

From the Pastor's Desktop

A Message from Father Charles Puthota

February 2, 2025



Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

Feast of the Presentation of the Lord: This Sunday we observe the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, celebrated annually on February 2. It commemorates the event when Mary and Joseph brought the infant Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem, in accordance with Jewish law. This moment, narrated in Luke 2:22-40, highlights the consecration of Jesus to God as the firstborn male and Mary's purification after childbirth, following the Mosaic law.

During this encounter, the Holy Family met Simeon, a righteous and devout man, and Anna, a prophetess. Simeon, moved by the Holy Spirit, recognized Jesus as the long-awaited Messiah, declaring Him "a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to Your people Israel." His words, known as the Nunc Dimittis (now you let me depart), express joy and peace at seeing the Savior. Anna, too, gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to others awaiting redemption.

Also called Candlemas, this feast highlights Christ as the "light of the world." Traditionally, candles are blessed and carried in procession to symbolize Jesus bringing light into the darkness of sin and death. The Presentation of the Lord serves as a reminder of Christ's mission and our call to dedicate ourselves to God with faith and trust, just as Mary and Joseph did.

Holy Year 2025: The Holy Year 2025, also called the Jubilee Year, is a special event in the Catholic Church celebrated every 25 years. It is a time of spiritual renewal, prayer, and pilgrimage, offering faithful Catholics the opportunity to strengthen their relationship with God. Traditionally, the Pope inaugurates the Jubilee by opening the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, symbolizing the passage to salvation and God's mercy. Pilgrims who pass through this door during the Holy Year, along with meeting spiritual requirements such as confession and prayer, may receive a plenary indulgence. The theme for the 2025 Jubilee is "Pilgrims of Hope," emphasizing renewal, solidarity, and hope in a world facing challenges like division and uncertainty. The Holy Year invites believers to deepen their faith, embrace reconciliation, and foster unity. Millions are expected to visit Rome, making it a global celebration of faith and grace.

Lenten Retreat: On Saturday, March 22, 2025. Please put it on your calendar. Do join us at the 8:30 a.m. Mass that day and for the sessions in Cantwell Hall followed by lunch. It's highly beneficial for us to come together and get to know each other and reflect on certain spiritual themes as preparation for the season of lent.

Archdiocesan Annual Appeal (AAA) 2025: My letter to the whole parish will be soon mailed. We are launching this year's AAA campaign on the weekend of February 15-16. Please do think about your active and generous participation in this campaign.

St. Theresa of Avila's Comforting Words: "Let nothing disturb you. Let nothing frighten you. All things pass. God does not change. Patience achieves everything. Whoever has God lacks nothing. God alone suffices. Christ has no body now on earth but yours; no hands but yours; no feet but yours. Yours are the eyes through which the compassion of Christ must look out on the world. Yours are the feet with which He is to go about doing good. Yours are the hands with which He is to bless His people."

A Story to Ponder: Expand Your Inner Space: A wise old man lived atop a hill, and people often climbed to seek his advice. One day, a frustrated young man arrived, complaining about his life and everyone around him. The old man handed him a cup and asked him to pour salt into it. The young man did. "Now drink it," the old man instructed. The young man grimaced as the bitterness overwhelmed him. Next, the old man took him to a nearby lake and asked him to pour the same amount of salt into the water. "Now drink." The young man took a sip and found it fresh and pure. The old man smiled and said, "The salt is like your struggles. If your mind is small, they overwhelm you like the cup. But if your perspective is vast, like the lake, the same struggles seem insignificant. Expand your view, and peace will follow."

Inspirational Quotes: "Be the change that you wish to see in the world." - Mahatma Gandhi. "In the middle of every difficulty lies opportunity." - Albert Einstein. "It always seems impossible until it's done." - Nelson Mandela. "Success is not final, failure is not fatal: It is the courage to continue that counts." - Winston Churchill. "Do what you can, with what you have, where you are." - Theodore Roosevelt. "You miss 100% of the shots you don't take." - Wayne Gretzky. "Believe you can and you're halfway there." - Theodore Roosevelt. "Happiness is not something ready-made. It comes from your own actions." - Dalai Lama. "Don't watch the clock; do what it does. Keep going." - Sam Levenson. "The only way to do great work is to love what you do." - Steve Jobs.

Humor: 1. The Forgetful Professor: A professor was so absent-minded that one day he left home, boarded a train, and forgot where he was going. The conductor asked, "Do you have your ticket?" The professor said, "I must have misplaced it!" The conductor replied, "It's fine, I'll let you ride for free." The professor shook his head, panicking. "You don't understand - I need the ticket to know where I'm going!"

2. The Fishing Lie: Two friends were fishing when one bragged, "I caught a fish *this big* last week!" holding his arms wide apart. The other laughed and said, "If it was that big, how'd you reel it in?" The first guy grinned. "Oh, I didn't! I just waved goodbye as it swam off."

Your Friend and Pastor,

Father Charles Puthota