

# Fr. Charles Puthota's Blog

February 27, 2022

From the Pastor's Desktop



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

**Archdiocesan Annual Appeal 2022 (AAA):** Amount to be raised: \$30,500. One Percent amount: \$305. Please see the names of donors in the bulletin. We are starting the third week of our month-long drive to reach our goal. Please do give whatever you can, but give generously in support of the ministries of the Archdiocese. Last year, we successfully completed our goal within eight weeks. I am appealing to you to make it a success quickly. We are all called to continue and complete the mission of Jesus Christ, a mission to help, heal, enlighten, and transform the world. The Archdiocese of San Francisco, entrusted with the preaching of the Gospel, seeks our support and collaboration. We are delighted to be of help so that the life of Christ may be made manifest in the three counties of the Archdiocese through a life of faith and service. May I invite everyone to participate in AAA and make a success of it in the next two or three weeks.

**First Reconciliation:** Four children from our Faith Formation made the First Reconciliation last Saturday February 19. Their names are: Miguel Cardenas, Aiden Vu, Kristalyn Salinas, and Melanie Valenzuela. Congratulations to them and their families! We look forward to their First Holy Communion on May 15<sup>th</sup>. Please see the picture in this bulletin.

**Baptisms:** This whole month of February, I am doing baptisms on each Saturday morning in the Rectory chapel. I find it a special occasion to evangelize, in the sense of encouraging and inviting and challenging the families toward faith. I usually post the pictures of the baptisms in the bulletin for your information. We continue to “go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you” as Jesus has asked us to do. We keep doing God’s work in Word and Sacrament at St. Elizabeth parish. Please do participate in our liturgies and sacramental celebrations and devotions, and let your families know about how they can be part of our parish life.

**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.

**Lent starts on March 02 with Ash Wednesday:** What plans can we start making in order to receive nourishment and healing for our body, mind, heart, and spirit in Lent?

**The current Synod:** In the ceremony to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the institution of the Synod of Bishops in October 2015, Pope Francis declared that “the world in which we live, and which we are called to love and serve, even with its contradictions, demands that the Church strengthen cooperation in all areas of her mission.” (For a Synodal Church handbook) This call to cooperate in the mission of the Church is addressed to the entire People of God. In April 2021, Pope Francis initiated a synodal journey of the whole People of God, to begin in October 2021 in each local Church and culminating in October 2023 in the Assembly of the Synod of Bishops. Thank you for participating in the surveys. Please register for virtual listening sessions by visiting: [www.sfarch.org/synod](http://www.sfarch.org/synod)

**From the Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church:** 1. **What is the plan of God for man?** God, infinitely perfect and blessed in himself, in a plan of sheer goodness freely created man to make him share in his own blessed life. In the fullness of time, God the Father sent his Son as the Redeemer and Savior of mankind, fallen into sin, thus calling all into his Church and, through the work of the Holy Spirit, making them adopted children and heirs of his eternal happiness. 2. **Why does man have a desire for God?** God himself, in creating man in his own image, has written upon his heart the desire to see him. Even if this desire is often ignored, God never ceases to draw man to himself because only in God will he find and live the fullness of truth and happiness for which he never stops searching. By nature and by vocation, therefore, man is a religious being, capable of entering into communion with God. This intimate and vital bond with God confers on man his fundamental dignity.

**A Story to Ponder:** A famous Viennese surgeon told his students that a surgeon needed two gifts: freedom from nausea and the power of observation. He then dipped a finger into some nauseating fluid and licked it, requesting each of the students to do the same. They steeled themselves to it and managed it without flinching. With a smile, the surgeon then said, “Gentlemen, I congratulate you on having passed the first test. But not, unfortunately, the second, for not one of you noticed that the finger I licked was not the one I dipped into the fluid.”

**Quotable Quote:** “My life is my message.”---Mahatma Gandhi.

**Humor:** 1. Reporter: Now that you’re 90 years old, to what do you attribute your good health? Elderly man: I’m not sure yet. I’m still negotiating with a mattress company and two breakfast-food firms.” 2. Minister: We are gathered together at this funeral to pay final homage to a good man. He was a kind man, a man whom everyone loved, a man who treasured his family as his family treasured him. Mother: Waldo, go up and make sure it’s Grandpa in that coffin.

Your Friend & Pastor,

Fr. Charles Puthota