

# Fr. Charles Puthota's Blog

July 11, 2021

From the Pastor's Desktop



**Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,**

**Divine Office at 8:00 a.m.** Every day, Monday through Saturday, we have introduced the Divine Office. It's also called the Liturgy of the Hours. We pray this morning prayer. It's the prayer of the Church, prayed all over the world. There are 12 to 15 committed people who attend this prayer every day. If you are interested and would like to commit yourself to praying this prayer, you are most welcome to join. The prayer book (*Christian Prayer*) will be provided for your use, if you are able to make a commitment to this prayer on a daily basis, as far as possible.

**Daily Mass at 8:30 a.m.:** Because of the morning prayer at 8:00 a.m., our daily Mass is now scheduled for 8:30 a.m. Please do come join the daily Mass. As I have said before, attending daily Mass has many advantages spiritually, physically, psychologically, and socially. To top it all, research shows that those who attend religious services regularly live longer. So, come join! We'd love to have you!

**Baptisms and Weddings:** Those who are in need of these sacraments, please do let the parish office know. I'll try to make the process as easy as possible, while fulfilling all the requirements the Church expects of us.

**Anointing of the Sick:** When you come to attend the weekend Masses, Saturday at 4:30 a.m. and Sunday 9:30 a.m., if anyone is in frail health or getting ready for a medical procedure, and would like to receive the Anointing of the Sick, please do let me know. I'd be happy to do the Anointing either before or after the weekend Masses. Also, I'm available at weekday Masses for the Anointing.

**Confessions:** I'm always available before the weekend Masses or even on weekdays after Masses to hear confessions.

**Archdiocesan Annual Appeal (AAA):** Over a couple of months ago, we successfully completed the AAA. I'm truly proud of this accomplishment for our parish. You have been so kind and generous in donating to AAA in support of the ministries of the Archdiocese. God bless you all!

**Old Reconciliation Room and Cantwell Hall for Meetings:** As you know, the Old Reconciliation Room has been spruced up to host meetings for smaller number of people. I'm glad people are enjoying this new facility. For meetings with larger groups, Cantwell Hall is available. The Over 50 Group has been meeting in Cantwell Hall regularly. I'm glad with the leadership of Emma Magarrell, Elsa Reginato. and others, the Over 50 Group has been enjoying getting together and celebrating friendships. After long months of Covid, it's a joy for groups to gather together again.

**Fred Spence, Our Maintenance Person:** Weeks ago, I hired Fred Spence as our part-time maintenance person for our parish buildings and facilities. He is a fine person and a talented man. Many of you have come to know him already and have expressed your appreciation about him. I welcome him warmly, though belatedly, to our parish community.

**Pilgrimage to the Holy Land in October 2022:** Come, join me! I'll be spiritual director! We'll visit the places connected with Jesus' birth, teachings, death, and resurrection. Please see the last page of the bulletin for details.

**A Story to Ponder:** *The Sky and the Crow:* A tale from the Bhagawat Purana: A crow once flew into the sky with a piece of meat in its beak. Twenty other crows set out in hot pursuit and began to attack it viciously. When the crow finally dropped the meat, its pursuers left it alone and flew off shrieking after the morsel. Said the crow: "I've lost the meat and gained this peaceful sky." Said a Zen monk, "When my house burnt down I got an unobstructed view of the moon at night!" (*The Song of the Bird*)

**Quotable Quotes to Meditate On:** 1. "Happiness is when what you think, what you say, and what you do are in harmony." — **Mahatma Gandhi**

2. You are a child of the universe, no less than the trees and the stars: you have a right to be here.— Max Ehrmann, American writer and poet

3. Love recognizes no barriers. It jumps hurdles, leaps fences, penetrates walls to arrive at its destination full of hope.-- Maya Angelou, African-American poet and writer.

4. Zen people often talk about "accepting the moment as it is." That's okay, but what we like even better is "caring for the moment" with the same lavish tenderness you'd bestow on a newborn.— Perle Besserman and Manfred Steger in *Grassroots Zen*

5. Q: Is there anything I can do to make myself enlightened?

A: As little as you can do to make the sun rise in the morning.

Q: Then of what use are the spiritual exercises you prescribe?

A: To make sure you are not asleep when the sun begins to rise.

— Anthony de Mello in *One Minute Wisdom*

**Jokes:** 1. From a 3-year-old: "Our Father, Who does art in heaven, Harold is His name.

Amen." 2. Father: Don't you think our son gets his brains from me?

Mother: Probably, dear. I still have all of mine. 3. The relatives of the family's rich dowager gathered for the reading of her will after her long awaited death. "Being of sound mind," read the lawyer, "I spent every last cent before I died."

4. "Somebody has said there are only two kinds of people in the world. There are those who wake up in the morning and say, "Good morning, Lord," and there are those who wake up in the morning and say, "Good Lord, it's morning."

Your Friend & Pastor,

Fr. Charles Puthota