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

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF PLEASANTON

**A Note from Fr. Mark**

“To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing.” - Martin Luther King, Jr.

“Prayer is not “an optional” or an accessory for Christians but an essential part of the life of the faithful.” - Pope Benedict XVI

“Prayer must become our innermost respiration... This is not a matter of multiplying our devotions. It is matter of being silent and adoring. It is a matter of getting on our knees.” - Cardinal Robert Sarah

“Prayer is as necessary as the air, as the blood in our bodies, as anything to keep us alive – to keep us alive to the grace of God...Prayer is not asking. Prayer is putting oneself in the hands of God, at His disposition, and listening to His voice in the depth of our hearts.” - St. Mother Theresa of Calcutta

“Prayer – secret, fervent, believing prayer – lies at the root of all personal godliness” - William Carey

"For me, prayer is a burst from my heart, it is a simple glance thrown toward Heaven....” - St. Therese of Lisieux

“Prayer is the inner bath of love into which the soul plunges itself.” - St. John Vianney.

Over the last two weekends I have preached at all our Masses about prayer. In this Advent season we are called to “prepare the way of the Lord.” That call is not just for Christmas; it is for every day of our life. We are called to prepare the way for Christ to come into our life every day. Prayer is the way we do this.

The holy people I quoted above are inspirational for me and my prayer life. They are not talking about rosaries, scapulars, Masses and novenas, excellent as those all are. They are talking about

(Continued on page 2)
personal time speaking with God from your heart about your life and being still and quiet to let Him speak back.

I once had a spiritual director who said to me, “If you think you’re following Christ, but you don’t have a prayer life, you’re fooling yourself.” I have discovered those words are true. There are no ifs, ands or buts. There is no way around it. People far holier and wiser than I make it clear; a regular prayer life is essential for those who would be true followers of Christ.

In the last two weeks, I have challenged all of us who come to Mass at the Catholic Community of Pleasanton to schedule ourselves to have 10 minutes of prayer every day of 2020, and to find someone who will check in with us to make sure we are not letting that time slip. As I mentioned, based on our average Sunday attendance, if we all prayed for 10 minutes a day that would be almost 463 hours of prayer rising from our community every day. 10 minutes is only 0.7% of each day. We can do this!

We need to be a community of prayer as we discern and move forward with wherever God is calling us. If we are not, it is possible that any task we undertake, any direction we go, will rely on human wisdom and be subject to the desires of the all too often fickle human heart. I need your prayer. Our community needs your prayer. We need each other’s prayer. As I mentioned in the homilies, it is not a matter of “Does God want to spend time with you? Does God want to be your friend?” Of course, he does! It’s a matter of us choosing to spend time with God, of our choosing to be real friends with him.

As we move into 2020, the staff and I will regularly try to resource you with ways to pray, things to pray for, and will be checking in to see if you got “#10inToday.” Schedule your 10 minutes each day today and ask someone to hold you accountable to it. If you have not had a regular prayer life, you will discover the more you pray, the easier it will become. Let us become a people of prayer…and let us keep each other in prayer. Have a blessed last few days of Advent.

“True, whole prayer is nothing but love...God speaks to us in the great silence of the heart.” - St. Augustine

- Fr. Mark
## Mass Intentions

### Sunday, December 22
- 8:00 AM: Mary Kengor for the People
- 10:00 AM: Gertrude Zarcone

### Monday, December 23
- 8:30 AM: Salud De La Cerna & Antonio Meneses

### Tuesday, December 24
- 4:00 PM: For the People
- 8:00 PM Midnight: For the People

### Wednesday, December 25
- 8:00 AM: For the People
- 10:00 AM: For the People

### Thursday, December 26
- 8:30 AM: Fr. Paul Minnihan

### Friday, December 27
- 8:30 AM: Mathew & Sonia Mathew (L)
- 8:00 AM: Rosary & Angelus
- 6:00 PM: Eucharistic Adoration
- 7:00 PM: Hispanic Prayer Group

### Saturday, December 28
- 8:30 AM: Kathleen Boland
- 5:00 PM: Frank Senio

### Sunday, December 29
- 8:00 AM: Richard Del Tredici
- 10:00 AM: Harry Cruse
- 12:00 PM: Diane Allard

### Sunday, December 22
- 9:00 AM: Bernard P. Glendon
- 11:00 AM: Oscar & Loreen D'Silva (L)
- 4:00 PM: Juan & Anthony Castillo
- 6:30 PM: Ricardo Faustino Teves

