“Are you ready for Christmas?” asked a guy I see at the train station every day. I thought of the long list of gifts I still needed to buy and the calendar crammed with holiday events and parties, and I shook my head. “Hardly,” I said, and we both laughed knowingly.

On my train ride downtown I turned off my iPod and let my mind ponder that question a little deeper. “Am I ready for Christmas?” This time I thought about the meaning of the holiday—the Son of God coming to earth to dwell among us and show us the way to eternal life. Again I shook my head and murmured to myself, “Hardly.”

It was then that I vowed to take advantage of every opportunity to prepare my heart for the coming of the Christ Child into the world—the world you and I live in.

What I discovered was that if we know what we’re preparing for, everything we encounter on the way to Christmas can prepare us for the coming of Christ, not only in Bethlehem 2,000 years ago but also into our homes, our families, our workplaces, and our communities. The usual December distractions can instead

(Continued on page 2)
(Continued from page 1)

become holy moments when we find the Christ Child in our midst.

Having the right attitude and perspective on the season will help you and your family avoid the excesses that make certain Christmas preparations frantic, yet draining and disappointing. As theologian John Shea says, “The task seems to be the delicate one of learning to make the customs and traditions of Christmas serve the Spirit.”

Take a look at some of December's demanding activities with new eyes, eyes that fully expect to find God in every moment of this season of hope.

by Tom McGrath
Loyola Press
A Jesuit Ministry

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
(Confessions)
WEDDINGS 6 months preparation time required by the Diocese. Call for an interview.

MASSES AT ST. ELIZABETH SETON
Sunday: 5:00 PM, 9:00 AM, 11:00 AM, 4:00 PM, 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
Olga Morineau Office Manager
Kathleen Works Secretary
Henry Correa Director of Life Long Learning,
Coordinator of Elementary Faith
Formations & Children’s Sacraments
Nancy Schlachte Coordinator, Middle School and
Intergenerational Ministries
Nicole Browne Youth Minister & Confirmation Coordinator
Sharon Hanson Secretary
Ira Stein Director, Music Ministries
Matt Gray Director, 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
## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### MASS INTENTIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUNDAY</th>
<th>8:00 AM</th>
<th>Mass Intention</th>
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<th>12:00 PM</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dec 18</td>
<td>Jane Cook</td>
<td>Bill McCammon</td>
<td>Raymond Northam</td>
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<thead>
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<th>8:30 AM</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 19</td>
<td>Josefina Pantig (L)</td>
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<tr>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
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<th>Mass Intention</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dec 20</td>
<td>Joe Antonini</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 21</td>
<td>Fernando Perez</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 22</td>
<td>Richard Deltredici</td>
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<tr>
<th>FRIDAY</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 23</td>
<td>Adam Lane</td>
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<tr>
<th>SATURDAY</th>
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<th>7:00 PM</th>
<th>Mass Intention</th>
<th>12:00 AM</th>
<th>Mass Intention</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dec 24</td>
<td>For The People</td>
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### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUNDAY</th>
<th>8:30 AM</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dec 18</td>
<td>Breakfast With Santa</td>
<td>Hall</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>7:00 AM</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dec 19</td>
<td>St. Vincent de Paul Meeting</td>
<td>Rectory</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>12:00 PM</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dec 20</td>
<td>Al-Anon Meeting</td>
<td>Room 8</td>
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<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
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<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dec 21</td>
<td>Finance Council Meeting</td>
<td>Rectory</td>
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<td>Dec 23</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>SATURDAY</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 24</td>
<td>Al-Anon Meeting</td>
<td>Room 8</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUNDAY</th>
<th>9:00 AM</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dec 25</td>
<td>Merry Christmas!</td>
<td>All Offices Closed</td>
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</table>
Scripture Readings
December 25
Isaiah 52:7-10
Hebrews 1:1-6
John 1:1-18 or 1:1-5,9-14

Holiday Office Hours
In observance of Christmas, the Offices will be closed December 24-26. Mass will be celebrated only at St. Augustine Church on Monday, December 26 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.

Young Adult Ministry
CCOP has a Young Adult Ministry! College students and young professionals are welcome. Find us on Facebook under CCOP Young Adult Ministry, where all our events are posted in a timely manner. Please contact Susie at staugustine868@gmail.com to join the ministry email for our monthly updates and events.

