

# From the Pastor's Desktop

A Message from Father Charles Puthota

May 10, 2026



Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

**Season of Easter:** These days of Easter, the gospel anecdotes about the risen Christ have one thing in common: the apostles and others to whom Jesus appears do not easily recognize Jesus. It takes time for them to awaken into the identity of Jesus. Jesus does all sorts of gentle and kind things to encourage them into the reality of his resurrection. Mary Magdalene, for example, thinks that Jesus is a gardener. Others at times think that he is a ghost. The two Emmaus disciples do not recognize him. Something keeps their eyes from recognizing him. These two disciples finally see him as Jesus only in the breaking of the bread, though their hearts were burning when he interpreted the scriptures. At the resurrection of Jesus, something is the same, something is different. He is a new being. He can appear inside the locked rooms. He has body but his body is so different that they cannot see him as Jesus immediately: they are startled and terrified. Those who were very close to him face this situation again and again. What about us? Over 2000 years later, can we recognize the risen Christ? Can we discern his presence in the Word, the Sacrament, in the poor and disadvantaged (Matthew 25), and in the signs of the times? Can we be adventurous enough to try to remove all sorts of obstacles that prevent us from recognizing him, loving him, and following him here and now?

**Three Sacraments of Our Faith Formation Children--- Congratulations and Bless:** On Saturday March 7, seven of our Faith Formation children made the First Reconciliation and on Sunday May 3 at the 10:30 a.m. Mass, the same children made the First Holy Communion. Also, four of our students made their Confirmation on Saturday April 25 at the Cathedral. These are great blessings for the families and our parish community. Congratulations to the students and the families! Also, my gratitude to our Faith Formation Coordinator Laurrie Digneo, Pastoral Coordinator Patti Spiteri, and the catechists Mike Walsh and Fran Oropeza.

**Word of God this Sixth Sunday of Easter:** The Risen Christ this Easter season speaks to us about loving and keeping his commandments. In the Gospel, in a moment of the Trinitarian revelation, Jesus speaks of his father and the Holy Spirit the Advocate. The mystery is that we are all in Jesus and in the Father and the Spirit--- and the Trinitarian Divine Persons are in each other. That's how intimate our relationship with God is. This is the reason for our hope, as we read in the second reading from Peter: "Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope..." This is done well by Phillip in Samaria by proclaiming the good news, healing and driving out the demons.

**AAA 1.5 % Donors Luncheon---Save the Date:** Sunday May 31, thank you-luncheon to 1.5% AAA donors. Please do join the 10:30 a.m. Mass. After the Mass, the reception and luncheon will take place in Cantwell Hall.

**Happy Mother's Day:** On the occasion of Mother's Day this Sunday, may I have the joy of wishing all mothers, grandmothers, and great grandmothers at St. Elizabeth Parish a Happy Mother's Day? Thank you for being mothers. Thanks to you, we understand what it is to love, nurture, share, and be selfless.... The following is for laughing out loud!

**Lessons from my Mother:** My mother taught me TO APPRECIATE A JOB WELL DONE: "If you're going to kill each other, do it outside. I just finished cleaning."

My mother taught me LOGIC: "Because I said so, that's why."

My mother taught me MORE LOGIC: "If you fall out of that swing and break your neck, you're not going to the store with me."

My mother taught me FORESIGHT: "Make sure you wear clean underwear, in case you're in an accident."

My mother taught me IRONY: "Keep crying, and I'll give you something to cry about."

My mother taught me about CONTORTIONISM: "Will you look at that dirt on the back of your neck!"

My mother taught me about STAMINA: "You'll sit there until all that spinach is gone."

My mother taught me about WEATHER: "This room of yours looks as if a tornado went through it."

My mother taught me about HYPOCRISY: "If I told you once, I've told you a million times. Don't exaggerate!"

My mother taught me the CIRCLE OF LIFE: "I brought you into this world, and I can take you out."

My mother taught me about BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION: "Stop acting like your father!"

My mother taught me about ENVY: "There are millions of less fortunate children in this world who don't have wonderful parents like you do."

My mother taught me about ANTICIPATION: "Just wait until we get home."

My mother taught me about RECEIVING: "You are going to get it when you get home!"

My mother taught me MEDICAL SCIENCE: "If you don't stop crossing your eyes, they are going to get stuck that way."

My mother taught me ESP: "Put your sweater on; don't you think I know when you are cold?"

My mother taught me HUMOR: "When that lawn mower cuts off your toes, don't come running to me."

My mother taught me HOW TO BECOME AN ADULT: "If you don't eat your vegetables, you'll never grow up."

My mother taught me GENETICS: "You're just like your father."

My mother taught me about my ROOTS: "Shut that door behind you. Do you think you were born in a barn?"

My mother taught me WISDOM: "When you get to be my age, you'll understand." And my favorite:

My mother taught me about JUSTICE: "One day you'll have kids, and I hope they turn out just like you."

**An Irish blessing for Mother's Day:** "There is but one and only one, whose love will fail you never. One who lives from sun to sun, with constant fond endeavor. There is but one and only one on earth, there is no other. In heaven a noble work was done when God gave us a Mother."

Your Friend and Pastor,

Father Charles Puthota