

From the Pastor's Desktop

A Message from Father Charles Puthota

June 15, 2025



Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

Feast of the Most Holy Trinity: This Sunday we celebrate the Feast of the Triune God. What an awesome mystery! My friend Father David Coffey from Australia is a specialist on Trinity and has written an influential book called "Deus Trinitas." Who can plumb the depths of God? In Christian Revelation, we have come to understand that the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, three Persons but one God, affect our life profoundly. The Father sends us the Son; the Son sends us the Holy Spirit. We live in them. They live in us. The mystical union we have with the Triune God is both simple and transcendent. The three Persons of the Trinity live in a perfect community of relationships. They are the perfect model for our families and communities --- and the whole world. As we reflect on the Trinity, we could strive to make the world a better place with the kind of love that exists in the Trinitarian Community. This Holy Community of Trinity has equality and relationality, diversity and unity, three Persons and One God. Wouldn't it be most beneficial if we could put into practice the insights we have of the Trinity to make the world a better place filled with peace and harmony? Couldn't our families and communities follow the love and respect that reigns supreme in the Trinity?

Quotes on the Trinity: "The boundless life that God lives in himself ... is complete, inexhaustibly full, and infinitely blessed.... The good news of the gospel is that God has opened up the dynamics of his triune life and given us a share in that fellowship."--- Fred Sanders. "If the mystery of the Trinity is the template of all reality, what we have in the Trinitarian God is the perfect balance between union and differentiation, autonomy and mutuality, identity and community."--- Richard Rohr. "Bring me a worm that can comprehend a man, and then I will show you a man that can comprehend the Triune God."--- John Wesley. "We see in the relationships between the Father, Son, and Spirit a dynamic of love, of other-person-centeredness."--- Sam Allberry.

Father's Day: To all the fathers, Happy Father's Day! For some of us, our fathers are with us and what a blessing it is to love and cherish them --- and take care of them! For some others, our fathers have gone to their eternal reward. My father Isaac at age 89 returned to God at the end of December in 2017. I'm still grieving, and I know that those of you who have lost your fathers, no matter how long ago, still grieve and miss them. Love makes us do that. There is a void in us that no one will fill until we are united with our dear departed. We celebrate our fathers who are with us and shall always keep the sacred memory of those fathers who have gone to eternal reward. In all our fathers, we cannot but see God Himself. Isn't it profoundly comforting that God Himself is our Father? Jesus called God his Abba (Father) and taught us to pray the "Our Father" and relate to Him as His children. Our Father loves us with an everlasting and unconditional love. He makes the rain fall on the good and the bad and lets the sun shine on sinners and saints alike. Such is His abiding and awesome love. Because we are all the children of the one Father, we become intimately connected with one another as sisters and brothers. How could we then not take care of one another in our need? How could we let anyone in this human family be deprived of basic needs and necessities? As we celebrate Father's Day, let's strive to make sure that the Father's blessings flow to the whole of human family abundantly and ceaselessly.

Father's Day Blessing Prayer: Heavenly Father, you entrusted your Son Jesus, the child of Mary, to the care of Joseph, an earthly father. Bless all fathers as they care for their families. Give them strength and wisdom, tenderness and patience; support them in the work they are called to do, protecting those who look to them, as we look to you for love and salvation. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Story to Think About: A monk was walking in the monastery grounds one day when he heard a bird sing. He listened, spellbound. It seemed to him that never before had he heard, but really heard, the song of a bird. When the singing stopped he returned to the monastery and discovered, to his dismay, that he was a stranger to his fellow monks, and they to him. It was only gradually that they and he discovered that he was returning after centuries. Because his listening was total, time had stopped and he had slipped into eternity.

Humor for Father's Day: 1. "When I was a boy of 14, my father was so ignorant I could hardly stand to have the old man around. But when I got to be 21, I was astonished at how much the old man had learned in seven years." --- Mark Twain. 2. "My father doesn't care about being king of the castle as long as he's king of the remote." 3. "I enjoy Father's Day. It's a time when I pause to reflect on the joy that has come into my life thanks to my two wonderful children, whose names escape me." 4. "I got my Dad a GPS for Father's Day. Now someone other than my mom can tell him where to go." 5. "I would give my dad what he really wants on Father's Day, but I can't afford to move out yet." 6. The message of Mother's Day is: "Mothers are amazingly good at mothering! They deserve a special day!" Whereas the message of Father's Day is: "We're only doing this because we have Mother's Day." 7. "I have mixed emotions when I receive my Father's Day gifts. I'm glad my children remember me. I'm disappointed they think I dress like that." 8. "Father's Day is so special. I love the cards my wife forces the kids to get me."

Your Friend and Pastor,

Father Charles Puthota