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.

RCIA: Come and See
The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is the process that adults complete to receive the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. Please contact Matt Gray, (925) 202-5425 or mgray@catholicsofpleasanton.org.

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

Grief Workshop
Thursday, December 22, 7:30 PM
St. Elizabeth Seton Chapel
The death of a loved one is unlike any other loss. Whether the death was sudden or tragic, or one with warning and preparation, the reality of death leaves most of us in a state of shock, confusion and sadness. Join us bi-monthly and let us accompany you on your healing journey.
For more information, please call Eleanor Flatley at (925) 846-8708. No pre-registration is necessary. These sessions are open to all, regardless of religious affiliation.

Eucharistic Adoration
Seeking quiet time for prayer and meditation? Come join us for Eucharistic Adoration.

ST. AUGUSTINE CHURCH
1st Friday Every Month
9:00 AM–11:30 AM
Coordinator: Ernie (925) 846-7831

Last Friday of Each Month (Spanish)
7:00 PM – 8:00 PM
Coordinator: Ernesto (925) 640-1595

ST. ELIZABETH SETON CHAPEL
Mondays and Wednesdays
12:45 PM – 6:30 PM
Coordinators: Linda (925) 462-0974
Sharon (925) 462-8625

Thank You!
The members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society would like to thank the CCOP parishioners for their generous contribution of non-perishable food items for our Thanksgiving Food Basket Drive. This year we provided 85 Pleasanton families with a turkey and fresh fruit in addition to several boxes of food so they could enjoy a Thanksgiving dinner. Thank you also to the many volunteers who helped assemble the baskets. We would particularly like to acknowledge the teens who helped sort the food on the afternoon before the event. You did an awesome job!
Holiday Gift Card Program

You can once again purchase your gift cards through CCOP and help support our Parish Full Details at www.catholicsofpleasanton.org – click on the Giving tab then Gift Card Program for instructions and order form. You can also order online at www.shopwithscrip.com. Use CCOP’s Enrollment Code: 85C4B18426783. 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.

The Faith Formation Office

The office will be closed from December 21 – January 2, 2017. We will reopen on Tuesday, January 3, 2017. Merry Christmas!

An Open Door for Returning Catholics

Do you know someone who has left the Church? Most non-practicing Catholics are waiting for an invitation to return. You can make a tremendous difference in someone’s life simply by reaching out and telling them that they are missed and inviting 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.

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

Breakfast With Santa

The Knights of Columbus are hosting Breakfast With Santa … Get into the Christmas Spirit and enjoy a Pancake Breakfast and family fun!

Breakfast Sunday, December 18 St. Augustine Hall 9:00 AM to 11:30 AM

Pictures with Santa 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM Donations are welcome!

Family Fun Keep Christ in Christmas Crafts and fun Activities

Please help spread joy and the Spirit of the Season by bringing a new unwrapped toy to donate to the Santa Rita Jail Ministry.

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Alfredo Hamam
Fe Oliver
Norma Torrico
Phillip McCallon
Rigo Garcia
Carol Bush
Peggy Carlson
Helen Walker

John McCallister
Genevieve Giordano
Eric Martin
Bronco Hinek
Zea Haman
Gladys Murray
Kymberly McFate

PRAYERS FOR THE DECEASED

Norma Valencia
Kimberly McFate
Sherlee Ann Lewis
Susan Abaya
Delfi Lafuente
Stella Anthony
Mary Judy Curdy
Edward G. McDonald

Patricia Santos
Peter Provost
Betty Voelker
Choong Chew Kook
Nitay Caballes
Joy Sison
Mindy Elwell
Marcelle Howard

www.catholicsofpleasanton.org
Christmas Eve

**St. Augustine Church**
4:00 PM (no incense)
7:00 PM
12:00 Midnight (11:30 PM – Musical Prelude by Adult Choir)

**St. Elizabeth Seton Church**
4:00 PM (Children’s choir, no incense)
9:00 PM
12:00 Midnight (11:30 PM – Musical Prelude by Teen Choir)

Christmas Day

**St. Augustine Church**
8:00 AM (no incense)
10:00 AM
12:00 PM

**St. Elizabeth Seton Church**
9:00 AM (no incense)
11:00 AM

New Year’s Day

Regular Sunday Schedule at both churches