

From the Pastor's Desktop

A Message from Father Charles Puthota 03-14-2021



Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

Archdiocesan Annual Appeal (AAA) 2021: Week Four: The goal is \$40,000. So far we have collected \$11,974. We are starting the fourth and final week of our month-long concerted campaign for AAA. If we make our goal within a month, we will not breathe another word on AAA for the rest of the year. Last Sunday at 10.00 a.m. Mass, Adolfo and Tessie Alano spoke eloquently about their connection to our parish and the Archdiocese and for the need to donate to AAA. Our parish and the Archdiocese are intimately linked in mission and ministry. Please donate early. One-time donation, pledge over ten months, online donation are different ways in which you can give to AAA. Also please keep in mind the One Percent Circle which is a way of donating one percent of \$40,000, which is \$400.00. Please give out of the abundance of your hearts in gratitude for all the blessings we have received and as a way of standing with the Archdiocese that serves us well through their many services. Please see the names of AAA donors in the bulletin. Thank you!

Expanding the Meaning of Fasting in Lent: Fast from judging others; Feast on Christ dwelling in them. Fast from fear of illness; Feast on the healing power of God. Fast from words that pollute; Feast on speech that purifies. Fast from discontent; Feast on gratitude. Fast from anger; Feast on patience. Fast from pessimism; Feast on hope. Fast from negatives; Feast on encouragement. Fast from bitterness; Feast on forgiveness. Fast from self-concern; Feast on compassion. Fast from suspicion; Feast on truth. Fast from gossip; Feast on purposeful silence. Fast from problems that overwhelm; Feast on prayer that sustains. Fast from anxiety; Feast on faith. - *Author Unknown*

Word of God: The gospel from John this Sunday contains one of the most consoling passages in the whole Bible. This could indeed be the summary of the whole Bible or our Christian life. It is this: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him." This passage is worth memorizing. Jesus comes into the world because God loves the whole world. Does God really love the world? Yes, yes, yes. That's why we have to love the world too. If we love the world as Jesus loves it, then we will go

about making this world a better place. God is not there to condemn the world, but to love it and save it. That's why Jesus is willing to die for us. How shall we turn away from evil, greed, sin, and selfishness and turn toward the forces of love and life, goodness and kindness? Lent is a good time to think about such things.

Pilgrimage to Jordan & the Holy Land: October 05 - 17, 2022: I'll be spiritual director of this pilgrimage. If you are interested in joining, you are most welcome. Check out www.pilgrimages/frputhota. For a brochure, please call the parish office. You may also call 206 Tours (pilgrimage company) at 800-206-8687.

A Story to Ponder: Buddha seemed quite unruffled by the insults hurled at him by a visitor. When his disciples later asked him what the secret of his serenity was, he said: "Imagine what would happen if someone placed an offering before you and you did not pick it up. Or someone sent you a letter that you refused to open; you would be unaffected by its contents, would you not? Do this each time you are abused and you will not lose your serenity."

Quotable Quote: "Normality is a paved road: it's comfortable to walk but no flowers grow." --Vincent van Gogh

St. Elizabeth Property and Liability Insurance---FYI: We received last week an invoice for \$72,849 to be paid for this item, and I have sent in the check. This is the annual liability insurance we have to pay for our church building, the rectory, school, and convent. Sometimes you may wonder where your donations go. It's good for you to know that there are many expenses and bills to pay to keep a parish running. As you know, to keep doing God's work in our parish and to continue to serve our parishioners and the neighborhoods, we need the financial resources. Please do keep donating to the parish generously. Your kind generosity is much appreciated.

Pope John the 23rd Jokes: 1. Not long after he was elected pope, Pope John (now a saint) was walking in the streets of Rome. A woman passed him and said to her friend, "My God, he's so fat!" Overhearing what she said, he turned around and replied, "Madame, I trust you understand that the papal conclave is not exactly a beauty contest." 2. When he went to visit a friend at the nearby Hospital of the Holy Spirit in the evening, the nun answering the door said: "Holy Father, I'm the mother superior of the Holy Spirit." He replied: "Lucky you! What a job! I'm just the 'servant of the servants of God.'"

