

# Fr. Charles Puthota's Blog

Christmas 2021      New Year 2022

From the Pastor's Desktop



## **Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,**

**Christmas is Unique:** Together at St. Elizabeth Church we celebrate a whole new Christmas. This Christmas will be different from any other Christmas because of the journey of life that places us amidst people, situations, and the world at this specific juncture in human history. What is more, the Covid pandemic has put us in a place we never thought was possible. Shall we, therefore, welcome wholeheartedly the freshness and newness of the grace and blessing of this Christmas?

**Christmas is Enchanting:** Christmas never ceases to enchant us, no matter how young or old we are. There is always a delight, a sweetness, a sense of cozy intimacy and safety that come with Christmas. We are filled with a spirit of beauty and loveliness. That is the reason playwrights, poets, and painters go wild over the endless charm of the feast of Christmas. Shall we, too, enter more deeply the magic and mystery of Christmas?

**Christmas is Christ:** There is no Christmas without Christ. He is the reason for the season. It is his birthday. Everything is centered on him. History is viewed as before (BC) or after (AD) Christ. All generations before him waited for him. All generations after his birth look up to him. He is the little baby born again now in our lives, entering as softly and tenderly as only a baby can. Our hearts melt at the sight of this divine baby and long to let him be part of our lives. He is our life and love, our peace and joy.

**Christmas at St. Elizabeth:** Joyfully and gratefully we embrace Christmas at St. Elizabeth. Let Christmas be an impetus and inspiration for the building up of our community with Christ at the center. I thank you for your engagement in the life of the parish and for your participation in the various ministries. The quality of volunteers who give of their time and talents is amazing. I thank you for your generous weekly offerings and the support you continue to give for God's work at St. Elizabeth Church.

**Christmas Mass Schedule:** Christmas Eve Masses: 4:30 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. Christmas Day Masses: 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

**Simbang Gabi:** This devotion will be celebrated at the regular 8:30 a.m. Masses from December 16 through 24, except on Sunday Dec. 19 at the 9:30 a.m. Mass.

The parish staff and I wish you and your families the exquisite and exuberant Christmas blessings now and throughout the New Year.

**Merry Christmas! Happy New Year!**

Your Friend & Pastor,

Fr. Charles Puthota