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

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.

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
Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

WE ARE NOT DEBTORS

Our King comes, not in the glory of earthly rulers, but as a humble poor man. Jesus tells us how God works in the world. Paul reminds us that we are not debtors to the flesh, but we are free people, liberated to be our best selves, to serve God and each other with humility and joy.

How do we live out this freedom of ours? Many of the world’s poor live in severe poverty, their nations’ economies weighed down by the yoke and burden of debt. This crushing debt is owed to the wealthy countries of the world, their banks and their investors. Our affluence rests in some measure on the back-breaking poverty of our brothers and sisters.

It is good to contemplate what we can do to relieve or forgive these debts that have been paid many times over, because interest payments are counted first. Pope John Paul II called for forgiveness of such debts, and some progress has been made, yet much suffering remains.

YOU WILL FIND REST

The promise of Jesus is good news indeed. God has hidden the knowledge of the reign of God from the learned and the wise, those who say that the poor are responsible for their own plight, and that nothing can be done for them. Jesus turns such human wisdom on its head, proclaiming instead that God works differently. We are poor in spirit if we follow Jesus in lifting the yoke of the law and slavery to the flesh, freeing the burdened of their crushing load. It may cost our economy some of its profits, but we can believe that our burdens will also be lifted and our work made light. What seems impossible to the learned is known to the humble. When we rest in Christ, laying down the burden of our preoccupation with “things,” we can rejoice with all people at the coming of our meek and humble Lord, who brings holy rest to an anxious and materialistic world.

Today’s Readings: Zechariah 9:9–10; Psalm 145:1–2, 8–11, 13–14; Romans 8:9, 11–13; Matthew 11:25–30

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

Come to Me

ALL YOU WHO LABOR

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Youth Ministry

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Hello teens at St. Perpetua! At Youth Group and Confirmation gatherings during the year we spend time taking a look at things that help us grow as a person using our faith as the foundation for the response. Over the summer months we are looking back here every week for the *Teens at St. Perpetua* column which features a focus on everyday teen issues with the “how to” component on how faith helps us meet everyday challenges.

What do today’s teens care about as they go about the world today? Here are ideas that have been raised and covered by teens:

§ **Responsibility** – Teens discussed ways that they can develop the sense of accountability for everything they choose to engage in – asking themselves “what kind of decisions am I making?”

§ **Respect** – Teens find that respect carries a lot of weight, yet is easy to demonstrate as we go about the world living Jesus’ message to love one another.

§ **Integrity** – Teens share the importance of “doing the right thing” even when no one is looking – and when the reward is knowing that “I” have done the right thing.

Youth Ministry at St. Perpetua provides a time for learning from each other about how to respond to the challenges like those listed above. We also have the opportunity to experience God’s love through fun, learning, and community building. Each gathering begins and concludes with a prayer.

Youth Group and Confirmation start in September. Look for registration material at the end of July, in your mailbox, on the web, and in the back of the Church.

Gary

Free Voice Lessons for All this Summer!

Youth, teens, or adults of all ages - if you have ever wanted to discover your voice or develop it further, now is your chance! Donna Stoering, who has joined us at St Perpetua's this year with her husband Andy Anderson, is internationally renowned as a concert pianist, choral conductor, vocal soloist and voice coach (check out her website at www.donnastoering.com) Donna is offering to give FREE voice lessons, to any St Perpetua's member who wants them, on Wednesday evenings at 7 pm throughout the summer! She will be waiting at the music office (entrance is at the back of the church hall) at 7 pm to see who shows up, if no one shows up by 7:30 pm she will leave. If you would like to participate but can't get there by that time on a particular week, just let her know so she doesn't leave - (Donna's cell is 408-406-6240).

You can join us once, or many times - or every week. Your choice. Just try it! Summer is a great time for trying new things, and singing has many proven health benefits! Fr. John is hoping to pop in sometimes, he also hopes that many more of our parishioners of all ages will take advantage of this great opportunity!

