

Fr. Charles Puthota's Blog

February 20, 2022

From the Pastor's Desktop



Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

Parish Financial Report: The financial statement for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021 is presented in this bulletin. Please do continue to participate in the life of the parish through your faith, prayer, liturgies, volunteering, and financial donations. Let's keep doing God's work in our 110-year-old parish of St. Elizabeth.

Archdiocesan Annual Appeal (AAA): Amount to raise: \$30,500. One Percent amount: \$305. Last weekend (February 12-13), we launched the Archdiocesan Annual Appeal (AAA) to raise \$30,500. Please would you prayerfully consider giving 1% which is \$305. We shall have a concerted effort for a month in raising the amount. I preached at both the last weekend Masses, sharing with you about the need and necessity of supporting the Archdiocesan ministries---for the simple reason that our parish is part and parcel of the Archdiocese. I also made the connection with the Word of God in light of the "sermon on the plain" from Luke's Gospel. The blessings and woes remind us of the values of Jesus. Our parish and the Archdiocese are missioned to proclaim the values of Jesus, thus furthering the Kingdom of God. When we help, support, and strengthen the Archdiocese, we are actually helping, supporting, and strengthening our own St. Elizabeth Parish. I also emphasized the great news that last year, despite being in the thick of the pandemic, you supported AAA successfully. We made our goal within the first eight weeks. I have every reason to believe that you'll make a success of this drive this year as well. It's part of our parish identity to engage in such projects energetically and complete them with pride and a great sense of fulfillment. We bring faith and wisdom to such tasks---and with God's grace and everyone's collaboration, we will come out of these projects with flying colors. This week, we begin the second week of the AAA month-long drive. You'll see the names of the AAA donors (\$25 and above) in the bulletin. Please do send in your donations as generously and as early as possible.

Saturday March 12 is Lenten Retreat: I'll be preaching a Lenten Retreat on the theme of Prayer on Saturday March 12. It will start with the 8:30 a.m. Mass and will end with lunch around 1:30 p.m. If you'd like to join this retreat, please register. Registration forms are available in the church and in the parish office. Registration fee: \$15. This will somewhat cover coffee and donuts and lunch.

The Word of God: This Sunday, we continue to read from chapter 6 of Luke's Gospel, which is the "Sermon on the Plain" (Luke 6:20-49). You may recall the "Sermon on the Mount" from Matthew's Gospel which spans the chapters of 5, 6, and 7. The Luke's version is a much shorter passage of the Sermon. Its components are: four blessings and four woes, love your enemies and turn the other cheek, treat others the way you want to be treated, don't judge and you won't be judged, forgive, you'll be forgiven, can the blind lead the blind, remove the log from your own eye before attending to the splinter in your friend's eye, a good tree does not produce bad fruit and a bad tree does not produce good fruit, why do you call me Lord, Lord and yet don't do what I command you to do, whoever follows these words of mine builds on rock, whoever builds on sand will be destroyed. These teachings are the values of Jesus; they are the requirements of the Kingdom of God. We'll do well to make an examination of conscience--- and examination of consciousness---about how our personal values relate to the values of Jesus. The values the world cherishes are often in conflict with Jesus' values. We need to also examine and evaluate how the values of our church, the social/political/religious/economic/cultural/technological organizations, and of governments all over the world stand in relation to the values of the Sermon on the Plain/Mount. The more we attune the world to the values of Jesus, the better we shall be in building up the Kingdom of God here on earth.

Lent starts: On Ash Wednesday March 02, 2022. Let's start making plans!

A Couple of Stories to Ponder: 1. A conductor was rehearsing with his orchestra and said to the trumpet player, "I think this part calls for a more Wagnerian approach, if you get what I mean, something more assertive, so to speak, more accentuated, with more body, more depth, more..." The trumpet player interrupted. "Do you want it louder, sir?" All that the poor conductor could say was. "Yes, that's what I mean!" 2. A man was doing his Ph.D in philosophy. His wife, realizing how seriously he was taking his studies, one day said to him, "Why is it you love me so much?" Quick as a shot he replied, "When you say "so much" are you referring to intensity, depth, frequency, quality, or duration?" The moral: "By dissecting the petals no one ever gathered in the beauty of the rose."

Quotable Quote: "Everything you can imagine is real."---Pablo Picasso.

Humor: 1. Doctor: Mr. Erickson, you are in good health. You should live to be 90. Mr. Erickson: I'm 91! Doctor: See, what did I tell you? 2. A 75-year-old woman in a retirement home was admiring a 90-year-old-man. "Why do you keep looking at me so much?" asked the man. "Well," she responded, "you look just like my third husband." "How many husbands have you had?" "Two." 3. You can tell you're getting older when you stop lying about your age and start bragging about it.

Wishing you always God's blessings of peace, joy, love, faith, and health,

Your Friend & Pastor,

Fr. Charles Puthota