

A Christmas Message from Father Charles Puthota



Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

Christmas is beautiful: “Christmas waves a magic wand over the world, and behold, everything is softer and more beautiful,” says Norman Vincent Peale. How true! It’s the most beautiful time of year. Do you know why we never get tired of Christmas? The answer is simple: Christmas is beautiful. The whole world is enchanted by its beauty. That’s why poets, playwrights, singers, and painters go wild over the theme of the holy Baby born in a manger surrounded by his parents, shepherds, the wise men, and even animals. During the current pandemic, when the world is gripped by anxiety, uncertainty, and darkness, the spirit of Christmas uplifts us with hopes of health and safety for everyone.

Christmas happens in us, our families, and towns: Have you noticed that many painters place a modern city or town in the background of the manger? It is to show that the birth of Christ takes place *now* in our lives, our cities and towns. W.T. Ellis says, “It is Christmas in the heart that puts Christmas in the air.” The magic of Christmas---the mystery and majesty of God becoming one with us---can transform us, which in turn can help transform families, communities, and the world. Just imagine the revolution of peace, love, and justice that Christmas can bring about!

Christmas at St. Elizabeth Parish: We are a community of believers centered on Jesus Christ. In all that we do in our parish, we learn to think and feel like Jesus, to love God and others. Let us, as a parish community, draw closer to Jesus this Christmas. He is ready to be born in our parish all over again. Our acceptance of Jesus’ birth in our community would concretely mean that we get together to pray, love, share, serve---and to be the best we can be as human beings and Christians.

Christmas Outdoor Mass Schedule: Christmas Eve 3:00 p.m., Christmas Day 9:30 and 11:00 a.m., New Year’s Day 10 a.m.

Thank You: For celebrating throughout the year our faith at the Eucharistic table and through other sacraments, for hearing God’s Word, for the spirit of stewardship expressed in all your service and volunteering, your kindnesses and collaboration, and the generous donations to make our parish ministries and projects solid and successful.

Merry Christmas! Happy and Healthy New Year!

Your Friend and Pastor,
Father Charles Puthota, Ph.D.

**Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 20, 2020**

The child to be born will be called holy,
the Son of God.
—Luke 1:35



JOHN THE BAPTIST

At a school open house, a woman could be overheard introducing her husband to some of the other parents. “Oh, Bill, I’d like you to meet Johnny’s father. And over here, this is Marie’s mom; you know, the little girl from our Ellen’s soccer team.”

With satisfied resignation Bill introduced himself not by name: “I’m Ellen’s Dad.”

It’s good to know who you are. Be it someone’s father or mother, son or daughter, husband or wife, it’s important to embrace the full meaning of our various roles.

John the Baptist knows who he is. And who he is not. He is not the Christ. Nor Elijah. Nor like any other prophet God’s people had ever seen.

John the Baptist knows his mission is divine. He’s more than satisfied to be the one to announce the coming of God’s reign. The Christ is near. Make straight your paths.
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TODAY’S READINGS

First Reading — As a garden makes its growth spring up, so will God make justice spring up before all the nations (Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11).

Psalm — My soul rejoices in my God (Luke 1:46-50, 53-54).

Second Reading — Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophetic utterances. Test everything; retain what is good (1 Thessalonians 5:16-24).

Gospel — I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, make straight the way of the Lord (John 1:6-8, 19-28).

The English translation of the Psalm Responses from the *Lectionary for Mass* © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

Mass Intentions

Monday 8:00 am	December 21 † Giuseppe Moretto
Tuesday 8:00 am 7:00 pm	December 22 † Leo Viscarra † Flor Castuenas
Wednesday 8:00 am 7:00 pm	December 23
Thursday 3:00 pm	December 24 Christmas Eve
Friday 9:30 am 11:00 am	December 25 Christmas Day Christmas Day
Saturday 8:00 am 4:30 pm	December 26 † Pedro C. Songco † Jo Masino
Sunday 7:30 am 9:30 am 11:30 am	December 27 † Joseph, † Frank and † John DeLuca Italian Catholic Federation People of the Parish

†Denotes deceased – (L) Living

Please note: All Mass times including the Simbang Gabi Mass and 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 privately celebrated for Mass intentions

Sunday Collection December 13, 2020

Weekly Need:	\$ 5,000.00
Sunday Collection	\$ 930.00
Archdiocesan Appeal	\$ 974.00

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.)**

Archdiocesan Annual Appeal Update

Goal:	\$ 48,719.00
Raised:	\$ 32,381.00
Balance:	\$ 16,338.00

Our generous parish family has rasied \$32,381.00. This is an impressive success given the Covid -19 pandemic and the challeges we are facing as a result. Please consider generously donating 1% (\$500.00). You would join our 1% Circle at St. Elizabeth. Please consider donating whatever you can to help us meet our assesment.