

From the Pastor's Desktop

A Message from Father Charles Puthota
01-24-2021



Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

Y'm Grateful for and Happy About St. Elizabeth: I have been at St. Elizabeth Church for almost seven months now. We have been through different forms of lock-down on account of the pandemic. With the resumption of limited number of Masses and other ministries, I have come to know more and more parishioners. I've been edified by your faith and love for the church, and so much friendliness and good will. All of that is demonstrated in the joyful way you volunteer in many different ways for our ministries and tasks. Your active participation in the parish life and your generous financial offerings in support of our parish have been amazing. I'm delighted and grateful. Thank you for the blessings you bring into our community. Let's keep working together joyfully and gratefully and share God's blessings generously with one another, especially those who are in need.

Archdiocesan Annual Appeal (AAA) 2021: Our goal for this year is \$40,000. Let's begin anew! Can everyone at St. Elizabeth participate in this appeal? Those who are able to give 1% of this amount, which is \$400, please would you give? This is the "1% AAA Group." I would like to invite the 1% Group to a get together and dinner when the time comes. I have already written my personal check for \$400 toward AAA 2021. If you are able to give more than 1% as some of you did last year, please do. For everyone at St. Elizabeth, would you consider giving as generously as possible, to help support the mission and ministry of the Archdiocese. The church needs the help all the more now during this pandemic to be able to continue doing God's work. At the same time, I understand that all of you have been affected by the pandemic in some way or another. So please give whatever is possible generously and out of gratitude for the many blessings you have received in your life. I'll be putting a letter in the mail for each one of you in the next few weeks.

Lent on the Horizon: Ash Wednesday is on February 17th. Easter is on April 4.

Pope Francis on Riots at Capitol: Pope Francis said the unfolding of events on Capitol Hill in Washington DC on 6 January "came as a surprise" to him. However, he noted, no society can consider itself immune from subversive elements. His words came as part of an interview conducted by the Italian "Canale 5" television network..."

I was amazed, because they are a people who are so disciplined in democracy," said Pope Francis. However, he added, even mature societies can have flaws, and there are often people "who take a path against the community, against democracy, and against the common good." Violence must certainly be condemned, the Pope continued. "It must always be condemned, regardless of those who perpetrate it." "There is no society which can boast of never having had a single day or case of violence," the Pope said. Therefore, he added, it is a question of "understanding, so as not to repeat [the violence] and learn from history." In any case, Pope Francis concluded, "understanding is fundamental", because it is the only way in which to find a "remedy." (From Vatican News)

MLK's "I Have a Dream": Last Monday January 18th was Martin Luther King, JR. Day. As a way to celebrate that day, I watched reflectively the powerful speech of MLK delivered at the Lincoln Memorial, Washington D.C. on August 28, 1963, seeking dignity and justice for all. His "dream" is all the more relevant in our times as the nation is going through turmoil and trouble. Here's an excerpt from that speech: "...And so let freedom ring from the prodigious hilltops of New Hampshire. Let freedom ring from the mighty mountains of New York. Let freedom ring from the heightening Alleghenies of Pennsylvania. Let freedom ring from the snow-capped Rockies of Colorado. Let freedom ring from the curvaceous slopes of California. But not only that: Let freedom ring from Stone Mountain of Georgia. Let freedom ring from Lookout Mountain of Tennessee. Let freedom ring from every hill and molehill of Mississippi. From every mountainside, let freedom ring. And when this happens, and when we allow freedom ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when *all* of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual: *Free at last! Free at last! Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!*"

Jokes: 1. A pastor was delivering a children's sermon on the proper management of time. He asked the little ones seated on the floor around him, "Can you think of ways in which you waste time? One three-year-old girl replied, "How about taking a bath?"
2. A little boy offered up this simple prayer: "God bless mommy and daddy, my brother and sister; and God, do take care of yourself because if anything happens to you, we're all sunk."
3. A small boy in Faith Formation class described how powerful God is: "God is more powerful than Batman, Superman, and the Lone Ranger put together."

Thinking of you, praying for you, thanking God about you, and collaborating with you on our common journey of love, faith, and service.

Your Friend & Pastor,

Fr. Charles Puthota

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 24, 2021

The kingdom of God is at hand.
Repent, and believe in the gospel.
— Mark 1:15



A NEW DAY DAWNS

Today we hear how Jonah, sent by God to warn the people, storms through the streets of Nineveh, scaring the citizens out of their wits. And it works! God has a change of heart, seeing "by their actions" how the people turn from evil (Jonah 3:10). A new day dawns.

Next we hear Paul telling the Corinthians, "The world in its present form is passing away" (1 Corinthians 7:31). He calls for a change of heart. Stopping short of telling them to stop carrying out their everyday activities, he urges them—rather mysteriously—to live "as though" they aren't doing the things they are doing. A new day has dawned.

Finally, Jesus stands on the shore and cries, "The kingdom of God is at hand!" (Mark 1:14). Simon and Andrew abandon their nets—and even their father—and follow him. A new day had dawned.

Everyone has to change when a new day dawns: the Ninevites, the Corinthians, the apostles, even Jesus! Didn't a new day dawn today for us as well?
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TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — The Ninevites turn from their evil ways in response to Jonah's message (Jonah 3:1-5, 10).

Psalm — Teach me your ways, O Lord (Psalm 25).

Second Reading — The world in its present form is passing away (1 Corinthians 7:29-31).

Gospel — Jesus proclaims, "Repent, and believe in the gospel." The new disciples abandon their nets and follow him (Mark 1:14-20).

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Sunday Collection January 17, 2021

Weekly Need:	\$ 5,000.00
Sunday Collection	\$ 1,769.00
Over/Under	\$ 3,231.00
Church Project	\$ 276.00

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 25 † Pepito Camba
Tuesday 8:00 am	January 26 † Maria Kielian
Wednesday 8:00 am	January 27 † Philip Abranches
Thursday 8:00 am	January 28 † Lily Lobo
Friday 8:00 am	January 29 † Helen D'Souza
Saturday 8:00 am 4:30 pm	January 30 † Francis Cok † Manuel Scerri † Joseph Vella
Sunday 7:30 am 9:30 am 11:30 am	January 31 † Tony Micallef People of the Parish † Bituin Yumul Igancio

†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.