

# Pastor's Christmas Letter to St. Elizabeth Parishioners Christmas 2025 ~ New Year 2026



Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth

**Christmas: God's Tender Nearness:** Each year Christmas comes wrapped in wonder, awakening awe in our hearts. The divine Child softens our world and rekindles hope. Christmas is God drawing near – not in power, but in tenderness. The manger reminds us that heaven chooses humility, simplicity, and love to save. As we gather around this mystery, may we let ourselves be moved again by the miracle of Emmanuel, God-with-us, whose presence renews our lives.

**Christmas Happens Now:** Just as painters set modern cities behind Bethlehem's stable, Christmas unfolds in our neighborhoods, families, and daily lives. Jesus is born anew within and among us, making ordinary days extraordinary with love, peace, and joy. In a world of uncertainty and rapid change, Christ's birth invites us to hope, begin again, and let God's grace renew what feels weary or wounded.

**Christmas at St. Elizabeth:** As a parish family, we celebrate the God who dwells with us and makes us one. Your faith, love, and service reveal the Christ Child in our midst. At St. Elizabeth, we pray, celebrate, volunteer, and grow together as disciples. Every ministry, kindness, and hour of service reflects the beauty of a community centered on Jesus Christ.

**A Personal Word: My Retirement:** This Christmas, I share with you an important personal announcement. After six grace-filled years as Pastor of St. Elizabeth Church, and as I reach the age of 70, I will be retiring at the end of June 2026. My heart overflows with gratitude—for your affection, collaboration, friendship, and the privilege of walking with you in faith. I will always treasure our memories and the ways you have enriched my priesthood. In the months ahead, I look forward to continuing our mission with joy and trust.

**Christmas Mass Schedule:** Christmas Eve Mass: 4:30pm. Christmas Day Masses: 8:30am and 10:30am.

**Christmas Confessions:** Saturday, December 20 at 10:30am.

**Simbang Gabi:** At 8:30am Masses, December 16 through 24.

**Thank You and Blessings:** Thank you for your generous stewardship, your active participation in parish life, and the beautiful spirit that animates our parish community. May the newborn Jesus smile upon your families, fill your homes with peace, and guide us all into a New Year rich with blessing.

**Merry Christmas! Happy New Year!**

Your Friend and Pastor,

Father Charles Puthota, Ph.D