

From the Pastor's Desktop

A Message from Father Charles Puthota

November 24, 2024



Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

Christ the King: This Sunday is the feast of the majestic King, Christ our Lord. It's the last Sunday of the liturgical year. It's our belief and conviction 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 the King of our lives today and every day. He is the messianic and majestic King, sovereign King over all creation. 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 world. 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, peace and justice, health and happiness – all these are the values of Christ the King as well. Shall we 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, 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. "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.

Advent Coming up next Sunday: With the feast of Christ the King, we turn our attention next Sunday to the beginning of the season of Advent. What a beautiful season of longing and waiting for the Lord to be born all over again in our lives! Let's get ready psychologically and spiritually for this amazing season of Advent, which will lead us to the new-born King at Christmas.

Remembering the Dear Departed Souls in November: Prayers for the Departed Souls: Into your hands, O Lord, we humbly entrust our brothers and sisters. In this life you embraced them with your tender love; deliver them now from every evil and bid them eternal rest. The old order has passed away: welcome them into paradise, where there will be no sorrow, no weeping or pain, but fullness of peace and joy with your Son and the Holy Spirit forever and ever. Amen. **Prayer at Graveside:** Lord Jesus Christ, by your own three days in the tomb, you hallowed the graves of all who believe in you and so made the grave a sign of hope that promises resurrection even as it claims our mortal bodies. Grant that our brother/sister may sleep here in peace until you awaken him/her to glory, for you are the resurrection and the life. Then he/she will see you face to face and in your light will see light and know the splendor of God, for you live and reign forever and ever. Amen.

Faith Formation Mass Last Sunday: Four Confirmation candidates were presented to the parish community at the 10:30 a.m. Mass last Sunday, as they get ready for their Sacrament of Confirmation on May 3 at the Cathedral. They and the rest of the students read the readings and took up the collection at the Mass. I'm happy and grateful for the involvement of the families in the faith journey of these children. Thank you to Laurrie, Patti and the teacher-catechists for their dedicated work.

Thanksgiving Day Mass and Collection: Thursday November 28, Thanksgiving Day, Mass will be at 9:00 a.m. The collection we will take up at that Mass this year I'll be forwarding to the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers, a Catholic charity and missionary organization of America, who do commendable God's work to proclaim the Gospel and uplift the poor around the globe. Thank you in anticipation for your generosity.

Musings on Thanksgiving: The fabulous, heartwarming, all-American festival of Thanksgiving is round the corner. This cultural and social feast has the power to deepen a profound feeling of family, faith, and the need to give thanks. Millions of people all over the nation are getting ready to travel back home to be with family. Love and family spirit are in the air everywhere. We have much to be thankful for. Gratitude makes us better human beings and Christians. Gratitude makes explicit our human condition and our dependence on God and one another. It helps us appreciate the fact that we are not self-sufficient and that we are inter-dependent. Gratitude energizes us to go out of ourselves to others and think about others' needs. With our love and service, we can create more cohesive families and communities and transform the whole human family.

Thanksgiving Humor: 1. Knock, knock! Who is there? Arthur. Arthur who? Arthur any Thanksgiving leftovers? 2. Hatched?: This guy goes to his doctor. "Doctor, help me! I can't stop acting like a turkey!" "I see," said the doctor. "How long have you had this problem?" "Let me think a second. Mom laid the egg in 1954.....".

Happy Thanksgiving! "The Pilgrims made seven times more graves than huts. No Americans have been more impoverished than these who, nevertheless, set aside a day of thanksgiving." -H.U. Westermayer. Let our sense of gratitude overflow to our families, friends, and to all those struggling in life.

Happy Thanksgiving! God bless America! From sea to shining sea!

Your Friend and Pastor,

Fr. Charles Puthota