Lent: What’s the Buzz about?

Blessings People of God,

Growing up Catholic in New York City, I was always fascinated by this time of year in our Liturgical Calendar and yet I could never explain why. I remember one of my earliest memories of Ash Wednesday was me asking my mother “Why were we doing this?”. Her answer still resonates today, “be quiet and get in line”. It didn’t answer the question but I did as I was told.

Then I grew a little in age, if not in wisdom, and entered CCD classes. That’s what we called it those days and Ash Wednesday would eventually be upon us. Again, the same question reared its head. This time Sister tried to simplify things by saying “my dear child, it’s a test of your Faith”...leaving me to ponder and hope for a multiple choice test. Yet her answer, while not satisfying my curiosity, left me thirsting for more.

As a teenager, while struggling through my scripture studies courses, we were taught the significance of “40 days” and how God tested and challenged His people using the 40-day model: Genesis 7:12 with Noah and the flood, Exodus 24 with Moses and the mountain. I remembered the 12 spies being sent to the promised land as explained in Numbers and it continued with 1 Samuel 17 when Goliath tested Israel, 1 Kings 19:8 with Elijah sent on his journey. Finally, the biggie, at least I saw it that way, of course, Matthew 4 with Jesus in the desert. With each story and discussion by

(Continued on page 2)
our teachers, I was on my way in my faith journey to answer that question that so intrigued me. Little did I know the quest would be so fascinating.

So I pondered why Jesus would need to be tested and it dawned on me He did it for me… not Him. Yes, of course, He was preparing for His ministry and mission but He was also bringing something to light for us. To look inside of ourselves, to realize how weak we are and how much we need Him. To show us as our temptations creep in on us, He is there to help us conquer them and live the life God intended for us to live.

Studying the Gospel of Matthew made the three things we were told we should do during Lent make sense. An epiphany came to light in me as I read the words Jesus spoke. “When” you pray, “when” to do almsgiving, I noted that He said “when” not “if” and tried teaching us how we should proceed in our life. The simplicity in His words and to how God takes care of us and to not worry about the ways of man.

Lent is not just a test of Faith, it’s a test of me. My opportunity to refine my love for Jesus. To see others through the eyes of God. To realize that God just wants me to be the best version of myself. To take stock in how I fit in the Body of Christ and how He lives in me. I don’t do it because I have to, I do it because I want to.

So as we continue through Lent with purpose, consider giving God His special time each day. If we pray daily, pray a little more….read scripture and if we already do, spend a little more time with it. While looking at God’s creation, see Him there and in everyone. Every year I was told I needed to “give up something” for Lent, I decided years ago that for me that was not enough. I needed to do more. So I try to give more of myself, to God, my family, the Body of Christ and especially to you my brothers and sisters.

In His Name,

Henry Correa
Director of Life Long Learning

**MASSES AT ST. AUGUSTINE**

- **Sunday Vigil:** 5:00 PM (Saturday)
- **Sunday:** 8:00 AM, 10:00 AM and 12:00 PM
- **Weekday Masses:** 8:30 AM Monday - Saturday
- **Holy Days:** 8:30 AM and 7:30 PM
- **Eucharistic Adoration:** First Fridays, following 8:30 AM Mass
- **Benediction:** 11:30 AM
- **Reconciliation:** Saturday: 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

**WEDDINGS**

- 6 months preparation time required by the Diocese. Call for an interview.

**MASSES AT ST. ELIZABETH SETON**

- **Sunday:** 9:00 AM, 11:00 AM, 4:00 PM and 6:30 PM
- **Weekdays Masses:** 12:10 PM Monday - Friday
- **Holy Days:** 12:10 PM and 6:00 PM
- **Eucharistic Adoration:** 12:45-6:30 PM Monday and Wednesday

**PARISH TEAM**

- Rev. Paul D. Minnihan Pastor
- Rev. Kwame Assenyoh Associate Pastor
- Rev. Michael Pham Associate Pastor
- Rev. Chris Renz, OP Weekend Associate

