

From the Pastor's Desktop

A Message from Father Charles Puthota

May 31, 2026



Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

The Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity: One God, Three Persons. This is the mystery we celebrate this Sunday. That God has revealed himself as a Trinity is what we rejoice over. God the Father creates and sustains everything. God the Son redeems and graces us. God the Holy Spirit sanctifies and empowers. Isn't it a consoling conviction for us that God lives not in isolation but in community? There is constant love flowing from one divine person to another, continuous giving and sharing. The Trinity is revealed on many occasions in the Bible. For example, at the baptism of Jesus, the Father speaks, the Spirit descends on Jesus. Our ultimate experience of God is Trinitarian. Let's enter the mystery of the Trinity in awe and worship and treasure the Trinitarian God. This divine Trinitarian Community--One God, Three Persons--- is the ultimate model for families, communities, organizations, and the whole human race.

Sayings on the Trinity: "In Christ, for the first time, we see that in God himself there exists --- within his inseparable unity --- the distinction between the Father who gives and the Gift which is given (the Son), but only in the unity of the Holy Spirit." --- Hans Urs von Balthasar. "The mystery of the Most Holy Trinity is the central mystery of the Christian faith and of Christian life. God alone can make it known to us by revealing himself as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The Incarnation of God's Son reveals that God is the eternal Father and that the Son is consubstantial with the Father, which means that, in the Father and with the Father the Son is one and the same God. The mission of the Holy Spirit, sent by the Father in the name of the Son (Jn 14:26) and by the Son 'from the Father' (Jn 15:26), reveals that, with them, the Spirit is one and the same God." --- *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

Word of God: Trinity Sunday: In the Word of God this Sunday, we meet the Trinity not as an abstract concept, but as a living reality. In the first reading, the Lord descends in a cloud on Mount Sinai, revealing His innermost character to Moses: He is a "merciful and gracious God, slow to anger and rich in kindness." Our response from Daniel echoes this awe, crying out, "Glory and praise forever!" to the One who fills the temple of His glory. This rich kindness culminates in the Gospel, where Jesus reveals the depth of that love: God loved the world so much that He gave His only Son, not to condemn us, but to save us. Finally, Saint Paul shows us how to live this mystery daily. He urges us to mend our ways, live in peace, and closes with the ultimate Trinitarian blessing: the grace of Jesus, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit. Let us carry that communion into the world.

My Retirement Event: Next Sunday, June 7, if you are free, please do come join the 10:30 a.m. Mass followed by reception in Cantwell, to mark my retirement from active ministry. Everyone is welcome! My retirement is effective July 1, 2026.

Ordinary Time of the Liturgical Year: The day after Pentecost last Sunday, we began the Ordinary Time of the Liturgical Year. Did you notice the change of colors in our liturgy? In Lent, we used violet. Throughout Easter season, we used white. Now in Ordinary Time of the Liturgical Year, we use green. The Ordinary Time will last until November 28. November 29 is the First Sunday of Advent. This season is called the Ordinary Time because it's outside the big, special seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter. But during the Ordinary Time, we continue the journey with Christ, meditating on his life, teachings, healings, miracles, and his driving out of the demons. We come to dwell on his values and vision. This Ordinary Time is by no means ordinary. It's extraordinary because God's grace continues to accompany us every moment, every day. Like Mary, we too need to say yes to God's grace and find each day a sacred day filled with God's presence and blessings.

A Story to Think About: A monk was walking in the monastery grounds one day when he heard a bird sing. He listened, spellbound. It seemed to him that never before had he heard, but really heard, the song of a bird. When the singing stopped he returned to the monastery and discovered, to his dismay, that he was a stranger to his fellow monks, and they to him. It was only gradually that they and he discovered that he was returning after centuries. Because his listening was total, time had stopped and he had slipped into eternity.

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.

Jokes: 1. The inmate was aware that all prison mail passes through censors. When he got a letter from his wife asking about the family garden---"Honey, when do I plant potatoes? ---he wrote back. "Do not, under any circumstances, dig up our old garden spot. That's where I buried all my guns." Within days his wife wrote back, "Six investigators came to the house. They dug up every square inch of the back yard." By return mail she got his answer: "Now is the time to plant potatoes." 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