

Fr. Charles Puthota's Blog

November 22, 2020

From the Pastor's Desktop



Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

Christ the King: This Sunday is the feast of the majestic King, Christ our Lord. It's the last Sunday of the liturgical year. It's our belief that at the end of the world, Christ the King will tie up all the loose ends and bring the whole creation to an end and present it to his heavenly Father. Meanwhile, he is King of our lives today and every day. He rules over us not with power and glamour, but through love and humility, through selflessness and self-effacement. He is the King who washes our feet and dies for us so that we can have life and have it abundantly. His Kingdom fills the whole world. His Kingdom values are often contrary to what the world tends to practice. But the deepest longings and desires of our hearts can be found in the values of this universal King, Christ our Lord. All our dreams for love and intimacy, peace and justice, health and happiness—all these are the values of Christ the King as well. We can open our hearts and minds more fully to this King who will dwell in our lives and make us shine with truth and integrity. Long live Christ the King!

Advent: After the feast of Christ the King, we turn our attention next Sunday to the beginning of the season of Advent. What a beautiful season of longing and waiting for the Lord to be born all over again in our lives! Let's get ready psychologically and spiritually for this wonderful season of Advent which will lead us to the new-born King at Christmas. Given the pandemic, what will Advent and Christmas mean for us this season is up to us to explore.

Happy Thanksgiving: The fabulous, heartwarming, all-American festival of Thanksgiving is round the corner. Covid-19 has rearranged all our celebrations this year. Usually, people all over the nation get ready to travel back home to be with family. Love is in the air everywhere. According to AAA, about 50 million people were expected to travel this Thanksgiving, but on account of the pandemic, travel is supposed to be down by at least 50%. There is much sadness and anxiety this Thanksgiving. While we work together and collaborate in overcoming the pandemic, we still are filled with a sense of gratitude for God's blessings of life and love. For the blessings of family and faith. For the blessings of people caring for each other. We have much to be thankful for. Gratitude makes us better human beings and Christians. Gratitude makes explicit our human condition and our dependence on God and one another. It helps us appreciate the fact that we are not self-sufficient and that we are interdependent. It energizes us to go out of ourselves to others and think about others' needs. With our love and service, we can create a better world for all of us.

Archdiocesan Annual Appeal (AAA): We still have to make \$17,763. to reach our goal of \$48,719. Please give early and generously. It is to support the Archdiocese in its mission and ministry.

Memory of the Dear Departed in November: Let's continue to keep the departed members of our family in our hearts and prayers. "Eternal rest grant unto them, O, Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. Amen. May they rest in peace! May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace, Amen."

Parish Consultors Meeting (PCM): In the meeting I had called on November 16th, I sought the opinions of various people in different ministries and organizations in our parish about our faith-related matters as well as the physical plant. I'll be calling this meeting once in two months. The purpose will be for various organizations and ministries to report what they do. It will also be the occasion for me to inform them of various happenings in our parish and seek opinions. Thank you to all those in this group. Your presence and input is much appreciated.

Simbang Gabi: After consultations in the small group as well as in Parish Consultors Meeting (PCM), we have come to the conclusion that this year, on account of the pandemic, the Simbang Gabi Masses (December 16 to 24) will be incorporated into the daily Mass at 8:00 a.m. and on Sunday (December 20) at 9:30 a.m. Mass. I have requested Hermie de los Reyes to be the chair of the committee to make all the detailed plans for how these Masses will feature the beautiful customs and traditions of Simbang Gabi.

Thanksgiving Humor: 1. A man was picking through the frozen turkeys at the grocery store for Thanksgiving Day, but couldn't find one big enough for her family. She asked a stock boy, "Do these turkeys get any bigger?" "No, ma'am. They're dead." 2. Can you tell the difference between a female and a male turkey? A: The male is the one with the TV remote. 3. Q: What can never ever be eaten for Thanksgiving dinner? A: Thanksgiving breakfast. 4. Q: What happens when you're too harsh on the cranberries and make them sad? A: They turn into blueberries. 5. Why didn't the turkey bake properly on Thanksgiving? A: I've no idea, but I suspect some fowl play.

Happy Thanksgiving! May we join our families, friends, and communities, even if it has to be remotely, to thank God for his myriad blessings and share them with others by loving and caring for them. May we all be protected from the pandemic and enjoy good health and peace!

Your Friend & Pastor,

Fr. Charles Puthota