

# From the Pastor's Desktop

## A Message from Father Charles Puthota

November 5, 2023



### Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

**Remembering the Dear Departed Souls in November:** This whole month we would do well keeping in our hearts and minds the dear departed from our own families and among our circles of friends and acquaintances. We commemorate all those who have been called to God. We hold their memory sacred. We loved them in life, we continue to love them in death. Life is changed, not ended. Love is stronger than death. We bring our love, faith, and prayers to support them in their journey of purification and attainment of perfection with God. It has always been a tradition in the Catholic faith to visit graves on All Souls Day and in the month of November. Let's make time for that. As we stand at their graves, as we may shed tears and be filled with loss and grief, let us know that God will wipe away all the tears and grant the departed souls eternal peace and fulfillment. It is also an occasion for us to think of life and death. Awareness of death can make life more precious and beautiful. Against the background of death, life takes on great urgency and acute significance. Because of death, we are to live better lives. Because of death, we have to become the sort of people God wants us to be in this life. Because of death, we need to become more authentic disciples and apostles of Jesus. Because of death, love becomes not only necessary but also urgent. "Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace! Amen. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen."

**All Souls Names on the Altar:** If you would like your dear departed remembered, please list their names on the designated envelopes, and after placing your offering inside, leave them in the parish office or in the collection baskets or with a sacristan. We will place those envelopes for the whole month of November on the altar and pray for their eternal rest and reward in heaven.

**Quotes on Death and Everlasting Life:** "Unable are the loved to die, for love is immortality." --- Emily Dickinson. "The immortality of the soul is a matter which is of so great consequence to us and which touches us so profoundly that we must have lost all feeling to be indifferent about it." --- Blaise Pascal. "All say, 'How hard it is that we have to die' --- a strange complaint to come from the mouths of people who have had to live." --- Mark Twain. "Death is a distant rumor to the young." --- Andrew A. Rooney. "Death may be the greatest of all human blessings." --- Socrates. "Honey, Don't be feared of them pearly gates... Honey, Go straight on to de Big House, An' speak to yo' God..." --- Sterling A. Brown. "There's nothing certain in a man's life except this: That he must lose it." --- Aeschylus.

**Faith: From the Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church:** How does man respond to God who reveals himself? Sustained by divine grace, we respond to God with the obedience of faith, which means the full surrender of ourselves to God and the acceptance of his truth insofar as it is guaranteed by the One who is Truth itself. **Who are the principal witnesses of the obedience of faith in the Sacred Scriptures?** There are many such witnesses, two in particular: One is *Abraham* who when put to the test “believed in God” (*Romans 4:3*) and always obeyed his call. For this reason he is called “the Father of all who believe” (*Romans 4:11-18*). The other is the *Virgin Mary* who, throughout her entire life, embodied in a perfect way the obedience of faith: “Let it be done to me according to your word” (*Luke 1:38*).

**Word of God:** This 31<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, the gospel reading is about hypocrisy versus authenticity. Time and again, we see that Jesus is disappointed with the religious and civil leaders for the wide gap between what they profess and practice. Their teachings may be worth following, but their ability to practice what they teach lags far behind. Mahatma Gandhi said: “My life is my message.” That declaration would fit our Lord Jesus Christ in a supreme way. What Jesus proclaims he practices with extraordinary authenticity. Love, forgiveness, humility, detachment, compassion, simplicity, faith, prayer, truth, hope, kingdom, peace---all these teachings of Jesus are actually embodied in his life. Whereas, the religious leaders burden the people with all sorts of requirements while not helping them in any way; they make a superficial display of religion; seek places of honor; operate from a position of superiority while showing contempt for others. There is a warning for those in positions of authority both in religion and government, that what they preach needs to be always followed through in their own conduct. There is a saying: “Don’t tell me what to do; show me what you did.”

**A Couple of Stories to Ponder:** 1. A woman in the grocery department of a super-market bent down to pick up some tomatoes. At that moment she felt a sharp pain shooting down her back; she became immobilized and let out a shriek. A shopper standing next to her leaned over knowingly and said, “If you think tomatoes are bad, you should see the price of the fish!” 2. A man got into a bus and found himself sitting next to a youngster who was obviously a hippy. He was wearing only one shoe. “You’ve evidently lost a shoe, son.” “No man,” came the reply. “I found one.”

**Quotable Quotes:** “Don't be afraid to give up the good to go for the great.” --John D. Rockefeller. “You miss 100 percent of the shots you don't take.” --Wayne Gretzky. “A sense of humor is part of the art of leadership, of getting along with people, of getting things done.” --Dwight D. Eisenhower.

**Catholic Jokes:** 1. A six-year-old boy was overheard reciting the Lord’s Prayer at a church service: “And forgive us our trash passes as we forgive those who pass trash against us.” 2. A Faith Formation teacher asked her class: “Does anyone here know what we mean by sins of omission?” A small girl replied: “Aren’t those the sins we should have committed, but didn’t?” 3. While in church, a father whispered to his daughter that she should be quiet because they were in God’s house. The girl looked all around the church, and asked her father, “Which door will God be coming in?”

Your Friend and Pastor,

Father Charles Puthota