

# Fr. Charles Puthota's Blog

December 6, 2020

From the Pastor's Desktop



Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

**Revised Mass Schedule:** There will be no daily Masses. Coming Sunday December 06, there will be one Mass only at 9:30 a.m. in the school parking lot. This is in view of the latest Covid-related restrictions introduced on Sunday noon November 29. There is a possibility that we might move the Sunday Mass just a little bit later to take advantage of the morning sun. Shall confirm it to you later. Up to 200 people are allowed for outdoor Masses. No indoor Masses are allowed now.

**Important: Dressing Appropriately for Outdoor Masses:** These are my recommendations. Just gentle reminders! Please do come prepared wearing warm clothes for outdoor Masses. You may want to think about the following items, as appropriate for you: Layers of warm clothes, gloves, head-covering, warm socks, not to mention face masks. Do check the weather and come well-prepared. I hope it will not be too cold or windy. If and when it rains, let's deal with it at that time!

**Advent:** The word "advent" itself means "coming" or "arrival." It is obviously about the coming of Jesus. Remember the words of Jesus before his ascension into heaven: "I'll be with you always." Jesus is with us always. Only we do not see and recognize him. We do not hear and touch him. We can imagine him saying: "You have eyes, but you don't see; have ears, but don't hear." There are many things in life that prevent us from being in touch with Jesus. Our preoccupations and anxieties may leave us with no time or space for Jesus in our lives. That is why the concept of "coming" is very helpful. It has the sense of dynamism built into it. It has the meaning that it is happening in our lives now, in our present situations and circumstances. As we get ready to celebrate the first coming of Jesus and look forward to his second coming, we cannot miss Jesus coming into our lives now, encountering us, calling us, sending us, fulfilling us, and blessing us. As we go about our daily, ordinary lives, how can we prepare ourselves in our minds and hearts for his coming? Or as we face difficult situations such as disease, death in the family, failure, rejection, depression, panic, and all sorts of sad experiences, how can we let Jesus come into our lives today so that he can make a difference and lift us up with his grace and love? In the midst of the pandemic, as our lives have been interrupted like never before, what will the coming of Jesus into our lives mean for us and the whole world?

**Archdiocesan Annual Appeal (AAA):** Please give whatever you can toward the goal of \$48,719. You have donated so far \$30,956.00. We still need \$17,763.00. Please give as early as it's possible for you. If at all possible, please belong to "1% or More Circle" by donating \$500. When the time comes, after we have made the goal, when all the dust settles from the pandemic, I'll invite the 1% Circle folks to a dinner. As you know well, the purpose of AAA is to support the ministry and mission of the Archdiocese.

**Advent Quote:** "Jesus stands at the door knocking (Rev. 3:20). In total reality, he comes in the form of the beggar, of the dissolute human child in ragged clothes, asking for help. He confronts you in every person that you meet. As long as there are people, Christ will walk the earth as your neighbor, as the one through whom God calls you, speaks to you, makes demands on you. That is the great seriousness and great blessedness of the Advent message. Christ is standing at the door; he lives in the form of a human being among us." - Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *God is in the Manger: Reflections on Advent and Christmas*

**Food for Thought:** A Short Course in Human Relations: The six most important words: “I admit that I was wrong.” The five most important words: “You did a great job.” The four most important words: “What do you think?” The three most important words: “Could you please. . .” The two most important words: “Thank you.” The most important word: “We.” The least important word: “I”.

**Joke:** Praying for Hearing: Jim shows up at a revival meeting, seeking help. “I need you to pray for my hearing,” he tells the preacher. The preacher puts his fingers on Jim’s ears and prays and prays. When he’s done, he asks, “How’s your hearing now?” “I don’t know,” says Jim. “I don’t go to court till next Tuesday.”

Thinking of you, thanking God for you, and sending you prayerful wishes for an Advent season of God’s grace and our great expectations. Come, Lord Jesus!

Your Friend & Pastor,

Fr. Charles Puthota