

## From the Pastor's Desktop

A Message from Father Charles Puthota  
12-13-20



Dear St. Elizabeth Parishioners,

**Sunday Outdoor Mass Schedule:** Please keep in mind on Sundays, Mass will be at 10:00 a.m. in school parking lot. Weekday Masses are suspended until further notice.

**Christmas Outdoor Mass Schedule:** Christmas Eve 4:00 p.m. Christmas Day 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. In the school parking lot.

### **Dress for cold weather on Sunday and Christmas**

**Masses:** A timely reminder about dressing up for possible cold, windy weather. Please do come in layers of warm clothes, as you deem necessary, when you come to attend the outdoor Masses.

**Spiritual Reflection on Advent:** We are journeying through the spiritual season of Advent. The hauntingly melodious and meaningful hymn "O come, O come, Emmanuel and ransom captive Israel that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel" captures the spirit of longing and sadness --- and an expectation of joy. We'll be very busy this season of Advent with many external preparations for the upcoming Christmas. The pandemic has altered our activities and preoccupations. Amidst all the hectic activities, the Church invites us to prepare the heart and mind for the Lord's coming. The focus is Christ and his coming into our lives and the world. All that we do this season should really be related to welcoming Jesus into our hearts and families. Remember there was no room in the inn some 2000 years ago? Is it possible that there is no room in the inn for Christ in our times? Christianity is Christ and the intimate connection with him and one another. Advent brings us to the center of Christianity: Christ. Our prayer this season will be: "Come, Lord Jesus." The season of Advent is also a semi-penitential time. An indication of this is the violet colors and the muted decoration in the church and the non-singing of Gloria. These are reminders --- liturgical hints --- that we are to be engaged in a penitential preparation for the coming of Christ, so that when he does come at Christmas, purified of our selfishness and sinfulness, our hearts will burst with joy.

**Advent Quotes:** "Each of us is an innkeeper who decides if there is room for Jesus." --- Neal A. Maxwell. "Hope sees the invisible, feels the intangible, achieves the impossible." "Advent: Arrival, Start, Beginning, Dawn, Initiation, Introduction." "Advent: Close your eyes and open your mind." "Advent: the time to listen for footsteps --- you can't hear footsteps when you're running yourself." --- Bill McKibben.

**Word of God this Rejoice (Gaudete) Sunday:** This Sunday, the third Sunday of Advent, is called Gaudete (Rejoice!) Sunday. As we draw closer to Christmas, the Church invites us to rejoice at the soon awaited birth of the Savior of the world. In Isaiah we read, "The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor...I rejoice heartily in the LORD, in my God is the joy of my soul." Are we ready to rejoice at the presence of Christ who is going to turn his abiding presence into a "coming" in our lives this holy season? What does joy mean in the time of the pandemic?

**Praying for those affected by COVID-19:** There are glimmers of hope as first vaccines are being rolled out in U.K. Soon our own country and the rest of the world will be receiving vaccines. Pope Francis has rightly expressed his concerns that the poor people in poor countries should not be left out of the access to the vaccine. Let's keep all those who have died, all those who are ill, all those who have lost their jobs, all those who are going through so much anxiety and uncertainty, all those working on the frontlines---may everyone be blessed with peace and health. Let's keep collaborating with everyone by doing our mite in keeping others and ourselves safe by following the safety protocols like face-masking, distancing, hand-washing, avoiding occasions of exposure, etc.

### **Quotes to Ponder in the time of the Pandemic: 1.**

"Praise and blame, gain and loss, pleasure and sorrow come and go like the wind." 2. This too shall pass. 3. "Everything will be okay in the end. If it's not okay, it's not the end." 4. "I shall pass this way but once; any good that I can do or any kindness I can show to any human being; let me do it now." 5. "Life will give you whatever experience is most helpful for the evolution of your consciousness."

**Humor:** 1. A devout, church-going father was trying to teach his son that lying is a sin and that he shouldn't lie about fishing and other things. "Do you know what happens to fishermen who lie when they die?" he asked. The son quickly replied, "They lie still!"

**Thinking of you, thanking for you, and wishing you and your families this Advent season God's blessings of health and happiness,**

Your Friend & Pastor,

Father Charles Puthota

## MASS INTENTIONS

<b>Monday</b> 8:00 am	<b>December 14</b> Souls in Purgatory
<b>Tuesday</b> 8:00 am	<b>December 15</b> † Tessie, † Joseph and † Saviour Schembri Layla Spiteri (L)
7:00 pm	
<b>Wednesday</b> 8:00 am	<b>December 16</b> Jesusa Galang (L) Brisen Derrington (L)
7:00 pm	
<b>Thursday</b> 8:00 am	<b>December 17</b> † Giuseppina Rinaldi
7:00 pm	
<b>Friday</b> 8:00 am	<b>December 18</b> † Giuseppina Rinaldi
7:00 pm	
<b>Saturday</b> 8:00 am	<b>December 19</b> † Manolito Amorado † Paul, † Theresa and † Joseph Vella
4:30 pm	† Jose Jimenez
7:00 pm	
<b>Sunday</b> 7:30 am	<b>December 20</b> People of the Parish
9:30 am	† Joseph Spiteri
11:30 am	The Maltese Society
7:00 pm	

†Denotes deceased – (L) Living

**Please note: All Mass times including the Simbang Gabi Mass and intentions were scheduled Pre-Covid 19. Currently the only Mass will be Sunday at 10:00 am in the schoolyard parking lot. Weekday Masses are privately celebrated for Mass intentions.**

### **Sunday Collection December 6, 2020**

<b>Weekly Need:</b>	<b>\$ 5,000.00</b>
<b>Sunday Collection</b>	<b>\$ 2,619.00</b>
<b>Faith Formation</b>	<b>\$ 202.00</b>

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 \$32,001.00. 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.

## Third Sunday of Advent December 13, 2020

Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing.  
— 1 Thessalonians 5:16



### **JOHN THE BAPTIST**

At a school open house, a woman could be overheard introducing her husband to some of the other parents. "Oh, Bill, I'd like you to meet Johnny's father. And over here, this is Marie's mom; you know, the little girl from our Ellen's soccer team."

With satisfied resignation Bill introduced himself not by name: "I'm Ellen's Dad."

It's good to know who you are. Be it someone's father or mother, son or daughter, husband or wife, it's important to embrace the full meaning of our various roles.

John the Baptist knows who he is. And who he is not. He is not the Christ. Nor Elijah. Nor like any other prophet God's people had ever seen.

John the Baptist knows his mission is divine. He's more than satisfied to be the one to announce the coming of God's reign. The Christ is near. Make straight your paths.

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### **TODAY'S READINGS**

**First Reading** — As a garden makes its growth spring up, so will God make justice spring up before all the nations (Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11).

**Psalms** — My soul rejoices in my God (Luke 1:46-50, 53-54).

**Second Reading** — Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophetic utterances. Test everything; retain what is good (1 Thessalonians 5:16-24).

**Gospel** — I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, make straight the way of the Lord (John 1:6-8, 19-28).

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