

Fr. Charles Puthota's Blog

September 12, 2021

From the Pastor's Desktop



Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

Divine Office--Morning Prayer at 8:00 a.m.: Every day at 8:00 a.m. Monday through Saturday we have the Morning Prayer, which is the Prayer of the Universal Church. It's also called Divine Office or the Liturgy of the Hours. In July, I invited our parishioners to participate in this prayer and between 15 to 20 people responded generously. I moved the Mass from 8:00 to 8:30 a.m. in order to make the 8:00 a.m. prayer possible. We had the training from Donna Durkee for how to do this prayer because of its unique structure. I'm delighted that the Good Shepherd Sisters Olga and Jean Marie are active participants in this prayer group. I am edified by the earnestness and dedication of the group. I'd like to thank all those who participate in this prayer on a regular basis. As you know, this beautiful and uplifting form of prayer is purely scripture-based. If anyone else is interested in joining this prayer, please do let me know. You'd love it, and we'd love to have you. If you are retired, it might be convenient to join this prayer and the Mass daily. I think our parish is a perfect place to introduce this prayer and the response from the dedicated participants inspires and amazes me. I'm so grateful!

In-Person Faith Formation Classes Starting on September 25: After a break of over a year, we are starting again in-person classes. Please do register your children or grandchildren, if you haven't so far. For centuries, faith was passed on from generation to generation, and now we have the responsibility to do the same.

Archdiocesan Annual Appeal (AAA) Thank-You Luncheon for 1% Circle: As a way of thanking you for your generosity in donating 1% or more (\$400 or more), I'm inviting you to a luncheon at Basque Cultural Center on Sunday November 07 at Noon. Please put it on your calendar. I shall soon be writing to you personally to invite and ask for your choice of *entrée* at that luncheon.

Gracenter Fundraising Dinner at St. Elizabeth Rectory: You may be aware of the Gracenter, a recovery residence for women run by the Good Shepherd Sisters. To fundraise for their commendable ministry, I'm throwing a dinner in the Rectory for 12 people. The donation requested is \$150.00 per head. If you are happy to be part of this fundraising dinner-event, please would you contact the parish office? Gracenter, as you may know, is celebrating their 60th anniversary this year. It was built through the generosity of 11 local labor unions and 52 businesses. The Sisters are also doing an online fundraising. Please visit GSG2021.givesmart.com to donate.

9/11 Remembrance: This year, on the 20th anniversary, let's keep in our hearts and prayers all those who died in the most tragic attacks on that fateful day. Let the sad remembrance of that day lead our nation and the world to work for peace, harmony, and justice everywhere.

Baptisms, Confessions, Weddings, Funerals, Anointing of the Sick or Dying, Blessing of Homes & Vehicles: Please call the office. Or contact me at weekend or weekday Masses. I promise you that I'll make the process and arrangements as easy and pleasant as possible. I'm here to serve.

Word of God: The gospel we read this Sunday is central literally to Mark's gospel. From this point on, Jesus moves inexorably toward the cross. Jesus asks: "Who do you say that I am?" People give all sorts of answers about Jesus as perceived by others. But Jesus is keen on our personal answer to this question. Our faith has been nourished by our parents, teachers, priests, nuns, friends, teachers, and others. But we cannot live on borrowed faith. We are to come personal contact with Jesus and come to faith. It is like our tasting food for ourselves. We cannot taste food from others' descriptions, but we have to taste and see for ourselves. Jesus is to be tasted and experienced and encountered for ourselves personally. Who do YOU say that Jesus is? What does he mean to you in your present circumstances? How would you describe him given your experiences? What names would you give him based on your personal life-journey? Does he make a difference in your life? These are vital questions for Christian life.

Sr. Olga Cristobal's 50th Anniversary of Religious Life: In gratitude to God for all the blessings bestowed on Sr. Olga Cristobal, RGS, for her 50 years of Religious Life as a member of the Good Shepherd Sisters, there will be a thanksgiving Mass on Saturday on October 09 and followed by luncheon-reception. If you'd like to collaborate in the preparations for this celebration, please would you let me know. I'd like to thank those who are already helping in the preparations for this event.

Humor: Billy Graham tells the story of a coach who arranged a meeting between a ball player and the dean of a college to which the ball player was seeking admission. "If you are able to answer one simple question, you can enter college," said the dean. Then he said, "How much is six and six?" The athlete thought for a minute and answered: "Thirteen." There was silence. Then the coach broke in, "Ah, dean, let him in. He only missed it by two."

Food for Thought: "Watch your thoughts; they become words. Watch your words; they become actions. Watch your actions; they become habits. Watch your habits; they become character. Watch your character; it becomes your destiny." – Lao-Tze

Your Friend & Pastor,

Fr. Charles Puthota