ST. PERPETUA CHURCH

CELEBRATING OUR FAITH • ENRICHING OUR COMMUNITY • SHARING OUR GIFTS

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.

November 19, 2017 | Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

All of you are children of the light
and children of the day.

We are not of the night or of darkness.
Therefore, let us not sleep as the rest do,
but let us stay alert and sober.
—1 Thessalonians 5:18

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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
Dear Friends,

Thanks to everyone who participated in our official “Groundbreaking” ceremony on Sunday for the new “St. Perpetua Community Center.” Look for upcoming reports on the event in the diocesan newspaper, The Catholic Voice, and also in our local paper, the Lamorinda Weekly. My prayer is that this official construction kick-off will generate the energy, enthusiasm and ongoing funding we need to make this enormous undertaking a success and a new facility that will serve our community for generations to come.

There are a few staff changes I wanted to inform you about. We have a new Maintenance Manager, Mr. Oscar Jovel. Oscar comes to us with much experience in church work and facility maintenance having worked in this capacity at St. Bonaventure Parish in Concord for over a decade. While working at St. Bonaventure that parish underwent a couple of construction projects. He will be a welcome addition as we go through a major building project for our new Community Center. Oscar is also a professional woodworker. In fact, he designed and fabricated the presider’s chair that graces our sanctuary. If you have never seen it up close, take the time to admire the beauty and craftsmanship.

While our revised Music Ministry program has been in operation for many months, I haven’t formally articulated the details to the community. Donna Stoering is our Music Director who accompanies the Sunday liturgies, directs the Choir at the 9:30 Mass and works with the Cantors. The choir rehearses on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. and is always eager to welcome new members. Several new members have joined since the summer, thanks to the music workshops Donna offered, and we are grateful to them. Mary Beth Lamb accompanies the Saturday evening Mass at 5:00 and also serves as a Cantor. Working behind the scenes is Suzanne Gagne-Bregman who assists with the music planning, organization of music and schedules, and preparing the slides for our visual projection of the music on Sundays. Since the former music office has been torn down in the construction project, Suzanne has overseen the creation of a new music office in the sacristy to the right of the organ, as well as the re-organization of all the music files. Mary Beth and Suzanne have been longtime members and supporters of our parish and I am grateful for their ongoing support and the beauty they bring to our worship. I am grateful to Martha Uhey who has volunteered her time and professional talent as a flutist on Sunday mornings and has assisted in organizing music for instrumentalists.

We are fortunate to have Donna Stoering as part of our Music Ministry. Donna has been a concert pianist since the age of five, accompanying and singing at parishes since her childhood. She has been a Music Minister throughout the Bay area as well as on the East Coast and in Europe. Donna created, launched and produced international music festivals on three continents. Her “Notes For Nourishment” project performs monthly concerts at St. Joseph Basilica in Alameda, bringing in musicians from all over the world, where each concert collects donations to benefit a different nonprofit that nourishes the hungry, homeless or hurting of the wider community (see NotesForNourishment.org). Donna has recently produced a CD entitled “Into the Stillness” – a collection of piano and viola improvisations on beautiful Catholic hymns that serve as prayerful and meditative music. Her daughter Erin is the violist on the recording. The CDs make lovely Christmas gifts for family members or friends. They are available for sale each weekend after Mass between now and Christmas for $20 or at the Parish Office during the week. Proceeds from the sales will be used to support our Parish Music Ministry. You can enjoy at home and for your personal prayer and meditation the beautiful improvisational sounds that we hear in Church each week.

Father John Kasper, OSFS
**October and November Food Basket**

In October, Jim Fulton delivered 38 bags of canned and dried beans – refried, pinto, black, kidney, pork and beans, and baked beans to Monument Crisis Center Food Pantry. He said “the folks I met at the Center were impressed and very grateful. They were also very nice”.