### Monday, December 23
- 12:10 PM: Oscar & Loreen D'Silva (L)

### Tuesday, December 24
- 4:00 PM Midnight: For the People

### Wednesday, December 25
- 9:00 AM: For the People
- 11:00 AM: For the People

### Thursday, December 26
- 12:10 PM: Fr. Dan Danielson

### Friday, December 27
- 12:10 PM: Mariamma Sebastian

### Saturday, December 28
- 9:00 AM: Victoria Abad (L)
- 11:00 AM: Stephen Stangring
- 4:00 PM: Evelyn & Parley Gan (L)

### Sunday, December 29
- 9:00 AM: Richard Del Tredici
- 11:00 AM: Harry Cruse
- 12:00 PM: Diane Allard

## Calendar of Events

### Sunday, December 22
- 10:00 AM: Children’s Liturgy of the Word
- Room 17

### Monday, December 23
- 8:00 AM: Rosary
- Church

### Tuesday, December 24
- 12:00 PM: Al-Anon Tuesday PM
- Room 6

### Wednesday, December 25
- Merry Christmas!

### Thursday, December 26
- 8:00 AM: Rosary
- Church

### Friday, December 27
- 8:00 AM: Rosary
- Church
- Room 15
- Rms. 4, 5 & 7

### Saturday, December 28
- 8:00 AM: Al-Anon Saturday AM Reconciliation
- Church
- Room 15
- Church

### Sunday, December 29
- 8:00 AM: Rosary & Angelus
- Chapel
- Room B
Scripture Readings
December 29
Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14
Colossians 3:12-21 or 3:12-17
Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

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.

Infant & Toddler Playgroup
Tuesdays at 10:00 AM
St. Augustine Hall, Room 13
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.

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.

Holiday Office Hours
In observance of Christmas Day the Rectory, Faith Formation and St. Elizabeth Seton Offices will be closed on Wednesday, December 25.

There will be NO Eucharistic Adoration at St. Elizabeth Seton Chapel.

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!

PRAYERS FOR THE DECEASED
Judith Farro
Gary Cox
Alfonso Negrete
Robert Aganon
Gina Ruocco
Cris Annenen
Catherine Forkal Leutz
Francis Nnoli
Loretta Nnoli
Anthony Fernandes

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK
Marilu Radcliff
Frank Steele
Betty Piper
Diego Espejo
Ted Tinges
Trudy Fabian
Zachary Yu
Dian Skroch
Jack Daniel Carleton
Marlys Hugden
Mariamma Mathew
Andrew Holmes
Ann Hobbs
Edward Greybeck
Kaden Koopmann
Olive Elisha Apodaca
Maria Guadalupe Avalos
Joan Cupec
Dorene Paradiso
Elsa Elizabeth Ryan
Antero Portela
Elena Whitworth
New Niches
New Niches at St. Augustine Cemetery
We have a new wall of cremation niches. These single and double garden niches are now available to purchase. Plan for the future, and reserve one today. Payment plans are available with zero interest and no finance charges. Call Frank Draschner at Catholic Funeral & Cemetery Services (925) 455-9696.

2018 Tax Saving Opportunity For Seniors
Seniors over 70 1/2 years old with an IRA account are required to take a Minimum Annual Distribution as taxable income. However, if you choose to make a Qualified Charitable Donation from your IRA, the amount of your gift is not subject to federal income tax. Examples of a qualified donation can include payment of your planned Sunday giving commitment. Please contact your tax advisor for guidance. You can contact Ale Fonseca, Finance Manager, at (925) 474-2780 for processing a distribution to CCOP. Thank you.

Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God
Holy Day Of Obligation
Wednesday, January 1, 2020
Mass will be celebrated at 8:30 AM & 10:00 AM at St. Augustine Church only. There will be no Masses At St. Elizabeth Seton Church and no Eucharistic Adoration.

Save The Date - Disco Bingo!
CCOP invites you to our Second Annual Disco Bingo Night! A fun twist on a classic game! Saturday, January 25, 2020 immediately following the 5:00 PM Mass. Fun for the entire family!
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

Solemnity 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