St. Perpetua Church
Celebrating our Faith • Enriching our Community • Sharing our Gifts

St. Perpetua School
Contact the school office for enrollment (TK-8) and After School Program.
Tours by appointment call 284-1640 or skozel@csdo.org.

Eucharist
Daily Mass
Monday-Thursday, 8:30 am (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, need to receive communion or Anointing of the Sick at home or in the hospital.

Assisted listening devices available

The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ?
Because the loaf of bread is one, we, though many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf.

1 CORINTHIANS 10:16-17

June 18, 2017

3454 Hamlin Road, Lafayette, CA 94549
Phone (925) 283-0272 Fax (925) 283-6534
www.stperpetua.org

Parish Office Hours
Monday—Friday
7:30 am—4:00 pm
The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ

FLESH AND BLOOD

The intimate bond that unites families is well described by the phrase “flesh and blood.” “How can you treat your own flesh and blood so harshly?” a father might ask his son. “I can’t give up my baby for adoption; she’s my own flesh and blood,” a daughter may say to her mother. “I love you as though you were my own flesh and blood,” a brother might say to a stepbrother. It is as though our families are an inseparable part of us. Even those who have traumatic or abusive experiences with family members recognize the depth of emotional and spiritual connection we have with our families.

In Jesus’ words to the crowds in today’s Gospel we hear him talk about our participation in the Eucharist as a sharing in his own flesh and blood. Through the Eucharist Christ himself dwells in us. His divine and eternal life courses through our veins. Like a family gathered at table, we become more and more intimately connected with Christ and one another. As Paul tells us, “We, though many, are one body” (1 Corinthians 10:17), united as members of Christ’s own flesh and blood.

FOR THE LIFE OF THE WORLD

Within the Body of Christ today, many are suffering as Jesus once did, and the suffering of one of our “brothers and sisters” should be of deep concern to us. We who partake of the Body and Blood of Christ must be prepared to be broken and poured out as Jesus was “for the life of the world” (John 6:51). We must become willing to suffer ourselves if it will benefit a member of our own “flesh and blood.”

As you receive Holy Communion this week, open your heart to the intimate connections that unite us as family within the Body of Christ. Then reflect on how those bonds will affect the way you treat your own flesh and blood this week.


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Youth Ministry at St. Perpetua
June 17—18

Teens—Do we get so wrapped up in religion that we miss out on what's important to God? Why do we do the things we do? Why do we go to church or give money away? Because we're supposed to or because we think God needs it? Do we honestly put on our best clothes for an hour once a week, stand and sit at all the right times, and sing all the appropriate songs for God's sake, or because it'll make us look better to the world around us? We're tired of all the empty rituals and routines. And so is God. God hates it when we call ourselves Christians but ignore all the things he really cares about. He hates it when we go through hollow religious routines out of some feeling of duty or obligation. God doesn't want the meaningless rituals. God wants our hearts.

Look for details about Youth Ministry (Youth Group, Confirmation, Liturgies, and Service) at St. Perpetua in the coming weeks with registration in mid-July for next year. In Youth Ministry at St. Perpetua we focus on coming to see God in our life, in the various ways God reveals his presence. Teens, especially incoming 9th graders, join us to stay connected to your faith and understand God's presence in your life when we start up again in early September with Confirmation, and Youth Group to begin in mid-September.  

Gary

Homework Club Support:

We are looking for compassionate individuals to help in our after school Homework Club that goes from August through June. Sites we serve are Pleasant Hill, Concord and Pittsburg. You will provide academic and mentoring support to children from extremely low-income homes in grades K-12. Commitment is one afternoon per week for the entire school year. Adults and high school sophomores through seniors are encouraged to apply at www.ccinterfaithhousing.org/volunteer. START DATE: AUGUST 28, 2017

God, Our Father

God, our Father
Bless these men, that they may find strength as fathers.
Let the example of their faith and love shine forth.
Grant that we, their sons and daughters,
may honor them always with a spirit of profound respect. Amen

-Author Unknown

Cross Catholic Outreach

Father James Quinlan of Cross Catholic Outreach will be visiting our parish next weekend to speak at all the Masses on behalf of the poor in developing countries. Cross Catholic Outreach was founded to create a meaningful link between parishes in America and the priests and nuns working in the Church overseas in the Caribbean, Africa, Asia, Central and South America. See back page of the bulletin for more information regarding Cross Catholic.

Faith is a House of Many Rooms:
A Reflection by a Parishioner

Here I was, a newly confirmed Catholic, attending a Buddhist funeral with my Protestant parents. Gold statues and Buddhas filled the altar, incense hung heavy in the air and the priest's soft chanting signaled the start of the service. A nervousness fluttered in my abdomen, as all I could hear in my head was an Oz-like voice booming "thou shall have no other Gods before me".

As I surveyed the mournful congregation, I saw heads bowed, prayer beads worked by aging hands. How similar are the houses of faith -- Buddhist beads could have been Catholic rosaries; chants rhythmic, whether Japanese or Latin. Incense burned for sacred blessing...

And still, when it came time for me to come forward to offer incense and a prayer for the deceased, my palms were sweating and heart pounding loudly. Awkward and anxious, I lit the incense stick and placed it in the sand filled vessel. Pressing my palms together in prayer, I closed my eyes and bowed to the altar. Resisting a funny urge to cross myself, I returned to my seat feeling as if I had done something wrong...even my parents, who preceded me in line, looked awkwardly at the floor.

Why was I feeling so guilty? Why did I feel that I committed a transgression or breach of faith by participating in this service? I now understood why it is so hard to walk in the shoes of other faiths. How difficult to even bridge the Christian divisions...

Only after I returned home, the guidance of a Pastor settled my nerves and reminded me that faith is a house of many rooms -- and my God, our God, is really there in all of them. No judgments, just peace and faith.

We need to believe that all faith, any faith, in a higher power should unite not divide. A true universal Church, wherever two or more are gathered in His name, should be love.
SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST

My friend John’s story about going to the football game with his dad comes back to me every year on this feast day. “I’ll never give up my season tickets. I go to every game. It’s the place where my dad and I have our best talks.”

His dad died nearly thirty years ago. Growing up, John and his dad enjoyed the entire Game Day ritual—Mass, breakfast, driving to the stadium, firing up the grill, hamburgers, and football. They talked, and ate, and shared in the triumphs and humiliations of the game. And the next week, if the team was in town, they did it all again.

John grieved horribly when his dad died in the spring of 1990. He was his best friend. They had built so many memories. He would never see him again.

Except, of course, on Sunday afternoons, in the sun and wind and cold, and the hot dogs and beer, and the cheering and the booing, and memories so real that John feels his dad next to him at every game. He goes to see his dad, to really feel his presence.

There are many sensory triggers that can transport us. Think about pipe smoke. Can you smell it? I can, and suddenly my grandpa is with me. A Beach Boys song on a summer day can bring childhood friends right into the room. These cues make the past Really Present.

As Catholics, we get that. Every Sunday we place ourselves in the position to Re-Member the One who loved us to his death. In the Eucharist the Beloved Past becomes the Real Presence. This is the feast that tells us who we are.

What sensory experiences bring the past right back to you?
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