Pastor’s Corner

My brothers and sisters,

As Lent begins, I’m reminded of something Pope Francis said:

“Lent is a new beginning, a path leading to the certain goal of Easter, Christ’s victory over death. This season urgently calls us to conversion. Christians are asked to return to God “with all their hearts,” to refuse to settle for mediocrity and to grow in friendship with the Lord. Jesus is the faithful friend who never abandons us.”

I believe we all yearn for a deeper relationship with the Lord and we are given a wonder opportunity to do just that through prayer, fasting and charity -- the three pillars of the Season of Lent.

Put a Prayer in front of me and I can “recite” it or I can go to church and pray with others. BUT--can I make prayer an important part of my relationship with the Lord? DO I know how to talk with the Lord? DO I know how to just be still and listen to Him? A young man came to see me the other day and asked me how to pray. That’s a great question! I asked him to write a letter to the Lord. In the letter, list what you hope for others and not for yourself. Write about those you love and write kindly about those who do not “love” you. Ask for God’s insight to guide your love to be as authentic as His love for you. That is not an easy task for (Continued on page 2)
anyone. When done, that letter will reveal some action that you might need to be about. This is prayer in action. It’s not something read; this is something you can do – love.

Fasting is one of the most ancient practices linked to Lent. In fact, fasting predates Lent as we know it. Fasting is more than a deliberate attempt to gain self-control. It is often an aid to prayer, as the pangs of hunger remind us of our hunger for God who is our true Food and Drink. Fasting should be linked to our concern for those who are forced to fast by their poverty, those who suffer from the injustices of our economic and political structures, those who are in need for any reason. Fasting is linked to living out our Baptismal promises. By our Baptism, we are charged with the responsibility of showing Christ’s love to the world, especially to those in need. Fasting can help us realize the suffering that so many people in our world experience every day and it should lead us to greater efforts to alleviate that suffering. Fasting puts us in touch with our hunger for God and in justice, frees resources to share with others. This sharing shows to the world the same charity and justice God has first shown us.

It should be obvious at this point that justice and Charity (almstgiving) are linked to our Baptismal commitment in the same way. It is a sign of our care for those in need and an expression of our gratitude for all that God has given to us. Works of charity and the promotion of justice are essential elements of our way of life we began when we were baptized.

As our Pope Francis says so beautifully, “Lent is the favorable season for renewing our encounter with Christ, living in his word, in the sacraments and in our neighbor. The Lord, who overcame the deceptions of the Tempter during the forty days in the desert, shows us the path we must take. May the Holy Spirit lead us on a true journey of conversion, so that we can rediscover the gift of God’s word, be purified of the sin that blinds us, and serve Christ present in our brothers and sisters in need.”

It’s about prayer…It’s about fasting…. It’s about charity. Let’s Lent.

Fr. Paul
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ST AUGUSTINE</th>
<th>MARCH 16</th>
<th>5:00 PM</th>
<th>From the People</th>
<th>Room A</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SUNDAY March 17</td>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
<td>Anna Marie Dumlao (L)</td>
<td>Children's Liturgy of the Word</td>
<td>Chapel Room A</td>
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<td></td>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
<td>Gloria Salazar</td>
<td>RCIA—Inquiry</td>
<td>Chapel</td>
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<td></td>
<td>11:00 AM</td>
<td>Josefa Domingo</td>
<td>Children’s Liturgy of the Word</td>
<td>Chapel</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
<td>For the People</td>
<td>RCIA—Inquiry</td>
<td>Room A</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11:00 AM</td>
<td>RCIA—Inquiry</td>
<td>Children’s Liturgy of the Word</td>
<td>Chapel</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12:00 PM</td>
<td>Rosary and Angelus</td>
<td>RCIA—Neophyte</td>
<td>Chapel Room A</td>
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<tr>
<td>WEDNESDAY March 21</td>
<td>12:10 PM</td>
<td>Cesar L. Gracias</td>
<td>Rosary and Angelus</td>
<td>Chapel</td>
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<td>TUESDAY March 20</td>
<td>12:10 PM</td>
<td>Alexander Snyder (L)</td>
<td>Rosary and Angelus</td>
<td>Chapel</td>
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<td>THURSDAY March 22</td>
<td>12:10 PM</td>
<td>Kate Suah Catarina Lim</td>
<td>Winter Bi-Monthly Grief Support</td>
<td>Chapel</td>
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<tr>
<td>FRIDAY March 23</td>
<td>12:10 PM</td>
<td>Alice Wright</td>
<td>Rosary and Angelus</td>
<td>Chapel</td>
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<tr>
<td>SATURDAY March 24</td>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
<td>Ariel Dimakiling (L)</td>
<td>Children’s Liturgy of the Word</td>
<td>Chapel Room A</td>
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<td></td>
<td>11:00 AM</td>
<td>Claude Moughanni (L)</td>
<td>RCIA—Inquiry</td>
<td>Chapel</td>
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<td></td>
<td>4:00 PM</td>
<td>Greyson Blue (L)</td>
<td>Children’s Liturgy of the Word</td>
<td>Chapel</td>
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<td></td>
<td>6:30 PM</td>
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<td>Children’s Liturgy of the Word</td>
<td>Chapel</td>
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Scripture Readings
February 25
Genesis 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18
Romans 8:31b-34
Mark 9:2-10

Holiday Office Hours
In observance of Presidents’ Day, the Rectory, Faith Formation and St. Elizabeth Seton Offices will be closed on Monday, February 19. Mass will be celebrated at St. Augustine Church at 8:30 AM only.

