Pastor’s Corner

My brothers and sisters,

Happy New Year! This day is even more special for us Catholics as we celebrate the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God – Mother of Jesus, Mother of the Church, your mother and mine. Now that is a mouthful!!! It is so significant to consider the relational quality of the celebration. Because of our relationship to God and God taking full human flesh – Jesus – anything said of them must be said of the Church. And if the Church is God’s visible presence on earth, the tangible symbol of Jesus alive, then what is said of the Church must be said of you and me. So Mary is Mother of the Church and Mary is my mother and yours.

The implications are beautiful and powerful. When I consider Mary’s faithfulness to Jesus her son, the depth of her love for Him is no different than the depth of her love for you and me. My brothers and sisters… read the Scripture, what she loved, cherished, endured and suffered as she walked with Him is exactly what she lives with us. And she challenges us with a mother’s love in the same way she challenged Jesus, albeit infrequently. Do remember when Jesus walked away from Mary and Joseph when he was a boy. Mary was not too happy (Luke 2)! She might say the same to me and some of my behavior! “Paul, what are you doing?” She might say the same to you too!!!

While this is true, these moments are just that – moments. The Virgin Mary’s love for you and me is rooted deep and soars to the heavens. As she believed in her Son, she believes in us. So we need to remember who and whose we are. We

(Continued on page 2)
are the presence of Jesus in the world and we belong to God. When we pray this way, think this way, talk this way and act as such, Mary affirms us and supports us in the pursuit of virtuous and good living.

As we begin the New Year, as we celebrate Mary on this Solemnity, let us be mindful that our resolutions don’t need to be grand. The resolutions don’t need to be about weight loss or gain in particular. We don’t need to make that HUGE resolution to go to the gym. Why don’t we commit to something far more basic and far more challenging? This is especially the case when we look at the present world. Maybe our resolution in 2017 needs to be an affirmation of who and whose we are and all that implies. It takes integrity to live this way. While some may call it simplistic and naïve, to stand up against what is shady – to live with integrity and virtue – builds character and takes character.

Look at the basic patterns of behavior that are Jesus’. How does He treat the poor? How does He treat His adversaries? How does He treat the infirmed? How does He utilize His time? His talent? His treasure? Whatever He does specifically, He glorifies God above all else. He glorifies the Father. And He trusts His mother’s love. To do so well, we need to trust in the maternal care of Mary, God’s mother and ours. And if we do, then we can stand tall to be Jesus in a world desperately in need of mercy and loving kindness.

New Year blessings,

Fr. Paul
## Mass Intentions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Peace and Joy</th>
<th>Peace and Joy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MON Jan 2</td>
<td>8:30 AM</td>
<td>Robert Kelly</td>
<td>Happy New Year!</td>
<td>Holiday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TUE Jan 3</td>
<td>8:30 AM</td>
<td>Roger Biebl</td>
<td>Holiday All Offices Closed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WED Jan 4</td>
<td>8:30 AM</td>
<td>Phyllis Jean Delaney</td>
<td>Knights of Columbus Officer Meeting</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THU Jan 5</td>
<td>8:30 AM</td>
<td>Fe Oliver (L)</td>
<td>Cantor Rehearsal</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRI Jan 6</td>
<td>8:30 AM</td>
<td>Margaret Souza</td>
<td>First Friday Eucharistic Adoration</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAT Jan 7</td>
<td>8:30 AM</td>
<td>John Cheng Victor Gutierrez Sr.</td>
<td>Al-Anon Meeting Private Reconciliation</td>
<td>Room 8 Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUN Jan 8</td>
<td>8:00 AM</td>
<td>For The People Edward Inderbitzen</td>
<td>Baptism Preparation Class 1</td>
<td></td>
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## Calendar of Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MON Jan 2</td>
<td>Holiday</td>
<td>No 12:10 Mass</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TUE Jan 3</td>
<td>12:10 PM</td>
<td>Antonio Correia</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WED Jan 4</td>
<td>12:10 PM</td>
<td>Tommy Crowe</td>
<td>Chapel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THU Jan 5</td>
<td>12:10 PM</td>
<td>Fe Oliver (L)</td>
<td>January Lecture Series: What is Praise?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRI Jan 6</td>
<td>12:10 PM</td>
<td>Lynn Rubia</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>SAT Jan 7</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUN Jan 8</td>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
<td>Joyce Silva Lawrence Leon Tony Jordan Tia Rosinha Cardoso</td>
<td>Room A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10:15 AM</td>
<td>RCIA Inquiry MOMS Bible Study</td>
<td>Room B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10:15 AM</td>
<td>Young Neighbors in Action Info Mtg.</td>
<td>Room A, Room B, Room 2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Scripture Readings
January 8
Isaiah 60:1-6
Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6
Matthew 2:1-12

Have a blessted New Year!

Holiday Office Hours
The Church offices will be closed January 2.
Mass will be celebrated only at St. Augustine Church at 8:30 AM.

There will be NO 12:10 PM Mass and NO Eucharistic Adoration at St. Elizabeth Seton Chapel on Monday, December 26.

The Faith Formation office is closed and will reopen on Tuesday, January 3, 2017.

