

From the Pastor's Desktop

A Message from Father Charles Puthota

June 18, 2023



Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

Father's Day: To all the fathers, Happy Father's Day! For some of us, our fathers are with us and what a blessing it is for us to love and cherish them --- and take care of them! For some others, our fathers have gone to their eternal reward. My father Isaac at age 89 returned to God at the end of December in 2017. I'm still grieving, and I know that those of you who have lost your fathers, no matter how long ago, still grieve and miss them. Love makes us do that. There is a void in us that no one will fill until we are united with our dear departed. We celebrate our fathers who are with us and shall always keep the sacred memory of those fathers who have gone to eternal reward. In all our fathers, we cannot but see God Himself. Isn't it profoundly comforting that God himself is our Father? Jesus called God his Abba (Father) and taught us to pray the "Our Father" and relate to Him as His children. Our Father loves us with an everlasting and unconditional love. He makes the rain fall on the good and the bad and lets the sun shine on sinners and saints alike. Such is his abiding and awesome love. Because we are all the children of the one Father, we become intimately connected with one another as sisters and brothers. How could we then not take care of one another in our need? How could we let anyone in this human family be deprived of basic needs and necessities? As we celebrate Father's Day, let's strive to make sure that the Father's blessings flow to the whole of human family abundantly and ceaselessly.

Father's Day Blessing Prayer: Heavenly Father, you entrusted your Son Jesus, the child of Mary, to the care of Joseph, an earthly father. Bless all fathers as they care for their families. Give them strength and wisdom, tenderness and patience; support them in the work they are called to do, protecting those who look to them, as we look to you for love and salvation, through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Word of God---the Call to be Apostles: The Gospel this Sunday names the twelve apostles. Jesus is concerned about how few the laborers are there to take care of the abundant harvest. The apostles are called and given authority over "unclean spirits" and to cure "every disease and every illness." There are forces and powers of evil in the world. The apostles are needed to drive out the dark powers and help usher in the powers of light and goodness. Jesus sends them out by asking them to proclaim the dawning of the Kingdom of God. He tells them "to cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, drive out demons." We are the apostles today. Jesus calls us and graces us and sends us out. "Come and go" would be the summary of our Christian life. Jesus says to us to "come" because we need to remain with him and learn from the Master. Then he would say to us to "go" because we need to go out to help, heal, uplift, and make this world a better place for all of us. Are we ready and willing to be the apostles that Jesus needs for the world of today?

A Story to Ponder: To please an official Abraham Lincoln once signed an order transferring certain regiments. Secretary of War, Stanton, convinced that the President had made a serious mistake, refused to carry out the order. And for good measure he added "Lincoln is a fool!" When this was reported to Lincoln he said, "If Stanton said I am a fool then I must be one, for he is almost always right. I think I'll step over and see for myself." That is exactly what he did. Stanton convinced him that the order was a mistake and Lincoln promptly withdrew it. Everyone knew that part of Lincoln's greatness lay in the way he welcomed criticism.

A Bit of History of our own St. Elizabeth Parish: On March 17, 1907, St. Elizabeth was established as a mission church. Fourteen people attended the first Mass which was celebrated at the home of a parishioner since there was no official building. A pastor was soon appointed to this new parish and a temporary church was built at the cost of \$450.

Humor for Father's Day: 1. "My father doesn't care about being king of the castle as long as he's king of the remote." 2. "I enjoy Father's Day. It's a time when I pause to reflect on the joy that has come into my life thanks to my two wonderful children, whose names escape me." 3. "I got my Dad a GPS for Father's Day. Now someone other than my mom can tell him where to go." 4. "I would give my dad what he really wants on Father's Day, but I can't afford to move out yet." 5. The message of Mother's Day is: "Mothers are amazingly good at mothering! They deserve a special day!" Whereas the message of Father's Day is: "We're only doing this because we have Mother's Day." 6. "I have mixed emotions when I receive my Father's Day gifts. I'm glad my children remember me. I'm disappointed they think I dress like that." 7. "Father's Day is so special. I love the cards my wife forces the kids to get me." 8. "When I was a boy of 14, my father was so ignorant I could hardly stand to have the old man around. But when I got to be 21, I was astonished at how much the old man had learned in seven years." ---Mark Twain.

Your Pastor and Friend,

Father Charles Puthota