

From the Pastor's Desktop

A Message from Father Charles Puthota

June 16, 2024



Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

Father's Day: It is a day of gratitude and love. Happy Father's Day to all the fathers! 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 are gone to their eternal reward. My father Isaac returned to God end of December in 2017. Time flies so fast. I'm still grieving, and I know you who have lost your fathers, no matter how long ago, still grieve and miss them. We celebrate our fathers and shall always cherish them when we still have them with us and keep their sacred memory when they are gone. In all our fathers, we cannot but see God Himself. Isn't it beautiful that God himself is our Father? Jesus called God his Abba (Father) and taught us to pray to "our Father" and relate to Him as His children. Our Father loves us with an everlasting love and unconditionally. He makes the rain fall on the good and the bad and lets the sun shine on the good and the bad. 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? Let us make sure that the Father's blessings flow to the whole of human family abundantly and ceaselessly, especially to all the fathers on this fitting day when we honor them.

A Father's Day Prayer: Lord, I am grateful for all the sacrifices my Dad has made for me throughout my life. Thank You for his unwavering love and support, even when it wasn't easy. May he know the depth of my appreciation for everything he's done. Keep him always in your love and care. Amen.

Father's Day Quotes: "I cannot think of any need in childhood as strong as the need for a father's protection." — Sigmund Freud. "Every son quotes his father, in words and in deeds." — Terri Guillemets. "A man knows when he is growing old because he begins to look like his father." — Gabriel Garcia Marquez. "It is a wise father that knows his own child." — William Shakespeare. "One father is more than a hundred schoolmasters." — George Herbert. "The older I get, the smarter my father seems to get." — Tim Russert. "A father doesn't tell you that he loves you. He shows you." — Dimitri the Stoneheart.

Thank you: Around my 68th birthday on June 11, I was so privileged to receive much encouragement, prayers, affirmation, support, cards of wishes, and gifts from many of you. You have been so kind and thoughtful. I am deeply grateful and honored to have your friendship and collaboration. It's a privilege to be called to be the shepherd of this flock at St. Elizabeth parish. You help make my ministry at St. Elizabeth joyful, fruitful, and hope-filled. Thank you!

Word of God this 11th Sunday in Ordinary Time-- The Kingdom of God: As you know, Jesus is a fantastic storyteller. In today's gospel, he tells two stories --- parables --- about the Kingdom of God. The first one is that the Kingdom of God is like a seed sown in the ground. The seed has its own inner dynamism to germinate, grow to become a plant, and reach the stage of harvest. It can be externally aided through water, manure, etc., but no one can interfere with the seed's inner instinct for life and fruitfulness. Have you heard the statement, for example, that no one can make you happy or unhappy? Happiness is an inside job! It's something within us. It's we who have to make the option for happiness and no one can actually help, except in a very external sense. This would apply to love, service, forgiveness, generosity, humility, kindness, etc. No one else can live your or my life. We have the God-given inner grace and strength. We have to take responsibility for our own life and live it in a fruitful and faithful way.

The second parable is about how the Kingdom could start out like the smallest mustard seed but grow to be a large mustard plant. The Kingdom of God keeps growing and developing quietly and steadily and will come to its fruition. Small things matter. Small gestures of love and caring are vital. It's like John the Baptist making that little movement in his mother's womb toward Christ. Just a little dance! We cannot do everything, but we can do something. We cannot all do extraordinary things, but we can do ordinary things in extraordinary ways. We cannot all do big things, but we can do small things in a big way. We can put love and joy into the little ordinary things of daily life. We can put our heart and soul into things. It's what St. Therese of Lisieux would call "the little way." It's doing all the little things with great love and faith. Each of us may be just like a little flower, but we can still give glory to God because God's gaze falls on the little flowers as well.

Father's Day Jokes: 1. Dad: You'll never amount to anything because you procrastinate. Son: Oh yeah? Just you wait! 2. "Dad, are bugs good to eat?" asked the boy. "Let's not talk about such things at the dinner table, son," his father replied. After dinner the father inquired, "Now, son, what did you want to ask me?" "Oh, nothing," the boy said. "There was a bug in your soup, but now it's gone." 3. Science teacher: When is the boiling point reached? Science student: When my father sees my report card!

Happy Father's Day!

Your Friend and Pastor,

Father Charles Puthota