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
Dear Friends,

Two weeks ago the clergy of the Diocese of Oakland met with our Bishop, Michael Barber, to receive information from Catholic Charities personnel about the crisis facing many fellow Catholics in our Diocese. The recent deportation orders signed by the President put many families at risk. Immigrant children coming home from school are living in fear of finding one or both of their parents missing because they have been deported. Archbishop Curdileone and Bishop Barber are meeting this month with the head of ICE (U.S. Immigration & Customs Enforcement) in the Bay area to intercede for our own Diocesan communities and our fellow Catholics. Many parishes in the Diocese are organizing Training Sessions and Workshops so people may know their rights and protections under the law.

While attending the recent clergy workshop on this topic I was struck by the fact that we are among the few parishes whose membership doesn't include that segment of population who are deeply affected by the immigration crisis. In talking to someone who deals with this issue every day and wondering how it might affect our community, he opened my eyes with some pointed questions: Do your parishioners have gardeners and landscape workers taking care of their yards? Do your parishioners have housecleaners who come in to clean their homes, or nannies who are helping to care for their children? Do your parishioners eat at restaurants in Lamorinda who have cooks, dishwashers and waiters who may be immigrants? Of course, the answer is: Yes, we do!

The American Bishops agree that every nation has the right to establish and control its borders. They also acknowledge that just because someone is here in the U.S. without documentation does not make that person a criminal. They strongly support Comprehensive Immigration Reform. In his letter to the clergy Bishop Barber wrote:

American is a country of immigrants. We are a Church of immigrants. Our Catholic faith teaches that we should welcome the stranger, the immigrant, the widow, and the orphan.... That is one of the great things about the United States: so many people have come here from so many countries and together we form “the land of the free and the home of the brave.”

Bishop Barber reminded his clergy that we are Americans, yes; but we are Christians first and disciples of Christ. As we enter into Holy Week let us look to the cross of Christ, but also to the cross that so many of our brothers and sisters who are marginalized and on the periphery of life are forced to carry. Let us pray that, in Jesus’ love and in our compassionate concern, their burdens be lifted and their hearts and spirits strengthened.

Father John Kasper, OSFS

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**PALM SUNDAY: ENCOUNTER OUR NEIGHBORS**

We encounter Jesus this week in Jerusalem, a community he knew well. We prayerfully enter into our own communities too, encountering those who are hungry and thirsty, and others who need our help. How does our Lenten journey motivate us to serve those we meet in our daily lives? Visit crsricebowl.org for more information.

**Readings for week:** [http://uscgb.org/bible/readings/](http://uscgb.org/bible/readings/)

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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Isaiah 42:1-7</td>
<td>Isaiah 49:1-6</td>
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<td>Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14</td>
<td>Isaiah 51:3-12</td>
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Teens – Today we hear, “My God, my God, why have you abandoned me” (Ps 22:2)? These words of Jesus spoken while hanging on the cross are among the most disturbing words in the Gospels. Jesus’ cry of abandonment from Psalm 22 is troublesome. Did Jesus give up trust in his Father during the crucifixion? Did Jesus actually yield to despair on the cross? How can we understand this desperate cry?

In Holy Week, we seek the special grace of being united to Jesus as we ourselves cope with the suffering in our troubled world and in our personal lives. Like Jesus, we may feel abandoned by God. But like Jesus we are not alone. Just as the Father was with Jesus transforming Jesus through suffering, so Jesus is now with us transforming us! And, don’t we as Christians move toward maturity in our faith as we embrace our crosses and unite with Jesus’? I have learned this truth slowly. As I have brought my sufferings to Jesus and dialogue with him on similar sufferings, I have been transformed, experiencing weakness to strength through faith.

In Youth Ministry at St. Perpetua we gather to see how we can best understand our faith in today’s world. This week teens gather once during Spring break:

♦ Sunday, April 9 — Confirmation — to look at how the Candidates are made for a Mission, and how holiness is possible, starting at 7pm in the Church.

♦ Thursday, April 13 — Youth Group and Confirmation — teens join the parish for the Holy Thursday Liturgy starting at 7:30pm in the Church

♦ Saturday, April 15 — Serving at St. Anthony’s in San Francisco. Teens head to San Francisco to serve at the dining room.

Questions? Drop Gary a note. Teens remember that time is the most valuable commodity we have, worth more than gold, yet wasted more than all else. Efficient use of time begins with prayer.

The Pontifical Good Friday Collection

Pope Francis has asked our parish to support the Pontifical Good Friday Collection, which helps Christians in the Holy Land. Your support helps the church minister in parishes, provide Catholic schools and offer religious education. The Pontifical Good Friday Collection also helps to preserve the sacred shrines. When you contribute to the Good Friday Collection, you become an instrument of peace and join with Catholics around the world in solidarity with the Church in the Holy Land.

