

# From the Pastor's Desktop

A Message from Father Charles Puthota

April 6, 2025



Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

**Archdiocesan Annual Appeal:** Congratulations! We have reached the goal of \$36,292. We launched AAA 2025 on February 15-16 weekend, and by the last weekend of March we made it. As of March 29-30, in just six weeks, we accomplished our goal. I'm so proud of you---and grateful for you---for supporting AAA with such vigor and faith. Please see the names of donors (\$25 and above) on the last page of the bulletin. If anyone's name is missing, please let the parish office know. If you are still thinking of giving, do not change your mind; do give because the excess funds will be returned to us, so we could use them for our parish ministries and needs. Many of you have given 1.4% and above. Thank you all for your amazing generosity. With our substantial AAA support, the Archdiocese will continue to forge ahead with its ministries and services.

**Lenten Quotes by Pope Francis:** 1. Lent is a humble descent within us and towards others. 2. Our journey back to God is hindered by our unhealthy attachments, held back by the seductive snares of our sins, by the false security of money and appearances, by the paralysis of our discontents. 3. The ash on the head reminds us that we are dust and to dust we will return. But on this dust of ours, God blew His Spirit of life. 4. God never tires of forgiving us; we are the ones who tire of seeking his mercy. 5. During Lent, let us find concrete ways to overcome our indifference.

**Continued Prayers for Pope Francis:** Let's continue to keep our Holy Father Francis in our hearts and prayers. May the good Lord keep him close to his heart these days and restore his health, so that he may be able to continue his awesome ministry with vigor and vitality for the Church and the world.

**Memorial Mass for Sr. Anne Kelley, RGS:** Last Saturday we held a Memorial Mass for the dear departed soul of Sr. Anne, followed by reception in Cantwell Hall. About 75 people attended the event. Sr. Marquerite Bartling and Sr. Olga Cristobal along with our parish choir and other volunteers made excellent arrangements for the Mass and food. It was a heartfelt farewell to Sr. Anne. May she rest in peace!

**Word of God:** Pope Francis in his Angelus address on March 13, 2016, said: "The woman caught in adultery represents all of us, that we are sinners, adulterers before God, traitors to his loyalty. And her experience is God's will for each of us: not our condemnation, but our salvation through Jesus.... God does not nail us to our sin, does not identify us with the wrongs we have committed. He wills that our freedom be converted from evil to good, and this is possible---it is possible!---with his grace." The respect and sensitivity with which Jesus relates to this woman in the heartbreaking situation captures powerfully how God our Father loves us with a merciful and everlasting love. Let the one without sin throw the first stone! No one is without the stain of sin. It is obvious, therefore, that we are all called to love one another with gentleness and forgiveness. The Heavenly Father makes the Sun shine on the good and the bad and makes the rain fall on everyone indiscriminately. What did Jesus write on the ground? What he wrote, his Word, spoke to the accusers in judgment, and they fled the scene because Jesus held a mirror up to them. They saw themselves flawed and sinful and they had no business whatsoever to condemn the woman. The double standards in applying morality to women and men is another aspect of this Gospel story, a social phenomenon present in almost all countries and cultures.

**A Story to Ponder: The Cup of Tea:** A Zen master once received a university professor who came to inquire about Zen. The professor spoke at length about his own ideas, knowledge, and opinions. The master quietly listened and then invited him for tea. He began pouring tea into the professor's cup. He poured until the cup was full, but he didn't stop. The tea overflowed onto the table and then onto the floor. Shocked, the professor exclaimed, "Stop! The cup is already full! No more will go in!" The Zen master smiled and said, "Like this cup, you are full of your own ideas and opinions. How can I teach you Zen unless you first empty your cup?"

*Insight: True wisdom comes not from what we already know, but from making space for new understanding. To grow, we must first let go of our attachments and open ourselves to fresh insights.*

**Next Sunday, April 13, is Palm Sunday:** Holy Week starts on Palm Sunday. Palm Sunday Masses will be (Vigil) as usual at 4:30 p.m. Saturday and on Sunday the two Masses will be at 8.30 a.m. and 10.30 a.m. There will be a procession before the 10.30 a.m. Mass, starting from the Grotto. Please do come join the Holy Week's liturgical celebrations with great devotion so that we could be led to the spiritual joys and graces of the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ at Easter.

**Humor:** A well-known politician went to visit a senior care facility to cheer up the residents. However, he was disappointed and dismayed that none of the older folks recognized him. They just quietly looked at him. Finally, he went up to one of the older women and said, "Do you know who I am?" The elderly woman responded: "No, I don't know. But if you'll wait just a minute, I'll go get one of the nurses. I'm sure they can tell you who you are."

Your Friend and Pastor,

Father Charles Puthota