

Fr. Charles Puthota's Blog

December 5, 2021

From the Pastor's Desktop



Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

Advent: The word "advent" itself means "coming" or "arrival." It is obviously about the coming of Jesus. Remember the words of Jesus before his ascension into heaven: "I'll be with you always." Jesus is with us always. Only we do not see and recognize him. We do not hear and touch him. We can imagine him saying: "You have eyes, but you don't see; have ears, but don't hear." There are many things in life that prevent us from being in touch with Jesus. Our preoccupations and anxieties may leave us with no time or space for Jesus in our lives. That is why the concept of "coming" is very helpful. It has the sense of dynamism built into it. It has the meaning that it is happening in our lives now, in our present situations and circumstances. It's not about the past or the future so much as it is about how Jesus is coming into our lives now, encountering us, calling us, sending us, fulfilling us, and blessing us. As we go about our daily, ordinary lives, how can we prepare ourselves in our minds and hearts for his coming? Or as we face difficult situations such as disease, death in the family, failure, rejection, depression, panic, and all sorts of sad experiences, how can we let Jesus come into our lives today so that he can make a difference and lift us up with his grace and love?

Advent Quotes: "At this Christmas when Christ comes, will He find a warm heart? Mark the season of Advent by loving and serving the others with God's own love and concern." - Mother Teresa. "The word advent means "expectation." What advent can do for us is create a sense of hope." - Louie Giglio. "The Lord is coming, always coming. When you have ears to hear and eyes to see, you will recognize him at any moment of your life. Life is Advent; life is recognizing the coming of the Lord." - Henri Nouwen. "It is the beautiful task of Advent to awaken in all of us memories of goodness and thus to open doors of hope." - Pope Benedict XVI. "A prison cell, in which one waits, hopes - and is completely dependent on the fact that the door of freedom has to be opened from the outside, is not a bad picture of Advent" - [Dietrich Bonhoeffer](#).

Immaculate Conception, a Holy Day of Obligation, Masses at 8:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.: As you know, Wednesday, December 08th is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, a holy day of obligation. We love, esteem, and honor Mary our mother. We think of the mystery of Mary's glory as connected with Advent. Because Jesus was coming into the world, his mother Mary had to be prepared right from the moment of her conception, that is, when Mary was conceived in her mother Anne's womb. Mary was protected from any tainting of sin because she had to give birth to the Son of God. This is the belief that we celebrate in the Immaculate Conception. William Wordsworth celebrates it in his poem "The Virgin": "Mother! whose virgin bosom was uncrost / With the least shade of thought to sin allied; / Woman! above all women glorified, / Our tainted nature's solitary boast..."

Synod of Bishops: Pope Francis will convene the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops in October 2022, with the theme, “For a synodal Church: communion, participation and mission.” **Synodality: the path of the Church in the third millennium:** The topic of synodality has been an important feature in Pope Francis’ pontificate. In October 2015, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Synod of Bishops by St Paul VI, Pope Francis said, “From the beginning of my ministry as Bishop of Rome, I sought to enhance the Synod, which is one of the most precious legacies of the Second Vatican Council... it is precisely this path of synodality which God expects of the Church in the third millennium.” More recently, speaking to the International Theological Commission in 2018, the Holy Father said the theme of synodality “is very close to my heart: synodality is a style, it is walking together, and it is what the Lord expects of the Church in the third millennium.” (Vatican News)

A Story to Ponder: The old miser was overheard at his prayers: “If the Almighty, may His holy name be blessed forever, would give me a hundred thousand dollars, I would give ten thousand to the poor. I promise I would. And if the Almighty, may He be glorified forever, were not to trust me, let Him deduct the ten thousand in advance and just send me the balance.”

Wedding Humor: 1. A young couple came into the pastor’s office to fill out the prenuptial-questions form. The young man had never talked to a priest before and was nervous, so the pastor tried to put him at ease. When they came to the question, “Are you entering this marriage of your own free will?” there was a long pause. Finally, his fiancée looked at the young man and said, “Put down ‘yes.’” 2. A pastor received the following thank-you note from a newlywed in his congregation: “Dear Father: I want to thank you for performing our marriage ceremony. It was beautiful the way you brought my happiness to conclusion.”

Christmas Liturgy Schedule: Christmas Eve at 4:30 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. Christmas Day at 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Wishing you the blessings of the Advent Season,

Your Friend & Pastor,

Fr. Charles Puthota