FIRST EUCHARIST PRAYER BUDDY

Thank you to all of our parishioners who took a prayer buddy card from one of our children preparing to receive First Eucharist in April and May. In addition to praying daily for the child, Prayer Buddies are asked to write a letter to be given to the child on their First Eucharist day. Please return your letters to Kristine at the Parish Office or place in the basket in the vestibule of the church no later than April 14, 2017.

If you have any questions, please contact Kristine at 925.283.0272 ext. 204 or kristine@stperpetua.or

Love thy Neighbor

We all have that one neighbor or that one co-worker that drives us crazy, that we simply cannot like, much less love.

We may feel victimized; most certainly, criticized unfairly. We can feel his or her attitude of "I am better than you", "I am above you" in every encounter. Our point of view goes unheard or is simply dismissed. Perhaps we have argued, exchanged heated words or even profanities! How, then, are we supposed to muster some love?

The Christian lesson of turning the other cheek is so hard to put into practice. We often justify our hatred as being purely the other person's problem!

So Lent, then, should take us into the desert alone -- to examine our anger, hatred and stubbornness. We can ask God to turn all this into grace. What better prayer than to ask Him "how"?

What better time than now to ponder what I have done, or what I have failed to do, to lose sight of forgiveness so easily.

If God can forgive even me, it's the least I can do for others.

(by a member of the St. Perpetua Community)
This Week at St. Perpetua  
April 9, 2017—April 16, 2017

Second Collection—Facilities Maintenance

Sunday  
Children’s Liturgy of the Word, during the 9:30 am Mass  
Confirmation, 7:00 pm, Hall

Monday  
Housing Task Force, 12:00 pm, Conference Room  
Centering Prayer, 7:15 pm, Chapel

Wednesday  
RCIA Retreat, 6:00 pm, Conference Room  
Choir, 7:00 pm, Church  
Youth Group, 7:30 pm, RRC

Holy Thursday  
The Lord’s Supper, 7:30 pm, Church

Good Friday  
Stations of the Cross, 1:15 pm, Church  
The Lord’s Passion, 2:00 pm, Church

Holy Saturday  
Small Faith Group, 11:00 am, Dining Room  
Easter Vigil, 8:15 pm, Church

Easter Sunday  
8:00 am Mass  
9:30 am Mass  
Easter Egg Hunt to follow 9:30 am Mass  
11:30 am Mass

Easter Sunday—Rice Bowl Turn In

MASS INTENTIONS  
April 8, 2017—April 16, 2017

Saturday 5:00 pm Frances Bauer ✝  
Sunday 8:00 am Connie Ladani ✝  
9:30 am Joseph Nikban ✝  
11:30 am For the Community  
Monday 8:30 am Hagen Kelly ✝  
Tuesday 8:30 am Jack Meinbress ✝

TOGETHER WE PRAY FOR THE SICK:


Palm Sunday of the Lord’s Passion

He must have done a thousand righteous things in his life. He was chosen by Jesus himself to be one of the Twelve. He was trusted to be the treasurer, and to hold the group’s money bag. Yet, his eternal title will be Judas, the Betrayer.

We’ll never know why on earth he did it. For thirty pieces of silver? The cynic says, “Of course. People will do anything for money.” But is there any one of us who would hand a loved one over to be tortured and killed because we could make money by doing so? Never. Judas was up to something, and even today scholars can’t quite discern what it was.

I’m intrigued by what the author of Matthew’s gospel says: “Then Judas, his Betrayer, seeing that he had been condemned, greatly regretted what he had done.” Did Judas try to step into history and force God’s hand? Did he think that once the soldiers took hold of Jesus in Gethsemane he would call upon his legion of angels, who would slay anyone laying a hand on God’s Anointed?

It followed that Jesus would then gather an army who would rout the Romans from Israel, and the Jews would once again control their homeland. Judas (before he was “the Betrayer”) was no doubt named after Judas Maccabeus, the great warrior who liberated Jerusalem from the Seleucids. Judas—perhaps thinking of his great ancestor—was willing to temporarily “betray” Jesus in order to finally get him to harness his heavenly powers.

But it didn’t happen that way. Jesus was condemned to death. His Betrayer hanged himself. And Jesus set out on the way of the liberation of the Cross.

For what betrayals in your own life have you been forgiven and set free to be happy again?

Kathy McGovern ©2017 www.theswtoryandyou.com
From sundown on Holy Thursday until sundown on Easter Sunday is the culmination of the forty days of the great fast of Lent, and the doorway to the glorious celebration of the Easter Season. It is the focal point of the entire liturgical year. In these three days, we experience all that it means to be a Christian community.

**Holy Thursday, April 13:** The Lord’s Supper, 7:30 p.m.

**Good Friday, April 14:** Stations of the Cross, 1:15 p.m. & The Lord’s Passion, 2:00 p.m.

**Easter Vigil, April 15:** The Lord’s Resurrection, 8:15 p.m.

**Easter Sunday, April 16:** 8:00, 9:30, & 11:30 a.m.