My brothers and sisters,

Merry Christmas!!! On behalf of the pastoral staff and leadership councils at the Catholic Community of Pleasanton, I want to wish you and your families the joy and peace of Jesus – birthed into the world, as God chose in an act of pure love to enter as our Savior and Redeemer. Obviously, as we look at Jesus in the Sacred Scripture, we can see at every twist and turn how He made crooked ways straight. For us, we need to remember that we are not alone on this journey. When I look to Jesus and his life on earth, I inevitably find the pathway for healthy living. None of us do that perfectly and we must rely upon Him.

I’m also aware that this time of year is difficult for some. The loss of a loved one, broken relationships and so many other situations and experiences surface during this season. May the soothing peace of Jesus be revealed through care that is received by others. And when necessary, reach out – from both sides! If we know someone who is lonely or alone, reach out to them. If one is lonely or alone, then find those right spaces or places where you can be in healthy relationships.

(Continued on page 2)
Let us cherish what is of utmost importance to Him and should be to us – family. My Christmas hope for all of you is to cherish your families and accept members of your families as they are. From there we create environments where each of us can grow. All of us are a mix of saint and sinner and like Pope Francis, the point of departure should be the person and loving the person.

Above all else, what the Christmas Season should remind us to be about is the relationship. Relationship with God and with one another is how we are fundamentally formed. We get so busy with the busyness of too much happening that we never stop to ponder what is of essential importance. It’s about family and keeping grounded in a relationship with God the Father and His Son and our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

To all of you, the blessings of Christmas. May the Light that is born into the world illuminate you, warm you and comfort you.

Blessings,

Fr. Paul
<table>
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<th>Date</th>
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<th>Mass Intentions</th>
<th>CALENDAR OF EVENTS</th>
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| SUN Dec 25 | 8:00 AM  
10:00 AM  
12:00 PM  | For The People  
For The People  
For The People | Merry Christmas!  
All Offices Closed                                      |
| MON Dec 26 | 8:30 AM  | Amor & Dionisio Natividad | Holiday  
All Offices Closed                                      |
| TUE Dec 27 | 8:30 AM  | Petra & Adolfo Shoemaker | Al-Anon Meeting  
Room 8                                          |
| WED Dec 28 | 8:30 AM  | John Roybal                                           |                                                        |
| THU Dec 29 | 8:30 AM  | Nona Porter                                           |                                                        |
| FRI Dec 30 | 8:30 AM  | George Fargis, Jr.  | 11:00 AM  
6:00 PM  
7:00 PM  | Al-Anon Meeting  
AA Meeting  
Spanish First Friday Eucharistic Adoration  
Room 8 Room 8 Church                                    |
| SAT Dec 31 | 8:30 AM  
5:00 PM | Alberto & Mary Mendes  
John Andrew Boynton | 8:45 AM  
3:00 PM  | Al-Anon Meeting  
Private Reconciliation  
Room 8 Church                                             |
| SUN Jan 1  | 8:00 AM  
10:0 AM  
12:00 PM | For The People  
For The People  
For The People | Happy New Year’s!  
Holy Day of Obligation                                      |

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| SUN Dec 25 | 9:00 AM  
11:00 AM  | For The People  
For The People | Merry Christmas!  
All Offices Closed                                      |
| MON Dec 26 | No 12:10 Mass;  
No Adoration | Holiday  
All Offices Closed                                      |
| TUE Dec 27 | 12:10 PM  | Mariamma Sebastian |                                                        |
| WED Dec 28 | 12:10 PM  | Albina & Juanito Castillo  | 12:45 PM  
5:30 PM  | Eucharistic Adoration  
Legion of Mary  
Chapel Room B                                              |
| THU Dec 29 | 12:10 PM  | Brian Vargas                                          |                                                        |
| FRI Dec 30 | 12:10 PM  | Carol Bush (L)                                        |                                                        |
| SAT Dec 31 | No Mass  |                                                        |                                                        |
| SUN Jan 1  | 9:00 AM  
11:00 AM  
4:00 PM  
6:30 PM | For The People  
For The People  
For The People | Happy New Year’s!  
Holy Day of Obligation                                      |
Scripture Readings

January 1
Numbers 6:22-27
Galatians 4:4-7
Luke 2:16-21

January 1st Masses

We will have the regular Sunday Schedule at both churches.

