

From the Pastor's Desktop

A Message from Father Charles Puthota

May 11, 2025



Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

Eastering in Jesus: The British Jesuit poet Gerard Manley Hopkins in his poem "The Wreck of the Deutschland" says: "Let him easter in us, be a dayspring to the dimness of us, be a crimson-crested east." Hopkins is convinced that the meaning of Easter is that the risen Christ keeps doing his "eastering" in our lives. Easter, therefore, can be seen as a verb rather than a noun. Easter is not so much an individual act but a continuous process of what the risen Christ can do in our lives. He can give us a healing and forgiving love. Again and again, when he enters the locked doors, he does not criticize or reprove the disciples for having abandoned or denied or betrayed him, but all he offers is: "Peace be with you." That is how Jesus easters in us. His Easter presence is transformative. We can be turned from fear to courage; from sinfulness to grace; from anxiety to peace. Jesus wants to easter in us this Easter season. Shall we have the love and faith to let him do just that?

Mourning the Passing of Beloved Pope Francis and Awaiting the New Pope: May the good Lord welcome Pope Francis into the eternal reward for faithfully shepherding the Church and the world for 12 years. Let's keep the Conclave starting on Wednesday, May 7 in our prayers. It is quite possible that we may have the new Pope elected by this weekend with the glorious announcement "Habemus Papam" ("We have a pope!").

Mother's Day: On the occasion of Mother's Day, may I have the honor of wishing all mothers, grandmothers, and great grandmothers at St. Elizabeth parish a Happy and Enjoyable Mother's Day? Thank you for being mothers. Thanks to you, we understand what it is to love, nurture, share, and be selfless. Below is something for laughing out loud!

Mother's Day Lessons: My mother taught me TO APPRECIATE A JOB WELL DONE: "If you're going to kill each other, do it outside. I just finished cleaning." My mother taught me LOGIC: "Because I said so, that's why." My mother taught me MORE LOGIC: "If you fall out of that swing and break your neck, you're not going to the store with me." My mother taught me FORESIGHT: "Make sure you wear clean underwear; in case you're in an accident." My mother taught me IRONY: "Keep crying, and I'll give you something to cry about." My mother taught me about CONTORTIONISM: "Will you look at that dirt on the back of your neck!" My mother taught me about STAMINA: "You'll sit there until all that spinach is gone." My mother taught me about WEATHER: "This room of yours looks as if a tornado went through it." My mother taught me about HYPOCRISY: "If I told you once, I've told you a million times. Don't exaggerate!" My mother taught me the CIRCLE OF LIFE: "I brought you into this world, and I can take you out." My mother taught me about BEHAVIOUR MODIFICATION: "Stop acting like your father!" My mother taught me about ENVY: "There are millions of less fortunate children in this world who don't have wonderful parents like you do." My mother taught me about ANTICIPATION: "Just wait until we get home." My mother taught me about RECEIVING: "You are going to get it when you get home!" My mother taught me MEDICAL SCIENCE: "If you don't stop crossing your eyes, they are going to get stuck that way." My mother taught me ESP: "Put your sweater on; don't you think I know when you are cold?" My mother taught me HUMOUR: "When that lawn mower cuts off your toes, don't come running to me." My mother taught me HOW TO BECOME AN ADULT: "If you don't eat your vegetables, you'll never grow up." My mother taught me GENETICS: "You're just like your father." My mother taught me about my ROOTS: "Shut that door behind you. Do you think you were born in a barn?" My mother taught me WISDOM: "When you get to be my age, you'll understand." And my favorite: My mother taught me about JUSTICE: "One day you'll have kids, and I hope they turn out just like you."

First Holy Communion and Confirmation: See the pictures on the last page. Congratulations, wishes, and prayers for our students and their families.

Word of God, the Fourth Sunday of Easter: It is also known as Good Shepherd Sunday. We are reminded of the tender and faithful care of Jesus, our Good Shepherd. In the Gospel of John (10:27-30), Jesus tells us, "My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me." This is not just about hearing with our ears, but listening with our hearts. In a noisy world filled with competing voices – fear, pride, distraction, greed – the voice of Christ remains steady, calling us to trust, to follow, and to rest in his promise: "I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish." We are not anonymous followers; we are known and loved personally by Jesus. He does not abandon us in danger. He lays down his life for us and protects us with divine strength, saying, "No one can take them out of my hand." This Sunday invites us to renew our trust in the Shepherd who walks with us through every valley. Let us open our ears and hearts, follow him with confidence, and reflect his shepherd-like care to others – especially the lost, the weary, and the forgotten. Are we listening for the Shepherd's voice in our daily life?

Easter Humor: 1. During an Easter Sunday homily, the priest said, "The resurrection of Christ is the ultimate victory over sin and death!" One little boy whispered to his mom, "So, Jesus won the greatest game of hide and seek ever?" The mom smiled and said, "Exactly. He's still winning." 2. A Sunday school teacher asked her class, "Why is the resurrection so important?" One child raised his hand and said, "Because it's like when you get an F on a test, and then Jesus shows up and says, 'You get a do-over!'" The teacher smiled, "That's a great way to put it!"

Wishing you the continued blessings of the Easter Season, which simply could mean a deep, abiding sense of the intimate presence of the Risen Christ in our lives, in the Church, and the world!

Your Friend and Pastor,

Father Charles Puthota