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.

Amen I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or the smallest part of a letter will pass from the law.
*Matthew 5:18*

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
Parish Staff

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Pastoral Assistant
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lrojas@stperpetua.org

Fr. John’s Homilies Available Online
Fr. John’s homilies are posted on our website at www.stperpetua.org/homilies

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

FREEDOM AND PRIVACY

In 1948 the free world was shocked by the trial of József Cardinal Mindszenty. The man who had valiantly withstood Nazi and communist oppression in his native Hungary pleaded guilty to the charges of treason brought against him by the communist regime. But he was clearly a broken man. Somehow that brave, independent spirit had been overcome, but only at the cost of destroying the person. To invade the personal center of another human being is the ultimate act of violence. Each individual has a privacy that is his or hers and that cannot rightly be invaded. No human being may take away that privacy from another.

Privacy is not just something to be enjoyed. Privacy means more than the right to unplug the telephone and shut the door and not be bothered by anybody. The other side of the coin, however, is our personal responsibility for our life. No one can take that responsibility for us. Even if we choose to hand over responsibility for our life totally to another, that is itself a deeply personal act.

GOD AND LORD

Only God is Lord. The Creator alone can touch us gently at the deepest core of our being. God does not invade us from outside to break down our resistances and rob us of our freedom, as a human tyrant does. The Spirit is already within, at the very heart of our being. Yielding ourselves to God is opening ourselves to that life-force that creates us and carries us on to ever fuller life. By yielding ourselves to God we do not lose ourselves or find our dignity compromised. We discover ourselves in a new and exciting way.

More than any external work that Jesus did, his power to touch and transform the human heart marks him as divine. His is not the destructive dominance that is seen too often in human beings, but the creative dominance that is God’s alone. The Christian discovers that Jesus is Lord, and therefore knows him as God.

The new law of the kingdom, as we hear it proclaimed in today’s Gospel, places exacting demands on the Christian. It is not merely our religious practice or external behavior that comes under its scrutiny but our inner motives and desires. Jesus calls us to do God’s will not only externally but with the right intention: to love and serve the Lord and give praise to God.


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Small Christian Community Sign Up

During the Season of Lent, enrich your spiritual journey by participating in a “Small Christian Community,” a group of 6-12 fellow parishioners who meet once a week to share scripture and talk about important matters of faith and daily living.

Lent 2017
(week of March 6 – week of April 10)

Name ________________________________

Phone # ________________________________

E-Mail ________________________________

In order to determine what day and time our Communities will be meeting; please select two day choices and one time choice from the list below:

☐ Mon.  ☐ Tues.  ☐ Wed.  ☐ Thurs.  ☐ Fri.  ☐ Sat.  ☐ a.m.  ☐ p.m.

☐ Yes, I would like to host a group at my home
☐ Yes, I would like to be a facilitator (training will be provided)
☐ I’d like to be part of a small Christian Community but can’t host or facilitate

Please send the above info to Christoph at the Parish Office.
Teens – “Know thyself” is an ancient Greek teaching. This is a wise philosophy to keep in mind in approaching Jesus’ message in today’s Gospel. Jesus instructs his listeners to go deeper in their understanding and appreciation of God’s law—a law which was given to their ancestors. Jesus, as a Jew, presents teaching that is firmly rooted in the Torah, the first five books of the Old Testament. Jesus is clear that he has come not to abolish the law or what had been prophesied, but rather to fulfill the law and prophecy. So what does this mean for us today?

In this challenging Gospel, Jesus focuses on a number of Jewish teachings and commandments. He does not change the core of these teachings. Rather, he instructs us to look more deeply at the occasions in which we may go down the path of sin. For example, when I feel as though I want to harm someone else out of anger, Jesus is pleading with me to look at where the root of my anger lies. How can I first address this anger within myself before harming another? Throughout this teaching, Jesus is inviting us to take a look at our lives, be honest with ourselves, and go deeper in our own self-awareness.

In Youth Ministry at St. Perpetua we take time to get away from the everyday routine of our life as a way to focus on the message of Jesus and how we can live with Jesus forever in our hearts.

Teens, this week at St. Perpetua

♦ **Sunday February 12 or Monday, February 13.** Confirmation Candidates gather for an evening on safe environment.

