“To know Christ better, live as He calls us to live, and make Him better known.”

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF PLEASANTON

DECEMBER 15, 2019

A Note from Fr. Mark

This weekend, you will notice the rose-colored candle on our Advent wreath is lit. This Third Sunday of Advent is also known as Gaudete Sunday or Rejoice Sunday. We rejoice because, as we heard St. Paul say to us on the first Sunday of Lent, our salvation is nearer now. We are more than half way through our Advent period of preparation and waiting. We rejoice, not only because the celebration of the feast of the birth of the child Jesus draws near, but also because of what the adult Jesus will accomplish for us through his life, death, resurrection and ongoing presence among us.

If you were given a pencil and piece of paper, and asked to draw something that reminds you of Christmas, what would you draw? Santa Claus and reindeer? A Christmas tree with bright lights and beautiful presents? If you grew up in an area where Christmas was white, perhaps you would draw a snowman or winter wonderland scene. Those with a more religious bent might draw a manger scene; Mary, Joseph, and the infant Jesus. Maybe even angels, kings, sheep and shepherds too.

This assignment, to draw something that reminds you of Christmas, was given a few years ago.
ago to a classroom of second graders in Massachusetts. The result was one young boy drew a picture of the adult Jesus on the cross. His teacher found the image to be “too violent”, but this second grader’s theological insight is profound. To connect the birth of Christ with the death of Christ is a leap few of us think to make at this time of year. However, if we keep in mind what Jesus accomplished with his life, it can give our celebration of the incarnation in two weeks deeper meaning.

Writing in the New York Times in 1897, Fr. Charles Colton said the following about Christmas and Easter:

“Whether it is the seed or the tree, the bud or the blossom, the flower or the fruit we are most to admire, it is hard to say, or better said, we admire the one when as admire the other; and so with Christmas and Easter, the heart refuses to separate them in paying the tribute of its love. The one is the promise, the other the fulfillment; the first is beautiful by its simplicity; the second by its glory. Christmas makes us renew our childhood, Easter raises us to highest and holiest manhood…. At Christmas God brings himself down to man’s level; at Easter He brings us up to His.”

In just ten days, we will celebrate the greatest of gifts; God’s self-giving love, with which He gave Himself to us in the incarnation. The result of such radical love will be the cross and, ultimately, the reconciling of God and humanity.

Even as we gather to celebrate the birth of Christ, we do so beneath the crucifix and around the altar. We celebrate Christ’s birth by remembering how “on the night before he died for us...”. Our Christmas celebration may signal the end of Advent waiting, but it also starts our journey toward the central mystery of our faith; the mystery of Easter. An Easter lily would not be out of place among our Christmas poinsettias.

- Fr. Mark
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<td>December</td>
<td>8:00 AM Jane Cook</td>
<td>10:00 AM Children's Liturgy of the Word</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>10:00 AM Sister Patricia Walsh</td>
<td>Middle &amp; High School Reconciliation Retreat Room 17</td>
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<td>12:00 PM Roy Mangabay</td>
<td>Rms. 4 &amp; 5</td>
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<td>MONDAY</td>
<td>8:30 AM Kaden Farro</td>
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<td>TUESDAY</td>
<td>8:30 AM Ann Apperson</td>
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<td>10:00 AM Infant Toddler Playgroup</td>
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<td>17</td>
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<td>12:00 PM Al-Anon Tuesday PM</td>
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<td>WEDNESDAY</td>
<td>8:30 AM Peggy Masini</td>
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<td>THURSDAY</td>
<td>8:30 AM Pyungae Maria Kim</td>
<td>8:00 AM Rosary</td>
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<td>December</td>
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<td>7:00 AM Military Peer Support Group</td>
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<td>7:00 PM Adult Communal Reconciliation</td>
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<td>FRIDAY</td>
<td>8:30 AM Albert One (L)</td>
<td>8:00 AM Rosary</td>
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<td>December</td>
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<td>6:00 PM AA—Words of Wisdom</td>
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<td>20</td>
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<td>7:00 PM Hispanic Prayer Group</td>
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<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>8:30 AM George Garibaldi</td>
<td>6:00 AM Simbang Gabi Mass</td>
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<td>December</td>
<td>5:00 PM Tony Costello</td>
<td>7:00 AM Simbang Gabi Reception</td>
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<td>21</td>
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<td>8:00 AM Rosary</td>
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<td>8:00 AM Al-Anon Saturday AM</td>
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<td>9:00 AM Christmas Environment Setup</td>
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<td>3:00 PM Reconciliation</td>
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<td>SUNDAY</td>
<td>8:00 AM Mary Kengor</td>
<td>10:00 AM Children’s Liturgy of the Word</td>
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<td>December</td>
<td>10:00 AM For the People</td>
<td>Room 17</td>
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<td>22</td>
<td>12:00 PM Gertrude Zarcone</td>
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**Mass Intentions**

