

From the Pastor's Desktop

A Message from Father Charles Puthota

May 25, 2025



Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

Easter Musings: I hope you are enjoying the Easter season. It is all about the mystery of Jesus the Risen Christ walking with us, revealing himself to us, and “remaining in” us this season. His presence will be quiet and subtle, calm and peaceful. We need to be alert and alive not to miss him. He says: “Don’t be afraid...Peace be with you.” Pope Leo XIV has been reminding us of Jesus’ message of peace in his several public appearances the last few days since his election on May 8, 2025. Here are a few famous sayings about the meaning of Easter: “The story of Easter is the story of God's wonderful window of divine surprise.” --- Carl Knudsen. “Our Lord has written the promise of the resurrection, not in books alone, but in every leaf in springtime.” --- Martin Luther. “Easter tells us that life is to be interpreted not simply in terms of things but in terms of ideals.” --- Charles M. Crowe. “Let the resurrection joy lift us from loneliness and weakness and despair to strength and beauty and happiness.” --- Floyd W. Tomkins. “He takes men out of time and makes them feel eternity.” --- Ralph Waldo Emerson. “Where man sees but withered leaves, God sees sweet flowers growing.” --- Albert Loughton. “Easter is the demonstration of God that life is essentially spiritual and timeless.” --- Charles M. Crow.

G. K. Chesterton in *The Everlasting Man* about Easter: “On the third day the friends of Christ coming at daybreak to the place found the grave empty and the stone rolled away. In varying ways, they realized the new wonder; but even they hardly realized that the world had died in the night. What they were looking at was the first day of a new creation, with a new heaven and a new earth; and in a semblance of the gardener God walked again in the garden, in the cool not of the evening but of the dawn.”

Archdiocesan Annual Appeal (AAA) 2025: We reached the goal of \$36,292 in just six weeks. Well done! So far, you have donated \$47,504 toward AAA 2025. Please see the names of donors on the last page of the bulletin. Thank you again to all donors, including those who donated 1.4% and more. You have made generous donations in support of the Archdiocesan ministries and services. Those who are still undecided could still donate because the surplus amount will be returned to our parish by the Archdiocese.

Continued Wishes and Prayers for Pope Leo XIV: Let’s keep our Holy Father in our hearts and prayers as he is navigating the first few days and weeks of his papacy. His is an awesome responsibility and extraordinary mission for the Church and the world. The Petrine Ministry is crucial for the unity of the Church. The Pope is called to shepherd the Church and help build bridges across other Christian churches. He is also a prophetic voice for peace and justice around the world, to people of good will, to all religions, cultures, and nations. As we wish Pope Leo many years of service to the Church and the world, let us pray for his continued blessings of the guidance of the Holy Spirit, good health, wisdom, courage, and strength so that he could carry this cross and mission according to the mind and heart of Christ our Lord. During his first Mass for the Cardinals, he said: “You have called me to carry that cross and to be blessed with that mission.”

Word of God, Sixth Sunday of Easter, Year C: The Gospel (John 14:23-29) invites us into the heart of Jesus' farewell message: love, obedience, and peace. Jesus promises, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word," revealing that true love is shown through faithful living. This is not burdensome obedience, but a response to divine intimacy — the Father and Son dwelling within us. Amid trials, Jesus offers a peace the world cannot give — a deep, serene, abiding calm rooted in His presence. It's a peace that does not flee from suffering but sustains us through it. As Easter people, we are called to be bearers of this peace, reflecting Christ's love in our actions. The Holy Spirit, our Advocate, teaches and reminds us of all Jesus said. Let us listen, remain in His love, and be vessels of hope and peace in a restless world. "Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid."

Memorial Day, May 26, 2025: Memorial Day is a national holiday observed on the last Monday of May to remember and honor military personnel who died in service to our country. It began after the Civil War as Decoration Day and evolved into a national day of remembrance. Beyond barbecues and parades, it is a solemn occasion to reflect on the sacrifices made for freedom. Flags, flowers, and moments of silence pay tribute to those who gave their lives in defense of the nation.

May, Month of Mary: Memorare Prayer: Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thy intercession, was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence I fly unto thee, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother. To thee do I come, before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me. Amen.

Humor: A man in Las Vegas approached a wealthy-looking stranger and said, "Can you spare me twenty-five dollars, sir? I haven't eaten for two days and I have no place to sleep." "How do I know you won't take the money and gamble with it?" "No way," said the man. "Gambling money I already have with me."

Wishing you and your families the eternal blessings of the Risen Christ,

Your Friend and Pastor,

Father Charles Puthota