

From the Pastor's Desktop

A Message from Father Charles Puthota

November 26, 2023



Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

Christ the King: This Sunday is the last Sunday of the liturgical year and the feast of the humble and self-sacrificing King, Christ our Lord. He is also the messianic and majestic King, a sovereign King over all creation. It's our belief that at the end of the world, Christ the King will tie up all the loose ends and bring the whole creation to an end and present it to his heavenly Father. Meanwhile, he is King of our lives today. He rules over us not with power and glamor, but through love and humility, through selflessness and self-effacement. He is the King who washes our feet and dies for us so that we can have life and have it abundantly. His Kingdom fills the whole universe. His Kingdom values are often contrary to what the world cherishes. But the deepest longings and desires of our hearts can be found in the values of this universal King, Christ our Lord. Our dreams for love and intimacy, our need for belonging and hope, peace and justice, health and happiness – all these are the values of Christ the King as well. We can open our hearts and minds more fully to this King who dwells in our lives and makes us shine with truth and justice. Long live Christ the King!

Quotes on Christ the King: "Christ is King in the sense that He is the Truth. The Church has no other authority but the Truth. Her strength lies solely in the Truth." - Pope St. John Paul II. "Christ is King now, always, and forever. If we do not make him King of our hearts and thoughts, we will have no part with him in eternity." - Fulton J. Sheen. "Christ is the King; let us put aside all vain things that may distract us and look to Him." - St. Teresa of Avila. "Christ, the King of kings, chose to be called your Brother." - St. Francis of Assisi. "O inconceivable goodness of God, which shields us at every step! I thank You, Jesus, my King, for the countless graces which You have lavished on me." - St. Faustina Kowalska.

Word of God: Our King Lord Jesus Christ is a Shepherd-King, which theme comes through in the Word of God this last Sunday of the liturgical year, the Feast of the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. In Ezekiel and Psalm 23, the Shepherd-King will lead, guide, protect, heal, and feed the sheep with great love and care. This Shepherd will also ask for an account of our lives at the end of our lives and at the end of the world. The sheep and the goats will be separated, and we will all be judged on love. In the final analysis, nothing else will matter. May this eternal King, the Shepherd-King who lays down his love for us, impel us to love selflessly, especially those who are most vulnerable, the "least sisters and brothers of Jesus."

Advent Coming up next Sunday: The feast of Christ the King is a signal for us to look toward a whole new season next Sunday, the holy season of Advent. We shall light the candle and sing 'O Come O Come Emmanuel' and wait for Jesus to be spiritually born all over again in the world and in our lives. What a beautiful season of longing and waiting for the Lord! Let's get ready psychologically and spiritually for this soul-filling season of Advent which will lead us to the new-born King at Christmas.

Catechism: From the Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church: What are the symbols of faith? The symbols of faith are composite formulas, also called “professions of faith” or “Creeds”, with which the Church from her very beginning has set forth synthetically and handed on her own faith in a language that is normative and common to all the faithful. What are the most ancient symbols (professions) of faith? The most ancient symbols of faith are the *baptismal* creeds. Because Baptism is conferred “in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit” (*Matthew 28:19*), the truths of faith professed at Baptism are articulated in reference to the three Persons of the Most Holy Trinity. What are the most important symbols of the faith? They are the *Apostles' Creed* which is the ancient baptismal symbol of the Church of Rome and the *Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed* which stems from the first two ecumenical Councils, that of Nicea (325 A.D.) and that of Constantinople (381 A.D.) and which even to this day are common to all the great Churches of the East and the West.

Simbang Gabi 2023: The great tradition of Simbang Gabi will take place for nine days before Christmas at the 8:30 a.m. Masses and on Sunday at 10:30 a.m. Mass. I have invited Gloria Trinidad and her team with Beth Pasco and May Devera to lead this devotional practice which brings people together for the liturgical celebrations and social gatherings and food. I give my whole-hearted support for Simbang Gabi this year again and I invite the parishioners to give your support and participation in this tradition.

Think About It: “Time is too slow for those who wait, too swift for those who fear, too long for those who grieve, too short for those who rejoice, but for those who love, time is eternity.” – Henry van Dyke.

A Story to Ponder: When a factory was burning down, the aged owner of the building was there weeping aloud at his loss. “Dad, what are you weeping for?” said his son, “Have you forgotten that we sold the factory four days ago?” That instantly stopped the old man’s tears.

Fishing Jokes: 1. Two men, fishing on Sunday morning, were feeling guilty. Said one, “I suppose we should have stayed home and gone to Church.” The other replied, “Heck, I couldn’t have gone to church anyway. My wife’s in bed with the flu.” 2. A fellow quit going fishing on Sunday morning and began going to church. The preacher, grateful to see him, said, “Henry, it makes me feel good to see you and your wife here every Sunday.” “Well,” said the fisherman, “I figured I’d rather hear your sermon than hers.”

Your Friend and Pastor,

Father Charles Puthota