♦ **Thursday, February 16 is Movie Night -- Les Miserables: The Power of Love; Bring a friend, hear the message and enjoy some tasty beverages and food!**

Questions? Drop Gary a note. Teens remember this week that in his Sermon on the Mount, Jesus points out that the Law requires people to do the minimum. He has come to teach us how to go beyond the minimum requirements of the Law and to respond to others with love. As you practice Jesus’ message of love remember to never let a stumble in the road be an end to your journey.

*Gary*

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**Welcome into the Catholic Community**

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

- **Maurice Edward, Emma Leatha & Antoine Jordan Thomas**
  - children of Yves Thomas & D. Stacie Harris-Thomas

- **Emilia & Joaquin Jonsson**
  - children of Jayson & Ana Jonsson

- **Aden Andre Hernandez**
  - son of Robert & Felicity Hernandez

- **Becker William Hamilton**
  - son of Taylor & Alicia Hamilton

May our community embrace Maurice, Emma, Antoine, Emilia, Joaquin, Aden & Becker 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!

**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. For information call Aggie Malanca 283-4477.

Our Spring newsletter was emailed last week. We have a nice variety of activities planned for Spring and hope you will join us. If you did not receive the email or would like a newsletter mailed to you, please call Mary King at 284-9474.

**S.O.M.E.**

**So Others Might Eat**

S.O.M.E. is a ministry to feed the homeless in support of Night on the Streets Catholic Worker in Berkeley. Every time there is a fifth Sunday in the month, S.O.M.E. prepares and serves the dinner meal to the homeless in People’s Park. Volunteers are needed to cook and serve. Ideally this would be families with teenage children who could do it as a family activity or teenagers that are at least thirteen years of age. For more information or to get involved please contact Arlene at the Parish Office at 925-283-0272, ext. 201.
Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

I imagine this conversation between Jesus and some people at the Women’s March in D.C.

Jesus: You have heard it said, “Women’s Rights are Human Rights.” But I say to you, “Yes! Atrocities toward women are the scourge of history. You’ve brought attention to many, like equal pay for equal work, but there’s more. End sex trafficking. Starve the pornography industry, which endangers women and changes the brains of the men who use it. End domestic abuse everywhere. End the abduction of girls and women by groups like Boko Haram and others. Secure safe education for every girl on the planet. That will keep you busy.”

And I imagined this conversation in the same city at the March for Life the next week.

Jesus: You have heard it said, “Life begins at conception.” I say to you, “Yes! And it ends in natural death. Redouble your efforts—and you’ve made some brilliant and creative starts — to provide first-rate prenatal care and labor and delivery for all mothers. Make sure their families have nutritious food and safe, secure housing. Continue to educate about adoption services. Use your lives to lift up those who are poor. Protect the environment. And never, ever let an elderly person feel she has a duty to die. That will keep you busy.”

“But Lord,” I heard both groups cry, “you’re asking the impossible! We’d need far, far more people all over the globe to commit their lives to these unsolvable problems. Can’t we leave them to the next generation to solve?”

“What next generation? YOU are the light of the world,” he said. “Go set fire to the earth.”

How are you working to solve an unsolvable problem?
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FIRST EUCHARIST
PRAYER BUDDY
MASSES

Saturday, February 25 at 5:00 p.m. Mass
followed by a Wine & Cheese in the Hall
and
Sunday, February 26 at 9:30 a.m. Mass
followed by Donuts & Coffee in the Hall

Please consider being a Prayer Buddy for one of our
St. Perpetua Faith Formation and School students
who are preparing to receive their First Eucharist in April and May.

As a Prayer Buddy you are asked to:
Pray daily for your buddy.

Write a letter to your buddy welcoming him/her to the Lord’s Table.
You can also share why you love belonging to the Catholic Church
or a story from your own First Eucharist.

At the Masses above the children will receive a blessing by Fr. John and
then give their prayer card to parishioners in the pews with raised hands.
This is a wonderful way to share your faith with the children of our parish.

After Mass all parishioners are invited for
Wine & Cheese on Saturday evening
or Donuts & Coffee on Sunday morning,
Prayer Buddies will have the opportunity to meet at the receptions.