Pastor’s Corner

My brothers and sisters,

MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!

We remember the words of the Prophet Isaiah:

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of His government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David’s throne and over His kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

It seems far-fetched that God would want to come to this earth through the word of a prophet and ultimately as He really and truly is. Looking at the darkness of the natural and inflicted violence that has plagued us this past year, we need to remind ourselves that He has experienced everything we have. He is the way that gives light for us. In fact, He is the light that can overcome any and all darkness. It is His light

(Continued on page 2)
that reminds us and inspires us to be the best of who we are, to support our brothers and sisters without prejudice or judgement—when the needs of others compel us to act with no self-interest. We do this because of Christmas and what it really means to us as Catholic Christians.

*We need to connect Christ to Christmas*—to lay down the Christmas-to-do list and receive what Jesus has done for us. Now is the time to give of ourselves. This is how we, by living and acting as our Savior Jesus did, will heal the anxiety or depression that so many of us are feeling during these troubled times. Embrace the God of Light who is always near us, always for us, and always in us.

If you belong to another religious tradition or if you are seeking at this time in your life, consider how Jesus lived and found his fundamental purpose in virtuous living. For me, that means that He was principled! He made life choices on principles and did not get caught in the sways of popularity, trends or counter-trends. None of that moved him. Jesus understood that you need to build upon bedrock and not upon shifting sands. He shares that message of value with us and we celebrate His birth. It’s about finding meaning by sharing your life so that others can live; it’s about allowing others to share their life with you so that you can live.

My brothers and sisters, Jesus will bring to fulfillment all that was promised to us—life and light, peace and hope. There will be no more death and darkness, rage and hopelessness. This Christmas, we will let Him do for us what He has promised for every man and woman in every generation. Join us and celebrate Him!

On behalf of the leadership at the Catholic Community of Pleasanton—St. Augustine Church and St. Elizabeth Seton Church, I wish you and your families a very blessed Christmas.

In His Light,
Fr. Paul Minnihan
Pastor
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Mass Intention</th>
<th>Calendar of Events</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sun Dec. 24</td>
<td>8:00 AM</td>
<td><strong>4th Sunday of Advent</strong></td>
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<td>10:00 AM</td>
<td>John Garske</td>
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<td>12:00 PM</td>
<td>Cynthia Gibson</td>
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<td>Mon Dec. 25</td>
<td>8:00 AM</td>
<td><strong>Christmas Eve</strong></td>
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<td>Tues Dec. 26</td>
<td>8:30 AM</td>
<td>Mike Elliott</td>
<td>8:00 AM Al-Anon Meeting</td>
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<td>WED Dec. 27</td>
<td>8:30 AM</td>
<td>Mary Specht</td>
<td>8:00 AM Rosary</td>
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<td>Thrus Dec. 28</td>
<td>8:30 AM</td>
<td>Frank Senio</td>
<td>8:00 AM Rosary</td>
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<td>Fri Dec. 29</td>
<td>8:30 AM</td>
<td>Maliza Tinio</td>
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<td>Sat Dec. 30</td>
<td>8:30 AM</td>
<td>Marietta Almodal</td>
<td>8:00 AM Rosary</td>
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<td>5:00 PM</td>
<td>Tony Costello</td>
<td>8:45 AM Al-Anon Individual Reconciliation</td>
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<td>Sun Dec. 31</td>
<td>8:00 AM</td>
<td>Elizabeth Lenares</td>
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<td>10:00 AM</td>
<td>Elena &amp; Pablo Chavez</td>
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<td>Sun Dec. 24</td>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
<td><strong>4th Sunday of Advent</strong></td>
<td>10:15 AM RCIA Inquiry</td>
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<td>11:00 AM</td>
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<td>4:00 PM</td>
<td>Paul Hebert</td>
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<td>Tues Dec. 26</td>
<td>12:10 PM</td>
<td>José S. Escobar</td>
<td>11:30 AM Rosary &amp; Angelus</td>
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<td>WED Dec. 27</td>
<td>12:10 PM</td>
<td>Mariamma Sebastian</td>
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<td>Thrus Dec. 28</td>
<td>12:10 PM</td>
<td>Angelo Prestosa</td>
<td>11:30 AM Rosary &amp; Angelus</td>
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<td>FRI Dec. 29</td>
<td>12:10 PM</td>
<td>Pablo Chavez &amp; Alberto Rojas</td>
<td>11:30 AM Rosary &amp; Angelus</td>
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<td>Sat Dec. 30</td>
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<td>Pablo Chavez &amp; Cleda</td>
<td>10:15 AM RCIA—Inquiry</td>
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*www.catholicsofpleasanton.org*
Scripture Readings
December 31
Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19
Luke 2:22-40

Holiday Office Hours
In observance of Christmas Day, the Offices will be closed Monday, December 25.

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.

Altar Linen Team
Want to help at Mass but don’t have time for meetings? Join the Altar Linen team. We are in great need of team members for both churches. Contact Deacon Gary for more information at gwortham@catholicsofpleasanton.org.

