

From the Pastor's Desktop

A Message from Father Charles Puthota

July 21, 2024



Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

Word of God---Come away and rest a while: In Mark's gospel, to the Apostles who are excited about their accomplishments of preaching and healing, Jesus says: "Come away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while." This may be a good reminder for us about retreating from the battles of life in order to be recharged. In the midst of frenetic activities of our daily lives, we need to find time for prayer, reflection, rest, and relaxation. We need to take a distance from our work and review our activities to see if our endeavors and preoccupations enhance the quality of life for us, our family, and others. Going to Mass, listening to God's word, being part of a faith community, and reassessing our options and priorities are all part of "coming away and resting a while." This sentiment is echoed in the responsorial psalm 23 which proclaims that the "Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. In verdant pastures he gives me repose; besides restful waters he leads me; he refreshes my soul." The second reading from the letter to the Ephesians affirms that Jesus is "our peace...who came and preached peace to you who were off and peace to those who were near..." Our rest, our true peace, our needs for renewal and refreshment are all fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

From the Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church: What is the virtue of faith?

Faith is the theological virtue by which we believe in God and all that he has revealed to us and that the Church proposes for our belief because God is Truth itself. By faith the human person freely commits himself to God. Therefore, the believer seeks to know and do the will of God because "faith works through charity" (*Galatians 5:6*). **What is hope?** Hope is the theological virtue by which we desire and await from God eternal life as our happiness, placing our trust in Christ's promises and relying on the help of the grace of the Holy Spirit to merit it and to persevere to the end of our earthly life. **What is charity?** Charity is the theological virtue by which we love God above all things and our neighbor as ourselves for the love of God. Jesus makes charity the new commandment, the fullness of the law. "It is the bond of perfection" (*Colossians 3:14*) and the foundation of the other virtues to which it gives life, inspiration, and order. Without charity "I am nothing" and "I gain nothing" (*1 Corinthians 13:1-3*).

Divine Office at 8:00 a.m. Every day, Monday through Saturday: It's also called the Liturgy of the Hours. We pray this morning prayer. It's the prayer of the Church, prayed all over the world. There are 12 to 15 committed people who attend this prayer every day. If you are interested and would like to commit yourself to praying this prayer, you are most welcome to join. The prayer book (*Christian Prayer*) will be provided for your use.

Daily Mass at 8:30 a.m.: Because of the morning prayer at 8:00 a.m., our daily Mass is at 8:30 a.m. Please do come join the daily Mass. As I have said before, attending daily Mass has many advantages spiritually, physically, psychologically, and socially. What is more, research shows that those who attend religious services regularly live longer. So, come join! We'd love to have you!

Baptisms and Weddings: Those who are in need of these sacraments, please do let the parish office know. I promise to make the process as easy as possible, while fulfilling all the procedures and requirements the Church expects of us.

Anointing of the Sick: When you come to attend the weekend Masses, Saturday at 4:30 p.m. and Sunday 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. if anyone is in frail health or getting ready for a medical procedure, please do let me know. If you would like to receive the Anointing, I'd be happy to give you the Anointing of the Sick after the weekend Masses. Also, I'm available at weekday Masses for the Anointing. Of course, I am always ready to visit the sick in their homes and give the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick.

Confessions: Saturday Confessions are at 4:00 p.m. before the Vigil Mass. Also, on request before the 10:30 a.m. Sunday Mass. Please do not hesitate to ask for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Think About It: "It wasn't raining when Noah built the ark" --- Howard Ruff. "You miss 100% of the shots you don't take" --- Wayne Gretzky. "The creation of a thousand forests is in one acorn" --- Ralph Waldo Emerson. "Don't wish it were easier; wish you were better" --- Jim Rohn. "I'll go anywhere so long as it is forward" --- David Livingstone. "Change your thoughts and you change your world" --- Norman Vincent Peale. "The best way to predict the future is to invent it" --- Alan Kay.

Religious Jokes: 1. Liquid, Fragile or Perishable? When a woman decided to send the old family Bible to her brother in another state, the postal worker asked her if there was anything breakable in the package. "Only the Ten Commandments," she replied. 2. Creation: An atheist scientist came to God and said, "We've figured out how to make a man without you." God said, "OK, let me see you do it." So the atheist bent down to the ground and scooped up a handful. But God stopped him and said, "Oh, no you don't. Get your own dirt!" 3. The Coin Toss: By the time Bobby arrived, the football game had already started. "Why are you so late?" asked his friend. "I couldn't decide between going to church and going to the football game. So I tossed a coin," said Bobby. "But that shouldn't have taken too long," said the friend. "Well, I had to toss it 35 times."

Your Friend and Pastor,

Father Charles Puthota