

# St. Elizabeth Church

Let the History begin...



**On March 17, 1907**, St. Elizabeth was established as a mission church. Fourteen people attended the first Mass which was celebrated at the home of a parishioner since there was no official building. A pastor was soon appointed to this new parish and a temporary church was built at the cost of \$450.

**In 1912, St. Elizabeth Church was officially established.**

As the population of the faithful continued to grow, a larger church was built on the corner of Berlin and Wayland streets. St. Elizabeth's new church could seat 400 people and cost \$6,000. At the start of World War I, Berlin Street was renamed as the street we now know as Brussels Street.



**On June 7, 1914**, the church was formally dedicated by Archbishop Edward Hanna.

**On Valentine's Day 1972**, the old church on the corner of Brussels and Wayland Streets was demolished and replaced by housing.

**In the 1960's**, the church community grew at such a rate that fund-raising campaign was soon undertaken to construct a new church on the corner of Somerset and Wayland streets. Construction of the new church began in 1960 with Samson Construction Company at the helm. St. Elizabeth's new church was officially dedicated in 1961 by Archbishop John Mitty. The church hall was later re-named in honor of Father Arthur J. Cantwell\* who served St. Elizabeth from 1942 thru 1970. The hall has been used for parish activities, festivals, athletic events, etc.



**The Parish has become diverse in its population with members representing African Americans, Burmese, Chinese, East Indians, Filipinos, Italians, Koreans, Latin American, Maltese, Pacific Islanders, and others. The parish is home to the Choir, the Fil-Am Community, the Italian-Catholic Federation – Branch #258, the Light of God Charismatic Group, the Over 50 Club, the Legion of Mary, Faith Formation, the Maltese Society, and the Knights of Columbus - Council #4728.**

**\* Father Arthur Joseph Cantwell – Born in Tipperary, Ireland on May 7, 1894. Ordained on June 15, 1919. Died on March 22, 1976 in San Francisco. Pastor of St. Monica and St. Elizabeth churches in San Francisco. Buried in Holy Cross Catholic Cemetery in Colma, California along with his brothers Fathers James P. Cantwell and William J. Cantwell.**