There will be NO 12:10 PM Mass and NO Eucharistic Adoration at St. Elizabeth Seton Chapel.

Grief Ministry
The death of a loved one is a shattering experience. You do not have to suffer alone. We invite you to participate in our grief support where you can heal. We will be meeting February 22, March 8 and 22 at 7:30 PM at St. Elizabeth Seton. For more information, call Eleanor at (925) 846-8708. All are welcome regardless of religious affiliation.

Little Black Books For Lent
Daily Reflection Books for Lent are available for only $1 each in the vestibule after Mass this weekend. These Little Black Books provide an excellent way to spend a few minutes in prayer and reflection each day during Lent. Books are available in English and Spanish and large print in English. Purchase a book today, use it daily in Lent and prepare to celebrate the joy of Christ’s resurrection at Easter.

Infant Toddler Playgroup
The Infant Toddler Playgroup is intended to give 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.

St. Mary’s of Stockton
New and gently used clothing items for men, women and children of all sizes, as well as, jackets, blankets and sleeping bags can be dropped off at St. Elizabeth Seton vestibule Bin.

Other items:
Men’s Briefs (Sizes 32,34,36)
Socks (All sizes)
Gently used walking shoes
Razors
Body Soap (liquid)
Toiletry Items
Diapers
Infant Formula
Blankets and Sleeping Bags
Beanies and Gloves
Winter Coats
Towels
Eyeglasses and cases

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

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<tr>
<th>PRAYERS FOR THE SICK</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Peggy Carlson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Debra Gunn</td>
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<td>Len Stout</td>
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<td>Peter Yasana</td>
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<td>Ronald Shinn</td>
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<td>Ophelia Lopez</td>
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<td>Kay Sanservino</td>
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<td>Dan Sanservino</td>
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<td>Dick Clark</td>
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<td>Jean Catalano</td>
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<td>Kathy Helfrich</td>
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<td>Rose Salgado</td>
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<td>Jeanette Frevola</td>
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<td>Annette Langer</td>
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<td>Cassie Gomes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Winnie Lang</td>
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<td>Aurea Hernandez</td>
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<td>Jack Greene</td>
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Stations of the Cross
Fridays at 7:30 PM
St. Augustine Church.

During Lent we have the opportunity to share traditionally the Cross of Christ, led by different ministries of CCOP.

February 23
Women in God’s Spirit (WINGS)

March 2
St. Vincent de Paul

March 9
Italian Catholic Federation

March 16
SOWERS (Small Christian Community)

March 23
Knights of Columbus

Bingo Bash
Italian Catholic Federation Br. 285 Fundraiser
Saturday, March 3
St. Augustine Church

$10 per Bingo Packet (10 games)
Pizza, Snacks & Beverages available
Prizes & Raffles
Doors Open 6:00 PM – Bingo—6:30 PM
Reservation Required
Contact Christine at (925) 462-3704 by February 26.

Proceed benefit Children’s Hospital treatment of Cooley’s Anemia.

2018 PARISH MISSION
Faith, Not Fury
Religious Belief in a Time of Tension, Division and Confusion

Monday, February 26
Tuesday, February 27
Wednesday, February 28

Sessions are held each day
9:30am: St. Augustine
7:30pm: St. Elizabeth Seton

As Christians, Jesus invites us to be free. He wants us to be real and to be filled with faith. In the midst of what seems to be recurring cycles of tension, anger, sadness and uncertainties in our everyday lives, we will examine the importance of our beliefs as a way forward. We will spend time learning how to identify our current “faith locations.” After identifying “where we are,” a variety of options will emerge for addressing our fears, furies, joys, and consolations. This will be achieved through scriptural, spiritual and other sources for strengthening personal and communal faith.

WELCOME NEW FAMILIES

Jeff & Rachel August
Stephan Benny & Ann Babu
Alice Fottrell
Karen Haley Allen
Ping-Tsun Ho
Brian & Angelica Kotler
Erik & Gail Latimer
May Lloren
Harsha & Kelly Mokashi
Jose Talavera & Carla Montemayor-Talavera
Mike & Susanne Wagner

Mission Leader
Rev. Christopher Robinson, CM
AMP (Middle School) kids were asked “What do kids get bullied for?”

Be a BUDDY, Not a BULLY!

AMP meets most Tuesday nights. All Middle School kids welcome! Check our website at www.catholicsofpleasantaon.org for more information.