

From the Pastor's Desktop

A Message from Father Charles Puthota



St. Elizabeth Church, 449 Holyoke Street. San Francisco CA 94134

Christmas 2022

New Year 2023

Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

The First Christmas: As we welcome another Christmas, we are enchanted by the beauty and mystery of the first Christmas. Heaven met the earth. Infinity touched the finite. Eternal embraced the ephemeral. Transcendent encountered the immanent. God became man in Jesus Christ. Because of him, we shall live forever.

Christmas 2022: Christmas happens all over again in our lives. Jesus is born now in a whole new way, like never before. He becomes one with us and walks with us as we face life. Through the mystery of the Incarnation, Jesus makes our ordinary lives extraordinary. Everyone and everything is suffused with sacredness. We could look at Christmas from the perspective of three profound spiritual gifts: Love, Peace, and Joy.

Love: Christmas is a festival of love. "God so loved the world that he gave his only son that whoever believes in him may not perish but have eternal life." At Christmas the love of God shakes us up---and wakes us up---to Jesus Christ who calls us to love one another as he has loved us---unconditionally, self-sacrificially, and absolutely. Any meaningful celebration of Christmas will inspire us to a life devoted to love.

Peace: Christmas is a festival of peace. The angels sang: "Glory to God in the highest and peace to his people on earth." The new-born baby brings peace to our fragmented, harried lives and to a world torn by strife. Any true celebration of Christmas will enable us to surrender our lives and the whole world to the peace of Christ.

Joy: Christmas is a festival of joy. The angel announces: "I proclaim to you good news of great joy...A savior has been born for you..." While the world may be familiar with pleasures, it has not often tasted the pure gift of joy that comes from the new-born divine baby. He will give us joy which no one can take away.

Thank You: Here's wishing each one of you at St. Elizabeth Parish the love, peace, and joy of Christ. Thank you for your amazing faith that blossoms into love and service for one another. Thank you, too, for your generous support which helps make God's work in our parish grow and prosper.

Merry Christmas! Happy and Healthy New Year!

Your Friend and Pastor,

Father Charles Puthota