

Fr. Charles Puthota's Blog

June 27, 2021

From the Pastor's Desktop



Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

Revised Mass Schedule: Starting July 01 Daily Mass at 8:30 a.m.: Please note that coming Thursday July 01 onwards the daily Mass will be at 8:30 a.m., not at 8:00 a.m. The reason for this change is the Liturgy of the Hours we will be praying at 8:00 a.m. daily. Hopefully, you might get a little longer sleep before you get to the Mass. If you are retired and even if you are not retired but are able to attend the Mass, please do put the daily Mass in your daily schedule. Those of you who live within walking distance might be able to combine physical exercise with spiritual exercise. We are all aware, according to various studies, that people who attend religious services regularly live longer! Going to Mass also gives the opportunity to dress up and come out of the house and be connected with people and, of course, be connected with God. So it is also beneficial psychologically. There are, therefore, physical, spiritual, and psychological, and social benefits by going to Mass as frequently as possible. Think about it!

Weekend Masses at 4:30 p.m. Saturday and 9:30 a.m. Sunday: You may be aware by now that we have started the Saturday (vigil) Mass at 4:30 p.m. Last Saturday, there were 54 people who attended this Mass, while the Sunday 9:30 a.m. Mass brought in 138 people. Please do make it convenient for you to attend one of these Masses.

Liturgy of the Hours: Divine Office--Monday through Saturday at 8:00 a.m.: We have been practicing and praying the Morning Prayer of the Liturgy of the Hours, also known as the Divine Office, for the last two weeks, thanks to the help from Donna Durkee and Sr. Olga. So far there are twelve regulars. It takes time to get used to the way of doing this prayer. So if you'd like to commit yourself daily at 8:00 a.m. for this prayer, please do let me know. It would be wonderful if we could have more people joining this prayer daily. It's the prayer of the Church and when we pray this prayer we are united with people all over the universal Church. Also, the psalms in these prayers are those Jesus himself was familiar with. When we pray these prayers, in a way, we are praying the very prayers Jesus was used to praying in his Jewish tradition. I would like to thank the 12 people who have committed themselves to the Divine Office. You are an inspiration to me and to many others. Please keep up the dedication!

Covid-related Safety Protocols: Please note that we still are required to wear masks at indoor Masses. The social distancing is now 3 feet. We'll also start using missalettes now for our Masses, but you are invited to decide if you'd like to use those missalettes or not. Hand sanitizers are still available in our church. If you'd feel more comfortable, you may bring your own hand sanitizers for your personal use, as you may have been doing all these months.

Excerpts from Archbishop's Letter about our Archdiocesan Annual Appeal (AAA): In his letter to me dated June 9, 2021, the Archbishop writes: "Dear Fr. Puthota, I would like to congratulate you and the entire St. Elizabeth community on exceeding your goal in the 2021 Archdiocesan Annual Appeal. Your parish family's generosity is especially appreciated during this unprecedented time...On a personal note, Fr. Puthota, I thank you for your commitment to your parishioners and this critical endeavor. Your leadership has been instrumental in St. Elizabeth's success---as it was at St. Veronica..."

Baptisms & Weddings: Let me know if there is any need for Baptisms and Weddings in your families or among your friends. I can assure you that the parish staff and I are going to be warmly welcoming about any requests for these sacraments.

Faith Formation Registrations are on: Please see details in the bulletin.

Confessions: Before the 4:30 p.m. Saturday Vigil Mass and before 9:30 a.m. Mass Sunday.

Pilgrimage to the Holy Land: Come, join me! Please see the last page of the bulletin for details.

A Beautiful Quote about Prayer: At the request of a parishioner who found my quoting of this piece deeply comforting, I'm printing it here. Enjoy!

"I asked God for health that I might do great things, but I was given infirmity that I might do better things. I asked for riches that I might be happy, but I was given poverty that I might be wise. I asked for power that I might have the praise of people, but I was given weakness that I might feel the need of God. I got nothing I asked for, but everything I had hoped for. Almost despite myself, my unspoken prayers were answered. I am, among all people, most richly blessed."

Jokes: 1. After a morning worship service, a mother with a fidgety seven-year-old boy told her Pastor how she finally got her son to sit still and be quiet. About halfway through the sermon, she leaned over and whispered, "If you won't be quiet, the Pastor is going to lose his place and will have to start his sermon all over again!" It worked. 2. During a state visit to Great Britain, President Ronald Reagan went horseback riding with Queen Elizabeth. At one point, one of the horses passed gas quite loudly. The queen apologized, saying, "There are some things even royalty can't control." Reagan replied, "I'm glad you told me, or I would have thought it was the horse."

Your Friend & Pastor,

Fr. Charles Puthota