A Note From Fr. Mark

Last week in my bulletin, note I mentioned that even though I have not yet been at CCOP long enough to develop a full vision for our community, I hope worship together will be the best it possibly can be. Over the years, I have come to understand that good liturgy does not just appear. Rather, it takes deliberate effort and work to celebrate the mysteries of our faith well. It should not be surprising that to celebrate well we need to prepare well.

Survey after survey has revealed that there are three things that can make or break the experience of worship; preaching, music and hospitality. Each, if tended to well, can deeply enrich our experience of communal prayer. Each, no matter how well we do them, can always be improved.

Preaching: In one of my moral theology classes in the Seminary, professor and Father Rich Gula, S.S., once looked at all of us preparing for ordination and said, “Remember gentleman, you have a moral responsibility to preach the Word as well as you can.” Those words still resonate within me. I honestly believe that when someone stands up to preach, the assembly wants

(Continued on page 2)
them to hit it out of the ballpark. However, the assembly, through experience, has learned not to expect much either. Feedback from Catholics around the globe is irrefutable; the homily matters tremendously. That is encouraging. People have a hunger to hear the Word of the Lord proclaimed and preached well. Of course, there is a cost involved as well. To preach well means the preacher needs to put in hours of prayer and reflection with the Scriptures, and do the work of researching, writing, re-writing and practicing the homily. This can become a huge and difficult task; especially in a parish where the tasks of administration, personnel, facilities and endless meetings clamor for attention. It can be difficult to give priority to preparing a homily. But if priority isn’t given, worship suffers.

**Music:** I have long believed that music can make or break our experience of worship. Music can speak to us in ways that words never may. Music done well and at appropriate times and seasons, whether it is Gregorian chant, a four-square Gospel hymn, contemporary Christian music, or a mariachi band, can deeply enhance our experience of prayer. The cost to this is that there is a financial cost. I have never known a music program to be exceptional except where serious and continued funding is provided. In many parishes the Music Ministry budget receives more funding than any other ministry. In those parishes people return regularly because of the spiritual experience provided by the Music Ministry.

**Hospitality:** Even more than preaching and music, hospitality is coming to the fore as the single most important reason people chose to return and join a Church, Catholic or other. All people like to feel they belong somewhere, and that when they are absent, they are missed. Hospitality addresses this very human need; the need for community. If there is a cost to hospitality, it is this: hospitality means we cannot dash out the door when Mass is over and rush off into the rest of our day. It means taking time to be present to the community and one another. It means stepping outside of our comfort zones and stepping up to someone we do not recognize or know and say, “Hi. I don’t think I have met you. Are you new here? Welcome.” Hospitality is not the ministry of just a few, like preaching or music may be. Hospitality is a ministry that is entrusted to every single member of the community. Communities for which hospitality is a prominent characteristic tend to be communities that are vibrant and growing.

There are, of course, many other elements that can both positively and negatively impact our worship together. However, if we are attentive to preaching, music and hospitality we can continue to make CCOP a community that truly reflects the praise of heaven in our liturgy on earth. Have a joyful and blessed week!

- Fr. Mark
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<tr>
<th>MASS INTENTIONS</th>
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<td>8:00 AM</td>
<td>Knights of Columbus Donut Social Baptism Class I</td>
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<td>8:30 AM</td>
<td>Rosary St. Vincent de Pal Meeting Intercessory Prayer</td>
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<td>8:30 AM</td>
<td>Rosary Infant Toddler Playgroup Al-Anon Tuesday PM</td>
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<td>8:30 AM</td>
<td>Rosary Knights of Business Meeting Church Hall, Kitchen, Rms. 4 &amp; 5,</td>
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<td><strong>FRIDAY</strong></td>
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<td>Rosary Al-Anon - Friday AM AA—Words of Wisdom Hispanic Prayer Group</td>
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<td>Rosary Al-Anon Saturday AM Reconciliation Church Rms 7 &amp; 8 Church</td>
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<td>Baptism Rehearsal Baptism Class II Church Rms 4 &amp; 5</td>
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<td>RCIA Inquiry Knights of Columbus Donut &amp; Coolie Social Room A Vestibule</td>
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Scripture Readings
August 11
Wisdom 18: 6-9
Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-19 or 11:1-2, 8-12

Putting Faith Into Action
If you are looking for opportunities to put your faith into action in service of those in need, please contact the Social Justice Committee at socialjustice@catholicsofpleasanton.org to find out more about our work and the programs we sponsor and organize.

A Message From The Social Justice Committee

Fr. Mark’s Installation Mass & Reception
Sunday August 25 at 12:00 PM
Fr. Mark Wiesner will be installed as our Pastor on Sunday, August 25 at the 12:00 PM Mass at St. Augustine. There will be a reception to follow in the hall. Come participate in this important Mass and welcome Fr. Mark as our new Pastor!

