

Fr. Charles Puthota's Blog

February 7, 2021

From the Pastor's Desktop



Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

Pope Francis' Reflection for the Pandemic Times: On November 20, 2020, Pope Francis wrote a column in the opinion page of the New York Times about the current pandemic. He ends his reflection with a call for solidarity because we are all in this together. The more we approach this globally, the more we'll be able to face effectively this crisis and any other crisis. Here are the Holy Father's words: "To come out of this crisis better, we have to recover the knowledge that as a people we have a shared destination. The pandemic has reminded us that no one is saved alone. What ties us to one another is what we commonly call solidarity. Solidarity is more than acts of generosity, important as they are; it is the call to embrace the reality that we are bound by bonds of reciprocity. On this solid foundation we can build a better, different, human future."

Ash Wednesday Masses and Confessions: At 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. I'll hear confessions that day after the 8:00 a.m. Mass and before 6:00 p.m. Mass. Confessions are also available each Sunday before the 10:00 a.m. Mass.

Shall we read Luke's Gospel for Lent? Starting Ash Wednesday, for the whole season of Lent, shall we read, as a parish, the gospel according to Luke? Each day during Lent we can read a chapter or half a chapter or just a short passage. We can read it in the morning or during the day or before dinner. We can let the children read as we listen to them proclaim the Word of God in the comfort of our living rooms or kitchens or dining places. Let's look at the spiritual, intellectual, emotional, physical dimensions during the 40 days of Lent, a period when we could come closer to God and to one another. It might also be a good opportunity to look more deeply and consciously at our comprehensive health and genuine happiness

Each Wednesday at 8:30 a.m. Zoom Mass, Benediction, and Devotions: If you'd like to join, please email the parish office for the link. We'd love to have you.

Archdiocesan Annual Appeal (AAA): On February 11, I'll be putting in the mail a letter to each one of you, inviting you to participate in AAA. The purpose of AAA is to support the mission and ministry of the Archdiocese. I'll be placing the names of the donors in the parish bulletin each week. The goal for our parish to reach in 2021 is \$ 40,000. Please give generously and soon, so we can finish this drive by the end of April or so. If you are able to give 1% of the total amount, which is \$400, it would be wonderful. so that we can complete the campaign as quickly as possible. Let's keep in mind that God has blessed us with all kinds of blessings. Stewardship means receiving God's blessings consciously and gratefully---and sharing them generously with others. Living gratefully might be the shortest definition of stewardship. As you know, our parish and the Archdiocese need the financial help all more during the pandemic to continue to do God's work. Please do give generously. "God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Cor. 9:7).

The Chinese New Year, a Year of the Ox: February 12 is the first day of the Year of the Ox. We celebrate it along with the large population of the people of Chinese origin in our City. In Chinese culture, the Ox is a valued animal. Because of its role in agriculture, positive characteristics, such as being hardworking and honest, are attributed to it. Oxen are considered hard workers in the background, intelligent and reliable, but never demanding praise. The Ox is the second of all zodiac animals. According to one myth, the Jade Emperor said the order would be decided by the order in which they arrived to his party. The Ox was about to be the first to arrive, but Rat tricked Ox into giving him a ride. Then, just as they arrived, Rat jumped down and landed ahead of Ox. Thus, Ox became the second animal. Enjoy the Year of the Ox! Gung Hay Fat Choy!

A Story to Think About: It was this very first class on a Monday morning. The wise teacher, a couple of years shy of retirement, started the day by asking her class of high school students: "Here is a quiz for you. You are sleeping. You are dreaming. A big tiger is chasing you. You try to run away and you see a tiger coming in front of you. You turn sideways, but every side you turn to, you find a ferocious animal coming after you. How can you escape?" There was silence in the classroom. No one dared a response. So finally the teacher said, "There's only one answer: Wake up!"

Jokes: 1. There was a very gracious lady who was mailing an old family Bible to her brother in another part of the country. "Is there anything breakable in here?" asked the postal clerk. "Only the Ten Commandments!! " answered the lady.

2. A teacher began her lesson with a question, "Boys and girls, what do we know about God?" A hand shot up in the air. "He is an artist!" said the kindergarten boy. "Really? How do you know?" the teacher asked. "You know - Our Father, who does art in Heaven... "

Be well! Be safe! Be healthy! Be happy! Let's together as followers of Christ spread light! Instead of cursing darkness, let's light a lamp!

Your Friend & Pastor,

Father Charles Puthota