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**ST. AUGUSTINE**

**SUNDAY**

**December 15**

- For the People
- Jay & Gerty Abad (L)
- Ricardio Faustino Teves
- Celeste Nunes

- 9:00 AM For the People
- 11:00 AM Jay & Gerty Abad (L)
- 4:00 PM Ricardio Faustino Teves
- 6:30 PM Celeste Nunes

- 9:00 AM Children’s Liturgy of the Word
- 10:00 AM RCIA Inquiry Gathering

- Chapel Room A

**MONDAY**

**December 16**

- Louie Ruocco

- 12:10 AM Louie Ruocco

- 11:30 AM Rosary & Angelus
- 12:45 AM Eucharistic Adoration
- 7:00 PM WINGS Gathering
- 7:15 PM RCIA Gathering

- Chapel
- Chapel Room A

**TUESDAY**

**December 17**

- Riza Pulanco (L)

- 12:10 AM Riza Pulanco (L)

- 11:30 AM Rosary & Angelus
- 12:30 PM RCIA Neophyte Gathering

- Chapel Room A

**WEDNESDAY**

**December 18**

- Ritchie Avila

- 12:10 AM Ritchie Avila

- 11:30 AM Rosary & Angelus
- 12:45 PM Eucharistic Adoration
- 5:00 PM Children’s Choir
- 5:30 PM Legion of Mary
- 7:00 PM Teen Choir Rehearsal

- Chapel
- Chapel Room B
- Church

**THURSDAY**

**December 19**

- Jovita Tice

- 12:10 AM Jovita Tice

- 11:30 AM Rosary & Angelus
- 7:00 PM Cantor Rehearsal
- 7:30 PM Bi-Monthly Grief Ministry Support

- Chapel
- Church
- Chapel & Rm. A

**FRIDAY**

**December 20**

- Inbae Antonio Kim

- 12:10 AM Inbae Antonio Kim

- 11:00 AM Al-Anon - Friday AM
- 11:30 AM Rosary & Angelus

- Room A Chapel

**SATURDAY**

**December 21**

- Christmas Environment Setup

- 2:00 PM Christmas Environment Setup

- Church

**SUNDAY**

**December 22**

- Bernard P. Glendon
- Juan & Anthony Castillo
- Ricardo Faustino Teve
- Richard Del Tredici

- 9:00 AM Bernad P. Glendon
- 11:00 AM Juan & Anthony Castillo
- 4:00 PM Ricardo Faustino Teve
- 6:30 PM Richard Del Tredici

- 9:00 AM Children’s Liturgy of the Word
- 10:00 AM RCIA Inquiry Gathering
- 10:00 AM Legion of Mary

- Chapel Room A
- Room B
Scripture Readings
December 22
Isaiah 7:10-14
Romans 1:1-7
Matthew 1:18-24

Rosary
St. Augustine Church
Monday through Saturday at 8:00 AM
St. Elizabeth Seton Chapel
Monday through Friday at 11:30 AM

Angelus
St. Elizabeth Seton Chapel
Monday through Friday at Noon

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

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.

Poinsettias Needed
Poinsettias of all colors are needed for the Christmas environment in both Churches. Your donation of one or more 6”, 8” or 10” pots of poinsettias will be appreciated and will provide great color to our worship spaces this Christmas. They can be delivered to St. Augustine Church NO LATER than Saturday, December 21. If you would like to help or if you have questions, please contact Deacon Gary at gwortham@catholicsofpleasanton.org.

Giving Tree Thank You!
Gifts for almost 400 families were delivered yesterday to eight parishes in the Oakland Diocese. This included: - 1820 people - 651 bags - 124 bikes - 15 baby items (strollers, car seats, etc.) - 16 microwaves + many other special requests. This included 111 adult and 46 teen volunteers, some of whom volunteered for multiple shifts. We couldn't do it without all their help. A huge thank you to the Giving Tree core team for their hard work and commitment in the Giving Tree program: Roxanne Rasmussen, Gina Gourley, Elizabeth O’Brien, Lynn Candeaux, Sam Santiago, and Peter Meechan. Also, a special thank you to "Bicycle Man" Dennis Roberts who assembled many bikes and made sure others were in tip top shape, as well as Deacon Joe Gourley. Thank you to everyone who donated to make this Christmas a little brighter!

