

From the Pastor's Desktop

A Message from Father Charles Puthota
12-06-2020



Dear I AMBASSADORS OF ST. ELIZABETH,

Revised Mass Schedule: There will be no daily Masses. Coming Sunday December 06, there will be one Mass only at 9:30 a.m. in the school parking lot. This is in view of the latest COVID-19-related restrictions introduced on Sunday noon November 29. There is a possibility that we might move the Sunday Mass just a little bit later to take advantage of the morning sun. Shall confirm it to you later. Up to 200 people are allowed for outdoor Masses. No indoor Masses are allowed now.

Important: Dressing Appropriately for Outdoor Masses:

These are my recommendations. Just gentle reminders! Please do come prepared wearing warm clothes for outdoor Masses. You may want to think about the following items, as appropriate for you: Layers of warm clothes, gloves, head-covering, warm socks, not to mention face masks. Do check the weather and come well-prepared. I hope it will not be too cold or windy. If and when it rains, let's deal with it at that time!

Advent: The word "advent" itself means "coming" or "arrival." It is obviously about the coming of Jesus. Remember the words of Jesus before his ascension into heaven: "I'll be with you always." Jesus is with us always. Only we do not see and recognize him. We do not hear and touch him. We can imagine him saying: "You have eyes, but you don't see; have ears, but don't hear." There are many things in life that prevent us from being in touch with Jesus. Our preoccupations and anxieties may leave us with no time or space for Jesus in our lives. That is why the concept of "coming" is very helpful. It has the sense of dynamism built into it. It has the meaning that it is happening in our lives now, in our present situations and circumstances. As we get read to celebrate the first coming of Jesus and look forward to his second coming, we cannot miss Jesus coming into our lives now, encountering us, calling us, sending us, fulfilling us, and blessing us. As we go about our daily, ordinary lives, how can we prepare

ourselves in our minds and hearts for his coming? Or as we face difficult situations such as disease, death in the family, failure, rejection, depression, panic, and all sorts of sad experiences, how can we let Jesus come into our lives today so that he can make a difference and lift us up with his grace and love? In the midst of the pandemic, as our lives have been interrupted like never before, what will the coming of Jesus into our lives mean for us and the whole world?

Archdiocesan Annual Appeal (AAA): Please give whatever you can toward the goal of \$48,719. You have donated so far \$32,001.00. We still need \$16,178.00. Please give as early as it's possible for you. If at all possible, please belong to "1% or More Circle" by donating \$500. When the time comes, after we have made the goal, when all the dust settles from the pandemic, I'll invite the 1% Circle folks to a dinner. As you know well, the purpose of AAA is to support the ministry and mission of the Archdiocese.

Advent Quote: "Jesus stands at the door knocking (Rev. 3:20). In total reality, he comes in the form of the beggar, of the dissolute human child in ragged clothes, asking for help. He confronts you in every person that you meet. As long as there are people, Christ will walk the earth as your neighbor, as the one through whom God calls you, speaks to you, makes demands on you. That is the great seriousness and great blessedness of the Advent message. Christ is standing at the door; he lives in the form of a human being among us." - Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *God is in the Manger: Reflections on Advent and Christmas*

Food for Thought: A Short Course in Human Relations:

The six most important words: "I admit that I was wrong." The five most important words: "You did a great job." The four most important words: "What do you think?" The three most important words: "Could you please. . ." The two most important words: "Thank you." The most important word: "We." The least important word: "I".

Joke: Praying for Hearing: Jim shows up at a revival meeting, seeking help. "I need you to pray for my hearing," he tells the preacher. The preacher puts his fingers on Jim's ears and prays and prays. When he's done, he asks, "How's your hearing now?" "I don't know," says Jim. "I don't go to court till next Tuesday."

Thinking of you, thanking God for you, and sending you prayerful wishes for an Advent season of God's grace and our great expectations. Come, Lord Jesus!

Your Friend & Pastor,

Fr. Charles Puthota

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday 8:00 am	December 7 † Maria Kielian
Tuesday 8:00 am	December 8 † Manuel Scerri † Joseph Vella † Rosie Abela
6:00 pm	
Wednesday 8:00 am	December 9 † Annie Cruz
Thursday 8:00 am	December 10 † Jenny Sant
Friday 8:00 am	December 11 † John Sant
Saturday 8:00 am	December 12 † Art Fontanilla † Virginia Walden
4:30 pm	
Sunday 7:30 am	December 13 People of the Parish
9:30 am	† John Sant
11:30 am	† Simplicio and † Rosalina Castillo

† Denotes deceased – (L) Living

Sunday Collection November 29, 2020

Weekly Need:	\$ 5,000.00
Sunday Collection	\$ 1,857.00
St. Patrick's Seminary	\$ 351.00
Thanksgiving	\$ 250.00
St. Anthony's Dining Room	\$ 550.00

If you make your offertory donation by check, without using parishioner envelopes, it would be most helpful if you placed your parishioner/envelope # in the "memo" section of the check. This helps us input your donation to the offertory data system.

We will not be responsible for donations not credited due to missing envelope numbers (or not having a Sunday collection envelope.)

Archdiocesan Annual Appeal Update

Goal:	\$ 48,719.00
Raised:	\$ 32,001.00
Balance:	\$ 16,718.00

Our generous parish family has raised \$31,031.00 This is an impressive success given the Covid -19 pandemic and the challenges we are facing as a result. Please consider generously donating 1% (\$500.00). You would join our 1% Circle at St. Elizabeth. Please consider donating whatever you can to help us meet our assessment.

Second Sunday of Advent December 6, 2020

Every valley shall be filled in,
every mountain and hill shall be made low.
— *Isaiah 40:4*



GOD'S DELAY

In times of great difficulties scoffers taunt us, "Where is God? Why hasn't your Lord come to save you now?"

And we of faith respond much in the same way as Peter did in today's second reading: the "delay" of the Lord's second coming is not any type of punishment or failure to keep the divine promise, but a loving sign of God's patience. God is giving *everyone* the chance to seek repentance.

God does not make life more difficult. Rather, God lessens our burdens as once before for the Jewish exiles returning home to Judea after captivity in Babylon. It was God who personally led them, making a "straight highway" for them across the desert.

We join with our ancestors of faith, who hoped that they might see God's Chosen One before them and who eventually realized that the Lord was also walking with them side by side.

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TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — The rugged land shall be made a plain; the rough country, a broad valley (Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11).

Psalms — Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation (Psalm 85).

Second Reading — Conduct yourselves in holiness, hastening the coming of the day of God (2 Peter 3:8-14).

Gospel — I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit (Mark 1:1-8).

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