Christian Initiation of Adults

The Christian Initiation of Adults is the normal way in which adults and children over the age of 7 become full, active, participating members of the Catholic Church. The Second Step is the **Rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens and the Period of the Catechumenate**.

Some of the inquirers eventually decide that they would like to begin more formal study of the teachings and practices of the Catholic community. To be ready for the next step, the inquirer needs only to have a desire to seek initiation into the church. They become aware of this desire in discussion with the initiation team. And they are admitted into that higher level of preparation in a special ceremony in the church, called the Rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens. In this ceremony the Church symbolically claims the inquirers for Christ by signing them with the cross.

This is the first time that the inquirers declare their faith publicly before the parish community. No one likes to do something like that all on his or her own. Some moral support is needed and a sponsor accompanies each inquirer. Sponsors are people who have shared their faith with the inquirers, believe that they are ready to begin formal instruction and are able and willing to stand up and say so in church. After this church ceremony, the inquirers are called catechumens. This name means that they are learning the teachings of the Church and beginning to live as Catholics do.

Any parishioner who is interested in being a sponsor or part of the initiation team - people who welcome and assist adults who desire to enter the church and be baptized - should call Christoph Nauer at 283-0272, ext. 203.

(to be continued next week)

Becoming Catholic

Are you or someone you know interested in becoming Catholic? Reach out and invite a friend or neighbor to explore membership in the Roman Catholic Church. Please contact Christoph for more information at 925-283-0272, ext. 203.

Thursday Night Bible Study on Summer Hiatus

The Thursday Night Bible Study, which meets weekly in the Chapel at 7:30 pm, is on Summer hiatus. Scripture study will resume in the Fall on a date to be determined.

Many thanks to our lay leader Bill John for his always fresh and fascinating insight and for sharing his love of the pursuit of the gifts to be discovered in the scriptures.

Though our Summer schedules take us in different directions in the weeks ahead, we will "take the Word of God with us as we go."

A happy, blessed, Summer to all!

Bible Study Group
Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

My measly six-block walk feels like six miles when I do it in the heat of the day, which somehow it always is. I always start out early in the morning, with a very light jacket and a water bottle. Three blocks in and I’ve got the jacket wrapped around my waist, and by the time I’m home the water bottle feels like a ten-pound barbell.

My fantasy is always the same, that my husband will come along on his bike and carry the jacket, the bottle, and, finally, me, over the finish line. Somehow I always make it—tiny workout that it is—but I’ve never once done it without wishing someone would come along and make it easier.

What a heavy load the Jews of Jesus’ day carried. They labored long and hard in the desert sun, and a good portion of what they earned went straight to the Romans. They were also loaded down with the burdens of the Mosaic Law, which, although received in joy centuries before at Mount Sinai, had become impossible to fulfill because of the hundreds of additions and legalities imposed as time went on.

What an enormous relief the gospel was for the disciples, and for all of us who are carrying around too much stuff. In the heat of the summer it’s best to travel light, and there is nothing lighter than the yoke of forgiveness and unconditional love which Jesus wants to place on our shoulders, while removing the weights of regret and remorse.

Are you heavily burdened and praying for relief? Christ—and his Body, the Church—is on the way, right around the corner, ready to carry you, and all your stuff, across the finish line.

How do you help carry the burdens of those who are heavily laden?
Kathy McGovern ©2017 www.thestoryandyou.com
Come join other parish families for a late afternoon family picnic, with games, food, and fun!

_St. Perpetua will provide_ hamburgers, hot dogs, soft-drinks and waters.

Families “A” - “G”  
please bring dessert to share for 12

Families “H” - “S”  
please bring a appetizer to share for 12

Families “T” - “Z”  
please bring a salad to share for 12

We need your help with the following:  
Set-up, Food prep, BBQ, Children’s games, Clean-up

To assist and RSVP please email Christoph  
at chnauer@stperpetua.org, sign up in the vestibule or  
go here: [http://goo.gl/S1Vidq](http://goo.gl/S1Vidq)