Closer to God? How?

Blessings, People of God,

My dear sisters and brothers, together we have journeyed in this Season of Lent - challenging ourselves, giving of ourselves and looking at ourselves. Historically at this time my friends, usually my non-Catholic ones, interrogate me on what’s it’s all about. This “Lent thing” - giving something up, praying, giving to the poor. The general question is why? Replying that it’s another way I work towards getting closer to God, seems inadequate in their eyes and produces the next question, how?

For some, it’s an opportunity to get into a theological discussion; for others, a chance to show how Catholics have it wrong and yet others seek knowledge and explanation. I feel blessed that the Lord has given me this opportunity to spread the Word and yet cautious as to what to say. I’m asked, “What do you do during Lent that’s so special”. Of course, I echo the three things we are challenged to do during Lent: Praying, Fasting and Almsgiving.

Praying? Quickly I am put on the spot that as Christians we should pray not just during Lent. Catholics don’t pray all year? As ridiculous as that claim may sound, there are those that question our spirituality. Yes, we pray all the time, but during Lent our intent is to increase prayer time with a renewed dedication. Our efforts in prayer are focused on taking more time to raise our minds to God, to love Him with intensity, seeking His friendship and wishing to be in communion. These are not new goals. They are daily goals, but life sometimes gets in the way. Lent, reminds us to slow down and re-energize our efforts.

(Continued on page 2)
Fasting? Now here, my friends have a big issue. “How does giving up chocolate for forty days help you get closer to God?” My retort normally points to the act of fasting and not the item being “given up”. Fasting is not just the act of “giving up something”. It’s fasting during the Lenten period and what I am doing then is fasting from the world. Normally I pause for a moment to enjoy the “deer in the headlights” looks after making that statement. Then I explain. Fasting is a way to suppress the desires of this world, to acknowledge that I live with Jesus as the center of my life, not the pleasures of this world. The “thing” I give up is a symbol of those desires. In fasting and suppressing the desires of the world, I open my heart to God.

Almsgiving? What’s that? Giving to the poor? Of course, we all should do that all the time, is the gist of this discussion. Again, I explain that it’s not a new thing, just a focused attempt during Lent. Here my response is accepted and no clarification is necessary, but of course there is always another question; “where do you get this from, Catholic school?” My answer, “No, scripture and Jesus”. “Remember the temptation in the desert?” The answer is simplistic and quick, “Oh yea, bread, danger and power”. I’m asked, “what do you think they mean?”

Now the Lord gives me the chance to evangelize, and I share my interpretation of the three temptations as I have learned and sought in my faith journey. Taking one at a time as it was given to me I continue. Bread – not to make the pleasures of the world the center of life, God is the center of my life. Danger – not to submit to the desire of seeking glory, honor or to be noticed, instead seek God and accept His will and love in your life. Finally, Power – seeking with zeal, and submitting to this temptation takes us away from God.

So my friends, I pray your Lenten journey continues to fulfill your life with God’s love.

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
Telephone: (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 Schlachte Coordinator of Middle School & 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
Telephone (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
Marilu Radcliff Secretary
## FOURTHSUNDAY OF LENT

