

From the Pastor's Desktop

A Message from Father Charles Puthota

October 26, 2025



Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

Feast of All Saints, Saturday, November 01, Not a Holy Day of Obligation this Year: The Feast of All Saints, celebrated on November 1, honors all the saints—known and unknown—who now share in the glory of God's presence. It is a joyful reminder that holiness is not reserved for a few extraordinary people but is the universal call of every Christian. The saints are not distant figures from the past; they are our companions and intercessors, showing us that with God's grace, we too can live lives of faith, love, and courage. This feast began in the early Church to commemorate the many martyrs who had no specific day of remembrance. Over time, it grew to include all who have lived holy lives, whether canonized or not. The Book of Revelation describes a great multitude "from every nation" standing before the Lamb—a powerful vision of the communion of saints.

All Saints' Day invites us to look beyond earthly struggles and to fix our gaze on our eternal destiny. It challenges us to imitate the saints' virtues in our daily lives—kindness, mercy, justice, humility, and prayer. As we honor them, we renew our hope that one day we, too, may join them in the everlasting joy of heaven, praising God forever.

Word of God: 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C: In the Gospel, Jesus' parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector contrasts the proud Pharisee and the penitent Tax Collector. The Pharisee, convinced of his own merit, prays to himself, detailing his good works and despising the sinner. The Tax Collector, standing at a distance, simply cries, "O God, be merciful to me a sinner." Only the latter went home justified, because "whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and the one who humbles himself will be exalted." This truth is echoed in the First Reading from **Sirach**: "The prayer of the lowly pierces the clouds." God is a just judge who "hears the cry of the oppressed" and "is not deaf to the wail of the orphan." God's justice is not a cold accounting, but a bias toward those who recognize their need for Him.

Finally, St. Paul, in the Second Reading, writes to Timothy about his imminent death, saying, "I have competed well; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith." Paul speaks with confidence, yet his is a boast of **God's strength working through him**, not a proud claim of self-righteousness. He knows the "crown of righteousness" is a gift from the "just judge." Our call today is to abandon the Pharisee's pride and embrace the Tax Collector's humble honesty. It is in acknowledging our sinfulness that we open ourselves to the boundless mercy that alone makes us right with God.

Feast of Saints Simon and Jude, Apostles, Tuesday October 28: Saints Simon and Jude are two apostles about whom the Gospels tell us very little, yet their lives speak a profound truth. The Gospel reminds us that before choosing his Twelve Apostles—including Simon the Zealot and Jude, son of James—Jesus spent the entire night in prayer. The Church is not founded on human ingenuity, but on Christ's prayerful, deliberate choice of ordinary men. As the Letter to the Ephesians reminds us: we are members of God's household, *built upon the foundation of the Apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the capstone*. Simon and Jude may seem like minor figures, but their martyrdom reminds us that all apostles share in the same, singular mission. Their legacy is not celebrity, but fidelity to the Lord's call, even unto death. Let us be built upon their foundation, witnessing to the Gospel with courage and simple faith.

From the Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church: **In what way is the Church holy?** The Church is holy insofar as the Most Holy God is her author. Christ has given himself for her to sanctify her and make her a source of sanctification. The Holy Spirit gives her life with charity. In the Church one finds the fullness of the means of salvation. Holiness is the vocation of each of her members and the purpose of all her activities. The Church counts among her members the Virgin Mary and numerous Saints who are her models and intercessors. The holiness of the Church is the fountain of sanctification for her children who here on earth recognize themselves as sinners ever in need of conversion and purification.

A Wisdom Story: A young monk asked his master, "How can I find peace?" The master handed him a cup of tea and poured until it overflowed. "Stop!" cried the monk. "It's full!" The master smiled, "Like this cup, your mind is too full—of judgments, fears, and plans. Empty it, and peace will pour in naturally." The monk bowed in silence, realizing that wisdom begins not with knowing more, but with letting go.

Quotable Quotes for All Saints: 1. "The saints are not superheroes but people who love God and others in ordinary ways." —Pope Francis. 2. "Do not be afraid to be the saints of the new millennium." —St. John Paul II. 3. "Holiness is not the luxury of the few; it is a simple duty for you and for me." —St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta. 4. "Be who you are and be that well, so that you may bring honor to the Master whose handiwork you are." —St. Francis de Sales. 5. "Be who God meant you to be, and you will set the world on fire." —St. Catherine of Siena.

Saints Humor: 1. St. Peter asked a weary nun, "Did you live a joyful life?" She smiled, "I taught teenagers for forty years and still prayed daily." Peter dropped his clipboard: "Go straight to the front of the line—God's been saving a halo just for you!" 2. A saint rushed up, saying, "Peter, I lost my halo!" Peter sighed, "Check with St. Anthony." A few minutes later, Anthony arrived holding it, smiling, "Found it—again." Peter muttered, "I should've known. Between lost keys and lost halos, you're heaven's busiest saint."

Your Friend and Pastor,

Father Charles Puthota