

Fr. Charles Puthota's Blog

April 24, 2022

From the Pastor's Desktop



Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

Easter Season: Jesus Christ is alive and active in our lives. This is what Easter simply means. It's true he was killed in a horrible way---crucified on a cross. But on the third day, even as he had promised, he rose from the dead. His Father who had let his own son suffer and die, did not abandon him, but raised him to new life. Our lives are understood in the light of the resurrection of Christ. All our predicaments and perils do not have the power to destroy us, even though it might at times appear that way. Thanks to the risen Christ, we shall overcome. We shall have hope. We shall receive the power and strength. We can experience the process of dying and rising to a new life. Even the whole Bible and what God has done throughout the history of the human race--all this we can view from the most efficacious vantage point of the resurrection of Jesus. As someone has said: "The gospels do not explain the resurrection of Jesus; the resurrection explains the gospels." If we can keep dying to self and our unreasonable and uncharitable convictions, prejudices, preconceived notions, and conditioned-predetermined ways of living our lives, and rising to self-giving ways, then the dynamics of Easter is really at work in our lives. We are an Easter people! Let the spirit of Easter make a difference in our lives.

Word of God: During the season of Easter, we'll be reading the first reading from the Acts of the Apostles. This book is one of my favorites in the whole Bible. The Acts of the Apostles tells the story of what happened after Jesus was ascended to heaven, about how the Spirit of Christ anointed and empowered the apostles to preach and practice the resurrection faith fearlessly and courageously. In today's first reading, we read about "great numbers of men and women" joining the new movement. The sick are being healed. Unclean spirits are cleansed. The gospel tells the story of the "doubting Thomas." He seeks rational, scientific proof to put his faith in the risen Christ. He represents the modern person looking for empirical evidence, but faith goes beyond such proofs, even as love does. "Faith is the assurance of things hoped for and the conviction of things not seen." The risen Christ shepherds us from the rational to the realm of faith in God's love and presence. As we all know, the deepest and most precious things in life are things we cannot see and touch. Are we ready for the faith the Easter Lord wants us to profess and practice?

Archdiocesan Annual Appeal (AAA): Please see the names of the donors (\$25 and above) on the last page of the bulletin. The goal is to reach is \$30,500. We still need about \$5000 to finish this race. Please do donate early and generously. The AAA brochures are in the church pews. Please use them. You can use any ordinary envelope to put your check in. If you are able to give 1% which is \$305, it would be wonderful. That way we'll make our goal quickly. Let's keep the purpose of this drive in mind: to assist the Archdiocese in their ministries and services.

Thank You to All Volunteers: During the Holy Week and the Easter celebrations, there were many generous and kind volunteers who gave so much of their time and talents. Thank you to the groups and individuals who donated lilies which beautifully decorated our Church and to the many others who make the celebrations beautiful and memorable, I take my hat off! Your service to God and God's people at St. Elizabeth parish is highly commendable. Thank You!

Change of Guard in our Parish: **Sandy Mehrwein**, our parish secretary, will be leaving the position at the end of April after 19 years of excellent service. Her dedication, personable qualities, and sense of humor will be missed much in the parish office. In her place, I welcome **Saydha Henderson**, who will be serving as secretary from May 02 onwards. Please welcome her as she comes onboard. Also, at the Faith Formation program, **Lily Codd** is leaving and **Laurie Digneo** will be taking over from her as coordinator of Faith Formation. I thank Lily for all her great service and welcome Laurie who seems full of new ideas and energy for the task at hand.

Church Bulletin Bloopers: Thursday night – potluck supper. Prayer and medication to follow. * Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our church and the community. * For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs. * The church will host an evening of fine dining, superb entertainment, and gracious hospitality. * The outreach committee has enlisted 25 visitors to make calls on people who are not afflicted with any church. * Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person(s) you want remembered. * The eighth-graders will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the Church basement Friday at 7:00 p.m. The Congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.

Wishing you and your families all the joys, beauties, and blessings of the Easter season! May we let the Risen Christ do the eastering work in us, our families, and the world!

Your Friend and Pastor,

Fr. Charles Puthota