### MASS INTENTIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Mass Times</th>
<th>Intention of Intention</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SUN Mar 26</td>
<td>8:00 AM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM</td>
<td>Maria Conte Pantaleo Luis &amp; Agustina Cortez Joseph Occhiogrossi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MON Mar 27</td>
<td>8:30 AM</td>
<td>Michael Devlin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TUE Mar 28</td>
<td>8:30 AM</td>
<td>Grace Weakley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WED Mar 29</td>
<td>8:30 AM</td>
<td>Medardo &amp; Agueda Enriquez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THU Mar 30</td>
<td>8:30 AM</td>
<td>Rufino S. Aduviso</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRI Mar 31</td>
<td>8:30 AM 5:00 PM</td>
<td>Tom Northam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAT April 1</td>
<td>8:30 AM 5:00 PM</td>
<td>Peter Ferrini Mitch Patton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUN April 2</td>
<td>8:00 AM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM</td>
<td>Giovanni Zampierin Generoso Alcala For the People</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Event Times</th>
<th>Event Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SUN Mar 26</td>
<td>10:15 AM</td>
<td>RCIA Inquiry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MON Mar 27</td>
<td>12:45 PM 7:15 PM</td>
<td>Eucharistic Adoration RCIA Adult Confirmation Liturgy Committee Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TUE Mar 28</td>
<td>7:30 PM</td>
<td>Art &amp; Environment Meeting Cryroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WED Mar 29</td>
<td>12:45 PM 5:00 PM 7:00 PM</td>
<td>Eucharistic Adoration Children's Choir Rehearsal Legion of Mary Teen Choir Rehearsal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THU Mar 30</td>
<td>12:10 PM</td>
<td>Catherine Monzo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRI Mar 31</td>
<td>No Mass</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAT April 1</td>
<td>10:00 AM 12:00 PM</td>
<td>Holy Thursday Foot Washing Rehearsal Palm Sunday Lector Rehearsal Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUN April 2</td>
<td>10:00 AM 10:15 AM</td>
<td>Donut Sunday RCIA Inquiry Vestibule Vestibule Room A</td>
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</tbody>
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**WWW.CATHOLICSOFPLEASANTON.ORG PAGE 3**
Scripture Readings
April 2
Ezekiel 37:12-14
Romans 8:8-11
John 11:1-45 or 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45

Holiday Office Hours
In observance of Cesar Chavez Day, the Offices will be closed on Friday, March 31. Mass will be celebrated at St. Augustine Church at 8:30 AM. There will be NO 12:10 PM Mass at St. Elizabeth Seton Chapel on that day.

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

On March 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.

Many Thanks
Brothers and sisters,

On behalf of the priests and staff, I want to offer a word of THANKS to the Knights of Columbus and the other private donors who have contributed to the refurbishing of the rectory kitchen. This project is necessary to ensure the kitchen is safe and functional. The generous donations will allow the project to be completed without impacting the operating budget whatsoever. I'm grateful to all those involved.

Fr. Paul Minnihan

PRAYERS FOR THE DECEASED
Jerome Dow
Antonio Gamboa
Rolando NG
Benjamin Perez
Wilhelmina Perez
Cathleen Ann Miick
Celia Navarreta
Nenita Mendoza

Christine M. Andreski
Donna Copinskey
Tom Northam
Donatila Ramos
Joan O’Connor
Dominic Hy
Francisca Verderrain
Tony Lopez

Ministry Of Mothers Sharing
Wednesdays - April 19 - May 31
9:30 - 11:30 AM
St. Augustine Hall - Room 8

The Ministry Of Mothers Sharing (M.O.M.S.) invites you to join other Christian mothers for a six-week spiritual workshop. Discuss topics such as self-esteem, stress, personal growth, friendships, and everyday spirituality. Childcare will be provided. For more information or to signup visit www.catholicsofpleasanton.org/moms.

Fair Trade Easter Sale
Our Parish Fair Trade Easter Sale will take place after all Masses on April 1 and 2. It is part of our Parish effort to confront global poverty. Fair Trade chocolate and products are made without the use of forced child labor and child trafficking. By purchasing Fair Trade chocolate for Easter you will be helping disadvantaged workers in developing countries to earn a fair price for their labor. Please be generous in supporting this event.

Kelly Moore Paint
Parishioners, families, employees and members of the Catholic Diocese of Oakland who purchase paint through the Kelly Moore Paint Company can receive a KM Club Discount and have a portion of the purchase gifted back to the Diocese. This year Kelly Moore donated back $1,000.

Please ask to use the Diocese of Oakland Parishioners KM Club Account 605-DI4711.

Invite 2.0
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. We start the 6-week program on Wednesday, April 19 at 7:30 PM at the St. Elizabeth Seton Chapel.
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.

Grief Workshop
The death of a loved one is unlike any other loss. Grieving people need time and space to honor their grief. Each person’s grief journey has its own path and its own timeline. Although there is no right or wrong path, there are Stepping Stones that are part of each grief journey. We will explore them in this eight-week series of workshops.

