

From the Pastor's Desktop

A Message from Father Charles Puthota
12-27-2020



Dear Parishioners,

New Year 2021: As we are on the verge of welcoming a brand new year 2021, let's place this whole new gift of time in God's hands. May the good Lord guide and protect us. May he make our lives shine. May he transform us into his channels of grace and love. Let bygones be bygones. Let's start anew and afresh to share our lives. We cannot allow pessimism or cynicism to tamper with the quality of life in the New Year. Let hope spring eternal in our hearts, motivating us to grapple with this new time with optimism and joy. If God is for us, who can be against us? Despite all the sadness and heartbreak of 2020 because of COVID-19, we come with hope and faith, optimism and a sense of adventure, about what God and us together can do to help heal the world. So, let's say yes to all that shall be in 2021. As Moses says: "The Lord bless you and keep you! The Lord let his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you! The Lord look upon you kindly and give you peace!"

New Year Quotes: "Cheers to a new year and another chance for us to get it right." — Oprah Winfrey "For last year's words belong to last year's language, and next year's words await another voice. And to make an end is to make a beginning." — T.S. Eliot "We will open the book. Its pages are blank. We are going to put words on them ourselves. The book is called Opportunity and its first chapter is New Year's Day." — Edith Lovejoy Pierce "May all your troubles last as long as your New Year's resolutions!" — Joey Adams "Your future depends on a lot of things, but mostly on you." — Anonymous "Write it on your heart that every day is the best day in the year." — Ralph Waldo Emerson "Come, gentlemen, I hope we shall drink down all unkindness." — William Shakespeare "Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving." — Albert Einstein

Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord—A Story of Our Life:

Sunday January 3rd is the Feast of the Epiphany, a charming and meaningful feast for us. The story of the three wise men or the three kings is a story enacted by children with gusto in any Christmas pageant. I was myself as a little boy a "king" who went around my town in procession on this Feast of Epiphany.

The new-born King is not for one nation or people, but to all peoples of the world. Jesus is the light of the world. He is the one who is born to reveal God's love and include us all in the Kingdom of God. He is the savior of the whole world. It is this theological and spiritual meaning that we celebrate in this feast. We could keep certain details of the story relevant for our lives today. One, we need to see the star and interpret it as God speaking to us. What star do we see in our lives? What signs are there for us to read and interpret? Or are we missing the signs? Two, we have to leave our comfort zones to follow the star, undertaking all sorts of inconvenient, arduous things. Nothing ventured, nothing achieved. The star will lead us through all sorts of sad and difficult situations, but it will keep our hope alive of reaching the destination. Three, we have to encounter Jesus and adore him. He may be in a manger amidst animals and in all sorts of unexpected, surprising, shocking situations. But he is still the king. We have to recognize him and bring ourselves as the best gifts. We can give him our hearts and minds, our will and all our talents. Four, once we have encountered and worshipped the Lord, we cannot walk the same way. We have to take a different route because we are no longer the same. We have been transformed. We are new. He has touched us and given us a whole new purpose and direction.

Think About It: Who Am I?: A tale from Attar of Neishapur. The lover knocked of his Beloved's door. "Who knocks?" said the Beloved from within. "It is I," said the lover. "Go away. This house will not hold you and me." The lover withdrew and pondered for years on the words the Beloved had said. Then he returned and knocked again. "Who knocks?" "It is you." The door was immediately opened. (ADM, The Song of the Bird)

Quotable Quote: "I dwell in possibility." --- Emily Dickinson

Jokes: 1. A man is talking to God. "God, how long is a million years?" God answers, "To me, it's about a minute." "God, how much is a million dollars?" "To me, it's a penny." "God, may I have a penny?" "Wait a minute." 2. A woman is making pancakes for her kids, and the kids start arguing over who is going to get the first pancake. Deciding it's a good time for a morality lesson, she says to them, "You know, if Jesus were sitting here, He would say 'let my brother have the first pancake.'" One of the brothers looks at the other and says, "Okay, you be Jesus!"

Wishing you a Happy and Healthy New Year!

Your Friend & Pastor,

Father Charles Puthota

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday 8:00 am	December 28 Living and Deceased Members of the Ramirez and Vesperas Family
Tuesday 8:00 am	December 29 Lolita Canlas (L)
Wednesday 8:00 am	December 30 † John Sant
Thursday 3:00 pm	December 31 † Aline F. Banks
Friday 10:00 am	January 1 † Giuseppe Benedetti
Saturday 8:00 am	January 2 † Rinaldo Schenone
4:30 pm	January 3 People of the Parish
Sunday 7:30 am	† Edwin Pestana
9:30 am	† Aaron Valenzuela
11:30 am	

†Denotes deceased – (L) Living

Please note: All Mass times including 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 20, 2020

Weekly Need:	\$ 5,000.00
Sunday Collection	\$ 3,650.00
Church Project	\$ 255.00

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.)

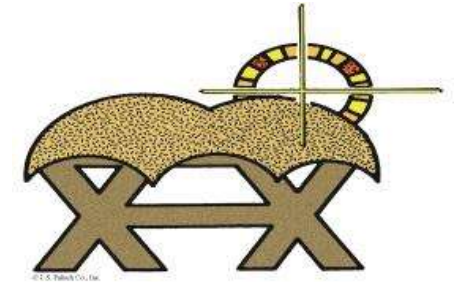
Archdiocesan Annual Appeal Update

Goal:	\$ 48,719.00
Raised:	\$ 32,681.00
Balance:	\$ 16,038.00

Our generous parish family has raised \$32,681.00. This is an impressive success given the Covid -19 pandemic and the challenges 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 assessment.

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph December 27, 2020

My eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared
in the sight of all the peoples.
— Luke 2:30-31



WE ARE GOD'S HOLY FAMILY

The scriptures of Israel are filled with many stories of barren couples who were miraculously granted the gift of children by God. Surely the best known among these is the first reading from today, from which Luke took inspiration when he recounted the miraculous birth of John the Baptist to Zechariah and Elizabeth, and the more miraculous birth of Jesus to Mary and Joseph. In each instance, we are given examples or role models of those who trusted in God. More than examples of those who trust, they are models of self-surrender. They abandoned their own presuppositions and prejudices about the workings of the world and turned their lives over to belief in a God who can make life grow where none ought to; a God who can turn death around into a new and unimagined life; a God who can, today, take a tiny child of humble parents in an insignificant town and make him into a light for all the world. This is what we, as God's holy family, are called to do each day: to trust not in ourselves and the way we think things should be, but to open ourselves and surrender ourselves in faith to a God of endless promise.

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TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — Those who honor their parents will be greatly blessed and will atone for sins (Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14) or *Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3*.

Psalms — Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways (Psalm 128) or *Psalm 105*.

Second Reading — Be thankful; do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus (Colossians 3:12-21 [12-17]) or *Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19*.

Gospel — The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom (Luke 2:22-40 [22, 39-40]).

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