

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

December 21, 2025 Fourth 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)

Parish Office

449 Holyoke Street
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
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.

Pastor's Christmas Letter to St. Elizabeth Parishioners
Christmas 2025 - New Year 2025



Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

Christmas: God's Tender Nearness: Each year Christmas comes wrapped in wonder, awakening awe in our hearts. The divine Child softens our world and rekindles hope. Christmas is God drawing near – not in power, but in tenderness. The manger reminds us that heaven chooses humility, simplicity, and love to save. As we gather around this mystery, may we let ourselves be moved again by the miracle of Emmanuel, God-with-us, whose presence renews our lives.

Christmas Happens Now: Just as painters set modern cities behind Bethlehem's stable, Christmas unfolds in our neighborhoods, families, and daily lives. Jesus is born anew within and among us, making ordinary days extraordinary with love, peace, and joy. In a world of uncertainty and rapid change, Christ's birth invites us to hope, begin again, and let God's grace renew what feels weary or wounded.

Christmas at St. Elizabeth: As a parish family, we celebrate the God who dwells with us and makes us one. Your faith, love, and service reveal the Christ Child in our midst. At St. Elizabeth, we pray, celebrate, volunteer, and grow together as disciples. Every ministry, kindness, and hour of service reflects the beauty of a community centered on Jesus Christ.

A Personal Word: My Retirement: This Christmas, I share with you an important personal announcement. After six grace-filled years as Pastor of St. Elizabeth Church, and as I reach the age of 70, I will be retiring at the end of June 2026. My heart overflows with gratitude – for your affection, collaboration, friendship, and the privilege of walking with you in faith. I will always treasure our memories and the ways you have enriched my priesthood. In the months ahead, I look forward to continuing our mission with joy and trust.

Christmas Mass Schedule: Christmas Eve Mass: 4:30 p.m. Christmas Day Masses: 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

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

Simbang Gabi: At 8:30 a.m. Masses, December 16 through 24.

Thank You and Blessings: Thank you for your generous stewardship, your active participation in parish life, and the beautiful spirit that animates our parish community. May the newborn Jesus smile upon your families, fill your homes with peace, and guide us all into a New Year rich with blessing.

Merry Christmas! Happy New Year!

Your Friend and Pastor,

Father Charles Puthota, Ph.D.



Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 21, 2025

They shall name him Emmanuel,
which means "God is with us."

— *Matthew 1:23*



SUMMONED BY GOD

As Christmas draws near, Advent's scriptures lure us into a world of dreams, signs, wonders, and the miracle of the virgin birth. Too often we allow the great stories of our faith, the ones that are most familiar, simply to wash over us. Today's Gospel account of the events leading up to the birth of the Lord reads like a present-day soap opera. Yet Joseph's courage, even in the midst of what must have been an incredibly confusing time, provides a model for us. Each week, we are summoned by God to embrace the way of goodness and truth through the proclamation of God's holy word. Like Joseph, we are called to do as the Lord commands us. As we stand at the threshold of Christmas, let us have the courage to be open to whatever it is that the Lord will require of us as we celebrate the miracle of Bethlehem.

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TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — You will be given this sign: the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel (Isaiah 7:10-14).

Psalms — Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory (Psalm 24).

Second Reading — God has called us to belong to Jesus Christ (Romans 1:1-7).

Gospel — The son born of Mary shall be called Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins. He shall be Emmanuel, "God is with us" (Matthew 1:18-24).

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 13 – 14, 2025

Weekly Need:	\$ 5,000.00
First Collection	\$ 3,726.07
Over/Under	\$ 1,273.93
Religious Retirement	\$ 1,172.00

Mass Intentions

† Denotes deceased – (L) Living

Monday

8:30 am

December 22

† Jesus B. Castillo
† Paraluman Santos

Tuesday

8:30 am

December 23

† Leo Viscarra
† Rufo Mangonon

Wednesday

8:30 am

December 24

Simbang Gabi
Christmas Vigil

Thursday

8:30 am

December 25

Christmas
Christmas

10:30 am

Friday

8:30 am

December 26

† Pedro C. Songco
Erlinda Ronas (L)

Saturday

8:30 am

December 27

Lyndon Mangonon (L)
† Christopher Dispo

4:30 pm

† Isaac Puthota

Sunday

8:30 am

December 28

People of the Parish
Joseph Emanuel & Family (L)
† Mary Rita Choy

10:30 am

ON THE HORIZON AT ST. ELIZABETH

● Simbang Gabi

December 16 – 24, 2025 at the 8:30 a.m. mass.

● Advent/Christmas Confessions

Saturday, December 20 at 10:30 – 11:30 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 at 9 a.m.

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Wednesday, 12/23

St. John of Kanty

Thursday, 12/25

The Nativity of the Lord

Friday, 12/26

St. Stephen

Saturday, 12/27

St. John, Apostle and Evangelist

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

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.**



We congratulate
Kyrie Elijah Devera
baptized at St. Elizabeth Church
On December 13, 2025



We congratulate
Vermillion Mateo Paris De Vera
baptized at St. Elizabeth Church
On December 13, 2025



Faith Formation Mass December 13, 2025