

From the Pastor's Desktop

A Message from Father Charles Puthota
01-17-2021



Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

Ordinary Time of the Liturgical Year: As you know, the Christmas season was over on January 10th when we celebrated the Baptism of the Lord. Now we are in the "Ordinary Time" of the liturgical year. This means there are no significant liturgical celebrations during this time, except, of course, the Sunday liturgies. Though we call this "ordinary time," we know that God's love and grace are not to be trifled as ordinary. God's everyday blessings are extraordinary. They accompany us all through our lives and shine through all our days, no matter what the liturgical seasons are. Someone has said: "Once in a while, right in the middle of an ordinary life, love gives us a fairy tale." Someone else has said: "I refuse to be ordinary." Also we hear that "great people are just ordinary people but with great desire." Some saints have reminded us that we need to do ordinary things in an extraordinary way. These things may well apply to the ordinary time of the liturgical year. God can touch us anytime. He always delights in us. He is waiting for us to love and give of ourselves. So let the ordinary time be an extraordinary time because of that little "extra" we can add to the ordinary time and to our ordinary lives and the ordinary routines.

Lent is on the Horizon---Plan Ahead?: The short Ordinary Time comes to an end as we begin Lent on Ash Wednesday on February 17th. As we will embrace Lent in the next few weeks, we could start planning on what we might do differently in Lent. With daily Masses still not certain on account of COVID-19, we could start thinking about things along the lines of faith, love, and service. Conversion, repentance, new ways of thinking and living are all important in Lent. No doubt it would involve giving up certain things and even going through inconvenience and sacrifice --- all part of the spirit of Lent. It would be a good idea to start planning already now on what we might do extra or different in Lent.

Calendars have arrived: I'm glad they are here and ready to be distributed. Enjoy! Apologies for the delay. Calendars, as you know, are a visual representation of time. Calendars are filled with days and weeks and months, which are in turn filled with hours and minutes and seconds. We put our schedules and events, our

birthdays and anniversaries, on calendars. Let the new year 2021 be filled with blessings of love and health for each one of us at St. Elizabeth parish.

Archdiocesan Annual Appeal (AAA) 2020 and 2021: For 2020, we could not reach our goal of \$48,719. We still needed to raise \$16,038. COVID-19 came in the way. However, since the Archdiocese needs the AAA contributions from all parishes in order for them to do God's work effectively, I sent in the amount of \$16,038 to the Archdiocese from our other sources. Thank you for your generous donations in last year. For this year, 2021, let's make a new, concerted effort to achieve the goal. I'm assuming that our AAA 2021 amount might be about \$50,000. So, I'd like to request you to start donating generously. I'll also be writing a letter to each parishioner. If it's possible for you to give 1% of the total amount of \$50,000 which would be \$500.00, please do donate it. It would be much appreciated. Some may be able to give more than 1% as some of you did last year. For others, whatever you are able to give generously, please do send it in to the parish. If we could complete this by the end of April, we would not need to talk about it for the rest of the year.

A Story to Ponder: Dandelions: A man who took great pride in his lawn found himself with a large crop of dandelions. He tried every method he knew to destroy them. Still they plagued him. Finally he wrote the Department of Agriculture. He enumerated all the things he had tried and closed his letter with the question: "What shall I do now?" In due course the reply came: "We suggest you learn to love them." (ADM)

Religious Humor:

1. Saint Pope John XXIII: Visiting a hospital Pope John XXIII asked a boy what he wanted to be when he grew up. The boy said either a policeman or a pope. "I would go in for the police if I were you," the Holy Father said. "Anyone can become a pope, look at me!"

2. Without God: A Weekly Reminder: Without God, our week would be: Sindyay, Mournday, Tearsday, Wasteday, Thirstday, Fightday & Shatterday. Remember seven days without God makes one weak!!

A Quotable Quote: "There is no saint without a past, no sinner without a future" ---Augustine of Hippo.

Thinking of you joyfully and gratefully and sending you my wishes and God's blessings for health and happiness. Be well! Be swell!

Your Friend & Pastor,

Fr. Charles Puthota

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 17, 2021

Your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you.

— 1 Corinthians 6:19a



SPEAK, LORD, WE ARE LISTENING

In today's first reading God keeps calling out in the night to a sleeping boy. Neither the boy, Samuel, nor his teacher, Eli, understands who is calling. But God's persistence convinces them. Samuel is then ready—not ready yet to do anything, but ready to listen. "Speak, for your servant is listening" (1 Samuel 3:10).

In the Gospel Jesus is out teaching. Various people notice him and begin to gather around. They soon become disciples and, like the young Samuel, are ready—not ready yet to do anything, but ready to listen. "Speak," they say, "we are listening."

God's voice is always with us, awake or asleep. It swirls around us like fog on a waterfront, enveloping us, gently urging us to wake up, to listen. Awareness of the voice comes first; then willingness to listen; then, in time, the decision to act, to live according to God's word. Let's ask today for the ability to keep our ears open so we don't miss God's voice.

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TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening (1 Samuel 3:3b-10, 19).

Psalm — Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will (Psalm 40).

Second Reading — Your bodies are members of Christ; glorify God in your body (1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20).

Gospel — The first disciples saw where Jesus was staying and they stayed with him (John 1:35-42).

The English translation of the Psalm Responses from the *Lectionary for Mass* © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

Sunday Collection January 10, 2021

Weekly Need:	\$ 5,000.00
Sunday Collection	\$ 3,712.00
Over/Under	\$ 1,288.00
Archdiocesan Appeal	\$ 273.00

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.)

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday 8:00 am	January 18 John Swaries (L)
Tuesday 8:00 am	January 19 † Joseph DeLuca
Wednesday 8:00 am	January 20 Olivia Abranches (L)
Thursday 8:00 am	January 21 Sandra and Victor DaSilva (L)
Friday 8:00 am	January 22 Nicole and John Soares (L)
Saturday 8:00 am 4:30 pm	January 23 † Carl and † Marie Claybour No Mass Intention
Sunday 7:30 am 9:30 am 11:30 am	January 24 People of the Parish † Rodolfo C. Trinidad Italian Catholic Federation Maltese Society

†Denotes deceased – (L) Living

Please note: All Mass times including Mass 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.

End of Year Statements

We have closed the books on 2020. Please contact the parish office if you are in need of a year-end statement of your donations. We are able to provide statements to parishioners who have donated using **SUNDAY ENVELOPES**.

Please note that any donations received after December 31st will be credited to 2021.

2021 Mass Intentions Available!

Please submit your 2021 Mass Intentions. As usual, due to the volume of requests, Masses cannot be reserved by phone or in person. Please submit your request in writing and mail to 449 Holyoke Street or by email: stelizabethchurchsf@gmail.com.

You will receive a confirmation letter once your Masses are scheduled. If your requested Mass is not available a alternate date or time will be chosen for you. The offering that has been suggested by our Archdiocese is \$10.00 per Mass.

Office Closed

The Parish office will be closed on Monday January 18th in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday

