

Fr. Charles Puthota's Blog

February 14, 2021

From the Pastor's Desktop



Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

Lent starting with Ash Wednesday February 17: Masses will be at 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. After the 8:00 a.m. Mass and before the 6:00 p.m. Mass, I'll be hearing confessions. Let's begin this beautiful and powerful season of renewal with hope and optimism.

Happy Valentine's Day: "Love is just love, it can never be explained." "I have fallen in love many times, always with you." "A hundred hearts would be too few to carry all my love for you." "You don't need someone to complete you, you only need someone to accept you completely." "Sometimes it is not about being together...it's about being there for each other." "There is only 1 thing 2 do. 3 words 4 you: I love you." "Anyone can catch your eye, but it takes someone special to catch your heart." "If you live to be a hundred, I want to live to be hundred minus one day, so I never have to live without you." "The greatest thing you'll ever learn is just to love and be loved in return." "My love for you is deeper than the oceans and higher than the mountains." Happy Valentine's Day! Let God's amazing love shine brightly in our love for one another. Shall we read Luke's Gospel for Lent? Starting Ash Wednesday, for the whole season of Lent, shall we read, as a parish, the gospel according to Luke? Each day during Lent we can read a chapter or half a chapter or just a short passage. We can read it in the morning or during the day or before dinner. We can let the children read as we listen to them proclaim the Word of God in the comfort of our living rooms or kitchens or dining places. Let's look at the spiritual, intellectual, emotional, physical dimensions during the 40 days of Lent, a period when we could come closer to God and to one another.

Archdiocesan Annual Appeal: Archdiocesan Annual Appeal (AAA): On February 11, I put in the mail a letter to each one of you, inviting you to participate in AAA. The purpose of AAA is to support the mission and ministry of the Archdiocese. I'll be placing the names of the donors in the parish bulletin each week. The goal for our parish to reach in 2021 is \$ 40,000. Please give generously and soon, so we can finish this drive by the end of April or so. If you are able to give 1% of the total amount, which is \$400, it would be wonderful. so that we can complete the campaign as quickly as possible. Let's keep in mind that God has blessed us with all kinds of blessings. Stewardship means receiving God's blessings consciously and gratefully---and sharing them generously with others. Living gratefully might be the shortest definition of stewardship. As you know, our parish and the Archdiocese need the financial help all more during the pandemic to continue to do God's work. Please do give generously. "God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Cor. 9:7).

The Word of God this Sunday: In the Gospel, there is a consoling story of the leper being healed by Jesus. The urgency with which Jesus heals this man indicates that Jesus makes haste to bring God's blessings to us. Love is urgent for everyone, and Jesus cannot wait for us to experience wellness and wholeness. The healed man, it is said, "began to publicize the whole matter. He spread the report abroad..." In other words, he began to proclaim the good news to others immediately. We are called, too, to be the messengers of the good news to our family, friends, and the whole world. This can be done with words, but more through our values and deeds of service and compassion to others.

Valentine's Day Humor: 1. Q. Did Adam and Eve ever have a date? A. No, they had an apple! 2. Did you hear about the bed bugs who fell in love? They're getting married in the spring! 3. How did the telephone propose to its girlfriend? He gave her a ring. 4. You are like dandruff because I just cannot get you out of my head no matter how hard I try. 5. "What did the stamp say to the envelope on Valentine's Day?" "I'm stuck on you!" 6. "I thought I won the argument with my wife as to how to arrange the dining room furniture. But when I got home the tables were turned." 7. I once fell in love with someone who only knew 4 vowels. They didn't know I existed." 8. What did the calculator say to the pencil?" "You can count on me." 9. "What did the light bulb say to the other light bulb?" "You light my world up." 10. "How can you get arrested on Valentine's Day?" "For stealing someone's heart." 11. "What did one cat say to the other cat on Valentine's Day?" "You're purr-fect for me." 12. "What did one blueberry say to the other on Valentine's Day?" "I love you berry much." 13. "What did one bee say to the other?" "I love bee-ing with you, honey!" 14. "What did one volcano say to the other?" "I lava you. 15. Q. What did the flame say to his buddies after he fell in love? A. "I found the perfect match!" 16. "How can you tell when a squirrel is in love?" "It goes nuts!"

Wishing you all love and peace, good health and happiness---now and always,

Your Friend & Pastor,

Fr. Charles Puthota