Holiday Office Hours

The Church offices will be closed December 26 and January 2. Mass will be celebrated only at St. Augustine Church 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.

The Faith Formation office will be closed December 21-January 2, 2017 and will reopen on Tuesday, January 3, 2017.

Giving Tree Elves

Thank you to everyone who participated in some way to the Giving Tree ministry this year. We provided gifts to 426 families and over 3300 people! What a joy for the parents to witness the happiness on their children's faces when they open their gifts, and for the adults as well who also get to experience the thrill of opening presents of their own.

Thank you to all the elves who helped, including those who stuffed the envelopes, managed the tree sitting tables, and drove the thousands of gifts to the parishes.

Thank you as well to the team who helped make it run so smoothly:

Carol Roberts, Anne Warner, and Patti Spahr.

Roxanne Rasmussen

Invite 2.0

Two weeks ago, we introduced CCOP’s new ministry called Invite 2.0. We asked if perhaps you know someone who is asking themselves questions like:

- 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.

We believe that in this process something holy happens: relationships are developed, grow and are strengthened - as we share our faith with others. This is the first step on the path that leads to peace, acceptance, fulfillment, joy - to something more.

The concept is pretty simple: 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. It is a place for them to slow down, listen to some soft music, watch a short, thought-provoking video, and explore their thoughts and hearts in small group discussions with others.

*Invite 2.0* is not designed to make people Catholic. If, after the eight-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 eight-week program on **Wednesday, January 11th at 7:30 PM at St. Elizabeth Seton Chapel**.

Think about it…..We all have friends and relatives who are seeking something more. *Invite 2.0* is designed for them. Please invite them and send them to us for our first evening on Jan 11th. See the insert in this bulletin and consider giving it to someone. We have additional flyers in the vestibule for you to take with you. For more information, please visit our new website [Invite2.org](http://Invite2.org).
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.

Grief Workshop

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.

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Refugee Family Update

The refugee family that CCOP is co-sponsoring is doing well. All members of the family have now received their Green Card, so all are “Official US Residents”. Hamed, the father, is now working full time in Dublin. Benazir is continuing her ESL studies and is becoming quite proficient with her English. Haseb is now a healthy 10 month-old, quickly crawling all over. He is pulling himself up and will soon be walking.

I would like to thank the parish for their generosity, support and prayers. Please continue to pray for a successful future for the family.

Dan Hughes
systldr@yahoo.com, 925-462-0481

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Last Call to Order Gift Cards

_January 1st_ is the last day you can purchase gift cards through CCOP. Full Details at [www.catholicsofpleasanton.org](http://www.catholicsofpleasanton.org) – click on the Giving tab, then Gift Card Program for the instructions and the order form.

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.

Thank you so much for your stewardship!

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Young Adult Ministry

College students and young professionals are welcome! Find us on Facebook, **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 and receive email for our monthly updates and events.
My C.C.O.P

Christ Centered Opportunity to Praise

St. Elizabeth Seton Church - The Catholic Community of Pleasanton
4001 Stoneridge Drive - Pleasanton - CA - 94588 - (925) 484-5020

What is Praise?

Christians often speak of “praising God,” and the Bible commands all living creatures to praise the Lord (Psalm 150: 6). We will discuss “Christian Praise” and why praising God is important.

Praise Through Liturgy

Join us as we share how Liturgy is the praise of God’s people for all God does in providing such a bountiful banquet.

Praise Through Learning

Together we will discuss how, as people of God, we strive to consciously grow in the life of Christ through experience, reflection, prayer, and study.

Praise Through Living

We will conclude the series by “connecting the dots” and illustrating that when Christians speak about praise, they actually speak about a way of life.