Join us for eight (8) Thursday nights beginning MARCH 16 through MAY 11 at 7:30 PM (EXCEPT April 13) at St. Elizabeth Seton Church. A one-time donation of $15 is requested. Space is limited and Pre-registration is required.

For more information, please call Eleanor Flatley at (925) 846-8708.

WOMEN IN GOD’S SPIRIT
Our next meeting is Monday, April 3 at 7:00 PM. For information, please contact Kim Martin at kimellenmartin@gmail.com or (925) 989-6829.

Get On the Bus
Get On the Bus is a program of the Center for Restorative Justice Works which brings children and their caregivers from throughout the state of California to visit their mothers & fathers in prison. This year, CCOP will sponsor four buses to four different correctional facilities throughout the state and will provide each child with a travel bag, including snacks, games, and other comfort items. They will also receive a photo with his or her parent, stationery items to keep in touch with them, and meals for the day. On the trip home, they also will receive a teddy bear with a letter from their parent.

For more information about this valuable program, please click on the Get On the Bus link on our homepage at www.catholicsofpleasanton.org. If you would like to make a monetary donation to help offset the cost of the children participating, please contact Sharon Hanson in our Faith Formation Office at (925) 474-2771.

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.
# Holy Week and Easter Sunday Worship

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>St. Augustine</th>
<th>St. Elizabeth Seton</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Palm Sunday</strong></td>
<td>Palm Sunday Procession to start before all Masses at the Grotto</td>
<td>Palm Sunday Procession to start before all Masses at the St. John Paul II Activity Center</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>April 9</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Holy Thursday</strong></td>
<td>8:30 AM: Morning Prayer</td>
<td>8:00 PM: Mass of the Lord’s Supper, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until midnight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>April 13</strong></td>
<td>No 8:30 AM Mass</td>
<td>No 12:10 PM Mass</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>8:00 PM: Mass of the Lord’s Supper, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until midnight</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12:00 PM: Stations of the Cross</td>
<td>12:00 PM-6:00 PM: Private Meditation</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1:15 PM: Seven Last Words of Jesus</td>
<td>No 12:10 PM Mass</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4:30 PM: Start of Cross Walk (Parking Lot to St. Elizabeth Seton)</td>
<td>8:00 PM: Liturgy of the Word</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Veneration of the Cross</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Simple Communion</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Good Friday</strong></td>
<td>8:30 AM: Morning Prayer</td>
<td>12:00 PM-6:00 PM: Private Meditation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>April 14</strong></td>
<td>No 8:30 AM Mass</td>
<td>No 12:10 PM Mass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12:00 PM: Stations of the Cross</td>
<td>8:00 PM: Liturgy of the Word</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1:15 PM: Seven Last Words of Jesus</td>
<td>Veneration of the Cross</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4:30 PM: Start of Cross Walk (Parking Lot to St. Elizabeth Seton)</td>
<td>Simple Communion</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Holy Saturday</strong></td>
<td>8:30 AM: Morning Prayer</td>
<td>8:00 PM Easter Vigil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>April 15</strong></td>
<td>No 8:30 AM and 5:00 PM Mass</td>
<td>We begin with the Holy Fire at the St. John Paul II Activity Center.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Easter Sunday</strong></td>
<td>8:00 AM Mass (No incense)</td>
<td>9:00 AM Mass (Children’s Choir, no incense)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>April 16</strong></td>
<td>10:00 AM Mass (Adult Choir)</td>
<td>11:00 AM Mass (Youth Choir)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10:15 AM Mass in Grotto, behind Church</td>
<td>No evening Masses</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12:00 PM Mass</td>
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</table>

# Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>St. Augustine</th>
<th>St. Elizabeth Seton</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thursday, March 23</strong></td>
<td>7:30 PM: Youth &amp; Family</td>
<td>7:30 PM: Youth &amp; Family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Monday, April 3</strong></td>
<td>7:30 PM: Adult</td>
<td>7:30 PM: Adult</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Saturday, April 8</strong></td>
<td>3:00 – 5:00 PM: Individual</td>
<td>3:00 – 5:00 PM: Individual</td>
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</tbody>
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