In November, Al and Virginia LaFaille were delighted to deliver 44 bags of flour, sugar, masa harina and oil to St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry at St. Francis of Assisi Church. We can’t stress enough that your donations definitely do make a difference! Thank you for being such a generous community.

**Our 27th Annual December Food Bag Drive collection** will take place over two weekends: December 2/3 and 9/10. Empty bags, compliments of Trader Joe’s, will be distributed on two weekends: November 25/26 and December 2/3.

Please take a bag (or two), with the helpful attached list of suggested items, fill it and bring it back the following weekend. Because of the lack of a “hall” in which to keep the groceries, we ask that you drop the filled bags off in front of the Chapel in the upper parking lot. Drive by, drop off, and park your car. The drop off area will be well marked.

**October/November Shelter Meals**

In October, Maureen Vierengel and Melinda Guelfi prepared a delicious meal of BBQ chicken, roasted red potatoes, corn, salad and sliced watermelon. Janet and Rick Salliard and Dick Jacobberger transported and served the meal to hungry and delighted guests.

In November, our St. Perpetua 8th grade JHOP (Junior High Outreach Program) prepared chili and all the fixings, cornbread, salad and dessert. They not only prepared this yummy meal but transported and served as well. The guests are always happy to see and chat with our young people. Thank you all for your dedication to this rewarding ministry.

**October 5th Sunday Collection and a HUGE Thank You!**

Because of your heart warming generosity to the 5th Sunday Collection, in which we also included a request for support for the North Bay Fire Disaster, we received $9,100.00! We sent $6,500.00 to Catholic Charities of Santa Rosa for use in helping “the most vulnerable among us” who are affected by the tragic fires that swept the North Bay communities. Thank you! As part of our usual support of agencies within Contra Costa County, we could send $3,000.00 ($500.00 each) to the following agencies: Bay Area Crisis Nursery, Bay Area Rescue Mission, Contra Costa Interfaith Coalition, Child Abuse Prevention Council, Contra Costa Food Bank/Extra Helping, and Rotacare.

**Next 5th Sunday Outreach collection: December 30th and 31st.**

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**Welcome into the Catholic Community**

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

**Allegra Rose Mar**

daughter of Brooks Mar and Cristiane Balk-Mar

May our community embrace Allegra and may our word and example be a reflection of God’s love for her. Let us offer our joy-filled prayers and congratulations as a sign of our support and welcome!

**Middle School Ministry**

On behalf of our Middle School TEAM-I would like to thank those of you who donated items for the fire victims. We collected items for pets a few weeks ago with thoughts of St. Francis (Patron Saint of Animals and Ecology). The donated goods were driven up to Sonoma County the day after our collection and were very much appreciated! Thank you TEAM students and families!

Many Blessings-
Jan Stegner

**Oakland Catholic Worker**

The Oakland Catholic Worker would like to thank the parishioners of St. Perpetua for their generous response to our appeal in September. You have donated $6,744.00 to assist our ministry of hospitality to Latin American migrant families and our East Oakland neighbors in need! Know we hold you in our prayers and ask that you pray for us as well!

**Senior Activities Group, Etc.**

The mood of Advent draws us into a spirit of anticipation and prayer as we wait in joyful hope for the coming of the Lord. We will return once again to San Damiano for an Advent Day of Recollection on Friday, December 8, 9:30 am to 3 pm. Fr. Rusty Shaughnessy, OMF, who has recently returned to San Damiano, will conduct the retreat. Cost for the day is $40 and includes lunch. Reservation forms are at the back of church and at the church office. Reservations and payment must be in by Monday, November 27. If you have any questions, please contact Mary King at 925 284-9474. ALL ARE WELCOME.

