

From the Pastor's Desktop

A Message from Father Charles Puthota

October 15, 2023



Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

October Month Dedicated to Our Lady of the Rosary: The Salve Regina: Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy, our life, our sweetness and our hope. To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve. To thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn then, most gracious advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us, and after this our exile show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary...Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ. Let us pray: O God, whose Only Begotten Son, by his life, Death, and Resurrection, has purchased for us the rewards of eternal life, grant, we beseech thee, that while meditating on these mysteries of the most holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we may imitate what they contain and obtain what they promise, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Synod on Synodality October 04-29, 2023: The Synod is in session in the Vatican now. Let's keep the Holy Father and all the participants in our prayers as they deliberate on how to protect, preserve, and promote "Communion, Participation, and Mission" in the Church for the good of the world.

The Old and the New Testaments: From the Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church: What is the importance of the Old Testament for Christians? Christians venerate the Old Testament as the true word of God. All of the books of the Old Testament are divinely inspired and retain a permanent value. They bear witness to the divine pedagogy of God's saving love. They are written, above all, to prepare for the coming of Christ the Savior of the universe. **What importance does the New Testament have for Christians?** The New Testament, whose central object is Jesus Christ, conveys to us the ultimate truth of divine Revelation. Within the New Testament the four Gospels of Mathew, Mark, Luke and John are the heart of all the Scriptures because they are the principle witness to the life and teaching of Jesus. As such, they hold a unique place in the Church.

Word of God this 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time: Having mediated the last three Sundays on the "vineyard parables" related to the invitation of God to go into his vineyard (Kingdom) to labor, this Sunday the metaphor shifts to a wedding feast hosted by a king. The invited guests fail to show up, giving all sorts of excuses. When the king sends his servants, they are mistreated and killed. Enraged, the king punishes those responsible and widens the invitation to the banquet to include everyone, but the wedding garment is still required. As in the last three Sundays, the gospel again has historical parallels to how Jesus is being rejected by the leaders of the people. The first reading from Isaiah speaks also of a rich banquet with "rich food and choice wines." In a manner that is profoundly consoling (hence this reading is popular at funeral Masses), the reading speaks of God wiping away "the tears from every face," removing the people's reproach, destroying "the veil that veils all peoples," and destroying "death forever." In the ultimate sense, at the wedding banquet, at the end of time, God will not only feed the people but fulfill all their desires and dreams. Therefore, it's time for us now to come to the banquet of God's grace and abundant blessings.

Sunday, October 15, Feast of St. Teresa of Avila: Though this feast is not celebrated liturgically on account of the Sunday (October 15) on which it falls this year, we could still keep in mind that this Spanish Carmelite mystic (1515-1582) was also a reformer and doctor of the Church. Her ascetic spirituality and Carmelite reforms (along with St. John of the Cross) shaped the Church's contemplative life. Her writings on the Christian soul's journey to God (The Interior Castle, The Way of Perfection) are considered masterpieces. Her inspirational prayer-poem "Nada te Turbe" is translated as follows: "Let nothing disturb you. Let nothing frighten you. All things are passing away. God never changes. Patience obtains all things. Whoever has God lacks nothing. God alone suffices."

Wednesday, October 18, Feast of St. Luke, Evangelist: Luke wrote the gospel according to Luke and the Acts of the Apostles. St. Paul calls him "our beloved physician." The salient features of Luke's gospel are: it's the gospel of mercy, the gospel of universal salvation, the gospel of the poor, the gospel of absolute renunciation, the gospel of women, the gospel of prayer and the Holy Spirit, the gospel of joy. He wrote as a gentile for the gentiles. Check out Luke chapters 15 and 24---two of my favorite chapters in all the gospels! Shall we try reading this gospel prayerfully, every day a chapter?

Next Sunday, October 22 is World Mission Sunday: We stand in support of the missionary work of the Catholic Church. Our second collection next Sunday goes to the Pontifical Mission Societies in Rome where the Holy Father directs resources to needy places all over the world.

A Story to Ponder: A man was lost in a desert. Later, when describing his ordeal to his friends, he told how, in sheer despair, he had knelt down and cried out to God to help him. "And did God answer your prayer?" he was asked. "Oh, no! Before He could, an explorer appeared and showed me the way."

Humor: 1. "So this was your first flight. Were you scared?" "Well, to tell you the truth, I didn't dare put my full weight down on the seat." 2. Dad writes on son's Facebook wall: "Dear Son, How are you? All are fine here. We miss you a lot. Please!! Turn off the computer & come down for diner!!!" 3. Criminal: "Your money or your life." Jack Benny: [Pause.] Criminal: "Look, bud. I said your money or your life." Jack Benny: "I'm thinking it over."

Your Friend and Pastor,

Father Charles Puthota.