**St. Augustine Church**

3999 Bernal Avenue, Pleasanton, CA 94566
Television: (925) 846-4489
Fax: (925) 426-5061

Deacon Richard Martin
Deacon Joseph Gourley Director of Christian Living
Michael Harmon Director of Communications
Olga Morineau Office Manager
Henry Correa Director of Life Long Learning
Nancy Schlachtte Coordinator of Middle School and Intergenerational Ministries
Nicole Browne Youth Minister & Confirmation Coordinator
Kathy Works Coordinator of Elementary Faith Formation & Children’s Sacraments
Sharon Hanson Secretary
Ira Stein Director of Music Ministries
Matt Gray Director of Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

**St. Elizabeth Seton Church**

4001 Stoneridge Drive, Pleasanton, CA 94588
Television (925) 484-5020
Fax: (925) 484-1184

Deacon Gary Wortham Director of Worship
Stephen Melander Director of Facilities
Bronco Hinek Facilities Manager
Alejandrina Fonseca Finance Manager
Mariu Radcliff Secretary
### Mass Intentions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Persons</th>
<th>Location</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>SUN</strong></td>
<td>Mar 5</td>
<td>8:00 AM For The People</td>
<td>Vestibule</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mar 5</td>
<td>10:00 AM Lucy T. Carrozza</td>
<td>Vestibule</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mar 5</td>
<td>12:00 PM Evelyn Bayan</td>
<td>Vestibule</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>MON</strong></td>
<td>Mar 6</td>
<td>8:30 AM Joseph Tanos (L)</td>
<td>Vestibule</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mar 6</td>
<td>9:00 AM St. Vincent de Paul Meeting</td>
<td>Vestibule</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TUE</strong></td>
<td>Mar 7</td>
<td>8:30 AM Joey Dimaguila (L)</td>
<td>Vestibule</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mar 7</td>
<td>9:00 AM Al-Anon Meeting</td>
<td>Vestibule</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>WED</strong></td>
<td>Mar 8</td>
<td>8:30 AM Charlotte Hallum (L)</td>
<td>Vestibule</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mar 8</td>
<td>9:00 AM Knights of Columbus Business Meeting</td>
<td>Vestibule</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>THU</strong></td>
<td>Mar 9</td>
<td>8:30 AM Severa Gutierrez</td>
<td>Vestibule</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mar 9</td>
<td>9:00 AM Knights of Columbus Membership Drive</td>
<td>Vestibule</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>FRI</strong></td>
<td>Mar 10</td>
<td>8:30 AM Constance Rodriguez</td>
<td>Vestibule</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mar 10</td>
<td>9:00 AM Bible Study</td>
<td>Vestibule</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SAT</strong></td>
<td>Mar 11</td>
<td>8:30 AM Loretta Nnoli</td>
<td>Vestibule</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mar 11</td>
<td>9:00 AM Al-Anon Meeting</td>
<td>Vestibule</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SUN</strong></td>
<td>Mar 12</td>
<td>8:00 AM Virginia Brandt</td>
<td>Vestibule</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mar 12</td>
<td>10:00 AM Charles A. Berger</td>
<td>Vestibule</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mar 12</td>
<td>12:00 PM Romaine Trombadore</td>
<td>Vestibule</td>
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</tbody>
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### Calendar of Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
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<th>Events</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>SUN</strong></td>
<td>Mar 5</td>
<td>9:00 AM Knights of Columbus Membership Drive</td>
<td>Vestibule</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mar 5</td>
<td>10:00 AM Donut Sunday</td>
<td>Vestibule</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mar 5</td>
<td>12:00 PM Baptism Preparation Class 1</td>
<td>Vestibule</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>MON</strong></td>
<td>Mar 6</td>
<td>12:10 PM Arturo David</td>
<td>Chapel</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mar 6</td>
<td>12:45 PM Eucharistic Adoration</td>
<td>Chapel</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TUE</strong></td>
<td>Mar 7</td>
<td>12:10 PM Wonsook Clara Lee (L)</td>
<td>Chapel</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mar 7</td>
<td>12:45 PM Eucharistic Adoration</td>
<td>Chapel</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>WED</strong></td>
<td>Mar 8</td>
<td>12:10 PM Jong Ignatious Park (L)</td>
<td>Chapel</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mar 8</td>
<td>12:45 PM Children’s Choir Rehearsal</td>
<td>Chapel</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>THU</strong></td>
<td>Mar 9</td>
<td>12:10 PM Alejandro Bautista</td>
<td>Chapel</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mar 9</td>
<td>12:45 PM Children’s Choir Rehearsal</td>
<td>Chapel</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>FRI</strong></td>
<td>Mar 10</td>
<td>12:10 PM Maria del Carmen Gutierrez</td>
<td>Chapel</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mar 10</td>
<td>12:10 PM Prayer Shawl Group</td>
<td>Chapel</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SAT</strong></td>
<td>Mar 11</td>
<td>9:00 AM RCIA Inquiry</td>
<td>Room A</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mar 11</td>
<td>10:15 AM Romans of Peace</td>
<td>Room A</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SUN</strong></td>
<td>Mar 12</td>
<td>9:00 AM Antonia Correia</td>
<td>Room A</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mar 12</td>
<td>10:15 AM Sue Fallon</td>
<td>Room A</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mar 12</td>
<td>11:00 AM Antonio Pereira</td>
<td>Room A</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mar 12</td>
<td>12:15 PM For the People</td>
<td>Room A &amp; B</td>
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</tbody>
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WWW.CATHOLICSOFPLEASANTON.ORG PAGE 3
Scripture Readings
March 12
Genesis 12:1-4a
2 Timothy 1:8b-10
Matthew 17:1-9

