

# From the Pastor's Desktop

## A Message from Father Charles Puthota

June 11, 2023



Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

**Feast of Corpus Christi:** Just a few weeks ago, we celebrated the First Communion of five of our Faith Formation children at our parish. If we could recover a measure of their excitement, faith, zeal, eagerness, devotion, desire, and their sense of awe about the Eucharist, it would indeed be a great blessing.

This Sunday is the Feast of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. For over twenty centuries the Church has been coming together to break the bread and share the cup. This is my body, Jesus had said. This is my blood, Jesus had said. And he added, whenever you do this, remember me. So we commemorate the sacred act of Jesus giving himself as food. The sacrament of the Eucharist is the sacrament of the sacraments. It is the “source and summit of Christian life.” It is in this sacrament, the church comes together again and again, drawing upon the new life Jesus gives us as we share his body and blood.

In the Eucharist, Jesus is truly, really, and substantially present. As we partake of the Eucharist, we become totally united with Christ. Jesus remains in us, we remain in Jesus. We together remain in the Father. We don't live any longer, Christ lives in us. That is why we call this sacrament “communion.” Because we individually become united with Christ, we are all united with each other and in Christ. We all become the body of Christ because we share the Body of Christ. This is mystical indeed! This is a divine mystery! The vitality of Christian life is centered on the Eucharist. Our identity as Christians is tied up with the Eucharist. Faith is at the heart of our conviction that Jesus gives us his own body and blood in the Eucharist. Even like a mother giving her body and blood to her baby in her womb, Jesus gives us his body and blood in total self-gift and as a sign of his inseparable union with us.

**Eucharist: From the *Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church*:** **What does the Eucharist represent in the life of the Church?** It is the source and summit of all Christian life. In the Eucharist, the sanctifying action of God in our regard and our worship of him reach their high point. It contains the whole spiritual good of the Church, Christ himself, our Pasch. Communion with divine life and the unity of the People of God are both expressed and effected by the Eucharist. Through the eucharistic celebration we are united already with the liturgy of heaven and we have a foretaste of eternal life. **What are the names for this sacrament?** The unfathomable richness of this sacrament is expressed in different names which evoke its various aspects. The most common names are: the Eucharist, Holy Mass, the Lord's Supper, the Breaking of the Bread, the Eucharistic Celebration, the Memorial of the passion, death and Resurrection of the Lord, the Holy Sacrifice, the Holy and Divine Liturgy, the Sacred Mysteries, the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar, and Holy Communion.

**Quotes on the Eucharist:** 1. "If angels could be jealous of men, they would be so for one reason: Holy Communion." - *St. Maximilian Kolbe*. 2. "How I loved the feasts!.... I especially loved the processions in honor of the Blessed Sacrament. What a joy it was for me to throw flowers beneath the feet of God!... I was never so happy as when I saw my roses touch the sacred Monstrance..." - from *St. Therese's Autobiography: Story of A Soul*. 3. We cannot separate our lives from the Eucharist; the moment we do, something breaks. People ask, "Where do the sisters get the joy and energy to do what they are doing?" The Eucharist involves more than just receiving; it also involves satisfying the hunger of Christ. He says, "Come to Me." He is hungry for souls. Nowhere does the Gospel say: "Go away," but always "Come to Me. -- *Mother Theresa*.

**Pope Francis' Surgery:** As I write this blog for our bulletin, we have received news that Pope Francis is admitted today (Wednesday, June 7) in the hospital in Rome for a second intestinal surgery. He had had the first surgery on July 4, 2021. Let us keep him in our hearts and prayers. May the Eternal Good Shepherd give him good health and a long life for him to continue to serve the universal Church as the shepherd close to the heart and mind of Jesus Christ.

**A Story to Ponder:** Every day in the corner of a library in Japan an old monk was to be found sitting in peaceful meditation. "I never see you read the sutras," said the librarian. "I never learnt to read," replied the monk. "That's a disgrace. A monk like you ought to be able to read. Shall I teach you?" "Yes. Tell me," said the monk pointing to himself, "what is the meaning of this character." (*TPOTF, ADM*).

**Humor:** 1. A truck driver stopped to help a lady change a tire in a downpour. As he finished the job, soaked to the skin, he banged the hubcap into place. "Shh," said the woman. "You'll wake my husband. He's asleep in the backseat." 2. There are three stages to man---the first 30 years he learns, the next 30 years he earns, and the next 30 years he yearns. 3. At a fancy party, an attractive matron asked a young man to guess her age. "You must have some idea," she said as he hesitated. "I have several ideas," he admitted with a smile. "The trouble is, I can't decide whether to make you ten years younger on account of your looks or ten years older on account of your charm." 4. The seven ages of a man are spills, drills, thrills, bills, ills, pills, and wills. 5. Little Suzie: "My grandmother is always complaining about how terrible it feels to be old." Little Janie: "Mine too. I guess those wrinkles hurt a lot."

Your Friend and Pastor,

Father Charles Puthota.