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.
Dear Friends,

One of the current social and political issues we are facing as Americans is the reform of taxes. Tensions over the tax reform bill run high in Congress and amongst citizens. Two weeks ago our Sunday gospel provided a scene of Jesus being questioned about the paying of taxes to Caesar. Jesus responded with the famous quote: “Give to Caesar what is Caesar’s and to God what is God.” A friend of mine, Fr. Ron Schmit from St. Anne’s in Byron, offered a poignat reflection which I found insightful. I asked him if I could share it with our community:

They say that only death and taxes are inevitable. That may very well be. Even Jesus had to pay the Temple Tax. And today he is questioned on the morality of paying the Roman tax or not. Often this story is misinterpreted. Many think that Jesus is proclaiming the separation of Church and State. That is incorrect. The idea of separating politics and religion is a modern idea that would not have crossed the mind of Jesus. Jesus, who is a religious figure, was involved in the politics of his age. And it made him enemies and would get him crucified for it. The Pharisees who were a religious-political party and the Herodians who were a party supporting King Herod hated each other. But they hated Jesus more. So they join together to try and entrap Jesus in a political controversy. “Is it right for a good Jew to pay taxes to the oppressive Roman occupiers or not?” This is a losing situation for Jesus. If he says “yes,” he would alienate many of his followers who were hoping for liberation from Rome. If he says “no,” the Roman authorities could arrest him for advocating rebellion. So Jesus calls for a coin. Notice Jesus does not have one. They produce one; no pious Jew would have one in his possession. The image on the coin proclaimed the Roman Emperor to be “god.” “Give to Caesar what belongs to him. But give to God what belongs to God.” Nothing belongs to Caesar. The world and humanity is stamped with the image of God. Therefore it all belongs to God. Jesus is saying that we must manage the economic systems for the benefit of people. People, not imperial profits, are of importance. What does this mean for us today?

Catholic teaching based on Jesus says that taxes are instruments of social justice and morality. Where is the morality and justice? There are two guiding principles. First is our understanding of property. Everything that we think we own is a gift from God. Yes, some of it we have acquired with our own work, but who gave us the ability to work? And from where did we get the raw materials that we transform by our work. Property is only something we hold in trust for the Creator and ultimately it will be returned to God. As good caretakers we are obligated to use our property as God intends. The second principle is a preference for the poor in how we decide what is right in public life and who benefits. The teachings of Jesus require us to put the needs of the poorest, the marginalized, the oppressed and the vulnerable ahead of the wants and desires of the rich and powerful. As my dad used to tell me, “Those who have more, have more responsibility to others.” This means that laws and policies never favor the rich and powerful over the most vulnerable. Our society should be measured in its care of the least among us.

As Christians when we examine tax policy we must ask ourselves the question, “who gets hurt most by the cost of taxes and who benefits most from what they fund?” A 12% tax on a poor family may endanger their ability to provide for basic necessities like food, shelter or health care. While a 39% tax on corporations, billionaires and millionaires impacts (at most) only unneeded luxuries. There lies the morality and justice that is at stake when we speak of tax policy. Paying taxes to provide for the needs and good of our communities is a duty we must not avoid. There is a great old term that we used in speaking of the good of the community—the ‘commonwealth’—that ‘wealth’ which is shared by all (common). Before lowering taxes on corporations and the wealthy we must ask how will that affect the least among us. We pay in order to support our common life together. Oliver Wendell Holmes a Supreme Court Justice from 19021932 said, “Taxes are the price we pay to live in a civilized society.” May we all work together for the good of all!
Teens - In Sunday’s gospel, Jesus urges us not to be like the scribes and Pharisees because they aren’t sincere in their lives. “They preach but they do not practice.” When we stop and really open our hearts to Jesus, we can recognize once again that we are far from perfect. But the good news for us is that Jesus is not looking for perfection in us but humility and service. Jesus reminds us that we are brothers and sisters, part of the human family. He urges us to be compassionate and not to let our lives get sidetracked by the external rewards offered by our society. Jesus invites all of us, even the greatest among us, to be a servant. Our goal is to be a servant for those who suffer, sharing this pain with Jesus. It is that awareness of others and the compassion that counteracts what Pope Francis calls the globalization of indifference.

This week St. Perpetua teens gather a couple of times to look at the different ways we can serve one another.

**Confirmation** gathers Sunday November 5 for an evening on Prayer with a focus on (1) teaching Candidates how to pray; (2) demonstrating to Candidates that prayer helps us discover God’s will for us here and now; and (3) encouraging Candidates to develop a daily routine of prayer. We gather in the Chapel at 4:30 or 6:30pm.

**Youth Group** gathers on Monday, November 6 in the RRC for an evening on developing teen’s leadership skills and how effective leaders take responsibility for their behavior. They know their lives are not controlled by circumstances around them or other people’s actions. They are aware of what they can control and what they cannot control. In this session, participants come to know the difference between being proactive rather than reactive people, and what innate abilities within themselves to drawn on to become more proactive in their lives.

To maintain a joyful family, Pope John Paul II said, requires much from both the parents and the children. Each member of the family has to become, in a special way, the servant of the others.  

*Gary*

**Shoes That Fit**

During construction please return your purchased shoes to the STF bin by the front door of the parish office on the upper lot. Thanks so much for your ongoing support.

**Quote of the Week**

"Nonviolence is not a garment to be put on and off at will. Its seat is in the heart, and it must be an inseparable part of our very being." - Gandhi

---

**First Eucharist Parent Meeting**

Parents of children in 2nd grade or older at St. Perpetua School and in our Faith Formation programs are asked to attend one of our parent meetings regarding preparation for the Sacrament of First Eucharist. If you are interested in having your child receive the sacrament in spring of 2018 please plan to have at least one parent attend (no children). At these meetings you will be given all of the information needed to support the preparation process for your children as well as receive registration and date selection forms.

