

Fr. Charles Puthota's Blog

November 21, 2021

From the Pastor's Desktop



Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

Christ the King: This Sunday is the feast of the majestic King, Christ our Lord. It's the last Sunday of the liturgical year. It's our belief that at the end of the world, Christ the King will tie up all the loose ends and bring the whole creation to an end and present it to his heavenly Father. Meanwhile, he is King of our lives today. He rules over us not with power and glamor, but through love and humility, through selflessness and self-effacement. He is the King who washes our feet and dies for us so that we can have life and have it abundantly. His Kingdom fills the whole world. His Kingdom values are often contrary to what the world cherishes. But the deepest longings and desires of our hearts can be found in the values of this universal King, Christ our Lord. Our dreams for love and intimacy, peace and justice, health and happiness—all these are the values of Christ the King as well. We can open our hearts and minds more fully to this King who dwells in our lives and makes us shine with truth and justice. Long live Christ the King!

Advent Coming up next Sunday: With the feast of Christ the King, we turn our attention next Sunday to the beginning of the season of Advent. What a beautiful season of longing and waiting for the Lord to be born all over again in our lives! Let's get ready psychologically and spiritually for this wonderful season of Advent which will lead us to the new-born King at Christmas.

Musings on Thanksgiving: The fabulous, heartwarming, all-American festival of Thanksgiving is round the corner. With the pandemic still holding some sway, our celebrations may be somewhat lowkey, but there is still the uplifting feeling of family, faith, and the need to give thanks. People all over the nation are getting ready to travel back home to be with family. Love is in the air everywhere. We have much to be thankful for. Gratitude makes us better human beings and Christians. Gratitude makes explicit our human condition and our dependence on God and one another. It helps us appreciate the fact that we are not self-sufficient and that we are interdependent. It energizes us to go out of ourselves to others and think about others' needs. With our love and service, we can create better families and communities and transform the human family.

Exhibition of Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel at St. Mary's Cathedral: The Exhibition showcases the awe and wonder of arguably one of humankind's greatest artistic achievements while allowing its visitors to experience the art from an up-close, life-sized, and never-before-seen perspective. ♦ Where: Saint Mary's Cathedral ♦ When: Through January 1, 2022, Thursdays - Sundays, 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. (time slots available every half hour) ♦ Duration: The visit takes about 60-90 minutes ♦ Ticket Prices: Starting at \$20.00 per adult and \$15.00 per child ♦ For information and to purchase tickets: visit <https://chapelsistine.com/exhibits/sf/>

Prayers for the Dear Departed Souls: Eternal Rest Grant Unto them, O Lord: As you know well, the month of November for Catholics is a time to think about life and death and to hold sacred the memory of those who have died from our families and communities. The envelopes with the names of the dear departed from your families are on the altar this whole month. As we mourn the departed and renew our faith in their new life because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, we hope to acquire perspective on our present life. How we live, how we love, what we do with our time, how we pay attention to those things that really matter in the long haul, how we pass on authentic Christian virtues and human values to others, especially our children and grandchildren --- these are things to ponder as we think of death and everlasting life. Knowing that we are all made for the grandeur of eternity and immortality is what will give us purpose and perspective on what we have to do today and all the various choices we have to make on a daily basis.

Thanksgiving Humor: 1. Just before Thanksgiving, the holding pen was abuzz as Mother Turkey scolded her younger birds. "You turkeys are always into mischief," she gobbled. "If your grandfather could see the things you do, he'd turn over in his gravy." 2. Hatched?: This guy goes to his doctor. "Doctor, help me! I can't stop acting like a turkey!" "I see," said the doctor. "How long have you had this problem?" "Let me think a second. Mom laid the egg in 1954....." 3. Knock, knock! Who is there? Arthur. Arthur who? Arthur any Thanksgiving leftovers?

Happy Thanksgiving! "The Pilgrims made seven times more graves than huts. No Americans have been more impoverished than these who, nevertheless, set aside a day of thanksgiving." -H.U. Westermayer. Let our sense of gratitude overflow to our families, friends, and to all those struggling in life.

Happy Thanksgiving! God bless America! From sea to shining sea!

Your Friend & Pastor,

Fr. Charles Puthota