

From the Pastor's Desktop

A Message from Father Charles Puthota 04-18-2021



Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

Easter Season: Easter Experience of Dying-Rising: What does Easter mean to us? Obviously, it is not just a one-day celebration. It is a season. What is more, it is a way of looking at things. It's not a way of looking at certain things but a certain way of looking at everything. Because of Jesus' resurrection, we can live our present lives with abiding hope and a sense of freedom. Jesus' dying and rising is at work in our lives so that we can keep dying and rising. Changing our direction in life is a big part of the Easter season. The early Christians embraced the change of life. When the apostles preached who had themselves been transformed, the people who heard them were transformed. The Holy Spirit brought about changes unimaginable. We too may feel helpless about our patterns of behavior or cycles of sin, but the Risen Christ can breathe his Spirit on us and blow away our timidity and doubts, our helplessness and insecurities. The spiritual effects of Jesus' resurrection may be felt and experienced in our daily lives if we but allow the Easter grace to take hold of our lives. What about those dear departed ones from our families and circles of friends? Aren't they all well because of the Risen Christ? Don't they all luxuriate in the endless joy and peace of Easter? Easter, therefore, is profound both for the living and the dead. We cannot view the mysteries of life and death without the vantage point of the Easter mystery.

Our Parish Celebration for 500 Years of Christianity in the Philippines: Our parish celebration will be on Sunday May 16 at the 11:30 a.m. Mass with Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone presiding. You may recall that Pope Francis celebrated a special Mass at St. Peter's Basilica on March 14 in Rome to mark the 500th anniversary of Christianity in the Philippines and urged the Filipinos to "persevere in the work of evangelization." Joined him at the Mass were several representatives of the Filipino Church, including Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle, the former Archbishop of Manila who is now prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples. Pope Francis recalled that when the Christian message first arrived in the Philippines five centuries ago, "You received the joy of the Gospel: the good news that God so loved us that he gave his Son for us. And this joy is evident in your people. We see it in your eyes, on your faces, in your songs and in your prayers... I want to thank you for the joy you bring to the whole world and to our Christian communities." The Catholic Church in the Philippines inaugurated the year-long celebration on Easter Sunday April 04, 2021 through the end of April 2022. The theme of the jubilee celebration is "Gifted to Give."

Word of God: Luke, author of both the Acts of the Apostles and the gospel according to Luke, summarizes the life of Jesus as spoken by Peter in the first reading and in the gospel portrays the risen Jesus as dispelling the apostles' fears and showing himself as a living human person, not a ghost. In both the readings, repentance and forgiveness of sins are to be preached to all nations. Our change of heart and God's forgiving love are at the center of our human and Christian life.

Archdiocesan Annual Appeal: Our goal is to raise \$40,000. The purpose is to assist the Archdiocese in its mission to preach, teach, proclaim, and to engage in various spiritual, liturgical, sacramental, social, educational ministries. So far, we have raised \$31,154. Those who are still considering to give, please do think about it prayerfully. To those who have given, my heartfelt thanks. To those who have donated one percent and more, thank you for your generosity which makes it easier for us to reach the goal of \$40K.

New Sound System and New Website: These are new things in our parish to help better participation at Mass and better communication about our parish news. Hope you are enjoying these new additions to our parish life. If you have any feedback, please do let me know or leave a message at the parish office.

Change of Daily Mass Schedule June 01 Onwards: Because of the interest shown by those who attended daily Mass during the Triduum, I have decided that as a parish we could be praying the Morning Prayer every day before the Mass. Accordingly, June 01 onwards, there will be Morning Prayer every day (the Divine Office) starting at 8:10 a.m. followed by Mass at 8:30 a.m. Those of you who would like to attend the daily Mass, please note that the Mass will be at 8:30 a.m. instead of at 8:00 a.m. For the morning prayer, "Christian Prayer" books will be provided. This is something new and exciting. Please do come join the daily prayer of the Church before the Mass--June 01 onwards.

Easter Quote: "A man who was completely innocent, offered himself as a sacrifice for the good of others, including his enemies, and became the ransom of the world. It was a perfect act." ---Mahatma Gandhi.

Joke: One Easter Sunday the Reverend Jones announced to his congregation, "My good people, I have here in my hands three sermons..... A \$100 sermon that lasts five minutes A \$50 sermon that lasts fifteen minutes. And a \$20 sermon that lasts a full hour. Now, we'll take the collection and see which one I'll deliver."

Your Friend & Pastor,

Fr. Charles Puthota

Third Sunday of Easter

April 18, 2021

You alone, O LORD,
bring security to my dwelling.
— Psalm 4:9



FULFILLMENT

It is interesting that during the Easter season, when we do not hear a reading from the Old Testament, it becomes so important. This is particularly true today. Peter's speech begins with a prayer formula familiar to Jews: "The God of Abraham . . ." (Acts 3:13). It likewise contains the potent phrases "Holy and Righteous One" and "mouth of all the prophets" (3:14, 18). Peter was stating in no uncertain terms that the law, psalms, and prophets had been fulfilled in Christ. This is reinforced by Jesus himself in the Gospel passage, when he states that everything in the scriptures (to the early Christians "the scriptures" were what we call the Old Testament) had to be fulfilled. Above all, Jesus and Peter both emphasize that we are witnesses to all of this, and are sent forth to bear witness to it in the world. The Latin *Missa*, from which our word "Mass" comes, means "sent" (as in "mission"). As we leave Mass today, let us remember to be witnesses to all that has been fulfilled in the risen Christ.
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TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — The author of life you put to death, but God raised him from the dead (Acts 3:13-15, 17-19).
Psalms — Lord, let your face shine on us (Psalm 4).
Second Reading — We have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous one (1 John 2:1-5a).
Gospel — Thus it is written that the Christ would suffer and rise from the dead on the third day (Luke 24:35-48). 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.

April 11, 2021

Weekly Need:	\$ 5,000.00
Sunday Collection	\$ 2,408.00
Over/Under	\$ 2,592.00
Archdiocesan Appeal	
Second Collection	\$ 340.00

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	April 19 † Maria Kielian
Tuesday 8:00 am	April 20 † Daisy Ramos Daulat
Wednesday 8:00 am	April 21 † Grace Fernandez
Thursday 8:00 am	April 22 † Jerry Sapiano
Friday 8:00 am	April 23 † Emilia Songco
Saturday 8:00 am 4:30 pm	April 24 † Frank DeLuca † Grace Fernandez
Sunday 7:30 am	April 25 People of the Parish †Eusebio Fabia Sr. † Herbert Fabia, †Gideon Fabia
9:30 am	Italian Catholic Federation
11:30 am	† Donald Cervelli

† 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 celebrated in the Church.



Please join us on Sunday, May 16th, at the 11:30 am Mass with Archbishop Cordileone presiding, celebrating 500 years of Christianity in the Philippines.