Eucharist
Daily Mass
Mon-Thurs, 8:30 am (in Chapel)

Weekend Liturgies
Saturday 5:00 pm
Sunday 8:00, 9:30 & 11:30 am
Holy Days
8:30 am, 7:00 pm

Reconciliation
Saturday 4:00-4:30 pm
or by appointment

Baptism
Contact the Parish Office for
Sacramental Preparation and
Baptismal date.

Marriage
Contact the Parish Office at least
six months prior
to anticipated wedding date
for sacramental preparation.

Homebound, ill or Infirm
Contact the Parish Office if you,
a family member or neighbor
desires to receive communion
or the Anointing of the Sick
at home or in the hospital.

Newcomers
Contact the Parish Office
to register. Newcomers can
receive a call from a member
of the Welcoming Committee.

Assisted listening devices
available

3454 Hamlin Road, Lafayette, CA 94549
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School Office (925) 284-1640
www.stperpetua.org

Parish Office Hours
Monday—Friday
7:30 am—4:00 pm
Dear Friends, Parishioners and Guests,

A blessed Christmas to all of you as we share the ancient Feast of the coming of Jesus Christ into our world to bring us peace and God’s love.

One spiritual author wrote:

"After a mother has smiled for a long time at her child, the child will begin to smile back; she has awakened love in its heart, and in awakening love in its heart, she awakens recognition as well. In the same way, God reveals himself before us as love. Love radiates from God and instills the light of love in our hearts."

What a wonderful way to think about Christmas – God’s smile upon us that causes us to smile back at the world. In the incarnation, at Christmas, God doesn’t enter the world as some superhero who arrives in great power and blows away all that’s bad, so that all we have to do is watch, enjoy the show, and feel smug as evil gets its due. The God who is born into our world at Christmas is not the God of power, but the God of helplessness and vulnerability – an infant, a babe in arms. The drama of the incarnation is not a movie to be watched but a real-life event within which we are meant to be players. Christmas doesn’t happen automatically, it needs our participation.

Let’s look for ways to make the love of God come alive in our world. Enjoy your family and friends, the giving and receiving of gifts that represent your care for each other. Extend your hand to the needy whose resources are so much less than ours. Take time to reflect in solitude and quiet prayer, offering to the Christ-Child your own life which was given to you as a gift from God. In the face of the “fake news” that has assailed us for so many months, clouding what is true and sowing seeds of mistrust in our society, let’s acknowledge and share the “real news.” The Gospel is the “good news” proclaimed by the angels over the Babe born in Bethlehem – “peace on earth and good will to all.” God’s love for humanity is our unshakeable and firm foundation. Let love radiate from you and watch the world glow in its light.

Merry Christmas to all of you.

Father John Kasper, OSFS
### 26th Annual Christmas Food Basket Collection

WOW! Thanks to your great response to our annual Christmas Food Collection over 300 full bags were shared between Monument Crisis Center Food Pantry and St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry at St Francis of Assisi Church. Thanks to the parishioners who sorted and transported to the two locations.

PLEASE NOTE: The January Food Basket Collection will be for hearty soups and ramen.

### Monthly Shelter Meal

A large group of friends, Cathy Eberhardt, Kathy Kilburn, Annette Finnane, Ermina Santaguida, Lisa Winter, Lynn Hogan, Anne Hawkins, Kelly Ratchford, & Joe Ziolkowski prepared, transported and served the December shelter meal. The delighted guests enjoyed mini baked turkey or ham sandwiches, fresh green bean casserole, stuffing cranberry sauce and dessert. Thank you all for your participation in this much needed ministry.

If you have any questions or are interested in preparing or transporting a monthly shelter meal, please contact Monica Chappell at monicachappell@comcast.net.

### Outreach Agency Distributions

Because of your continuing monetary support of the fifth Sunday Outreach Collection and additional contributions, in December, we could send $2,000.00 ($500.00 each) to the following agencies: Bay Area Crisis Nursery, Bay Area Rescue Nursery, CCIC – Contra Costa Interfaith Coalition and Child Abuse Prevention Council.

Thank you for being such a generous community for those needing various services offered by these agencies in Contra Costa County.

### How You Can Help the Homeless

Trinity Center is a non-residential program serving homeless adult men and women in Walnut Creek and Central Contra Costa area. It is a safe place to be off the street. They are currently housing between 30 – 50 people nightly.

The Center is now selling the Trinity Center Discount Card which allows the purchaser of the card discounts at various merchants in Walnut Creek and elsewhere. The discounts are good thru the end of March 2017. Participating merchants include big companies like Kendra Scott Jewelry and Sports Basement as well as local merchants like Athletic Outpost and Canvas and Cabernet. A complete list and more information is available on the Trinity Center website [http://trinitycenterwc.org/](http://trinitycenterwc.org/). The card is available for $20.00 and the entire amount benefits the Center and their excellent programs. If you are interested, please contact Joan Liston at philjoliston@sbcglobal.net.