Be well! Stay healthy! May the journey of Lent bring us purified and renewed to the mysteries of the Holy Week!

Your Friend & Pastor,

Fr. Charles Puthota

Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 14, 2021

God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. — *John 3:17*



GOD'S MERCY

Today's reading from the second book of Chronicles contains a sort of "mini-history" of Israel. It highlights God's mercies in choosing Cyrus the Persian to be an instrument of deliverance when the people were in captivity in Babylon. Despite their sinfulness and the deserved punishment, they were undergoing, God's mercy was lavished on the people in the form of a miraculous act of liberation.

The Letter to the Ephesians, in much more theological terms, gives a similar account of a God "who brought us to life with Christ—by grace you have been saved." The author stresses that it was when we were "dead in our transgressions" that God saved us, an act of pure grace. He emphasizes that it is not our own efforts that freed us from sin ("this is not from you"); rather, "it is the gift of God." This, of course, is the heart of the entire Pauline corpus, that salvation comes to us by faith in God's mercy, revealed in the death of Jesus. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — The wrath and the mercy of the Lord are revealed in the exile and liberation of the chosen people (2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23) or 1 Samuel 16: 1b, 6-7, 10-13a.

Psalm — Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you! (Psalm 137) or Psalm 23.

Second Reading — By grace you have been saved (Ephesians 2:4-10) or Ephesians 5:8-14.

Gospel — The Son was sent by God so that the world might be saved through him (John 3:14-21) or John 9:1-41 [1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38].

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Sunday Collection March 7, 2021

Weekly Need:	\$ 5,000.00
Sunday Collection	\$ 2,741.00
Over/Under	\$ 2,259.00
Faith Formation	\$ 381.00

If you make your offertory donation by check, without using parishioner envelopes, it would be most helpful if you placed your parishioner/envelope # in the "memo" section of the check. This helps us input your donation to the offertory data system. **We will not be responsible for donations not credited due to missing envelope numbers (or not having a Sunday collection envelope.)**

MASS INTENTIONS

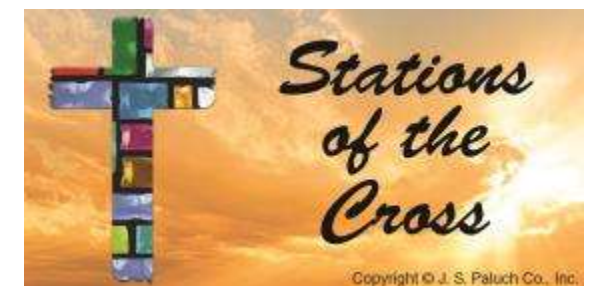
Monday 8:00 am	March 15 † Jessie Borg
Tuesday 8:00 am	March 16 † Antonio Maracha
Wednesday 8:00 am	March 17 † Joseph A. Sant
Thursday 8:00 am	March 18 † John DeLuca
Friday 8:00 am	March 19 † Maria Kielian
Saturday 8:00 am	March 20 † Francis Cook
4:30 pm	Good Shepherd Guild
Sunday 7:30 am	March 21 People of the Parish †Tessie, †Joseph and † Saviour Schembri
9:30 am	Italian Catholic Federation
11:30 am	Maltese Society

† Denotes deceased – (L) Living

Please note: All Mass times including Mass intentions were scheduled pre-Covid 19. Currently the only Mass will be Sunday at 10:00 am in the schoolyard parking lot. Weekday Masses are celebrated in the Church.

New Office Hours

New office hours are Monday through Thursday 8:00 am to 12:00 pm



Lenten Stations of the Cross

During Lent, every Friday the 8:00 am Mass will be followed by the Stations of the Cross.