

# **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)*

*December 14, 2025 Third Sunday of Advent*



## **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  
415-468-0820 Fax 415-468-1457

### **Parish Office Hours**

Monday through Thursday  
8:30 am to 12:00 pm

**Closed Fridays**

### **Parish Staff**

<b>Suzanne Brachna</b>	Administrative Assistant
<b>Fred Spence</b>	Maintenance
<b>Laurie Digneo</b>	Faith Formation Coordinator

### **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 Preparation Classes**

Call the Parish Office for more 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 am 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  
December 14, 2025

Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

**Advent:** We are at the Third Sunday of Advent. The joyful and mournful song “O Come, O Come Emmanuel...” expressing the deep desire of expectation for the Lord is the theme of the season. Jesus is the reason for the season. This season of Advent is also a semi-penitential season as we wait for Christmas. Through prayer and penance, we shall wait for the joy of God becoming one with us. This is a time of our waiting for Jesus as we long for him to enter our lives again so we can start all over again. It is yet another chance for us to get it right. Shall we renew our hearts and minds for his presence and love? He came, he will come, but now he comes. This is also a hectic time of external preparations and commerce. In the midst of it all, we still have to keep our hearts fixed on Jesus, the holy baby to be born. The question we could ask is: Do we really feel deep down that we need Jesus in our lives? It is that deeply felt need for Jesus that will make this season of Advent meaningful and purposeful. If we think we can manage our lives without Jesus, all the preparations for Christmas would purely be a social and cultural observance and not a spiritual experience of Jesus. It would all be external---and nothing to do with the internal purification and renewal. It is Jesus who can truly bring peace and joy to us.

**Word of God, Third Sunday of Advent, Year A:** The Third Sunday of Advent invites us to *rejoice*, for the Lord is near. Known as Gaudete Sunday, it shifts the tone of the season from quiet waiting to joyful anticipation. The rose candle glows with hope, reminding us that God’s promises are already unfolding. In the Gospel, Jesus points to the signs of the Kingdom: the blind see, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the poor hear good news. These are not merely ancient miracles; they reveal how God continues to enter our world with healing and compassion.

John the Baptist, imprisoned and burdened with uncertainty, sends his disciples to ask Jesus if He is truly the Messiah. Jesus’ response reassures not only John but us as well: God is indeed at work, often quietly, steadily, and tenderly. Advent teaches us to recognize God’s presence in places we might overlook—small acts of kindness, words of encouragement, and moments of unexpected grace. As we move closer to Christmas, we are called to become witnesses of Christ’s joy in a weary world. Let us rejoice, not because all our problems are solved, but because God walks with us. His nearness transforms waiting into hope and hope into joy.

**Simbang Gabi Masses:** At the regular 8:30 a.m. Masses from December 16 through 24, Simbang Gabi tradition will be followed. Do come join! As we will be busy with the external preparations such as gift-buying, decorations, food,

etc., it would be highly beneficial to prepare ourselves internally, spiritually, for the Birth of Christ at Christmas. To support, actively participate, sponsor, please contact: Gloria Trinidad, May Devera, and Beth Pasco.

**Christmas Mass Schedule:** Christmas Eve, Wednesday, December 24 Mass at 4:30 p.m. Christmas Day, Thursday, December 25 Masses at 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

**Christmas Confessions:** Saturday, December 20 at 10:30 a.m.

**January 1, New Year, A Holy Day of Obligation, Mass Schedule:** Like last year, there will be only one Mass at 9.00 a.m.

**A Wisdom Story:** Two seeds lay side by side in the warm spring soil. The first seed said, “I want to grow! I want to send my roots deep into the earth, push my sprouts through the soil, and feel the sun on my leaves.” And so it grew—strong and green. The second seed said, “I’m afraid. What if my roots go too deep? What if my sprouts are crushed? I’d better wait until it’s safe.” So it waited. A hungry bird, searching the ground, soon found the second seed and ate it. **Wisdom:** Those who risk growth discover life. Those who fear to begin may lose the very chance they hoped to protect.

**An Advent Quote:** “At this Christmas when Christ comes, will He find a warm heart? Mark the season of Advent by loving and serving the others with God’s own love and concern.” – Mother Teresa, Love: A Fruit Always in Season.

**Advent / Christmas Humor:** A little girl was pushing the limits of her mother’s very last nerve. Mom was nearing the end of a hectic season of cooking, cleaning, shopping, wrapping and church stuff. She was also nearing the breaking point with her little preschooler. Finally, the little girl was bathed and ready for bed. As she knelt to say her prayers, Mom listened as her sweet three-year-old theologian “customized” her evening prayer, “... And forgive us our Christmases, as we forgive those who Christmas against us!”

**Humorous Church Signs:** 1. “Get in touch with God by knee mail.” 2. “Whoever stole our AC units keep one. It’s hot where you’re going.” 3. “Be the kind of person your pet thinks you are.” 4. “Honk if you love Jesus. Text while driving if you want to meet him.” 5. “God prefers kind atheists over hateful Christians.” 6. “Catch up with Jesus. Lettuce praise & Relish him. ‘Cuz he loves me from my head-to-ma-toes.” 7. “Forgive your enemies ---It Messes with their heads.” 8. God expects spiritual fruit, not religious nuts.” 9. “Tweet others as you would like to be tweeted.” 10. “Having trouble sleeping? Try one of our sermons.”

