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
Phone (925) 283-0272 Fax (925) 283-6534
School Office (925) 284-1640
www.stperpetua.org

Parish Office Hours
Monday—Friday
7:30 am—4:00 pm
Catholic Schools Week 2017

This week marks the beginning of Catholic Schools Week, a national celebration high-lighting the many benefits of Catholic education. According to NCEA, the National Catholic Education Association, the high school graduation rate for students attending Catholic High Schools is 99% compared to 82.3% for public high schools. Additionally, 85.7% of Catholic High School graduates attend a 4-year college compared to 39.5% of public high school graduates.

The benefits of Catholic education encompass many intangible components that are difficult to capture with statistics. Students at St. Perpetua School benefit from a wide range of leadership opportunities and extra curricular activities. Service projects take place throughout the school year to support various parish, local and global organizations. Our academic programs continue to challenge our students and prepare them for the high school of their choice. As a school staff, we also recognize that students learn at different rates and in different ways, so teachers, instructional assistants, the Learning Support Coordinator, and all other staff members collaborate to support our students and help them reach their fullest potential.

However, I believe the greatest strength of St. Perpetua School is our sense of community among parents, students, and staff. Our calendar is bursting with events in which our community gathers for social and academic opportunities. We celebrate together during times of joy and accomplishment and we pray and support one another during the more challenging times as they occur. The members of our school community truly care about one another. We are the peacemakers, the merciful, and we hunger and thirst for righteousness as proclaimed in the Gospel this weekend.

St. Perpetua School is one of many ministries of St. Perpetua Parish. We strive to “Be the Good” both socially and academically. I hope that during this national celebration of Catholic Schools you will take a moment to learn more about our school and our amazing community, either at Open House, through our website, or by liking us on Facebook.

Peace and Blessings,
Karen Goodshaw
Principal, St. Perpetua Elementary School

Winter Nights Pasta Feed
Join us in the Parish Hall on Saturday, February 4th for the 7th Annual St. Perpetua Pasta Feed! All proceeds from the pasta feed will support the Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County’s Winter Nights Rotating Family Shelter Program. This program provides a clean, safe, and warm facility at night and a daytime services center during winter for homeless families with children. More information about the Winter Nights program can be found at www.cccwinternights.org. Doors open at 6 pm (after the 5 pm Mass) with one seating at 6:30 pm. Seating is limited for this Family-Style dinner consisting of homemade spaghetti & meatballs using an old family recipe by “Papa” Scotto, Cesar Salad, garlic bread and homemade tiramisu. To purchase tickets or make a donation please go to our website or send a check to the Parish Office (adults $15, children $8) made out to St. Perpetua with Winter Nights in the memo section. Come support this wonderful cause and enjoy an Italian meal made from scratch! Please contact Christoph at 925.283.0272#203 or chnauer@stperpetua.org if you have any questions.
Teens

Today’s Gospel offers a contrast to many of the messages we hear in our society today. If we were to accept uncritically the “get ahead” messages of our culture, we would think that happiness means having money, being successful, having many possessions, and so on. When we think this way, we are not unlike the people who heard Jesus teach on the day that he taught the Beatitudes. The crowd that day also associated happiness with material possessions and status.

How are we to live our lives in this world? What model is set forth for us to follow? Of course, we should be quite familiar with the Ten Commandments that Moses received on Mount Sinai. In today’s Gospel reading, we hear Jesus begin the great Sermon on the Mount, which begins right at the beginning of the fifth chapter of Matthew’s account of the Gospel. Jesus ascends a mountain to start teaching the masses of people who had gathered around him. And what we hear in today’s reading sets the stage for the entire sermon and for how, ultimately, we should live our lives. Jesus preaches the Beatitudes to those who gather around him, enlightening them and us as to who are called “blessed.” Blessed are the poor in spirit and those who mourn; the meek, those who hunger and thirst, and those who are merciful and clean of heart; the peacemakers are children of God while those who are insulted and are persecuted are granted heaven’s reward.

A familiar teaching, but do we truly understand what Jesus was getting at as he set forth his great teaching? Well, just taking the word “beatitude” tells us something . . . these are aspects of how we should “be-attitude.” Some of these aspects of poverty listed in the Beatitudes can happen outside of our control (such as mourning and at times being poor in spirit). But some we can actually work toward, such as working for righteousness and being peacemakers.

