

From the Pastor's Desktop

A Message from Father Charles Puthota



May 19, 2024

Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

Pentecost: It is rightly said that the Church was born on Pentecost day. The disciples of Jesus had been hiding, afraid that they might also be killed by the authorities. But Jesus had assured them that the Advocate, the Comforter, would come and remind them of everything Jesus had said. In other words, the Holy Spirit would come to give life, energy, and dynamism to the words and memory of Jesus. Everything changed for those disciples that day. The Holy Spirit came down in a dramatic way. The wind swept the fears away and the fire burned away their timidity. Filled with the Holy Spirit, they spoke and bore witness to the life of Jesus, his death and resurrection in ways they themselves couldn't have expected. Everyone heard everyone else in their own language and understood them. The good news became not only accessible but alive and aflame. The disciples of Jesus became fearless preachers and witnesses. A community was born with the memory of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit. For over two thousand years this community has been called the Church. We are all members of this body. Jesus is the head. The Holy Spirit is the indwelling grace and power within us calling God Abba Father. If we could allow the Holy Spirit to move and guide us, that's when we would be able to make the right choices for God, love, family, faith, and the world. Let's just keep two images of the Holy Spirit in mind: Wind & Fire. What might this wind and fire do for us in the present world?

Prayer to the Holy Spirit: Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful. And kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And you will renew the face of the earth. Lord, by the light of the Holy Spirit you have taught the hearts of your faithful. In the same Spirit help us to relish what is right and always rejoice in your consolation. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Quotes on the Holy Spirit: "I believe in the surprises of the Holy Spirit." --- Cardinal L. J. Suenens. "It's not the Holy Spirit and power; it's the Holy Spirit as power." "O Holy Spirit, descend plentifully into my heart. Enlighten the dark corners of this neglected dwelling and scatter there Thy cheerful beams." --- Saint Augustine. "I myself do nothing. The Holy Spirit accomplishes all through me." --- William Blake. "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control." --- Galatians 5:22. The Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit are: wisdom, understanding, knowledge, counsel, fortitude, piety, and fear of the Lord. "The Holy Spirit is your spiritual GPS. He will tell you where you are and where you are going." "Let us be guided by the Holy Spirit. Allow him to speak in our hearts. He will tell us this: God is love." --- Pope Francis.

May, Month of Mary: Regina Caeli: Call: Queen of heaven, rejoice, alleluia.

Response: The Son you merited to bear, alleluia, Call: Has risen as he said, alleluia.

Response: Pray to God for us, alleluia. Call: Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia.

Response: For the Lord has truly risen, alleluia. Let us pray. God of life, you have given joy to the world by the resurrection of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Through the prayers of his mother, the Virgin Mary, bring us to the happiness of eternal life. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Last Day of Faith Formation: Graduation and May Crowning: The Faith Formation school year at our parish comes to a close with the Mass at 10:30 a.m. this Pentecost Sunday. May Crowning will take place with children bringing flowers and the crown to Mary. The students will be promoted to the next school year. Certificates will be distributed. I'm delighted about the progress we are making in helping our children to a personal experience of Jesus. Congratulations to the First Communion and Confirmation children! One of the achievements of this year has been that the children and their families, at my request, attended the Saturday 8:30 a.m. Mass each week and became more acquainted with Mass and the prayers. Hopefully, the next school year, the Faith Formation families will be able to join the weekend Masses as well (Saturday Vigil Mass or the Sunday Morning Masses). Prayer, faith, service, the values of Jesus, love of the Church and its traditions and rituals and devotions---these are the treasures children will slowly begin to acquire. I'm deeply grateful for the dedication of the teachers and the coordinators. We shall look forward to the starting of classes again next school year in September.

A Story to Ponder: A parable of modern life: The animals met in assembly and began to complain that humans were always taking things away from them. "They take my milk," said the cow. "They take my eggs," said the hen. "They take my flesh for bacon," said the hog. "They hunt me for my oil," said the whale. The snail was the last to speak. "I have something they would certainly take away from me if they could. Something they want more than anything else. I have time." You have all the time in the world if you would give it to yourself. What's stopping you? (ADM)

Quotable Quotes: 1. "To reach a port, we must sail---sail, not tie at anchor--- sail, not drift." --- Franklin D. Roosevelt. 2. "Try not to become a person of success. Rather become a person of value." --- Albert Einstein. 3. "It's fun to do the impossible." --- Walt Disney.

Religious Puns: 1. A puritan is a man who "noes" what he likes. 2. As St. Peter says to every new arrival as they approach the Pearly Gates, "Well, halo there." 3. Beware of Satan or evil have his way.

Your Friend and Pastor,

Father Charles Puthota