

# Fr. Charles Puthota's Blog

September 11, 2022

From the Pastor's Desktop



## Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

**9/11 Prayer for the Nation:** God Our Father, we pray for our nation as a whole this September 11th. September 12th was met with unity and grief that we all shared. It is still something we share as a people; it is a reminder of how fragile and precious life truly is. Lord, we pray for peace and unity in our nation today. We pray that Your Spirit would pour out among us and that through and by You, there would be a common heart, a common goal, and a common desire for peace and kindness towards one another. Let us not lose sight of what is important in this life and help us love one another as You truly love us. Lord, we pray for our leaders today. We pray that You would give them wisdom and discernment as they tackle events and dilemmas as they unfold. We pray that You would inspire this nation to be a nation under God, one that seeks to glorify, honor, and praise You. This is our heart's desire, Lord. We desire to be Your people, and we strive to have peace. This nation has so much to offer, and Lord, we pray for our nation to truly be a City on a Hill. We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.

**Faith Formation Catechists' Meeting:** Last Saturday, September 03, I met with the catechists and spoke to them about the vision and mission of our Faith Formation program. Among other things, I invited them to focus on inspiring a personal love for Christ in the minds and hearts of the students and their families. Jesus wants to know: "Who do you say that I am?" I have encouraged them to gear everything toward a personal experience and love of Jesus Christ. This weekend (Sept. 10), the faith formation classes will begin. I'm looking forward to speaking to students and parents and getting to know them on September 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Word of God--- The Three Parables of Lost and Found:** This 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time gives us one of the most reassuring and consoling parables of Jesus from Luke's Gospel Chapter 15. This chapter and today's passage contains three parables: the lost sheep, the lost coin, the lost (prodigal) son. We are lost, but we are found. There is great joy in God finding us and restoring us to our dignity and respect. We are reunited with God. God loves us so much that he finds and forgives us. You may recall Pope Francis' description of the Church: that it is a field hospital. We are wounded and need healing. We are lost in the sense that we have been misplaced. We are not in the right place. We need to be found and saved from all sorts of miseries and perils. In the first reading from Exodus, there is a sad story of people being lost as they make and worship a molten calf as their god. All this after God had delivered them from oppressive slavery and led them through the desert through the most amazing acts of love and protection. In the second reading from Paul's letter to Timothy, Paul acknowledges his own sinfulness and the fact that he was also a lost soul until God "mercifully treated" him. He boasts: "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. Of these I am the foremost." We could meditate on our false idols, our being misplaced, our being lost on the journey of life. But God's awesome love follows us always and finds us with great joy and celebration, as portrayed in the father of the prodigal son, and restores us to the status of the children of God our loving Father.

**Baptisms, Confessions, Weddings, Quinceañeras, Funerals, Anointing of the Sick or Dying, Blessing of Homes & Vehicles: Please call the parish office. Or contact me at weekend or weekday Masses.** I promise you that I'll make the process and arrangements as easy and pleasant as possible. I'm here to serve. If you have families and friends in other towns and states who may be in need, you are most welcome to recommend our St. Elizabeth Parish that is always welcoming and eager to reach out and share God's blessings.

**Short Insightful Quotes:**

1. Spread love everywhere you go. Let no one ever come to you without leaving happier. - Mother Teresa.
2. When you reach the end of your rope, tie a knot in it and hang on. -Franklin D. Roosevelt.
3. Always remember that you are absolutely unique. Just like everyone else. -Margaret Mead.
4. Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap but by the seeds that you plant. -Robert Louis Stevenson.
5. The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams. -Eleanor Roosevelt

**A Story to Ponder:** It was time for the monsoon rains to begin and a very old man was digging holes in his garden. "What are you doing?" his neighbor asked. "Planting mango trees," was the reply. "Do you expect to eat mangoes from those trees?" "No, I won't live long enough for that. But others will. It occurred to me the other day that all my life I have enjoyed mangoes planted by other people. This is my way of showing them my gratitude."

**Humor:**

1. "How's your new job at the factory?" one guy asked another. "I'm not going back there." "Why not?" "For many reasons," he answered. "The sloppiness, the shoddy workmanship, the awful language---they just couldn't put up with it."
2. Approaching a passer-by, a street person asked, "Sir, would you give me a hundred dollars for a cup of coffee?" "That's ridiculous!" the man replied. "Just a yes or no, fella," the beggar growled. "I don't need a lecture about how to run my business."
3. An inexperienced real-estate salesman asked his boss if he could refund the deposit to an angry customer who had discovered that the lot he had bought was under water. "What kind of salesman are you?" the boss scolded. "Get out there and sell him a boat."

Your Friend and Pastor,  
Father Charles Puthota