**Peppermint Shoppe is back on December 2nd!**

Peppermint Shoppe will be open for business on Saturday, December 2nd, from 9:00 am - 11:00 am at St. Perpetua School. This is a sweet opportunity for children to shop for Christmas gifts for their parents, grandparents, siblings, friends, teachers and pets. All gifts are priced at $2.00 each. Bring the kids and enjoy free hot cocoa, coffee and treats sponsored by the St. Perpetua School Parent Association. Watch for an early appearance by St. Nicholas! If you have any questions, please contact Nicole Damhesel at ndamhesel@gmail.com.
Catholic Campaign for Human Development
Respond to Pope Francis’ call for the 1st World Day of the Poor. Please be generous in this week’s second collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development. In the United States, one in six people lives in poverty. With this collection you support programs that address the causes of poverty and provide a sustainable future for those who are struggling across the country. In addition, 25 percent of funds collected remains in our diocese to fund local anti-poverty projects. Please prayerfully consider how you can support this collection and work on the margins. More information about the Catholic Campaign for Human Development can be found at www.usccb.org/cchd/collection.

Holiday Wreath Sale
Fresh holiday wreaths will be available for purchase at St. Perpetua after Mass on Saturday night on December 2nd, as well as after Mass on Sunday the 3rd. The wreaths will be $25, and all money will be put towards the scout troop. This is one of their only fundraisers for all events and activities, and they would greatly appreciate your support. Direct purchase as well as delivery will be available. Happy holidays!

Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
Well, we did the best we could. We stayed faithful to the Church into which we were baptized. We joined groups and took scripture classes. We extended our arms to the needy. We served on Parish Council. But—ahem—who is going to take our place? Where did the younger generations go? How did two generations of young people just leave without our really noticing?

I recently attended a parish mission led by Dr. Eileen Burke-Sullivan. Talking about our nostalgia for the bulging churches of the fifties and early sixties—and I confess that I still long for what I remember as the vibrant Church of those days—she said (and I’m paraphrasing), “Even if we could somehow go back to those days right now we wouldn’t find Jesus there. He is where we are, and we don’t live there anymore. We are alive today, in 2017.”

Somehow, despite our best efforts—or maybe some lukewarm efforts—the investments that we made with the “talents” given us to pass on a robust and vital Church have not made a very impressive return. Recall what St. John Paul II said on the subject: We are not on earth to guard a museum, but to cultivate a flourishing garden of life.

Unlike the Master who left on a journey, Jesus never left us. But he did entrust his Church to us. Yes, the culture that used to carry the faith is gone. But do we really believe that Christ can’t heal and save and draw people to himself in 2017? This is the age in which we live. But Jesus Christ is Lord from age to age. That’s a truth none of us must bury in the ground.

How do you keep investing in your parish?
Kathy McGovern ©2017 www.thestoryandyou.com

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 Bruzzzone, Thomas Bond, Betty Magnoli, Carol Farrell Raffa, Terry Osburn, Dylan Cazin, Peter Welch, Bryan Inderrieden, Chris Clogher and Irwin Mettler.
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Portion of a page from a document containing various advertisements and business listings.
Thanksgiving Multi-faith Celebration & Service
Sunday, November 19
4:00 p.m.
Gather in community with faith leaders from across the County
Find inspiration
Share Gratitude for Abundance
Commit to Confronting Poverty
Hillcrest Congregational Church
404 Gregory Lane, Pleasant Hill
For more information contact Multi-Faith ACTION Coalition
contactmfac@gmail.com

Thanksgiving Mass at St. Perpetua

Our Thanksgiving Mass will take place on Thursday, November 23rd at 9:30 am in the church.

The offertory collection will be sent to the Winter Nights program. Winter Nights provides a clean, safe, and warm facility at night and a daytime services center during winter for homeless families with children. The program serves up to 30 persons at any given time. Congregations throughout central and east Contra Costa provide space, meals, and volunteers. Bedding is provided, and professional staff supervises the shelter 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Join us

Just in case you missed last Sunday’s Groundbreaking and Blessing Ceremony for our new Community Center here is a snapshot for all to enjoy!