

# Fr. Charles Puthota's Blog

November 14, 2021

From the Pastor's Desktop



**Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,**

**Eternal Rest Grant Unto Them, O Lord...:** November is a tender and emotional month when we think of our dear ones gone to the Lord and pray for them. They loved us; we loved them. What prevents us from continuing to love them? Nothing! Love lives on beyond death. Nothing can separate us from them, not even death. It's a month of sadness and memories, but it's also a time of awareness about life beyond our earthly existence when God in Jesus will fulfill our deepest longings for immortality and everlasting life. We are made for eternity and God himself has placed that desire in us. We realize the brevity of our life on earth and rearrange our preoccupations to gain a perspective on things. In view of the end of our journey in this world, we develop a sense of what matters and what does not. We pray for all those going through a purification process, like gold in the fire, that they may attain their final destiny of being with God forever. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. Amen. May they rest in peace. Amen. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen.

**Looking forward to these Liturgical Events:** November 28 is the first Sunday of Advent. The Sunday before that, Nov. 21, is the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. Mass on Thursday Nov. 25 Thanksgiving Day will be at 9:00 a.m. as per the tradition of our parish.

**Simbang Gabi Masses at 8:30 a.m. from Dec. 16 through Dec. 24:** I called for a meeting to consult about how we are going to do the Simbang Gabi Masses this year, with Covid still in the background. It was felt by the group that we should, like last year, combine the spirit of Simbang Gabi with the daily Masses at 8:30 a.m. during the nine days before Christmas. Accordingly, we will have the Simbang Gabi related ceremonies and prayers at the daily Mass at 8:30 a.m. On Sunday December 19, it will be at the regular 9:30 a.m. Mass. I would like to encourage everyone, especially the Filipino community, to come together for this beautiful devotional preparation for nine days before Christmas. The contact person for Simbang Gabi this year is Gloria Trinidad. Please also would you let the parish office know how you can sponsor and support Simbang Gabi.

**AAA Thank-You Luncheon:** Last Sunday Nov. 07, we had 44 people attending the thank-you luncheon at the Basque Cultural Center. There was a great spirit of friendship and gratitude. It was an occasion to celebrate our successful completion of the Archdiocesan Annual Appeal, thanks to everyone's participation and especially those who donated 1% or more. Thank you and God bless your generosity. Next year, when it is time to do our AAA, let's like this year complete it as quickly as possible.

**Safety during the times of Covid:** With recent reports of some increases in Covid cases in the Bay Area due to Delta variant, let's continue to be alert and do everything to keep others and ourselves safe. Our Covid protocols at St. Elizabeth continue to be followed.

**A Story to Ponder:** True philosopher that he was, Socrates believed that the wise person would instinctively lead a frugal life. He himself would not even wear shoes; yet he constantly fell under the spell of the marketplace and would go there often to look at all the wares on display. When one of his friends asked why, Socrates said, "I love to go there and discover how many things I am perfectly happy without." Spirituality is not knowing what you want but understanding what you do not need

**COP26---U.N. Climate Change Conference:** The followers of Christ are called to do everything to protect and preserve the planet earth and be wise and prudent stewards of the planet earth. On Nov. 12, the Conference came to a close in Glasgow, without the attendance of Russia and China. This is the crisis: the world is getting warmer because of emissions of fossil fuels used by us, like gas, oil, and coal. Consequently, extreme weather events are happening, including heatwaves, floods, forest fires, water shortages, drought, crop failures, ecosystem collapse. The past decade has been the warmest on record and so the nations agree that urgent action is needed. In this Glasgow Conference, over 100 world leaders promised to tackle deforestation because trees absorb CO2. These 100 countries joined to reduce Methane by 30% by 2030. Big emitters China, Russia, and India have not joined. More than 40 countries agreed to move away from coal, the single biggest contributor to climate change. Some of the biggest coal-dependent countries, including Australia, India, China, and the U.S. haven't signed up. More than 450 organizations controlling 130 trillion dollars, about 40% of global private assets, agreed to back "clean" technology, like renewable energy. When you have the time, please do read up on technical terms like "Net Zero," "1.5 degrees Celsius target," and "Greenhouse gases." Knowledge is power! Pope Francis has been passionate about the stand the Catholic Church and the whole world have to take and the radical changes needed to avert the disaster and preserve our common home.

**Pearly Gates Humor:**

1. A guy ends up at the pearly gates and St Peter welcomes him by congratulating him for being the first man to live to 350 years of age. The guy is confused, I think you have got the wrong guy, I never lived that long. St Peter replies, Yeah it's you, we worked it out from your IT contracting time sheets.
2. What the lifelong atheist said when he reached the Pearly Gates. I'll be damned!
3. A man walks up to the pearly gates. Saint Peter asks, "How did you get here?" The man answers, Flu."

Your Friend & Pastor,

Fr. Charles Puthota