Pastor’s Corner

My brothers and sisters,

What’s praise? We need to consider that the heart of our worship must entail praise. Right now, we are living in times that have many people worried and concerned for a variety of reasons. In the midst of all of this, how can we be a people who rightly praise God? I’m not someone who puts on the appearance of “praise.” Instead, praise must come from the core and be part of a deliberate awareness of how it is we stand in relationship to God. In short, we need to glorify God in all things and sing His praises.

The January Lecture Series for 2017 is on praise. Last Thursday, Fr. Kwame touched on the general theme of praise. This week, with my background in worship (liturgy), I will touch on how we need to raise a joyful voice when we are at worship. During some seasons that means uproarious jubilance; at other times praise can be more “thoughtful,” causing pause. Praise is not just banging the drum.

Week three, we will touch upon how we lift ourselves in praise in our learning! For all of us, that means a deliberate desire to grow in a consciousness of Jesus. He accompanies us and wants us to know Him. For all of us

(Continued on page 2)
who have been in love, we want to get to know that person thoroughly and intensely. Jesus wants us to feel that for Him. We need to learn about him inside and out.

Finally, praise must be grounded in our everydayness. Living justly, temperately and charitably is the bedrock of the Christian lifestyle. We will spend the final week in January touching on how to take our faith into the classroom and conference room, to the living room and the dinner table, to the friend and the stranger alike. In all ways, we must be about praise.

My friends, join us on the Thursdays in January at 7:30pm at Saint Elizabeth Seton. We build community and have an opportunity to know each other far more deeply when we share what is at our core — faith.

I look forward to seeing you!!!

And... Happy New Year,

Blessings,

Fr. Paul
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Scripture Readings
January 15
Isaiah 49:3, 5-6
1 Corinthians 1:1-3
John 1:29-34

January Bi-Monthly Grief Meetings
The 2nd and 4th Thursday meetings this month are moved to Tuesday, January 10th and January 24th. This is due to a conflict with the January Lecture Series, What is Praise?

Our meetings are held at St. Elizabeth Seton Chapel at 7:30 PM.

For more information, please call Eleanor Flatley at 925-846-8708. No pre-registration is required and the sessions are open to all, regardless of religious affiliation.

A BIG Thank You!
This year, the collection and distribution of toys to the children of the inmates was another big success, thanks to your generosity.

Combined with the other parishes of the Tri-Valley, we exceeded our usual contribution and as many as 360 children from Santa Rita Jail in Dublin and the Glenn Dyer Jail in Oakland benefited from this program, almost double from previous years!

Thank you again for your contribution to this program.

Merry Christmas to you and your families.

Richard Denoix
Catholic Detention Ministry

Invite 2.0
We recently announced CCOP’s new ministry called Invite 2.0. We asked if perhaps you know someone who is asking themselves questions such as:

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. Invite 2.0 is not designed to make people Catholic. If, after the 8-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 8-week program on Wednesday, January 11th at 7:30 PM at the St. Elizabeth Seton Chapel. Please take some flyers from the vestibule and give one to those in your life who may be interested, or visit our new website invite2.org for more information. RSVP to inviteyou2.0@gmail.com

Bible Study
The next series of classes will begin February 2 and 3. All are invited to the January Adult Faith Formation series, What is Praise?, all Thursdays of January at 7:30, St. Elizabeth Seton.

Military Peer Support Group
Veterans share life challenges and opportunities with other veterans the 3rd Wednesday of each month at St Augustine Rectory conference room from 7:00 to 8:00 PM.

Contact Dom Pietro for additional information at (925) 462-4665 or e-mail pietr11@comcast.net. All ages welcome.
What is Praise?
Join us for our January Lecture Series, *What is Praise?*, Thursday nights at 7:30 PM, St. Elizabeth Seton Church.

January 5   What is Praise
January 12  Praise Through Liturgy
January 19  Praise Through Learning
January 26  Praise Through Living

13th Annual Walk for Life
*Saturday, January 21*
*Civic Center*
*San Francisco*

Silent No More Awareness Campaign
Information Faire
Rally
Walk
10:45 AM - 12:15 PM
11:00 AM - 12:30 PM
12:30 PM - 1:30 PM
1:30 PM (Market St. to Justin Herman Plaza, approximately 2 miles)

Bring a drink and a boxed lunch to eat while listening to testimonies and speakers.

For details or to attend as a group via BART, please contact Lou Santero, (925) 846-5124 or lpsantero@yahoo.com.

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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.

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Women In God’s Spirit (WINGS)

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

Brother Mike Minton will be presenting “Sacraments as a Means of Grace”.

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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Collection for Livermore Homeless Refuge and St. Anthony’s Dining Room

Youth Group Leadership will be collecting new, warm hats, gloves, scarves, and socks for homeless men and women here in the Tri-Valley and in San Francisco.

Collection bins will be in the vestibules of both churches the weekends of January 14th/15th and January 21st/22nd. You may also drop off your donations to the Faith Formation office at St. Augustine Hall. *The last day to drop off any donations is Friday, January 27th.*

For questions, contact Nicole Browne at nbrowne@catholicsofpleasanton.org.

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**PRAYERS FOR THE SICK**

Rosaline Fitzpatrick
Terry Ching
Zenaida Shinn
Ronald Shinn
Peggy Hansen
Mary Radcliff
Kristen Reed
Lisa Dacanay
JoAnn Burton
Ty Turner
Patricia Mendoza
Ed Targaczewski
Lisa Messinger

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**PRAYERS FOR THE DECEASED**

Claire Johnston
Fe Alejandro-Sarcia
Lulu Vergara
Pat Whitlow
Ed Inderbitzen
Norma Valencia
Kimberly McFate
Mary Judy Curdy
Edward G. McDonald
Patricia Santos
Youth Group Kick Off
St. Augustine Hall Room -- Mondays at 7:30 PM
All High School Teens are Welcome