

From the Pastor's Desktop

A Message from Father Charles Puthota

September 21, 2025



Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

Catechetical Sunday: The third Sunday of September is designated as Catechetical Sunday each year. The purpose of this celebration is to acknowledge the role of catechists in the church all over the world, to thank them for their dedicated and generous service and to remind ourselves of our baptismal call to proclaim the Kingdom and spread the Gospel. We encourage one another to rededicate ourselves to sharing and living the faith. This day we commission catechists and give them special blessings and certificates in gratitude for teaching the faith to children and adults in parishes. The theme this year is: "Always be ready to give an explanation... for a reason for your hope" (1 Peter 3:15). I would like to thank our parish catechists: Laurrie Digneo (coordinator), Richard John, Fran Oropeza, Maria Oropeza, Michael Walsh, Cipriano Peneyra, Andrea Olson, Chelsa Galimba and the pastoral coordinator Patti Spiteri for all their dedicated work.

Word of God: 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year C: The readings confront us with a fundamental question: Whom do we serve – God or wealth? The prophet Amos denounces those who exploit the poor for profit. He paints a picture of merchants so consumed by greed they can't wait for the Sabbath to end so they can resume cheating. God hears the cries of the oppressed and vows not to forget such injustice. This is a call to examine our own economic behaviors and ask: Are we living justly? Are we concerned for the vulnerable?

In the Gospel, Jesus tells the parable of the dishonest steward. At first, it's puzzling – why is the steward praised? Jesus isn't praising dishonesty but highlighting the steward's shrewdness and urgency. If people can be that clever about money, how much more should we be wise and intentional about things that matter eternally? We're stewards too – of time, relationships, wealth, and faith. Jesus is asking us to use all we have for the kingdom of God, not just ourselves. Paul, in his letter to Timothy, shifts the focus to prayer – especially for those in authority. Good governance and peace are conditions where the Gospel can flourish. God desires all to be saved, and our prayer and witness are part of that mission. The readings challenge us to align our lives with Gospel values: justice, stewardship, and prayer. We cannot serve both God and mammon. Let us serve the living God with integrity, generosity, and hearts rooted in what truly lasts.

From the Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church: From the Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church: The Church; **Why is the Church one?** The Church is one because she has as her source and exemplar the unity of the Trinity of Persons in one God. As her Founder and Head, Jesus Christ re-established the unity of all people in one body. As her soul, the Holy Spirit unites all the faithful in communion with Christ. The Church has but one faith, one sacramental life, one apostolic succession, one common hope, and one and the same charity. **Where does the one Church of Christ subsist?** The one Church of Christ, as a society constituted and organized in the world, subsists in (*subsistit in*) the Catholic Church, governed by the Successor of Peter and the bishops in communion with him. Only through this Church can one obtain the fullness of the means of salvation since the Lord has entrusted all the blessings of the New Covenant to the apostolic college alone whose head is Peter.

Tuesday, September 23, 2025: Feast of St. Pius of Pietrelcina: This saint, also known as Padre Pio, was an Italian Capuchin friar, priest, and mystic. He is renowned for receiving the stigmata, the wounds of Christ's crucifixion, which he bore for fifty years. A deeply spiritual man, Padre Pio spent countless hours in prayer and confession, offering spiritual guidance to many at the monastery of San Giovanni Rotondo. He would often say: "I only want to be a poor friar who prays." His life was devoted to prayer and the Eucharist. He also founded the "Home for the Relief of Suffering," a hospital dedicated to aiding the sick and needy. Veneration for him intensified after his death, and he was canonized by Pope John Paul II in 2002.

Saturday, September 27: Feast of St. Vincent de Paul: The date of his feast marks the anniversary of his death in 1660 in Paris. He is widely recognized as the patron saint of charitable societies and works. Vincent de Paul dedicated his life to serving the poor, founding various organizations like the Congregation of the Mission (Vincentians) and co-founding the Daughters of Charity with Saint Louise de Marillac. His tireless efforts in organizing aid for the needy earned him the title "Apostle of Charity."

A Story to Ponder: Kakua was the first Japanese to study Zen in China. He had little use for travelling, for he took his meditation seriously. Whenever people found him out and invited him to preach, he would say a word or two and escape to another part of the forest where he would not be disturbed. On his return to Japan the Emperor heard of him and commanded him to preach at court. Kakua stood silent and helpless before the King. Then he pulled out a flute from the folds of his robe, played one short note on it, bowed profoundly to the King and disappeared.

Quotes about Life: "In three words I can sum up everything I've learned about life: It goes on." —Robert Frost. "You can't help what you feel, but you can help how you behave." —Margaret Atwood. "No need to hurry. No need to sparkle. No need to be anybody but oneself." —Virginia Woolf.

Spoonerism Humor: 1. The bridegroom, who was in a horribly nervous condition, appealed to the clergyman in a loud whisper, at the close of the ceremony, "Is it kisstomary to cuss the bride?" The clergyman replied, "Not yet, soon." 2. The famous Dr. Spooner called on the Dean of Christ Church and inquired, "Is the bean dizzy?"

Your Friend and Pastor,

Father Charles Puthota