### Thank you to our Parishioners for their Flower Donations

- Mr. & Mrs. Tony Brekke
- Mr. & Mrs. Walter Brown
- Mr. & Mrs. Paul Jansen
- IMO Darlyne Cartir & Lynn Brosy
- Ms. Mary Jane Eschen
- IMO Connie Phillips, Harvey Phillips & Fertha Naumann,
- Mary Ellen Pasto & George Pasto
- George & Karen Kalvass
- IMO Ed & Peggy Kalvass
- Mr. & Mrs. Albert LaFaille
- IMO Teresa & Jose Rangel, Albert, Sr. & Sadie LaFaille
- Arthur Juarez, Amparo & Florencia Juarez,
- Mary Louise Chambers & Terry & Richard Kaufmann
- Mr. Mark Brennan
- IMO Maurice Brennan, Eliza Brennan, &
- Mary Matterson, Maria Carmen Downing &
  Blanca & Vriel Castro
- Mr. & Mrs. Robert Miller
- IMO Cookie Miller, Gary Chiappone &
  Marianne Crowder
- Mr. & Mrs. Danny Riggio
- IMO Mary Riggio, Mary Cardoza & Frances Cardoza
- Mr. & Mrs. John Tarman
- Mr. & Mrs. William Shefler
- IMO Frances Sheehan
- The Schenk-McDonald Family
- IMO Terri & James Wendell
  Ms. Karen Duffey
- Mr. & Mrs. Louis Suba
- Mr. & Mrs. Joshua Baker
- IMO Francis Walburn & Eva Walburn
  Crystal D’Amato
  IMO Drake D’Amato
  Sarah & Jay Thayer
  Elizabeth Maes
- IMO Ed & Edna Emmeneggar & Mary Weinhandl
- Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Ness
- IMO Mildred & Harold Kjarsgaard
- Mr. & Mrs. Tom Matson
- Mr. & Mrs. Sanjit Fernandes
- IMO Roque Santana Fernandes & Hermisio Fernandes
- Steve & Suzanne Kozel
  Kelly Schueler
- IMO Ryan Aberle & John Rhodes
- Mr. & Mrs. John West
- IMO Joseph & Catherine Lo Secco & Erin West
- Mr. & Mrs. Dale Fredericks
- Mr. & Mrs. Agustin Argenal
- IMO Manuela Galindo, Enea Argenal,
  Ofelia O’Connel, Esther Pezzola & Patrick Kavanaugh
- Eileen Mrie Hyland
- IMO Margaret Kupihea
Mark Your Calendar for 2017 Crab Feed

The Knights of Columbus annual Crab Feed will be held on Saturday, January 28, 2017 in St. Monica's Peace Room in Moraga (1001 Camino Pablo). Appetizers and no-host beverages will be served beginning at 6:00 p.m. Dinner will be served at 7:30 p.m. and will include salad, pasta, French bread, fresh cracked crab and dessert. Chicken is available when ordered in advance. Our exciting Raffle and Silent Auction of many wonderful gifts will immediately follow dinner. (Due to our Alcohol Beverage Control (ABC) license, bringing alcoholic beverages is prohibited.)

Tickets are $60 each and 100% of all funds raised go to Bay Area charities. Tickets must be reserved and paid for in advance and are non-refundable. This is always a popular event, so make your reservation NOW by calling Stephanie Anderson at (925)946-9003. After your call send your check to her at 815 Arnold Dr. #3, Martinez, CA 94553.

MASS INTENTIONS
December 24, 2016– January 1, 2016

Monday  8:30 am Haidich Family ✝
Tuesday  8:30 am Sarah Lombardo ✝
Wednesday  8:30 am Deb Potter—Spl. Int.
Saturday  5:00 pm Sarah Lombardo ✝
Sunday   9:30 am For the Community

TOGETHER WE PRAY FOR THE SICK:
Marie Saroyan, Chris Fliflet, Elizabeth Cox, Jennifer Rosko, Giselle Contreras, Juanita Estrellas, Elisabeth Mueller, Rico Ramponi, Doug McArthur, Dennis Callahan, George Buonocore, Caroline Bancroft, Charlotte Cairney, Ron Olowin, Judy Russell, Karen Zapotowski, Orlando Portillo, Jenny & Norma Carosella, Alex McLin & Fabricio Mendoza.

Ruby Slippers
“There’s No Place Like Home”
Don’t throw away your shot to watch the latest breakout Broadway hit, Hamilton, in Chicago! This incredible trip to the Windy City includes airfare for two, three-night stay, and more! You’ll have the chance to bid on this along with other exciting live auction packages on February 4, 2017 for Contra Costa Interfaith Housing’s Auction Gala. Watch the bulletin for further details.

The Nativity of the Lord

It happened at night, says St. Luke. The shepherds were watching their flocks by night when the sky exploded with angels.

The Magi, says St. Matthew, saw a Star and followed it for up to seven hundred and thirty nights, finally finding the Child in Bethlehem at night. When Herod plotted to kill all boys of the age of two and younger, the Magi and Joseph had dreams at night that warned them to flee. Joseph then took the Child and his mother at night and fled into Egypt.

The people who walked in darkness were the ones to see the great Light.

God created night first, then day. Night is essential for dreams, for sleep, for healing, for the unconscious to rewind, refresh, and re-start. Night is where the soul comes out.

It’s Christmas, that nocturnal feast born in the winter solstice. The nights are long and deep in our western hemisphere. Oh, how we need them.

Linger in these nights. Rest in these nights. Take the whole family out in their jammies and go out to see the Christmas lights, dull in the day but gorgeously vivid at night.

Keep this Christmas season. Sing carols for your night prayer. Memorize “O Holy Night” and let its depth hold you as you sleep. Let your soul feel its worth.

This is no ordinary time. This is the dark, sacred night of Christmastide. In the quiet and the dark we perceive Him come to meet us, come to live with us, come to be with us.

Oh little town of Bethlehem, the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

What traditions will you begin this year that celebrate the gift of night?
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We're decorating our tree this year with reminders of all the gifts that we are sharing throughout the year. And the greatest gift is you - your presence and participation that make St. Perpetua Catholic Community a special place all year round.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!