Parish Mission
Take The Plunge
In the space of three days
Mission Leader, Brother William Woeger, FSC

Monday, March 20
Reflections on Holy Thursday
Tuesday, March 21
Reflections on Good Friday
Wednesday, March 22
Reflections on Holy Saturday

9:30 AM at St. Augustine Church
7:30 PM at St. Elizabeth Seton Church

Brother William will offer a reflection on the liturgy of these days and suggest ways of entering more deeply into their meaning, the heart of which is nothing less than our identity as members of Christ.

Lent Reconciliation Services
St. Augustine Church
Family & Youth Service
Thursday, March 23 at 7:30 PM
Adult Service
Monday, April 3 at 7:30 PM

St. Augustine Church & St. Elizabeth Seton
Individual
Saturday, April 8 at 3:00 PM— 5:00 PM

Stations of the Cross
St. Augustine Church
Every Friday at 7:30 PM

On March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 & April 7, we have the opportunity to share traditionally the Cross of Christ, led by different ministries such as: Legion of Mary, Women in God’s Spirit, St. Vincent De Paul, Italian Catholic Federation, Sowers (SCC); Knights of Columbus.

Rice Bowl Project
The Rice Bowls will be available in the vestibules after Mass on March 4 and 5. Inside the bowl there is a calendar that can help bring your Lent to life. The Rice Bowl is a Catholic Relief Service (CRS) project. The CRS advances human life around the world by directly meeting basic needs and advocating solutions to injustice. Please help by picking up your Rice Bowl and contributing through out lent. The bowls will be collected after each Mass on April 22 and 23. The Rice Bowl Project at CCOP is organized by the Social Justice and Outreach Committee.

Women In God’s Spirit
St. Elizabeth Seton Chapel
Monday, March 6, at 7:00 PM
WINGS is hosting Dr. Gina Henz-Piazza who will be leading our Lenten Retreat. Please come and share the evening with us as we deepen our Lenten journey.

If you have any question, please contact Kim Martin at kimellenmartin@gmail.com or (925) 989-6829. All are welcome!

Adult Confirmation
Adults interested in preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation please contact Matt Gray at (925) 202-5425, for more information.