Save the Date
The 51st Annual Crab Feed and Silent Auction will be held on Saturday, February 8. We hope to see you there! You won't want to miss eating delicious crab, bidding on items at the silent auction and enjoying a fun evening with your friends and family.

Aggie Burke @ WINGS
All women are invited attend CCOP’s WINGS (Women in God’s Spirit) on Monday, December 16. Aggie Burke, scripture scholar and teacher, will speak at the meeting on God’s Gift to Mary; God’s Gift to All Women.

WINGS meets on the first and third Mondays from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM, in the Chapel at St. Elizabeth Seton Church. No registration is necessary. Just drop in and bring your friends. For more information, call Sandra Ryan at (925) 487-3289.

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

| Ted Tinges   | Edward Greybeck       |
| Trudy Fabian | Kaden Koopmann        |
| Zachary Yu   | Olive Elisha Apodaca  |
| Dian Skroch  | Maria Guadalupe Avalos|
| Jack Daniel Carleton | Joan Cupec       |
| Marlys Hugden | Dorene Paradiso      |
| Mariamama Mathew | Elsa Elizabeth Ryan  |
| Andrew Holmes | Antero Portela        |
| Ann Hobbs    | Elena Whitworth       |

PRAYERS FOR THE DECEASED

| Alfonso Negrete | Catherine Forkal Leutz |
| Robert Aganon   | Francis Nnoli         |
| Gina Ruocco     | Loretta Nnoli         |
| Cris Annenen    | Anthony Fernandes     |
**Catholic Detention Ministry Toy Drive**

The Catholic Detention Ministry is collecting toys for the children of parents incarcerated at Santa Rita Jail.

The toys are for children ages 0-12 and need to be NEW and UNWRAPPED. There will be bins in the vestibules of both churches. The bins will be picked up on Wednesday, December 18 (last day for donations) and brought to the jail. The children will be getting the toys the weekend of December 21 and 22. For more information, please contact Matt Gray at (925) 202-5425. Thank you for your generosity.

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**Simbang Gabi**

December 21 at 6:00 AM  
St. Augustine Church

The Filipino Community invites you to celebrate SIMBANG GABI or Mass at Dawn as we watch, wait and look forward to the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ. We'll have fellowship and breakfast at the Parish Hall following the Mass.

Come join us and bring a friend to the Simbang Gabi Choir Rehearsal on December 16, 7:00 PM at Augustine Church.

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**Third Sunday of Advent**

**Adult Communal Reconciliation**

Thursday, December 19 at 7:00 PM  
St. Augustine Church

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is one of the most unique and beautiful aspects of Catholicism. Jesus Christ, in His abundant love and mercy, established the Sacrament of Confession, so that we as sinners can obtain forgiveness for our sins and reconcile with God and the Church. The sacrament “washes us clean,” and renews us in Christ. Come join us for our Adult Communal Reconciliation Service. It mixes public prayer and individual confession to a priest, followed by absolution.
Adult Communal Reconciliation
St. Augustine Church
Thursday, December 19 at 7:00 PM

Christmas Eve Masses
St. Augustine Church
4:00 PM (no incense), 8:00 PM & 12:00 Midnight
(11:30 PM – Musical Prelude by Teen & Adult Choir)

St. Elizabeth Seton Church
4:00 PM (Children’s choir, no incense) & 12:00 Midnight

Christmas Day Masses
St. Augustine Church
8:00 AM (no incense) & 10:00 AM

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

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
Sunday, December 29

St. Augustine Church
Saturday 12/28 - 5:00 PM (Vigil Mass)
Sunday 12/29 - 8:00 AM (no incense), 10:00 AM & 12:00 PM

St. Elizabeth Seton Church
Sunday 12/29 - 9:00 AM, 11:00 AM, 4:00 PM & 6:30 PM

Solemnty of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

Holy Day Of Obligation
Wednesday, January 1, 2020

St. Augustine Church Only
8:30 AM & 10:00 AM
No Masses At St. Elizabeth Seton Church