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.

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,

With Advent only a week away, consider how you and your family will keep this Season – the four weeks of preparation for Christmas. Actually, it will only be three weeks since the Fourth Sunday of Advent this year falls on the morning of Sunday, December 24th. There are many ways to bring a spirit of prayer and service to all the other pre-holiday preparations that tend to crowd out Advent.

Without leaving home, take an online course from the Salesian Center for Faith and Culture (The Season of Advent: Anticipation and Hope) Details are available at: desales.edu (The Salesian Center).

http://www.desales.edu/salesian-home

Sagrada Sacred Arts at 4926 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, CA 94609 (510) 653-7196, has a wonderful offering of prayer and reading material for Advent, as well as beautiful Christmas gifts for children and adults. The store is open from 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m on Tues – Sat and on Sunday from Noon – 5:00 p.m. www.sagrada.com

Subscribe to Give Us This Day, a resource booklet which has daily prayers and the scripture readings for daily Mass, as well as a reflection on the Scriptures for each day. Information can be found at www.giveusthisday.org. Many Catholics are finding this a wonderful aid to their spiritual life and you can download a free issue online.

Use your iPad or iPhone to easily access some online sites that can guide your prayer life during Advent:


http://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/daily.html;

http://wwwLOYOLApress.com/3-minute-retreats-daily-online-prayer.htm;


Men might be interested in purchasing On the Threshold of Transformation: Daily Meditations for Men by Fr. Richard Rohr, ofm.

We also have a variety of Advent resources in the vestibule for families and children. With so many resources easily available to everyone, there is no reason each of us can’t have a rewarding and prayerful Advent Season, as we prepare our hearts as well as our homes for the celebration of the Incarnation of Our Lord.

Father John Kasper, OSFS

A note about December 24, Christmas Eve: Due to the construction of our new Community Center, the 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve liturgy this year will take place at Stanley Middle School Gymnasium. All other Masses will be held in the Church. We are grateful to the Stanley School Administration for allowing us to rent their space to accommodate the large 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve worshippers.
Advent

Next weekend marks the beginning of Advent. From the Latin term used in a secular context to denote the coming or arrival of the emperor, this four-week liturgical season inaugurates the entire liturgical year. Advent has a twofold character: as a season to prepare us for Christmas when Christ’s first coming to us is remembered and as a season when that remembrance directs the mind and heart to await Christ’s Second Coming at the end of time. Advent is thus a period for devout and joyful expectation.

One way to enhance our experience of Advent is the Jesse Tree. It is named from Isaiah 11:1: “A shoot will spring forth from the stump of Jesse, and a branch out of his roots.” It is a vehicle to tell the Story of God in the Old Testament, and to connect the Advent Season with the faithfulness of God across 4,000 years of history. The branch is a biblical sign of newness out of discouragement, which became a way to talk about the expected messiah (e.g., Jeremiah 23:5). It is therefore an appropriate symbol of Jesus the Christ, who is the revelation of the grace and faithfulness of God.

The Jesse Tree receives its name from Jesse, the father of King David, from whose house the lineage of Jesus can be traced through his earthly father, Joseph. Mary’s father, Joachim, also was a descendant of the house of David. The first chapter of the Gospel of Matthew gives the entire listing of the lineage of Jesus, commencing with Abraham.

This tree, or a large banner with a symbolic tree, is decorated, usually by the children, with ornaments or objects that represent Old Testament events from creation to the birth of Jesus. There are 23 to 29 symbols, depending on the number of days in Advent.

Additional Advent reflection material for adults, families and children is available in the vestibule. I pray that some of these resources provide you with spiritual nourishment during this time of anticipation and waiting for the coming of the Prince of Peace. Wishing you a peaceful Advent! Christoph Nauer

Catholic Campaign for Human Development

Thank you for your generous support last week to the collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development! If you missed the collection, it’s not too late to give! Visit www.usccb.org/nationalcollections and click “How to Give” on the left.

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.

Taste of Kindergarten

Our Taste of Kindergarten event is Friday, December 1st, 8:45—10:00 am

Incoming Transitional Kindergarten and Kindergarten age children and their parents(s) are invited to get a taste of Kindergarten for a morning! Enjoy a casual conversation with the school principal and staff, discussing our kindergarten program and common topics including kindergarten readiness, emotional maturity, creating smooth transitions and more.

Parents will then accompany their children into the kindergarten classroom to experience a short lesson and project, supervised by our teaching staff. You are invited to visit Café Perpetua and enjoy fresh baked goods, made from our local garden ingredients, and freshly brewed coffee. School tour provided and parents are given time to socialize. Parents must remain on campus during this event. You need to register for this free event at http://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050a4da4ae2bab9-taste

Questions? Please call the school office (925) 284-1640 or email Suzanne Kozel at skozel@csdo.org
Holiday Wreath Sale
Hello, my name is Nick Rynne from Boy Scout troop 204, and I will have fresh holiday wreaths 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 my scout troop. This is one of our only fundraisers for all of our events and activities, and we would greatly appreciate your support. Direct purchase as well as delivery will be available. Happy holidays! Thank you, Nick Rynne

Worldwide Marriage Encounter
As we celebrate Christ the King, let us also learn to serve our spouses by participating in a Worldwide Marriage Encounter (WWME) weekend. The next weekends are held at San Damiano Retreat Center, Danville on January 12-14th or May 18-20th. Space is VERY limited! Early registration is highly recommended. For more information contact Mike and Jeanne at 925.672.2016 or Joe and Sue at 925.680.7767 now or go to oaklandwwme.org

Solemnity of Christ the King
Christ my King, these are the things I’ve seen lately, things that brought your parable of the Last Judgment to my mind:

1. I saw an exhausted mom clean up her toddler’s spilled milk with a laugh and a kiss.
2. I saw hundreds of parishes donating gift cards so underserved families could shop for the foods they eat at Thanksgiving.
3. I saw my husband graciously forego a beer and the game in order to help a friend.
4. I saw an elderly ex-convict walk off the streets and into a warm counseling center.
5. I saw a new apartment complex open that provides permanent shelter for those who were once living on the street.
6. I saw extraordinary young people accompanying Syrian refugees to safety.
7. I saw sweet kids from around the country organizing fundraisers for hurricane relief in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

Christ, my King, they didn’t know it, but they did each of these beautiful things for you. But this week I also saw the effects of greed and power and selfishness and “me first-ness” wreak heartbreak and devastation all over the globe. We did that to you, oh Jesus. You should have said something. You should have said, “Hey! That’s me you’re leaving out in the cold, me you’re neglecting, me you’re forcing into three minimum-wage jobs a day.” You should have said something, Jesus. We just didn’t see you.

Where have you seen Christ in his “most distressing disguise” recently?
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 Bruzzone, Thomas Bond, Betty Magnoli, Carol Farrell Raffa, Terry Osburn, Dylan Cazin, Peter Welch, Bryan Inderrieden, Chris Clogher and Irwin Mettler.
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All are invited to join our St. Perpetua community to celebrate the season of Advent and the Feast of St. Nicholas. Our Faith Formation and School students in Pre-K, Kindergarten and First Grade will help lead us at Mass.

Rise & Shine Sunday Mass
December 3, 2017
9:30 a.m. Mass