Pastor’s Corner

My brothers and sisters,

This weekend is Commitment Weekend, a critical point in our Arise and Build Campaign. We have only just begun this journey. I cannot underscore enough the urgency of this campaign. St. John Paul II Activity Center needs to be completed. The longer we postpone this phase of construction, the more costly it will be regarding both labor and materials. The capital improvements that need to be done on both St. Augustine and St. Elizabeth Seton are of equal importance. This is a matter of safety and a matter of structural integrity. In particular, St. Augustine is not user friendly for people with a variety of physical challenges or disabilities. To be specific, a wheelchair cannot enter into the public restrooms in either the Church or the Hall. When we speak about being a welcoming parish, the structures do not reflect this. Finally, we need to remember that we part of the larger church and need to support the diocese. Oftentimes, parishes lose that connection, but we must always remember that we are not independent. Thus, we need to support the ministries of the Diocese of Oakland, the Catholic Church in Alameda and Contra Costa County.

Along with these imperatives that make up our campaign, I’d like to share with you a surprising conversation with parishioners over dinner last week. They were under the impression that the diocese subsidizes all parishes including the (Continued on page 2)
Catholic Community of Pleasanton. Over the years, the diocese has graciously given us property and loaned us money to build our facilities. And since our parish’s establishment, we have supported the diocese and her ministries. Parishes that receive a subsidy from the diocese are those that are challenged to keep their doors open. These communities struggle to pay overhead costs and utilities. They have a right to gather for worship and they need our support. What I shared with this family over dinner was the importance of stewardship. Supporting our parish is not as much about a specific amount of money as it is about **purposeful giving**. We all need to support the Catholic Community of Pleasanton deliberately.

As we consider both our regular giving and the Arise and Build Campaign, I’d like to invite you to consider stretching and engaging in sacrificial giving. I want to take this opportunity to thank those of you who have made a pledge to the campaign. I know in my own life when I feel a pinch in giving, the rewards are far greater. When I look at the younger generations in our community, I want to provide for them a place and a space to gather in order to worship; an environment where good liturgy, learning and Christian living take hold. That has been our history and let that be our future. Again, I thank you for your commitment to our parish. We have been blessed. Let us put our hands to the good work. My brothers and sisters, let us Arise and Build.

Oh we are blessed...

**Fr. Paul**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Mass Intentions</th>
<th>Calendar of Events</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SUN Jan 24</td>
<td>8:00 AM</td>
<td>Pedro Gonzalez</td>
<td>Capital Campaign Commitment Weekend</td>
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<td>Mary Lou daSilva</td>
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<td>Mary Elizabeth Vranesh</td>
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<td>High School Speaker Night</td>
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<td>Natalie Rose Nowak</td>
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<td>Dominic &amp; Riza Pulanco</td>
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<td>Jungae Maria Lee</td>
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<td>For The People</td>
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<td>Capital Campaign Commitment Weekend</td>
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<td>RCIA Inquiry</td>
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<td>Baptism Rite of Welcome</td>
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<td>Baptism Preparation Class 2</td>
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<td>MON Jan 25</td>
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<td>Daniel N. Pereira (L)</td>
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<td>Eucharistic Adoration</td>
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<td>Small Christian Community Training</td>
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<td>Legion of Mary</td>
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<td>Teen Choir Rehearsal</td>
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<td>Returning Catholics</td>
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<td>Cantor Practice</td>
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<td>January Adult Formation Series: Week 3</td>
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<td>Who Would You Invite?</td>
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Small Christian Communities

Would you like to meet new people while growing in your faith? Now is the perfect time to become part of a Small Christian Community! These groups look at daily life in light of our faith and share this with others in a comfortable small group setting. No special knowledge or skills are needed; just bring your experiences, questions, and willingness to share and grow. New small groups will begin at Lent and most will hopefully continue. The Adult Education session, *The Heart of Mercy and Fellowship*, on Thursday, January 28, at 7:30 PM at St. Elizabeth Seton will provide more information. We hope to see you there!

Opportunities to sign-up for new groups will be available at the January 28th Adult Education Session following all Masses on the weekend of January 30 – 31.

Sign-ups will also be available via the parish website: [http://www.catholicsofpleasanton.org/](http://www.catholicsofpleasanton.org/)

For information, please contact:

- Sharon McKee at bmckee@ix.netcom.com or (925) 963-7745, or
- Rosemary Martelli at rosemary@comcast.net or (925) 462-0867.
An Open Door for Returning Catholics

Do you know someone who has left the Church? Most of us do not have to look very far to find non-practicing Catholics in our circle of family and friends. Many of us are concerned about these loved ones, but we don’t know how to help them. Most non-practicing Catholics are waiting for an invitation to return. You can make a tremendous difference in their lives simply by reaching out to them and telling them that we miss them and would like for them to come back home to our Church family.

Here at the Catholic Community of Pleasanton, we have a special program entitled “Returning Catholics” to help non-practicing Catholics return to the Church. This ministry meets on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 PM at St. Elizabeth Seton Church in Room A. The current session of six meetings was kicked off on January 20th, but people may begin attending at any time and return to subsequent sessions to pick up any meetings that may have been missed.

Please pass on this article or pick up a flyer in the vestibule of either St. Augustine or St. Elizabeth Seton. For more information, please contact Kimberly Whitaker at (925) 846-0892 or email at CCOPReturningCatholics@gmail.com.

Faith Formation News

Opportunity Knocks!

Catechist needed. One of RCIC/T’s catechists, because of a recent job change, is unable to continue with our Sunday morning gatherings. Can you help? RCIC/T is RCIA for 7-17 year olds. We meet on Sunday mornings at the 10:00 AM Mass and reflect on Scripture and pass on the faith to the different age groups in our care. We typically end the session around 12:30 PM. If the Spirit is urging you to grow more in your faith in 2016, this may be the answer! Need more information? Contact Pat Morgan (925)-474-2773 or pmorgan@catholicsofpleasanton.org

Attention All High School Teens!

Calling you to a Summer week of friends, fun and making a difference in the world. Come learn about Young Neighbors in Action, a week-long summer camp with a greater purpose. The informational meeting will be on Sunday, January 31, following the 6:30 Mass at St. Elizabeth Seton. Come to St. Elizabeth Seton Chapel at 7:30 PM to hear more. For information contact Nancy Schlachte at (925) 474-2775 or ccopkids@schlachte.net.

The Annual Knights of Columbus Crab Feed and Silent Auction

Saturday Evening, February 27, 2016
St. Augustine Hall

Ticket on sale now!
$45 per person
Silent Auction Preview at 5:00 PM
Dinner will begin at 7:00 PM
For more information, please contact Tim Tuttle at (925) 487-5645 or crabfeedatccop@gmail.com

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Torri Fritz
Cheryl Morgan
Melanie Henshaw
Cynthia Gibson
Lorraine Hanna
K. C. Hansen
Noelyn Dimayuga
Claudia Moritz
Alfredo Beteta
Gregory Orosco
Larry Crooker
Ken Perez
Dyland Garcia
Paz Perez
Daniel Dimakiling
Sue Fallon
Lorraine Webster
Lisa Messenger

PRAYERS FOR THE DECEASED

Pedro Gonzalez
Thelma Pauline Hunter
Jim Campbell
Raymond Finale
America Evana Campus
Mary Elizabeth Vranesh
Jacklyn Rickenbach
Francis Holmes
Burt Moreno
Apolinario Balbin, Jr.
Benjamin Perez
Wilhelmina Perez

WWW.CATHOLICSOFPLEASANTON.ORG
Music Ministry in Concert