

From the Pastor's Desktop

A Message from Father Charles Puthota

December 29, 2024



Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

New Year New Year 2025: As we are on the verge of welcoming a brand new year 2025, 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 period of time with optimism and joy. If God is for us, who can be against us? Despite any sadness and heartbreak of 2024, we come with hope and faith, optimism and a sense of adventure, about what God and us together could do to help and heal the world. So, let's say yes to all that shall be in 2025. 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!"

Wednesday, January 1, Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God: A Holy Day of Obligation. Our Parish Mass is at 9.00 a.m. We begin a whole new year with the feast of Mary, the Mother of God. Let's entrust this year in the hands of the loving Mother. Elizabeth declares at the Visitation: "Most blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me?" (Luke 1:42- 43). May this "mother of our Lord" look upon us always with the eyes of a loving and protecting mother. Let the new beginnings this year, perhaps with some new resolutions, be based on love that Mary ushered in by becoming the Mother of the Son of God. Mary started a whole new beginning by bringing Jesus into the world and letting the Kingdom of God be manifested in Jesus like never before. Let the new year for us be a new, fresh start for what we could *be* and for what we could *do* for God and family and the world. Through the affection of Mary, the Mother of God, may we come closer to Christ our Lord and do whatever he tells us to do this new year of 2025.

New Year Quotes: "Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving." – Albert Einstein. "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. "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

Feast of the Holy Family: This Sunday December 29 is the Feast of the Holy Family. Jesus lives with Mary and Joseph. Because of Jesus, this family becomes a holy family. The same way, when Jesus lives in our families, our families become holy. The purpose of this feast is to let Jesus be part of all that we are --- and strive for---in our families. As we reflect on all the struggles and dangers the Holy Family faced, we too draw strength to face life with grace because Jesus is with us. Let him fill our families with his Spirit and love.

Quotes from Pope Francis on Family: “We all know there is no such thing as the perfect family or a perfect husband or wife, and let’s not even talk about the perfect mother-in-law.... It’s us who do exist, sinners. Jesus knows us well and He tells us a secret: Never let the day end without apologizing.” “It is normal that there be a quarrel between husband and wife... Maybe you’re angry, maybe a plate flew, but please remember this: never finish the day without making peace! Never, never, never! This is a secret, a secret to protect love and to make peace.”

New Year Humor: 1. “A New Year’s resolution is something that goes in one year and out the other.” 2. “I don’t need a New Year’s resolution. You don’t need that nonsense when you’re perfect.” 3. “I don’t know what’s so special about the New Year’s Eve. I drop the ball at least once a day.” 4. “Hope you are not too exhausted from your yearly visit to the gym on New Year’s Day.” 5. Biggest joke of the century: “Computers and mobile were invented to save our time.” 6. “If people could read my mind, I’d get punched in the face a lot.” 7. “Life is short. Smile while you still have teeth.” 8. “I started thinking about the dangers of drinking on New Year’s Eve. After that, I decided to stop thinking.” 9. “Of course, women don’t work as hard as men. They get it right the first time.” 10. “Tell me a joke” ---“I don’t think you’d understand a joke in my language. They are not so funny, anyway.”

New Year’s Day Early Morning Prayer: Dear Lord, so far this year I’ve done well. I haven’t gossiped, I haven’t lost my temper, I haven’t been greedy, grumpy, nasty, selfish, or overindulgent. I’m very thankful for that. But in a few minutes, Lord, I’m going to get out of bed, and from then on, I’m probably going to need a lot of your help. Amen.

Wishing you and your families a joyful, restful, and faith-filled Christmas season, and a healthy and happy New Year!

Your Friend and Pastor,

Father Charles Puthota