

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 15, 2026 The Fourth 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 15, 2026

Dear St. Elizabeth Parishioners,

Archdiocesan Annual Appeal 2026 (AAA): Our goal:

\$34, 588. Amount reached as of March 11: \$11,507. Amount needed to reach goal: \$23,081. We started the campaign on the weekend of February 28—March 01, 2026. We have completed two weeks now in the month-long campaign. Please see the names of donors in the bulletin. There is an asterisk for those who have donated \$500 or more, our 1.5% Circle. I'd like to thank Ron Borg for speaking at all Masses last weekend, encouraging all to donate. Thank you for your generosity and good will toward St. Elizabeth Church and the ministries and services of the Archdiocese. Please give whatever you can give to help further the mission of Christ in our own Archdiocese. To those who have not given so far: would you please prayerfully consider supporting AAA? Please give early and generously.

Fourth Sunday of Lent: Laetare Sunday: This Sunday in Lent is called Laetare Sunday, which means Rejoice Sunday. As we go through the penitential and ascetical practices of Lent, journeying toward the sufferings and death of Jesus in the Holy Week, we are given a hint, a hope, of the joyful anticipation of the victory of Jesus at Easter. The name comes from the first words of the Entrance Antiphon for Mass, "Laetare Jerusalem" ("Rejoice, O Jerusalem"). This Sunday we stand at about the half-way point of the Lenten season. The altar may be decorated with flowers this Sunday. The liturgical color of the vestments is rose.

Word of God: Blindness and Sight: You may be aware that the OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults) program for adults seeking to become Catholics. They go through a long process of preparation: Inquiry, the Catechumenate, Purification and Enlightenment, and Mystagogy. The Readings at the Mass we read this year, Year A, are related specifically to the catechumens journeying toward baptism at Easter. Not only for OCIA catechumens, but the process of faith and growth is meant for everyone. Last Sunday, the theme was the living water, as OCIA candidates as well as all of us thirst for the life in Christ, and that the living water is the Spirit of Christ poured into our hearts. This fourth Sunday it is about the new vision that we are all called to attain. Seeing is believing. To be able to see, as the man born blind does, is to be on the way to new life with Christ. What are our various versions of blindness that Jesus is waiting to heal? What are the things that block our vision for God and the world? How can we see as Jesus sees everything? Let's See, Judge, Act!

March 19, Feast of St. Joseph: In the Gospels, St. Joseph emerges as a figure defined not by his speech, but by his unwavering, righteous action. Though he never utters a single recorded word, his life serves as a profound testament

to the power of a contemplative interior life. Matthew's Gospel identifies him as a "just man," a title signifying a rare harmony between strict adherence to divine law and a compassionate, merciful heart. As a carpenter, he dignifies the sanctity of manual labor, providing a stable, humble home for the Holy Family through the work of his hands. Joseph's obedience is most obvious in his response to the divine instruction through dreams, and each time, he rises to the occasion and without hesitation or complaint fulfills what is asked of him. Finally, his identity as a "Son of David" is a theological necessity, legally anchoring Jesus into the messianic lineage of Israel and fulfilling the ancient prophecies of a Savior from the house of David. Taken together, these biblical truths reveal a man of "creative courage" whose quiet strength and prompt obedience provided the earthly protection required for the mystery of the Incarnation to unfold in history.

Happy St. Patrick's Day, Tuesday, March 17: Saint Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland, was a 5th-century missionary who spread Christianity across the Emerald Isle. Originally captured and enslaved as a teenager, he later escaped, only to return with a vision to convert the Irish people. He famously used the three-leafed shamrock to illustrate the Holy Trinity, cementing it as a national symbol. The feast of St. Patrick has blossomed into a global celebration of Irish culture and heritage. Today, the "Green Holiday" is marked by vibrant parades, traditional folk music, and lively *céilís*. From dyeing the Chicago River emerald to donning festive attire, the world embraces the "wearing of the green." It's a day of conviviality where everyone is a little bit Irish, sharing in hearty meals and spirited community.

Irish Blessings: "When I count my blessings, I count you twice. May God bless you." "Always remember to forget the things that made you sad. But never forget to remember the things that made you glad." "May your neighbors respect you, Trouble neglect you, The angels protect you, And heaven accept you." "May you live to be a hundred years, with one extra year to repent."