Easter Food Baskets
The St. Vincent de Paul Conference is collecting NON-EXPIRED, nonperishable food for its Annual Easter Food Baskets for the needy in Pleasanton. Please leave your food donations in the food bins in the vestibules of each Church any time until Saturday, April 8, 2017. Canned tuna, chicken, fruit, vegetables and soup are appreciated. Cereal, snacks, packaged food mixes and dried goods such as rice, pasta and beans are also welcome. St. Vincent de Paul will purchase hams and fresh fruit for our client families. The Knights of Columbus will distribute the food baskets to local families. Thank you for your generosity. Conference of St. Vincent de Paul.
**Summer Catholic Camps**

What is your child doing this summer? We have 2 popular options in northern California. **Camp Pendola** is nestled in the Tahoe National Forest. The camp offers a variety of programs from traditional camp to backpacking to canoe trips. Camp Pendola has programs for 1st grade through high school. Learn more at www.pendola.org. Another choice is **CYO Camp in Occidental**, located in Sonoma County. Camp programs are geared for specific age groups, and youth from 8-17 years. Contact Nancy Schlachte at ccopkids@schlachte.net or (925) 474-2775.

**Young Neighbors in Action**

It’s Summer Camp with a Difference! Join teens from across the country to serve in San Francisco for a week - **July 16-22**. More information is available on the High School Service Page, catholicsofpleasanton.org or by contacting Nancy Schlachte at (925) 474-2775 or ccopkids@schlachte.net.

**Funeral and Cemetery Services**

Pre-planning your cemetery and funeral – is this one of your New Year Resolutions? Catholic Funeral and Cemetery Services is having a winter promotion and is offering CCOP parishioners a 10% discount on cemetery property and a 5% discount on funeral and cremation services. Prices are going up next month, so now is the time to stop putting off what you have been wanting to do. Zero interest payment plans are also available. If you have questions or to make an appointment call Frank Draschner at (925) 784-6666.

**Day of Fast and Abstinence**

**Good Friday** is a day of fast and abstinence (one full meal, two lesser meals, no meat, no eating between meals). The law on fasting obliges all persons who are between the ages of 18 and 59 and not restricted by diet for health reasons. **All Fridays of Lent** are days of abstinence (no meat or meat products). **This year, however**, Bishop Michael Barber has granted all Catholics within the Diocese of Oakland a dispensation from abstinence of meat or meat products on **Friday, March 17** (the Feast Day of St. Patrick).

Regarding the obligatory days listed above, however, there are frequent questions about the degree of seriousness of the matter. The teaching of Pope Paul VI may be simply paraphrased: “The obligation to observe, as a whole or ‘substantially’, the penitential days specified by the Church is serious. But no one should be scrupulous in this regard; failure to observe individual days of penance is not considered serious, rather it is the failure to observe any penitential days at all or a substantial number of such days which must be considered serious”.

**Oasis of Hope-Undie Sunday**

The Oasis of Hope is collecting unopened packages of Children’s, Women’s or Men’s underpants, undershirts, and socks on **March 11-12 and 18-19**. Donations can be placed in the St. Mary’s bin in the lobby of St. Elizabeth Seton or in the bin marked Oasis of Hope Collection, in the vestibule of St. Augustine. Coordinated by the Social Justice and Outreach Committee.

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**PRAYERS FOR THE SICK**

**Dominic Hy**  
Francisca Verderrain  
Tony Lopez  
Isssei Matsumoto  
Bob Burns  
Robert Louis Saracco

**Brian James Neu**  
Ophelia Bazard  
Norman Hughey  
Juan Castillo  
Nestor Aragon  
Vincent Fragomeli

**Dan Carey**  
Kristen Reed  
Tom Northam  
Nancy Pennell  
Adelaide Voellinger  
Charlotte Hallum  
Pauline Rodarte  
Fue O’Connor

**Rose D’Amico**  
Len Stout  
Kenny Kailau Yeung  
Lorraine Hanna  
Joey Dimaguila  
Carolyn Cardinali  
Delaney Richards  
Ryan Richards
Hosted by the Knights of Columbus

St. Patrick’s Day Dinner
Saturday March 18
St. Augustine’s Hall
6:00 PM – 9:00 PM
Doors open at 5:45 PM    Dinner served at 7:00 PM

Corned Beef Dinner
Irish Dancers
Music, Beer
Wine & Soda

Great for the whole Family

Seating is limited!
Cost $15 Adult, $5 Children under 13, under 5 free
Contact Stephen Natale at
sanatale@hotmail.com or (925)-895-7661
Last day for tickets is Tuesday March 14

Tickets will not be sold at the door!

Get yer Green on!