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,

I am very grateful and humbled by the offerings of sympathy and the condolences that so many parishioners extended to me on the death of my oldest sister, Sr. Mary Ann Kasper. She was a member of a small community of nuns, the Servants of Jesus (SJ), who were under the auspices of the Archdiocese of Detroit. She worked in the ministry of education, teaching Spanish and English, both in secondary schools and at the university level. She also served in pastoral ministry at a parish in the Detroit area. The past few years have been difficult for her because of poor health and during the last few months she was hospitalized and finally in hospice care for three weeks. There was a sense of relief and release when the Lord finally called her home. The Vigil, Funeral Liturgy and Interment, while sad for my family and me because of our loss, were also inspiring and consoling. As I said in my homily at Mary Ann’s funeral Mass: There is something unique and sacred that happens surrounding the time of death and its accompanying rituals. Former acquaintances are renewed, family ties are strengthened, past memories are relived, bonds of friendship are rekindled, old wounds are healed, the meaning of life is both challenged and affirmed, and faith in God is accessible and inspiring. I’m lucky to have a loving and supportive family, blessed to have a compassionate and caring parish family.

While family is so vital and significant, the Word of God today invites us to look beyond family ties to the greater vision of God’s family and to see all humans as brothers and sisters. Jesus himself, when told that his mother and brothers were looking for him, declared: "My mother and my brothers are those who hear the Word of God and put it into practice." Today’s passage from Matthew’s gospel reminds us: If you love those who love you, what recompense will you have? Do not the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet your brothers only, what is unusual about that? Do not the pagans do the same? While not ignoring the importance of familial love and concern, Jesus invites us to learn from our families what it means to love one another, and then to take that love and spread it all around — even to the stranger and the outcast, the enemy and those least likely to warrant our attention and affection.

In our current political climate, which panders to so much protectionism and isolationism, we need to hear and heed Jesus’ invitation to wider vision and greater embrace. The lesson of love that we learned from our families inspires us to go beyond walls and boundaries — to see and acknowledge the face of God etched on the face of all God’s children.

Father John Kasper, OSFS
Teens - In this Sunday’s Gospel, Jesus teaches us to share generously with others, giving even more than what is asked instead of trying to get even with those who have wronged us. What Jesus asks his disciples to do may sound hard. However, he wants them to know that to be his followers, they must not try to get even or take revenge. Instead, they are to give more than what is asked for. The Gospel challenges us to evaluate constantly the messages we receive from our society and culture. Jesus tells us that being his disciple requires us not to settle for what everyone else does, but to go beyond what society expects of us and do what God expects of us. However, at the same time we take in knowing that Jesus knows that we are human and cannot always be perfect. He does not expect us to know how to do everything correctly all the time. But Jesus does expect us to serve the Kingdom of God by following his example of loving others, including our enemies, and being generous to those who need help.

In Youth Ministry at St. Perpetua we go over how to follow Jesus’ message, even this challenge to love our enemies, at our gatherings. This week teens gather twice:

• Sunday February 19 Youth Group gathers for a Sunday evening to take a look at the theme of February, “Love” – join us starting at 7pm in the Church.

• Sunday, February 26 Confirmation gathers, in preparation for our upcoming retreat, for an evening to look at the “Holy Spirit” – join us at 7pm in the Church.

Questions? Drop Gary a note. Teens, remember as St. Paul says in his letter to the Philippians, “Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God and the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Gary

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

Charles James Bolger
son of Andrew & Meghan Bolger
Elena Dooley
daughter of Kevin Dooley & Sharmila Kumar

May our community embrace Charles & Elena 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!

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. We have 2 groups that still have openings, one on Tuesday evening and the other on Wednesday morning. Please sign up in the vestibule.

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.

Grief Support Group
At Christ the King Parish
199 Brandon Road, Pleasant Hill

You are invited to join our 7 week Grief Support Workshop which is starting Friday morning, February 24 and running through Friday, April 7. The workshop will be located in the Parish Ministry Center. Coffee and pastries will be served from 8:30—9:00 am, the session will begin at 9:00 am and run until 11:00 am. Registration is required, deadline for registration is Monday, February 20. For more information please call Kate Doherty at (925) 246-1128.
This Week at St. Perpetua
February 19, 2017—February 26, 2017

The Parish Office Will be closed
Monday, February 20 in observance
Of the Presidents’ Day Holiday

Sunday
Children’s Liturgy of the Word
During the 9:30 am Mass
Teen Family Youth Mass, 11:30 am, Church
Youth Group, 7:00 pm, Church

Monday—Presidents’ Day Holiday
Centering Prayer, 7:15 pm, Chapel

Tuesday
Faith Formation, 3:00 pm, RRC
Youth Group, 7:30 pm, Chapel

Wednesday
RCIA, 6:00 pm, Parish Office Conference Room
Choir, 7:00 pm, Church

Thursday
Bible Study, 7:30 pm, Chapel

Saturday
First Eucharist Prayer Buddies Mass, 5:00 pm, Church
Wine & Cheese, 6:00 pm, Hall

Sunday
Rise & Shine Mass, 9:30 am
Prayer Buddy Reception, following the 9:30 am Mass
Faith Formation, 9:30 am, RRC
Faith Formation, 5:30 pm, Hall
Confirmation, 7:00 pm, Church

MASS INTENTIONS
February 18, 2017—February 26, 2017

Saturday  5:00 pm  Tim Justice  ♦
Sunday  8:00 am  Lorraine Curotto  ♦
   9:30 am  Jack Meinbress
   Special Intentions
   11:30 am  For the Community
Monday  8:30 am  Dan & Ellie Spillane  ♦
Saturday  5:00 pm  Geno Nuti  ♦
Sunday  8:00 am  For the Community
   9:30 am  Tom Woods  ♦

TOGETHER WE PRAY FOR THE SICK:
Marie Saroyan, Chris Fliflet, Elizabeth Cox, Jennifer Rosko, Giselle Contreras, Juanita Estrellas, Elisabeth Nauer, 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, Anne Lagache, Karl Smida, Roger Gregory & Bruce Wood.

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

The traditional approach to Jesus’ words on nonviolence, of course, is to forget we ever heard it and carry on. But let’s be brave and try to understand.

In a research project a few years ago, participants were given a slight pinch on their fingers, then told to pinch their partner with the same intensity. Every single time, the first one to be pinched exerted more pressure on their partner than they had received themselves. Why? Because pain felt is always more than pain given. That’s why violence always escalates.

Here’s an example that might resonate. You walk by a group of friends and hear your name in their conversation. Now, maybe (but not likely) they actually ARE talking about your weight gain, or your son’s plagiarized science project, or your no-show at yoga again. But if you measured the amount of true malice in their hearts towards you (tiny) it wouldn’t be in the same stratosphere as the amount of rage you feel just hearing your name in a conversation in which you are not present. The pain felt is always more than the pain given.

Jesus knows how weak we are. He knows that lawsuits and small battles escalate into wars because we can’t differentiate between the actual pain (small) and the pain we experienced (large). Once shocked, we can’t remember that we’re the ones who started it. It is the rare person who is humble enough to admit that the injury is small, and the chance that she played some part in it is great.

Pray for your enemies, Jesus tells us. Wouldn’t it be a shock to learn that you’re the “enemy” someone else is praying for too?

Have you ever looked back at a conflict and finally realized that you were the antagonist?

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