Irish Catholic Humor: 1. An Irishman arrived at heaven's gate. St. Peter asked, "Why should I let you in?" The man replied, "I went to Mass every Sunday." St. Peter smiled. "Anything else?" The Irishman shrugged. "I also stayed awake through Father's homilies—surely that counts." 2. After a long sermon, Father O'Brien asked, "Did everyone understand today's Gospel?" One Irishman replied, "Father, I understood the beginning and the end." The priest smiled and asked, "What about the middle?" The man shrugged, "That's when I was peacefully meditating." 3. An Irishman went to confession and said, "Bless me, Father, for I've sinned. I stole a rope." The priest asked, "Anything else?" The man sighed, "Yes, Father... the cow that was attached to it." Father paused and said, "Next time, confess the whole truth first."

Your Friend and Pastor,

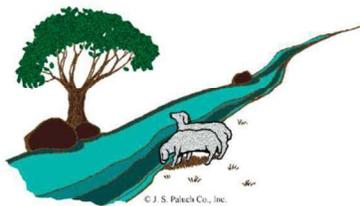
Father Charles Puthota

Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 15, 2026

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

— *Psalm 23:1*



CHILDREN OF THE LIGHT

The future king, David, in today's first reading, is an example of a type of character present throughout the Hebrew scriptures. He is the child born out of place (not the eldest or most favored) who ends up receiving the promise of the covenant. The spirit of God's anointing rushes upon him. In this way, he is similar to the man born blind from today's Gospel. David's family and the blind man's community did not expect the miraculous grace of God's love to work through them. Perhaps they, too, were "blinded" by the expectations and assumptions of those around them. Yet, after being touched by God, they both came to "see" the presence of God's will for them. Both became messengers of God's will. That same Spirit of God's anointing rushed upon us at our baptism; we were given a candle as a sign of our membership in the Body of Christ, the Light from Light. Our vocation, then, is to fulfill that enlightenment, that anointing, as Ephesians tells us, by living as "children of the light." Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — As the prophet Samuel anointed David with oil, the spirit of the LORD rushed upon David and remained with him from that day forward (1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a).

Psalm — The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want (Psalm 23).

Second Reading — You who were once darkness are now light in the Lord. Live as children of light (Ephesians 5:8-14).

Gospel — The man who was blind from birth proclaimed: The one called Jesus made clay with his saliva, anointed my eyes with it, and told me to wash. When I washed, I was able to see!

(John 9:1-41 [1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38])

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

March 7 - 8

Weekly Need:	\$ 5,000.00
First Collection	\$ 2,262.57
Parish Maintenance	\$ 1,109.00
Over/Under	\$ 1,628.43

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 16

† Joseph F. and

† Assunta Sant

March 17

† Sister Anne Kelley

† Joseph A. Sant

March 18

Souls in Purgatory

† Gregorio Macaspac

March 19

Matthew Trinidad (L)

March 20

Souls in Purgatory

March 21

† Alex Hili

Efrain Ruiz (L)

† Maria Dolores

Gutierrez de Oropeza

March 22

People of the Parish

† Jonathan Castillo

Francisco Gotauco Jr. (L)

ON THE HORIZON AT ST. ELIZABETH

- **Archdiocesan Annual Appeal 2026**
Launched on March 1st ~ Third Week
- **Donating Easter Lilies**
Please bring lilies to morning mass from 8-9 am or the parish office 8:30 am to 12 pm
- **Easter**
Sunday, April 5, 2026

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday, 3/15	4 th Sunday of Lent
Tuesday, 3/17	St. Patrick
Wednesday, 3/18	St. Cyril of Jerusalem
Thursday, 3/19	St. Joseph

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



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.)

2026 Archdiocesan Annual Appeal Donors

Launched on March 1st

All donors \$25.00 and above:

Anonymous
Alipio, Marietta *
Alviar, Feliciano / Annabelle *
Arnold, Sharon *
Cash, Mr. & Mrs. Randyll *
Centeno, Mr. & Mrs. Mario
Clement, Edward / Lucille *
De Vera Acosta, Mr. & Mrs. Neri
Garibaldi, Marie
Gemignani, David *
Ghiglieri, David *
Ghiglieri, Norene *
Holmes, Gregory / Clara *
Imbellino, Robert *
McCarthy, Phillip *
Micallef, Emmanuel / Carmen *
Olson, Andrea
Orton, Carmen *
Padua, Richard / Maria *
Puccinelli, Mr. & Mrs. Sergio
Puthota, Fr. Charles *
Romias, Editha
Sifuentes, Teresa *
Soares, Sharon *
Walsh, Deborah *
Walsh, Michael *

*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: \$11,507.00
Balance: **\$23,081.00**



**Congratulations to
Ben Ngo and Jenny Zhu
on their wedding on March 7, 2026.**



First Reconciliation March 7, 2026.