Young Adult Ministry
College students and young professionals are welcome! Find us on Facebook under Tri-Valley Young Adult Ministry. Upcoming events for January include:

Friday, January 5 at 7:00 PM
First Friday Adoration at St. Joan of Arc and social/eat out after

Wednesdays, January 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 at 7:00 PM
Faith/Bible Study at St. Raymond's in St. Raymond Room in Moran Hall

Saturday, January 27 at 12:30 PM
Walk for Life in San Francisco; Carpool details TBD. Email for details

Sunday, January 28 at 9:00 AM
Mass & Brunch at St. Isidore

Please contact us at staugustine868@gmail.com to join the ministry email for our monthly updates and events.

Employment Connections
Our focus is on where you as an individual are in your job search today. We address those issues you need direction on today and offer job search guidance, resource information, networking, inspiration and support in a safe environment. We welcome everyone in need of help with their job search to join us.

Meetings are held on the 1st Monday each month at 7:00 PM in Room B at St Elizabeth Seton Church. Join our LinkedIn Group: Employment Connection CCOP or contact Mike Machi at (925) 462-9765.

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK
Pam Campion
Amy Narciso
Virginia DaCosta
Gonzaga DaCosta
Barbara Calloway
Sherryl Carrigan
Genevieve Giordano
Rose Salgado
Rusty Hewitson
Fr. Terry Tompkins
Susan Jacinto
Josefina Pantig
Leonard Stout

PRAYERS FOR THE DECEASED
John Garske
Cynthia Gibson
Phil Tiongson
Lexy Garcia
Violet Leigh Campbell
Rosemary Reid
Teodora Manuntag
Betty Furguson
Lisa Norton
Beverly Page
Emerinciana Tino
Esperanza Sanchez

Merry Christmas!!
### ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS LITURGICAL SERVICES

#### Fourth Sunday of Advent Masses, December 24
- **St. Augustine:** 8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, 12:00 PM
- **St. Elizabeth Seton:** 9:00 AM, 11:00 AM

#### Christmas Eve Masses
- **St. Augustine:** 4:00 PM (no incense), 7:00 PM, 12:00 Midnight (11:30 PM Musical Prelude by Adult Choir)
- **St. Elizabeth Seton:** 4:00 PM (Children’s choir, no incense), 9:00 PM, 12:00 Midnight (11:30 PM – Musical Prelude by Teen Choir)

#### Christmas Day Masses
- **St. Augustine:** 8:00 AM (no incense), 10:00 AM, 12:00 PM
- **St. Elizabeth Seton:** 9:00 AM (no incense), 11:00 AM

#### Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
- **Sunday Masses, December 31**
  - **St. Augustine:** 8:00 AM (no incense), 10:00 AM, 12:00 PM
  - **St. Elizabeth Seton:** 9:00 AM, 11:00 AM, 4:00 PM 6:30 PM

#### Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God
- **Monday, January 1, 2018 (Not a Holy Day of Obligation)**
  - **St. Augustine:** 8:30 AM, 10:00 AM
  - **St. Elizabeth Seton:** No Masses

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### Infant & Toddler Playgroup

Giving Pre-K children in our community a casual setting to play, learn and socialize in a Christ-centered environment while providing a forum of support, friendship and fellowship for parents/caregivers. WHEN & WHERE: We meet weekly, **every Tuesday at 10:00 AM** in Room 13, located in St. Augustine’s Hall. Toddler Playgroup will resume January 9th.

### 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. Each person’s grief journey has its own path. Please join us and let us accompany you on your healing journey. For more information, please contact Eleanor Flatley at (925) 846-8708.

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### Faith Formation Office Hours

The Faith Formation Office is closed from December 20 through January 8.

### Giving Made Easy (GME)

Make your Arise & Build, Sunday and Special offerings via Credit Card or Checking Account.

1. Go to the CCOP website.
2. Click on **Giving/Giving Made Easy**.
3. Click on “Enroll and Update Account” and set up your account.

If your credit card changes, please remember to update your account information using the same login. Thank you!
The Catholic Community of Pleasanton
JANUARY ADULT EDUCATION SERIES

Breaking the Barrier, Building the Bridge
Being Missionary Disciples In The Tri-Valley

January 11th: Right Relationships
January 18th: Encountering God at the Borders
January 25th: Real Joy
February 1st: Bridge Building at Home, in our Parish and Around the World

Sessions are held every Thursday
7:30 p.m. St. Elizabeth Seton Church

Presented By

Deacon Matt Dulka
Deacon Matt Dulka is a permanent deacon for the Oakland Diocese and for over 20 years has been in full time ministry with the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers promoting mission as the Associate Director for U.S. Church Engagement. Matt holds a law degree from Golden Gate University and a Master of Theology from University of San Francisco. Matt is married with three adult children.

Carolyn Trumble
Carolyn Trumble is a Mission Education Promoter with Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers and served for over 25 years in parishes as a Pastoral Associate, DRE, and Coordinator of Youth Ministry. She was a Maryknoll Lay Missioner in Brazil for 3½ years. Carolyn holds an interdisciplinary degree from Marylhurst University in Theology and Communications.