Medshare
Please join us at MedShare on August 10, from 9:00 AM until Noon. A group of CCOP volunteers will be sorting medical supplies at MedShare in San Leandro. MedShare provides free medical supplies to hospitals and free clinics around the world where there is great need. We are looking for 15 volunteers. For information or to volunteer, please contact Marti at martiannc@yahoo.com or call (925) 667-6169.

This volunteer activity is organized by the Social Justice and Outreach Committee.

Preaching Schedules
Want to know which priest is doing daily or weekend Mass? Please visit our website and click on the “Mass Times” button on the homepage.

Grief Ministry
We invite you to participate in our grief support meetings. We will be meeting at St. Elizabeth Seton, on August 8. Contact Eleanor at (925) 846-8708. All are welcome regardless of religious affiliation.

River Cruise With Fr. Mark
Go on a Danube River Cruise October 18-25, 2019 with Fr. Mark! Rates include all on-shore excursions to see beautiful, scenic towns in Germany, Austria, Slovakia and Hungary. Only two cabins available. For more information, please see the parish website or to book a cabin, please contact Mel Chiong at 925-895-5610 or mel@StrumHumAdventures.com.

CYO Basketball
Online Registration Now Open!
Registration is now open at www.ccopcyo.org under “Register Online.” Register your child by grade and gender. Coaches are needed, please complete the coach’s registration. Open to all Boys and Girls in 3rd – 8th grade who are residents of Pleasanton or Sunol. Register immediately as there is a capacity limit and a Late Fee starting August 19. Registration will be closed September 4th. If capacity is reached, or your registration is late, children will be placed on a wait list. Player Evaluations will be held September 8, 9 and 10. For any questions see the website FAQs for reference and contact information. We look forward to your participation!

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<tr>
<th>PRAYERS FOR THE DECEASED</th>
<th>PRAYERS FOR THE SICK</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mary Shaw</td>
<td>Fred Shaw</td>
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<td>Joao Batista Caldeira</td>
<td>Les Baker</td>
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<td>Gloria Staude</td>
<td>Kevin O’Connor</td>
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<td>LaVern Jacob Neu</td>
<td>Kaden Koopmann</td>
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<td>Loren Guillarte</td>
<td>Terry Broderick</td>
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<td>Richard Guasco</td>
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<td>Zachary Yu</td>
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<td>Mary Louise Toman</td>
<td>Peggy Patton</td>
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<td>Rose Marie Forsman</td>
<td>Bella Gavino</td>
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<td>Manuel Garcia</td>
<td>Jack Nielson</td>
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<td>David Allen Shields</td>
<td>Veronica Layer-Keefe</td>
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<td>Dan Samson</td>
<td>Kelly Beaty</td>
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<td>Natividad Cordova</td>
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Every 6 seconds a child dies, nearly 16,000 every day, because of hunger and related causes. Did you know that 15.3 million children under the age of 18 in the United States live in households where they are unable to consistently access enough nutritious food necessary for a healthy life?

Kids Against Hunger is a non-profit organization with a mission to provide nutritious food to impoverished children and families around the world...and around the corner. They organize meal-packing events where volunteers assemble meals for hungry and starving children all over the world.

2nd Annual Meal Packing Event
Organized by the Social Justice Committee
10:00 AM Saturday August 17
St. Augustine Hall

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is the process that adults complete to receive the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist.

Full initiation into the Catholic community is experienced through the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist (first communion). Inquiry is the first step in the process that leads to adults to full initiation. Our starting point is always God who deeply loves and who is constantly whispering, calling and nudging us closer to Him. Adults encounter divine love noticeably through life changing events: new relationships, marriage, the birth of a child, divorce, the death of a loved one. We may also perceive the subtle peace or calm presence of a Catholic colleague or friend and wonder where “it” comes from. Perhaps we were baptized as infants or in other faith traditions and yearn to be fed at the table, or we wish to receive communion with our children and decide to pursue a route parallel to their faith formation. Inquiry is an opportunity to respond to God’s invitation. Inquiry is a time to ask questions, to consider one’s relationship with God and the teachings of the church. We meet weekly throughout the year. There are no strings, requirements or expectations. We provide a safe environment to explore God at work in our lives and in our community.

Come and see!
Matt Gray: Director of RCIA
925.202.5425 / mgray@catholicsofpleasanton.org
FAITH FORMATION
REGISTRATION

Tuesday August 13: 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM

St. Augustine Parish Hall
3999 Bernal Avenue
Pleasanton, CA

Please visit the website for more information, guidelines, registration forms and more. If you have questions, please contact the Faith Formation Office at 925.846.3531.