

# Fr. Charles Puthota's Blog

January 24, 2021

From the Pastor's Desktop



Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

**I'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