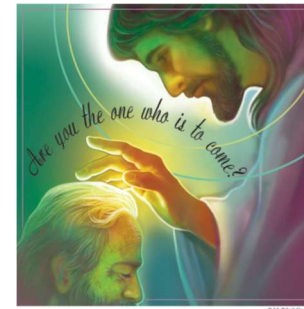
**Hope you are having a happy, holy, and fun-filled Advent Season with family and friends, looking eagerly forward to the birth of Christ in our minds and hearts,**

Your Friend and Pastor,

Father Charles Puthota

**Third Sunday of Advent  
December 14, 2025**

Those whom the LORD has ransomed will return and enter Zion singing, crowned with everlasting joy. — *Isaiah 35:10a*



**A SEASON OF HOPE**

Today we can bask in the imagery that the Mass readings offer us. In particular, Isaiah’s vision of a parched land that blooms with abundant flowers holds a message for each of us. Too often we are just like that parched land. We can allow ourselves to become absorbed in the waves of consumerism that grip so many. We look for fulfillment in the things that money can buy. Unfortunately, this leaves us like parched land, thirsting for something that money can’t buy. This holy season has much to offer to quench our thirsts. In a word, this season offers hope. We are told that those who are ransomed by God will know joy and gladness. For them, sorrow and mourning will be no more. Let us place our hope in these promises.

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**TODAY’S READINGS**

**First Reading** — The barren deserts will rejoice and flower. Tired bodies will receive strength. Aching hearts will be made glad (Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10).

**Psalm** — Lord, come and save us (Psalm 146).

**Second Reading** — Be patient, for the coming of the Lord is as sure as the rain (James 5:7-10).

**Gospel** — Tell of what you hear and see: The blind regain their vision, the crippled their movement, the deaf their hearing (Matthew 11:2-11).

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  
December 6 – 7, 2025**

<b>Weekly Need:</b>	<b>\$ 5,000.00</b>
<b>First Collection</b>	<b>\$ 2,720.00</b>
<b>Faith Formation</b>	<b>\$ 766.00</b>
<b>Over/Under</b>	<b>\$ 1,514.00</b>

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

**Monday**  
8:30 am

**December 15**  
Francis Beltran (L)  
† Monina Pascual

**Tuesday**  
8:30 am

**December 16**  
Jesusa Galang (L)

**Wednesday**  
8:30 am

**December 17**  
Jesse and  
Cathy Gotauco (L)

**Thursday**  
8:30 am

**December 18**  
† Romeo Pasco  
† Chris Ramirez

**Friday**  
8:30 am

**December 19**  
† Norma Obitinario

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

**December 20**  
† Mao Vu  
† Paul, † Theresa and  
† Joe Vella  
† Filomena and  
† Emanuel Scerri

**Sunday**  
8:30 am  
10:30 am

**December 21**  
People of the Parish  
† Giuseppe Moretto  
† Sylvia Portillo

**ON THE HORIZON AT ST. ELIZABETH**

●**Simbang Gabi**  
December 16 – 24, 2025 at the 8:30 a.m. mass.

●**Advent/Christmas Confession**  
Saturday, December 20 at 10:30 a.m.

●**Christmas Schedule**  
Christmas Eve mass, Wed. Dec 24, 2025  
4:30 p.m.  
Christmas Day mass, Thurs, Dec 25, 2025  
8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

●**New Year’s Day**  
Thursday, January 1, 2026, a Holy Day of Obligation. Mass is at 9 a.m.

## 2026 Mass Book Is Open

Please follow the guidelines below when sending in your Mass requests.

Due to the large volume of Mass requests and in order to be fair to the needs of all our parishioners, the following is the Mass Book policy as set by Father Charles Puthota:

**All Masses including the Saturday Vigil Mass and Sunday Mass (10:30 am), will be accepting two intentions per Mass. The Sunday 8:30 am Mass is designated for the People of the Parish only.**

**We do not accept individual Mass Intentions for holidays or holy days including the following:**

**Ash Wednesday, Easter, Mother's Day, Father's Day, All Saints All Souls, Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve and Christmas. The intentions will be for the entire St. Elizabeth Community.**

**Masses cannot be reserved by phone.**

Requests must be submitted in writing or by email (preferred): [stelizabethchurchsf@gmail.com](mailto:stelizabethchurchsf@gmail.com)

Not all dates are available for Mass Intentions, so we ask that you be prepared with alternate dates and times. **If your requested date is not available an alternate date will be chosen for you.**



### **Donating Poinsettias:**

If you are able to donate poinsettias, you are most welcome to do so. Please bring them sooner than later to church during the morning mass timings 8:00a.m. to 9:00am or leave them in the office during office hours, Monday – Thursday 8:30a.m.-12:30p.m.

### **Vallombrosa Retreat Center, Menlo Park**

Vallombrosa Retreat Center, 250 Oak Grove Ave., Menlo Park

Main Line: 650-325-5614

Group Reservations/Booking Contact: Jaynie Fedele | [jaynie@vallombrosa.org](mailto:jaynie@vallombrosa.org)

**Vallombrosa is open and is accepting bookings.**

**Private Retreats:** Vallombrosa Center currently offers private retreats for those who want private rooms for alone time, with spiritual direction available. Guests can enjoy the walking trails, shrines and gardens. There are both day retreats and overnight (no food or coffee service available in either case) – learn more and book above.



Advent Retreat December 6, 2025