

From the Pastor's Desktop

A Message from Father Charles Puthota

June 22, 2025



Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

Corpus Christi, The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ: This Sunday is the Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ. Keep in mind, it's not called the Feast of the Soul of Christ or the Spirit of Christ. It's the body and blood of Christ. It's the feast of the flesh and blood of Christ. We are connected with the flesh and blood of Christ. That's how close we are to him. In the Eucharist, he enters our flesh and blood, and we enter his flesh and blood. We---Jesus and us---become inseparable. As Paul says, "It's no longer I who live but Christ who lives in me." In John's Gospel, Jesus would say again and again: "Remain in me, as I remain in you." When we partake of the Eucharist, we become intimate with Christ and with one another. When we become one with others in the Eucharist, the implications for what we can do for one another are crystal clear. We'll love, respect, and care for one another. We'll rearrange our relationships; we'll ensure that no one goes without food, clothing, shelter, justice, dignity, peace, and prosperity, not just in our neighborhoods, but all over the world. Jesus is the bread of life. Even as bread is essential for the survival of body, Jesus is essential for our life.

Jesus is the Bread for the world as well. When the world shares in the body and blood of Christ, we'll strive to remove hunger and poverty from the world. We can do that by sharing our blessings with others. As Julius Nyerere, the late President of Tanzania and an ardent Catholic believed that it is not that we do not have enough for everyone; it's that we do not have people who share. Ultimately, as Jesus shares his own life with others in the Eucharist, we are called to share our lives, all that we are and do, with others. Eucharist is "source and summit of Christian life." Eucharist is also Thanksgiving; it's the memory of Jesus; it's the source of eternal life; it's the sign of the unity of the human family; it's what transforms us into the body of Christ, the community of believers. If the Eucharist is all this multi-dimensional reality and mystery, with what kind of reverence and anticipation should we be approaching it, knowing that in the Eucharist there's the assurance of our being united inseparably with Christ and with all others, with the hope that we are all destined for a life of fulfillment here and life everlasting?

Spirituality of the Ordinary Time: After Lent, Holy Week, Easter, Ascension, and Pentecost, we started the Ordinary Time on June 9, the day after Pentecost. This Ordinary Time will continue until we begin the Advent Season on November 30, 2025. The liturgical color is green. The focus is on our becoming the disciples of Jesus. Jesus who has ascended to his Father has given us the Holy Spirit, who comforts us and reminds us of all that Jesus has taught us. Even as the early Church was guided by the Holy Spirit, which we read in the Acts of the Apostles, the same Spirit guides our goings and comings in the 21st Century. Jesus has not orphaned us. He is with us always, even to the end of time. So let's open our hearts to the Holy Spirit who will make the teachings of Jesus alive and aflame for us, will make us be excited about Jesus and his values, will lead us in discernment to make the good choices, and spend our lives in love and service.

Feast of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus: Observed on the Friday following Corpus Christ, this glorious feast honors Christ's divine love for humanity, symbolized by his heart. The feast highlights Jesus' compassionate and merciful love, especially as revealed in his suffering and death. The devotion grew through the visions of the French Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque in the 17th century, who promoted veneration of the Sacred Heart as a source of grace and healing. The feast was officially established by Pope Pius IX in 1856. It invites the faithful to reflect on Jesus' infinite love, deepen their trust in him, and commit to acts of reparation and charity. The heart of Jesus represents both divine mercy and a call to love others selflessly.

Pope Leo IV: Pope Leo was elected on May 8. It's a month and a half since he began his papal ministry. With the world media attention on the funeral of Pope Francis and the election of Pope Leo, the Church has received the admiration of the whole world for our rituals and traditions, for our faith and mission, for our stand for peace and justice, and for our love and service. The Church is a community that stands tall for truth, beauty and goodness. Pope Leo has infused an intense hope in the Church and the world for what we could be within and without---a community of disciples and a light to the world. Let's keep supporting the Holy Father with our prayers, love, and loyalty. In the Holy Father, we are all united as sisters and brothers to give glory to God and to follow Christ our Lord.

Quotable Quotes: "Live in the sunshine, swim the sea, drink the wild air." – Ralph Waldo Emerson. "Always remember that you are absolutely unique. Just like everyone else." – Margaret Mead. "Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap but by the seeds that you plant." – Robert Louis Stevenson. "I failed my way to success." – Thomas Edison. "Life is ours to be spent, not to be saved." – D. H. Lawrence.

Humor: 1. People say New Yorkers can't get along. Not true. I saw two New Yorkers, complete strangers, sharing a cab. One guy took the tires and the radio; the other guy took the engine. 2. A man was applying for a job as a prison guard. The warden said, "Now these are real tough guys in here. Do you think you can handle it?" "No problem," the applicant replied. "If they don't behave, out they go!"

Your Friend and Pastor,

Father Charles Puthota