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,

Blessings to you as we begin this Advent Season. While Thanksgiving is the unofficial beginning of an extended holiday time of parties and purchases, the Church invites us to run these next four weeks on “two tracks” – one of eager excitement for the birth of Christ and all it implies for us and for our world; another track that invites us to enter a time of quiet expectation – a time to sit with the scriptures and our Advent companions: the prophet Isaiah, John the Baptist, the angel Gabriel, Mary, her cousin Elizabeth. It may seem impossible to avoid the hustle and bustle of the “holiday season,” but it’s crucial to attend to the prayer of Advent if Christmas is to find a deeper and spiritual meaning for us. A fruitful Advent requires our effort and God’s grace.

With all the songs that we will hear and all the noise that fills the air, listen for the clear melody of hope and harmony. For all the sharing of food and gifts and greetings we will do, take time to give each other the gift of time, with no agenda or purpose other than to be with one another, telling the stories about the people and things that are important to you. For all the lights and colors that will surround us, find ways to brighten the lives of others, especially the needy whose lives are less than tinsel-bright and whose burdens can be lifted by our generosity.

Advent is more than a time of planning for Christmas. It is a sacred time to recognize and remember that God has a plan for you. In the Incarnation Jesus became one with us that we might become one with Him. His Spirit has given each of us a unique call, a role to play that only you can fulfill. Let this time of Advent waiting give us a glimpse of what it means to be a follower of Jesus and to bring his Spirit to birth in our families, our community and our world. *Maranatha! Come Lord Jesus!*

*Father John Kasper, OSFS*
Teens - During Advent, we do more than just prepare ourselves to celebrate the birth of Christ. The Church also wants us to remember that we must keep ourselves ready to receive Christ when he comes to us in our daily lives and, although hard to understand, at the end of time. Like the disciples, Jesus wants us to be watchful and alert so that we might recognize the signs of Christ in our midst. This week, ponder on what are some things that we do to keep ourselves ready to receive Christ? Youth Ministry at St. Perpetua gathers teens to help them see Christ in their lives. This week, we focus on four activities.

• **Sunday, December 3** - Confirmation candidates and their sponsors gather for the first time this Sunday, December 3. They will spend the evening going through a regular Confirmation gathering: Prayer, pastoral guidance, learning experience to see the Good News (Jesus’ message in the Gospels) at work in the world today, some housekeeping notes, and a closing prayer. This is the first of three candidate/sponsor gatherings. Our focus for the evening, Celebrating What’s Right With the World, serves as a catalyst for conversation for the sponsors and candidates on how we can be our best as we go out as Christians in today’s world. The evening begins at 7:00 pm, and is in the Church. Parents of Confirmation candidates are also welcome to attend this evening.

• **Wednesday, December 6** - Youth Group gathers to take a look at Advent and what it means for teens in 2017. We gather in the Kindergarten at 7:30 pm and conclude at 8:45 pm.

• **Sunday, December 10** - Teens at St. Perpetua head out to St. Anthony’s dining room in San Francisco for our first social justice trip. In this experience, teens work along side other volunteers and feed the hungry, listen to the poor, and start to see how we are all God’s children. Our teens at St. Perpetua volunteer and help the community at St. Anthony’s four times during the year. Please keep them in your prayers as they go out as representatives of our parish and they carry out the Gospel message to serve one another.

Send Gary an email at gguerrero@stperpetua.org if you are a teen and would like to join us for this experience.

• **Sunday, December 10** – Later in the day teens join the entire faith formation groups for an Advent prayer service. In this season of Advent, as we gather to wait in the darkness of winter nights for Jesus our Light to come, we will pray that our hearts be filled with joy and promise.

We live in a culture that produces hopelessness with astounding consistency. But as people of faith, Christmas infuses us with hope—a hope that comes from experiencing the promise and presence of Jesus. Questions, drop me a line at gguerrero@stperpetua.org. Gary

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**Retirement Fund for Religious**

Help care for elders. “Thanks to support from the Retirement Fund for Religious, we are now in a much better position to care for our elders,” writes a religious sister. Your donation helps her religious community and hundreds of others provide for aging members and plan for long-term needs. Please give to next week’s Retirement Fund for Religious collection.

**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, OFM, 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, December 4.** If you have any questions, please contact Mary King at 925 284-9474. **ALL ARE WELCOME.**

**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.

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**Feast of the Immaculate Conception**

**Friday, December 8, 2017**

**St. Perpetua Church**

**Vigil Thursday, 7:00 pm, Chapel**

**Friday, 8:30 am, Chapel**

**St. Mary’s Parish, Walnut Creek**

6:30, 8:15 am, 12:05, 5:00, & 7:00 pm (Spanish)

**Santa Maria Parish, Orinda**

8:00 am & 7:00 pm

**St. Monica’s Parish, Moraga**

9:00 am, 4:00 & 7:00 pm
First Sunday of Advent
December 3, 2017
Be watchful! Be alert!
You do not know when the time will come.
— Mark 13:33

Mass Intentions
December 2, 2017 - December 10, 2017

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 Zapatowski, 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.
St. Perpetua Church
2017-2018 Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve
Sunday, December 24
4:00 pm Children’s Liturgy
at Stanley Middle School Auditorium

6:30 pm Family/Youth Liturgy and
10:00 pm Nighttime Liturgy (Carolming at 9:30) at
St. Perpetua Church

Christmas Day
Monday, December 25
9:30 and 11:30 am Masses at St. Perpetua Church

New Year’s Day
Feast of Mary, Mother of God
Monday, January 1 at 9:30 am Mass in the Chapel

Feast of the Epiphany
Saturday, January 6 at 5:00 pm
Sunday, January 8 at 8:00, 9:30 and 11:30 am
Masses at St. Perpetua Church

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