

Fr. Charles Puthota's Blog

August 22, 2021

From the Pastor's Desktop



Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

Seeking Contact Information about Parish Organizations: In order to serve you better and be able to contact you when necessary, I have tasked the parish office to gather the names of members of various organizations and groups of our parish with their cell phone numbers (preferably cell phones) or landline numbers if you don't have cell phones---along with home addresses. Also, in these Covid days, the parish office is really in need of contact information of all organizations that meet in the parish facilities and are in any way affiliated with our parish. I can assure you that this is strictly for the parish use only. Don't worry, I'm not going to sell this info to any retailers!!! Please would the leaders of these groups gather all this information as early as possible and leave it in the parish office by August 31? Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Year of St. Joseph – December 8, 2020 through December 8, 2021: Are you aware that we are in the Year of St. Joseph? With an apostolic letter titled "Patris Corde," which means "With a Father's Heart," Holy Father Pope Francis declared the Year of St. Joseph, on Dec. 8, 2020, on the 150th anniversary of the proclamation of St. Joseph as patron of the universal church. In that letter, Pope Francis speaks of St. Joseph under 7 subtitles: 1. A beloved father, 2. A tender and loving father, 3. An obedient father, 4. An accepting father, 5. A creatively courageous father, 6. A working father, 7. A father in the shadows. We still have a few more months to focus on the spirituality of St. Joseph. What kind of a father was St. Joseph to Jesus? How did he relate to God and the situations he was placed in? How did he relate to Mary the mother of Jesus and our mother? There is so much to reflect on and pray over---and keep St. Joseph close to our hearts.

Liturgical Minister's Training and Certification Workshop at St. Elizabeth Church: Dates: Saturdays: September 11 and September 18, 2021. Every three years, new certification is needed. For St. Elizabeth Parishioners registering for this training, our parish will pay the fee of \$20 for each participant if you undertake to attend both days' sessions and receive a certificate. Please pick up the registration form from our parish office or from a sacristan in the church.

Contact: Office of Worship Laura Bertone | 415-614-5586 | bertonel@sfarch.org or Sandra Kearney | 415-614-5505 | kearneys@sfarch.org

The Office of Worship will be offering training for new and experienced Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion as well as for Readers over two consecutive Saturdays during the months of September, October & November.

- During the first Saturday, ministers are introduced to sacramental theology, particularly that of the Eucharist.
- The following Saturday presenters who are trained offer technical and spiritual direction for the minister's specific liturgical role.

- Finally, Extraordinary Ministers prepare for bringing Holy Communion to the sick and homebound, while Readers conclude with coaching in proclamation and oral interpretation.

This training fulfills the requirement of the Archdiocese to be certified every three years for these ministries. Fee: \$20.00 pre-registered; \$25.00 for same-day registrants. – See flyers, below, for complete brochure and registration form.

Word of God: In Joshua, a choice between serving the Lord and serving the false gods is offered. As for Joshua, he will only serve the Lord. Do we have our own little gods that we worship? Which are our idols that take us away from the true God, away from love, family, faith, and happiness? In the second reading, Paul speaks about the love between Jesus and the Church which is the sort of love a husband and wife have for each other. Love means always dying to self and living for the other. In the gospel, some people cannot accept the teaching of Jesus giving his own body and blood for our eternal life. Jesus wonders if his apostles are going to leave too. However, Peter declares: “Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God.” Again, there is the declaration of serving the one true God. We have to get away from all sorts of idols---our comfort zones, pastimes, escapist mechanisms, possessions---to serve God and live in his love. Everything needs perspective in order for us to consider the life with Christ the most essential and central in our lives. Are we ready to keep God at the center and move the other things to their rightful, peripheral positions?

Brief Uplifting Quotes: “If you’re going through hell, keep going.” – **Winston Churchill**. “The bad news is time flies. The good news is you’re the pilot.” – **Michael Altshuler**. “Be yourself; everyone else is already taken.” – **Oscar Wilde**. “Open your mind. Get up off the couch. Move.” – **Anthony Bourdain**. “If you don’t like the road you’re walking, start paving another one.” – **Dolly Parton**.

Jokes: 1. **Read the Label:** A three-year-old boy went with his father to see a litter of kittens. On returning home, he breathlessly informed his mother that there were 2 boy kitties and 2 girl kitties. "How do you know?" his mother asked. "Daddy picked them up and looked underneath," he replied, "I think it's printed on the bottom."

2. **In Charge:** One evening a little girl and her parents were sitting around the table eating supper. The little girl said, "Daddy, you're the boss, aren't you?" Her Daddy smiled, pleased, and said yes. The little girl continued "That's because Mummy put you in charge, right?"

Wishing you all the blessing of God,

Your Friend & Pastor,

Fr. Charles Puthota