**Wednesday, November 8, 2017**

9:30 - 10:30 am

Religious Resource Center

**Monday, November 13, 2017**

7:00 - 8:00 pm

Religious Resource Center

**Welcome into the Catholic Community**

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

**Richard John Bennett**  
son of Mark & Sarah Bennett

**Joseph Enrique Geraldi Satterley**  
son of Joseph & Juliana Satterley

May our community embrace Richard and Joseph 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!

**Getting Ready For Advent And Christmas:**

Scripture Study with Fr. Charles Talley, OFM  
Fridays, October 27 – November 17, 10:00 am – 11:30 am  
San Damiano Retreat Center, 710 Highland Dr.,  
Danville, Kateri Kautai 925-837-9141, ext. 315  
or email: katerik@sandamiano.org

Once the holiday season starts in earnest with Thanksgiving, it’s challenging to find time to prepare spiritually for Christmas. This series of four classes will give you the opportunity to read, study, reflect upon, and pray the Scriptures for Advent and Christmas before the rush! Each 90-minute class will cover the lectionary readings for Sundays in Advent as well as Christmas Day. This will give you a solid grounding in Scripture without the added stress of trying to ‘fit in’ things during a very stressful time of the year. Bring yourself, a notebook, and a copy of the New Testament. We suggest the New Testament and Psalms RSV (Catholic Edition) by Ignatius Press, which is available at the Retreat Center bookstore. No prior knowledge or study of Scripture is required or assumed. Participants may take classes for all four weeks, or come to any individual class on Friday mornings. The cost $5 per person, per session. A lunch option is available on Friday for $10 per person.
The Story and You...

Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

In my world, the humble are everywhere, and they intend to stay that way. I wish I knew any arrogant people (personally) so that I could imagine them being humbled. But all around me I have the exact opposite demographic.

On Facebook my humble friend politely asks if someone is available to serve at the Senior Shelter this week. In a parish, the list of those willing to bring meals to those who are homebound nearly exceeds the numbers who need that service. The endless goodwill and ingenuity of the many people I know who work to relieve suffering in the world isn’t just inspiring; it changes my heart.

Now, I do have two friends who will generally talk about their outreach to the many different organizations they find time to serve. I wish more people did this. Keeping silent about your generous gift of time with your grandkids, or your weekly visits to the nursing home, or the childcare you provide for families who are trapped in low-income jobs, robs the rest of us of the opportunity to be challenged away from our Netflix comfort zone.

I love hearing people talk about the different ways they have found to help the world. If that’s bragging, then bring on the braggarts! We need their stories and their witness desperately. I imagine heaven as just more of the same: loving people spending eternity loving people. But I don’t want to be on the outside looking in, wondering why no one ever mentioned to me that they were doing the very things that never occurred to me to do because the people doing them were too humble to tell me about them.

What surprises have you had recently when finding out about the good works of others?

Kathy McGovern ©2017 www.thestoryandyou.com

THIS WEEK AT ST. PERPETUA
NOVEMBER 5 - NOVEMBER 12, 2017

Sunday
Children’s Liturgy of the Word, during the 9:30 am Mass
Faith Formation, 10:30 am, School
Teen/Family Mass, 11:30 am, Church
Confirmation, 4:30 pm, Chapel
Faith Formation, 6:00 pm, RRC
Confirmation, 6:30 pm, Chapel

Monday
Centering Prayer, 7:15 pm, Chapel
Youth Group, 7:30 pm, RRC

Tuesday
Faith Formation, 5:30 pm, RRC
Liturgy Cmte., 6:00 pm, Dining Room
Outreach Cmte., 7:30 pm, Conference Room

Wednesday
First Eucharist Meeting, 9:30 am, RRC
Choir Practice, 7:00 pm, RRC
RCIA, 7:00 pm, Parish Office
Youth Group, 7:30 pm, Chapel

Thursday
Construction Meeting, 9:00 am, RRC

Friday—Veteran’s Day—Parish Office Closed

Sunday
Rise & Shine Mass, 9:30 am
Blessing & Groundbreaking for our new Community Center, following the 9:30 am Mass,
Reception to follow
Faith Formation, 10:30 am, RRC
Faith Formation, 6:00 pm, School
Youth Group, 7:00 pm, Chapel

Second Collection
School/Faith Formation Collection
Sunday, November 12

TOGETHER WE PRAY FOR THE SICK

Marie Saroyan, Chris Fliflet, Elizabeth Cox, Jennifer Rosko, Giselle Contreras, Juanita Estrellas, Dennis Callahan, George Buonocore, Caroline Bancroft, Charlotte Cairney, Judy Russell, Karen Zapotowski, Orlando Portillo, Jenny and Norma Carosella, Alex McLin, Fabricio Mendoza, Anne Lagache, Karl Smida, Bruce Wood, Pat McGinnis, Mary Beth Mettz, Steve Luna, Chris Bruzone, Thomas Bond, Betty Magnoli, Carol Farrell Raffa, Terry Osburn, Dylan Cazin, Peter Welch, Bryan Inderrieden, Chris Clogher and Irwin Mettler.
Women of St. Perpetua Parish
Lighting the Way

Advent by Candlelight
an evening of friendship, faith, festivity

PRAYER SERVICE, COCKTAILS & DESSERTS
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8TH
7:00 O’CLOCK IN THE EVENING
AT THE HOME OF LORI LANE

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT KRISTINE AT KRISTINE@STPERPETUA.ORG OR 925.283.0272