' portrayals of Jesus and from his very ministry, during which he often upset or reversed people's expectations about him or the ways of God. This "reversal" is at play in today's Gospel, as Jesus speaks to an enemy foreigner who is also a woman beneath his status. In addition he, the thirsting one, shows the woman to be the one truly thirsting. He—whose parched lips will say "I thirst" before he dies—is the source of life and life-giving water. Lent calls upon us to dwell on how each of us is thirsting for Christ, and it leads us, ultimately, back to the life-giving waters of our baptism into his Body.

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TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — When the people grumbled to Moses for water in the desert, the LORD heard and brought forth water from the rock for all to drink (Exodus 17:3-7).

Psalm — If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts (Psalm 95).

Second Reading — God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit (Romans 5:1-2, 5-8).

Gospel — Ask, and you will be given living water so that you will never thirst again

(John 4:5-42 [5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42]).

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 28 - March 1, 2026

Weekly Need:	\$ 5,000.00
First Collection	\$ 3,242.00
Faith Formation	\$ 859.00
Over/Under	\$ 899.00

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

March 9

† Leon and † Maureen Winant

March 10

The Budesca Family Living and Deceased

March 11

† Charley Borg

March 12

† Paul, † Theresa and † Joseph Vella
† Filomena and
† Emanuel Scerri

March 13

† Russel Tanquilut
† Grace and † Sam Fernandez

March 14

† Jonathan Castillo
† George Falzon
† Nelsita Reyes

March 15

People of the Parish
† Jessie Borg
† Timoteo B. Nacor Jr.
Maltese Society

ON THE HORIZON AT ST. ELIZABETH

● Archdiocesan Annual Appeal 2026

Launched on March 1st

● Daylight Savings

Sunday, March 8, 2026

● Donating Easter Lilies

Please bring lilies to morning mass from 8-9 am or the parish office during office hours 8:30 am to 12:30 pm)

● Easter

Sunday, April 5, 2026

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday, 3/8

Monday, 3/9

3rd Sunday of Lent

St. Francis of Rome

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE 2026

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



EASTER LILIES

Donating Easter Lilies: If you are able to donate Easter lilies, you are most welcome to do so. Please bring them sooner than later to church during the morning Mass timings (8:00 a.m. through 9:00 a.m.) or leave them in the office during office hours (Monday through Thursday 8:30 a.m. through 12:30 p.m.)

Catholic Relief Services Second Collection

Next weekend (March 14-15) our parish will take up the Catholic Relief Services Collection. Funds from this collection will provide food to the hungry, support for displaced refugees, and bring Christ's love and mercy to vulnerable people here and abroad. Please give generously to this collection and reveal Christ's love to those in need. To learn more about the collection at:

www.usccb.org/catholic-relief

2026 Archdiocesan Annual Appeal Donors

Launched on March 1st
All donors \$25.00 and above:

Anonymous

Alviar, Feliciano / Annabelle *

Clement, Edward / Lucille *

Gemignani, David *

Ghiglieri, David *

Ghiglieri, Norene *

McCarthy, Philip *

Micallef, Emmanuel / Carmen *

Padua, Richard / Maria *

Puthota, Fr. Charles *

Soares, Sharon *

*1.5 % Circle donors have an asterisk next to their name (\$500.00 and more). If contributing by check directly to St. Elizabeth, please make your check payable to the Archdiocesan Annual Appeal.

Amount Assessed: \$34,588.00

Amount Collected: \$ 6,227.00

Balance: **\$28,361.00**



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/>