

# **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](http://www.stelizabetsf.org) Email: [stelizabethchurchsf@gmail.com](mailto:stelizabethchurchsf@gmail.com)**

**March 22, 2026 The Fifth 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  
Laurrie 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 22, 2026

Dear St. Elizabeth Parishioners,

**Archbishop's Annual Appeal (AAA) 2026:** We need to raise \$34,588. as our commitment toward the Archdiocese this year. Please see in the bulletin the names of all donors so far to AAA 2026. We have collected so far \$18,097.00. The balance we need to raise is \$16,491.00 his Sunday we are starting the last week of the month-long campaign. If everyone participates, this can be a success quickly. We are making progress, but we need more people to come onboard and help. While I thank all those who have donated, I request everyone else to give whatever you can. Last weekend at all Masses, David Gemignani spoke about AAA and his personal connections with our parish and the Archdiocese. If possible, can you give 1.5%, which is \$500? Please consider this donation prayerfully as part of our Lenten giving.

**Next Sunday, March 29, is Palm Sunday:** Please see in the bulletin the schedule for the Holy Week as well as in my Easter letter to be posted to all parishioners. On Palm Sunday before the 10.30 a.m. Mass, we will start the procession from the Grotto area. Please do participate in the Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday ceremonies with great devotion and a sense of closeness to Jesus.

**Musings on Lent:** We are starting the fifth week of Lent. There are five Sundays this Lent followed by Palm Sunday (March 29) followed, of course, by Easter Sunday (April 5). It would be fruitful for us and our families to continue reflecting on the meaning of Lent, even as we come close to the end of this season. Jesus stayed in the desert for forty days, prayed to his Father, felt guided by the Spirit, did penance, overcame temptations, reflected on his life, drew up plans for his public ministry, and opened his mind and heart to the possibility of opposition and suffering leading up to his crucifixion. Jesus felt the need for this desert experience. We look upon Jesus and realize that we too need the "desert" experience---to think about what is going on in our lives and reorient ourselves towards God, family, and faith.

Lent is that desert experience, a time for repentance and awareness of our mortality. Our fasting, abstinence, and devotions continuously remind us of the meaning of this season and the need for some practical decisions we need to make. For example, is my life rooted in love or selfishness? Is my life marked by giving or hoarding? Is my life guided by the Spirit of God or by my own desires and passions? Do I feel connected to Jesus or not? What are the values of Jesus that I practice or don't follow? Am

I humble like Jesus or do I put myself at the center of the universe in adoration of myself? Do I understand that love means respect, patience, kindness, forgiveness, and sharing? How am I connected with the faith community I call the Church? What do I do to others in terms of service and compassion? Do I keep in mind those who are fragile, vulnerable and on the margins of society and culture? We could examine ourselves along these lines.

**What to Give Up for Lent:** As we are engaged in the Lenten practices of fasting, praying, and almsgiving this Lent, we could think about these things that we need to give up as part of our Lenten observances: Give up complaining ... focus on gratitude. Give up pessimism ... become an optimist. Give up harsh judgments ... think kindly thoughts. Give up worry ... trust Divine Providence. Give up discouragement ... be full of hope. Give up bitterness ... turn to forgiveness. Give up hatred ... return good for evil. Give up negativism ... be positive. Give up anger ... be more patient. Give up gloom ... enjoy the beauty that is all around. Give up jealousy ... pray for trust. Give up sin ... turn to virtue. Give up giving up ... hang in there.

**Word of God--Fifth Sunday of Lent, Year A:** In today's Gospel, we witness the profound humanity and divinity of Jesus at the tomb of Lazarus. Standing before the cave, Jesus weeps -- not out of despair, but out of deep love for his friend. Yet, he speaks a command that shatters the power of the grave: "Lazarus, come out!" As we approach the end of Lent, this miracle serves as a prelude to the Resurrection. Jesus reveals himself as "the resurrection and the life," proving that no situation is too dead for God's grace to reach. We all carry "graves" -- habits, sorrows, or spiritual dryness -- that feel sealed by heavy stones. Today, Christ calls us to step into the light. May we have the courage to unbind ourselves and walk in the freedom of his new life.

**A Wisdom Story: The Boy and the Nails:** A boy with a temper was told to hammer a nail into a fence every time he lost control. Later, he removed them one by one. The fence remained scarred. "Words and anger leave marks," his father said, "even after you take them back."

**Catholic Jokes:** 1. A tailor confessed that he had stolen a roll of cloth from a van. "I hope you won't make a habit of it, said the priest. "Certainly not," said the tailor. "I was going to make two suits from it." 2. While Father Giles was preaching his sermon, a woman in the congregation began to cough loudly and often. The priest said to a man who was sitting up front, "Give that lady a glass of water!" Then Father Giles returned to his sermon, but lost his train of thought. "Now, what was I saying?" he murmured. The man replied, "Give that lady a glass of water."