For this week teens at St. Perpetua have a couple of opportunities to gather to help develop in them a “be-attitude” spirit:

**Sunday, January 29, Confirmation** gathers at 7pm in the Church for a look at the Bible, the story of our relationship and covenant with God.

**Tuesday, January 31, Youth Group** gathers at 7:30 to take a look at teen modern issues in light of our “be-attitude” direction from Jesus.

Questions? Drop Gary a note. Teens remember that the Beatitudes challenge us to be people of virtue. Virtue is a firm attitude, mindset, or disposition to do good. For the virtuous person, doing good is a habit. Go forward and do good!

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**Welcome into the Catholic Community**

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

**Jenika Davi DeWitt**
daughter of David DeWitt & Sokha Hem

May our community embrace Jenika and may our word and example be a reflection of God's love for her. Let us offer our joy-filled prayers and congratulations as a sign of our support and welcome!

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**January Shelter Meal**

The Saint Perpetua School Board handled all the aspects of the January shelter meal. They shopped, prepared, baked, transported and served a meal of baked ziti, garlic bread, salad, cookies and brownies. The guests were delighted with the delicious filling meal!

Kudos to the School Board for their generous gift of time and talent. Here is a photo of the group!

If you are interested in finding out more about how you can help in this much needed ministry, please contact Monica Chappell@monicachappell@comcast.net.

**Monthly Food Basket**

Three cheers for you! We got off to an excellent start by delivering 40 bags of hearty soups, ramen and a few other items to St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry at St. Francis of Assisi Church by Virginia and Al LaFaille. Thank you for being so generous in helping to keep these pantries full. The need is great and the pantries must be constantly replenished. Thank you!

**Altar Server Training**

If you’re in 4th grade or older and would like to become an altar server, please join us for our next training on Sunday, Feb. 12 at 12:45. Be sure to RSVP to Christoph by Feb. 6 so he can include you in the next schedule.

**Senior Activity Group, Etc. (SAGE)**

Our annual Valentine Luncheon especially honoring the older members of our parish family will be held on Monday February 13 at 11 a.m. in the Parish Hall. The school children will entertain us, SAGE members will provide a delicious lunch and we will conclude the event with a sing-along with Fr. John at the keyboard. For information call Aggie Malanca 283-4477.
Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

I like to do things that make me feel good. One thing that works every time is to stop to analyze what it is about people that makes them lovable, or approachable, or even inspiring. I think about that today when Paul says “whoever boasts should boast in the Lord.” The people I know who inspire me are, always, people who point the praise and glory elsewhere.

How blest, then, are those who are so poor in spirit that they look beyond their own accomplishments and seek a greater good. How blest are those who are so clean of heart that they can get past their own insecurities and brokenness and mercifully reach out to others. The person who seeks God is the person who attracts me, because I too am made to draw nearer and nearer to God.

As a teacher of Scripture I am deeply touched by the way adult students will put everything aside for as long as they can to just study the Word. As a student of Scripture I sit weekly at the feet of my own teachers, never disappointed, yet never satiated. Our shared life in Christ is the treasure which draws me.

The person who seeks the Lord, in spite of our highly secular society that laughs at such a pursuit, is the person I want with me on a desert island. That is the truly blessed person, the deep person, the intelligent person. How blest are all of us who seek God. The scriptures promise that, as we draw near to God, God draws near to us.

In what ways has seeking the Lord been a blessing for you?

Kathy McGovern ©2017
Please join us ……

St. Perpetua School Open House

This Sunday following the 9:30 Mass

“I like St. Perpetua because I can learn a lot of interesting & important things. I can become a smarter individual, and I have a Catholic education.” St. Perpetua Student

“What I like best about St. Perpetua is that we try to adjust our teaching to help ALL children reach their potential.” St. Perpetua Staff Member

“With faith at the center of it all, St. P’s helped us raise good children who have turned into good people.” St. Perpetua Alumni parent

“I have been over-the-moon happy with St. Perpetua’s academic rigor, parent community and opportunities for service.” St. Perpetua Parent

Now accepting applications for the 2017-2018 school year


- Visit our website www.stperpetuaschool.org
- View our virtual tour at www.tourstperpetua.com
- Come for a school tour and presentation on January 30 at 9:30am
- Attend the Prospective Family Information Meeting on February 1 at 6:30pm
- Email Suzanne Kozel with any questions skozel@csdo.org