1st Friday Eucharistic Adoration
Brothers and sisters in Christ, join us on the first Friday of the month at St Augustine from 9:00 AM to 11:30 AM. Drop in for an hour or whatever time you have available. Eucharistic Adoration is a personal way of developing a deeper relationship with the Lord. Have a quiet time for prayers and meditations. Benediction follows Eucharistic Adoration at 11:30 AM.

Refugee Family Update
The refugee family that CCOP is co-sponsoring is doing well. All members of the family have now received their Green Card, so all are “Official US Residents”. Hamed, the father, is now working full time in Dublin. Benazir is continuing her ESL studies and is becoming quite proficient with her English. Haseb is now a healthy 10 month-old, quickly crawling all over the place! He is pulling himself up and will soon be walking.

I would like to thank the parish for their generosity, support and prayers. Please continue to pray for a successful future for the family.

Dan Hughes
systldr@yahoo.com, 925-462-0481

Invite 2.0
Two weeks ago, we introduced CCOP’s new ministry called Invite 2.0. We asked if perhaps you know someone who is asking themselves questions like:

Do you feel like there is something missing?
Is there something bigger out there?

The intention of Invite 2.0 is to help people explore these and other questions – to find a deeper sense of their spiritual side.

We believe that in this process something holy happens: relationships are developed, grow and are strengthened - as we share our faith with others. This is the first step on the path that leads to peace, acceptance, fulfillment, joy - to something more.

The concept is pretty simple: we invite people to explore their spirituality in a deeper way at their own pace, in their own way. We provide a safe, warm environment with experienced facilitators and an open heart. It is a place for them to slow down, listen to some soft music, watch a short, thought-provoking video, and explore their thoughts and hearts in small group discussions with others.

Invite 2.0 is not designed to make people Catholic. If, after the eight-week program, folks would like to pursue the Catholic faith, we have RCIA or Returning Catholics. If they would like to check out other denominations or faith traditions, that’s great too.

We start the eight-week program on Wednesday, January 11th at 7:30 PM at St. Elizabeth Seton Chapel.

Think about it…..We all have friends and relatives who are seeking something more. Invite 2.0 is designed for them. Please invite them and send them to us for our first evening on Jan 11th. See the insert in this bulletin and consider giving it to someone. We have additional flyers in the vestibule for you to take with you. For more information, please visit our new website Invite2.org.
Are you looking to connect with your Catholic faith?

_Awakening Faith_, a parish program meant just for you, is starting soon. CCOP invites you to six _Awakening Faith_ sessions at **St. Elizabeth Seton Church, Wednesdays, February 1st to March 15th**. All are welcome. There is no cost and no registration required; simply come to the first session.

For more details, contact Kimberly at (925) 846-0892 or CCOPReturningCatholics@gmail.com or visit bit.ly/ReturningCatholics.

Welcome, New Families!

Matthew Baptista & Jennifer Baker  
Efrain & Elizabeth Campos  
Anthony & Eva Cornwell  
Heidi Fogarty  
Ines Guevara & Maria Jiao  
Gloria Luevano

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PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

| Kristen Reed  
Lisa Dacanay  
Claire Johnston  
JoAnn Burton  
Febie Almazan  
Ty Turner  
Ronald Shinn  
Patricia Mendoza  
Ed Targaczewski  
Lisa Messinger  
Alfredo Hamam  
Fe Oliver  
Norma Torrico  
Phillip McCallon  
Rigo Garcia  
Carol Bush  
Peggy Carlson |

PRAYERS FOR THE DECEASED

| Fe Alejandro-Sarcia  
Lulu Vergara  
Pat Whitlow  
Ed Inderbitzen  
Norma Valencia  
Kimberly McFate  
Sherlee Ann Lewis  
Susan Abaya  
Delfi Lafuente  
Stella Anthony  
Mary Judy Curdy  
Edward G. McDonald  
Patricia Santos  
Betty Voelker |

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Monday, January 9, 2017  
7:00 PM  
St. Elizabeth Seton Chapel  

We are very excited to have Brother Mike Minton join us at our next WINGS gathering.

He will be presenting “Sacraments as a Means of Grace”.

Br. Minton, OFM, is a friar with the Franciscan Friars of the Province of Saint Barbara. His life has been dedicated to accompanying and assisting “the least of these” who are marginalized in our society.

He currently works as an advocate for people with developmental disabilities, leading retreats and providing spiritual direction. Br. Michael also has a deep passion for interfaith activity, especially with the local Muslim communities.

Please join us as we start our new year and bring a friend! Questions? Contact Kim Martin  
925-989-6829 or kimellenmartin@gmail.com.

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_Last Call to Order Gift Cards_

**January 1st** is the last day you can purchase gift cards through CCOP. Full details at www.catholicsofpleasanton.org – click on the Giving tab, then Gift Card Program for the instructions and the order form.

Drop off your order forms and checks at the parish offices by **8:00 PM Sunday** and you can pick up your gift cards by Thursday afternoon at St Elizabeth Seton Parish Office.

If you are a Pizza Angel for the Faith Formation Program, you can purchase your gift card and it will be delivered directly to Nancy Schlachte.

Have any Questions? Contact Maggie Go-Yu at mtgoyu@comcast.net or (925) 462-2913 or Judy Robichaud at jarobichaud@comcast.net or (925) 519-1936.

Thank you so much for your stewardship!
2016 Nativity Displays

Thank you from the Italian Catholic Federation!