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

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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,

Over the centuries today’s feast on this Octave of Christmas has had a number of names and meanings. It was once the Feast of the Circumcision of the Lord (not an event that would garner much appeal today.) However, following Vatican II, Pope Paul VI decided to change the feast of Jesus' Circumcision to the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, to reclaim the ancient Western Marian emphasis at the end of the Octave of Christmas. Celebrating Mary's divine maternity during the Christmas octave makes sense in that the celebration is connected closely to Christ's birth. Pope Paul VI in 1974 gave his reasoning for the change:

*The purpose of the celebration is to honor the role of Mary in the mystery of salvation and at the same time to sing the praises of the unique dignity thus coming to the Holy Mother...through whom we have been given the gift of the Author of life.* This same solemnity also offers an excellent opportunity to renew the adoration rightfully to be shown to the newborn Prince of Peace, as we once again hear the good tidings of great joy and pray to God, through the intercession of the Queen of Peace, for the priceless gift of peace. Because of these considerations and the fact that the octave of Christmas coincides with a day of hope, New Year's Day, we have assigned to it the observance of the World Day of Peace.

Thus Pope Paul VI highlighted the feast's celebration of both Mary and Jesus. He also noted the connection to New Year's Day and Mary's role as Queen of Peace. January 1st, the Solemnity of Mary Mother of God is also the observed "World Day of Peace."

Let us not only pray for peace, but commit to being peacemakers throughout the coming year:

*O day of peace that dimly shines Through all our hopes and prayers and dreams Guide us to justice, truth and love, Delivered from our selfish schemes. May swords of hate fall from our hands, Our hearts from envy find release, Til by God's grace our warring world Shall see Christ’s promised reign of peace.*

*The shall the wolf dwell with the lamb Nor shall the fierce devour the small; As beasts and cattle calmly graze, A little child shall lead them all. Then enemies shall learn to love, All creatures find their true accord; The hope of peace shall be fulfilled, For all the earth shall know the Lord.*

Happy New Year to all of you and your loved ones… and to all our world!

Father John Kasper, OSFS
One of my favorite parts of the book is when the main character is standing in the kitchen with God the Father, who points out two birds in the backyard. He begins to talk about Christ coming to earth as man and uses the birds as an analogy. One bird was unable to fly. Although it would have been easier for the second bird to fly away and leave the first bird behind, instead the two birds hopped around on the ground. God points out that this is what he did when he came to earth as a human. It would have been easier for God to take whatever form was his preference and tell us how to live our lives. Instead, he chose to reveal himself as a human, living as we do, because he knew that would be the best way for us to understand his Kingdom.

God knew that in order for us to understand his love for us, we needed to have an example in a language that we understood—the language of humanity. This is the challenge that we are given in bringing the Good News to the world, just as Christ did as a human. Oftentimes, our teachers face the same challenge in their lessons; they are tasked with teaching many people the same thing, though they may not understand it using the same methods. This week, see if you can pick out when teachers are speaking in several different “languages” to get their points across. Math class might be a good place to start looking.

Christmas is a time when we celebrate Christ’s coming into the world. Teens, what are some ways that you can bring Christ into this world in new ways this week, in ways that others will understand? Youth Ministry takes a break this week and next, returning right after the New Year to continue our look in how to know Christ better so that we might make Christ better known. Merry Christmas!

Gary

Food Basket Collection

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

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/. 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.

Welcome into the Catholic community

Congratulations! This weekend we welcome the following children into our parish community through the waters of Baptism:

Oliver John Alexander Semenov  
son of Vladimir Semenov & Elise Morris

Margaret Morrison Colhoun  
daughter of Michael & Elizabeth Colhoun

Elizabeth Ann Hunter  
daughter of David & Sabrina Hunter

May our community embrace Oliver, Margaret & Elizabeth and may our word and example be a reflection of God's love for them. Let us offer our joy-filled prayers and congratulations as a sign of our support and welcome!

Thank you to our Parishioners for their Flower Donations

Jackie Haidich  
IMO the Haidich Family & Hattersley Family & Betty Reale Nordell  
Mrs. Barbara Metz  
Penny Pendola  
Lucille Pendola  
Dr. Joe Pendola  
Mr. & Mrs. Kent Barnes  
IMO Betty Sterling Barnes  
Ms. Margaret McCloskey  
IMO Maci & Ida McCloskey  
Sieglindie Connolly  
Sofia Boselli & Family  
IMO Grandpa Bud  
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Ogorzelec  
Zoe Anna MacLean  
Mr. & Mrs. Ed Baer  
IMO The deceased members of the Baer/McDermott Families  
Eric Ladrect  
Ms. Liz Engh Rossi  
Ms. Janette Fon, PhD.  
Mr. & Mrs. Bradley Ward  
Ms. Susan Lapating  
IMO Russell & Josephine Conway  
Mary Porcella  
IMO Donald Porcella  
Mr. Thomas Wang & Ms. Regina Sir  
IMO William Sir, Gary Miller & Jung Woon Hong  
Mrs. Robert Muench  
IMO Joseph Ilardi, Esther Ilardi, Roy Muench, Dorothy Muench & Robert Muench
The Parish Office will be closed
Monday, January 2,
in observance of the New Year.

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 31, 2016– January 8, 2017

Saturday 5:00 pm Sarah Lombardo ♠
Monday 8:30 am Anne Lagache— Special Intention
Tuesday 8:30 am Brian Higgins ♠
Wednesday 8:30 am Michael Townsend ♠
Friday 8:30 am Ned Elliott ♠
Saturday 5:00 pm For the Community
Sunday 8:00 am Tom Malanca ♠
9:30 am Jung Woon Hong ♠
11:30 am Bob Listowski ♠

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.

Solemnity of Mary

I made a little video memory for my nephew this Christmas. Apparently he got engaged a few weeks ago. Uh huh. His dad and we adoring aunts and uncles happened to see it on Facebook, where we also read about the party that followed, where “all our friends and family came to congratulate us.”

Hmm. Apparently this sweet, generally thoughtful kid forgot about his side of the family. Hence the video memory, where he can see photographs of his relatives going back nearly to the Civil War, and lots of pictures of himself with his dad and us, through every Christmas of his life.

As I look at these pictures, and read today’s gospel, I’m especially touched by Mary, who, after the shepherds left, “kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart.” In Mary’s heart I see my darling mom, proudly holding each new baby, attending every game, standing with us at every milestone. Like Mary, I know my mom “reflected in her heart” about each of her children as we grew into adults.

So many parents today are walking through great times of crisis for their children. Their beloved kids are experiencing the heartbreak of divorce, or debilitating mental illness. Many of them, despite all their Facebook “friends,” are lonely and isolated. And no, even though new studies show that church attendance can be better for your heart rate than skipping church and running a marathon, this health-conscious generation isn’t interested in participating.

Today, on this World Day of Peace and the Solemnity of Mary, we place all our children, and their children, into the heart of God. That’s an infinitely safer place than Facebook.

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