Your Friend and Pastor,

Father Charles Puthota

**Fifth Sunday of Lent**  
**March 22, 2026**

Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD;  
 LORD, hear my voice!  
 — *Psalm 130:1*



**JESUS' MINISTRY SUMMARIZED**

The story of the raising of Lazarus from the dead is the single longest story (apart from the Passion) in the Gospel of John. In it we find a summary of most of Jesus' ministry. We see his very human nature as he is moved by Martha and Mary's sorrows and as he himself weeps at the tomb of Lazarus. He is the wisdom of God's Word made flesh as he explains to his followers that the death of Lazarus will serve as a sign of the glory of God. He crowns the miracles he works in John's Gospel (which began with the most "human" miracle of making new wine at Cana's wedding) by raising Lazarus from the dead—a "preview," if you will, of his own death and resurrection to come. This portrait of Jesus reminds us, as we near the end of our Lenten journey, that he is with us, knows us, understands us in every moment of our lives. He knows the joy of our human feasting, he knows the sorrow of our weeping. As we prepare to walk with him through the days of Holy Week, we are filled with faith that—through Christ—God's glory will be with us in every moment of our lives and—with Christ—in our life everlasting. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

**TODAY'S READINGS**

**First Reading** — Thus says the LORD GOD: I will open your graves, have you rise from them, and settle you on your land. (Ezekiel 37:12-14).

**Psalm** — With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption (Psalm 130).

**Second Reading** — If Christ is in you, the spirit is alive even if the body is dead because of sin (Romans 8:8-11).

**Gospel** — Lazarus, dead for four days, came out of his tomb when Jesus called his name. Many of those who had seen what had happened began to believe in Jesus (John 11:1-45 [3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45]).

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 14 - 15**

**Weekly Need:** \$ 5,000.00  
**First Collection** \$ 2,160.00  
**Over/Under** \$ 2,840.00

**Catholic Relief Services** \$ 1,324.00

**Mass Intentions**  
 † Denotes deceased – (L) Living

**Monday**  
 8:30 am

**March 23**  
 † Tessie, † Joseph and  
 † Saviour Schembri

**Tuesday**  
 8:30 am

**March 24**  
 † Oscar and † Flo Picazo  
 † Maria Dolores Gutierrez  
 de Oropeza

**Wednesday**  
 8:30 am

**March 25**  
 † Mary Rita Choy  
 † Frederick Vinluan

**Thursday**  
 8:30 am

**March 26**  
 † Castula Padilla

**Friday**  
 8:30 am

**March 27**  
 Good Shepherd Guild and  
 its benefactors, living and  
 deceased

**Saturday**  
 8:30 am  
 4:30 pm

**March 28**  
 Jose Tanquilut (L)  
 Palm Sunday Vigil  
 Gleena, April and Robert  
 Monsanto (L)

**Sunday**  
 8:30 am

**March 29**  
 Palm Sunday  
 People of the Parish  
 Palm Sunday

**ON THE HORIZON AT ST. ELIZABETH**

- **Archdiocesan Annual Appeal 2026**  
 Launched on March 1<sup>st</sup> ~ Fourth 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
- **Office Closed**  
 April 6, 2026
- **Cantwell Hall Kitchen Repair Work**  
 April 6 – 17, 2026 -Double door entrance and hall to kitchen will be contained off and inaccessible.

**SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES**

Sunday, 3/22 5th Sunday of Lent  
 Monday, 3/23 St. Turibius  
 Wednesday, 3/25 The Annunciation of the Lord

## 2026 Archdiocesan Annual Appeal Donors

Launched on March 1<sup>st</sup>

All donors \$25.00 and above:

Anonymous	Holmes, Gregory / Clara *
Alipio, Marietta *	Imbellino, Robert *
Alviar, Feliciano / Annabelle *	Manalo, Gildo / Elsa *
Arnold, Sharon *	McCarthy, Phillip *
Borg, Ron *	Micallef, Emmanuel / Carmen *
Cash, Mr. & Mrs. Randyll *	Olson, Andrea
Centeno, Mr. & Mrs. Mario	Orton, Carmen *
Clement, Edward / Lucille *	Padua, Richard / Maria *
Cutler, Patty	Perata, Mary *
De Los Reyes, Herminia *	Portillo, Mr. and Mrs. Mario*
De Vera Acosta, Mr. & Mrs. Neri	Puccinelli, Mr. & Mrs. Sergio
Demafeliz, Orlando *	Puthota, Fr. Charles *
Ferguson, Donna	Roja, Michael / Gina
Garibaldi, Marie	Romias, Editha
Gagliardo, Grace	Sifuentes, Teresa *
Gemignani, David *	Sisters of the Good Shepherd *
Ghiglieri, David *	Soares, Sharon *
Ghiglieri, Norene *	Trinidad, Gloria *
Gughemetti, Mr. & Mrs. Albert	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: \$18,097.00  
Balance: \$16,491.00  
(At the end of week 3 of month-long campaign)

### 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



### 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/>