

# From the Pastor's Desktop

## A Message from Father Charles Puthota

May 21, 2023



**Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,**

**Ascension Sunday Musings:** Jesus ascended to his Father, having accomplished the mission entrusted to him. When you have the time, check out the beautiful stained-glass window of Ascension in our own St. Elizabeth Church, along with those of other Rosary Mysteries. Ascension is the divine mystery that we treasure this Sunday. The actual feast of the Ascension falls on the Thursday after the Sixth Sunday of Easter, but in order to help everyone to observe the Holy Day of Obligation, this feast has been moved to the Seventh Sunday in Easter season in most dioceses in the United States except those of Boston, New York, Hartford, Newark, Omaha, and Philadelphia.

Jesus continues to live and love after his resurrection. The Jesus of History now becomes the Jesus of Faith. The summaries of Jesus' life are again and again proclaimed in the Acts of the Apostles, especially by Peter and Paul, which we read from throughout the Easter season. Jesus came from the Father. He went about doing good. He suffered and died on the cross. He rose from the dead and appeared many times to different people, encouraging and affirming them. Now he goes back to his Father. He does not leave us orphans, though. He will send us the Holy Spirit, which we will celebrate next Sunday at Pentecost. He has also assured us that he will be with us always, even to the end of time. When Jesus lived in this world, he could not go to every place and every nation. Now in the Spirit, he desires to share the good news with everyone in the world. We are the messengers. Not only are we messengers, we are witnesses. All of us who have experienced Jesus as our way, the truth, and the life, we are to go and witness to others. In our words and deeds, in our values and vision, we are to make Christ known to the world.

This is the meaning of the feast of Ascension we celebrate this weekend. Jesus has passed on the baton to us. We have to carry it to others. The relay race is on. We are to do our part in taking Christ to our own family and friends, and beyond. The angels said at his Ascension: "Men of Galilee, why are you standing there looking at the sky? This Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven will return in the same way as you have seen him going into heaven." Until Jesus comes back to fulfill the destiny of the whole universe, which we call his Second Coming, we have a job to do as Christians. We have love to share, forgiveness to offer, mercy to show, peace to establish, and justice to uphold. We have the hungry to feed, naked to clothe, strangers to welcome, prisoners to visit, homeless to shelter. Remember, whenever we have done these to the least of our sisters and brothers, we have actually done it for Jesus Christ. These are all the tasks that Jesus commissions us to do. He needs our help. We are his eyes and heart, his hands and feet. The message of the Ascension is for us to continue and complete the mission of Christ.

**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.

**May, Month of Mary: Memorare:** “Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thy intercession was left unaided. Inspired with this confidence, I fly to thee, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother; to thee do I come; before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me. Amen.”

**Faith Formation Year-End Mass this Sunday:** This Sunday Mass brings the Faith Formation program to a close for this school year. We shall do the promotion of students to the next year. We shall also distribute certificates to the First Communion and Confirmation students. Congratulations to the students and my deep gratitude to the catechists! Next school year, starting in September, all Faith Formation classes on Saturdays will begin with Mass at 8:30 a.m. The drop-off of students would be at 8:20 a.m. in front of the Church door on Somerset.

**A Story to Ponder: Love’s Forgetfulness:** “Why do you keep talking about my past mistakes?” said the husband. “I thought you had forgiven and forgotten.” “I have, indeed,” said the wife. “But don’t you ever forget that I have forgiven and forgotten.” Sinner: “Remember not my sins, oh Lord!” Lord: “What sins? I forgot them long ago. You’ll have to prod my memory.” Love keeps no record of wrongs. (1 Cor. 13) (TSOTB, ADM)

**Humor: 1.** “Mom, are bugs good to eat?” asked the boy. “Let’s not talk about such things at the dinner table, son,” his mother replied. After dinner the mother inquired, “Now, baby, what did you want to ask me?” “Oh, nothing,” the boy said. “There was a bug in your soup, but now it’s gone.” **2.** “If evolution really works, how come Mothers only have two hands?” -Milton Berle

Your Friend and Pastor,

Father Charles Puthota