Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God: “This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.”

MARK 1:14-15
Parish Staff

Reverend John Kasper, OSFS
Pastor
jkapser@stperpetua.org
x202

Christoph Nauer
Pastoral Associate
chnauer@stperpetua.org
X203

Wendy Levich
Business Manager
wlevich@stperpetua.org
x207

Kristine Kvochak
Director of Faith Formation
kristine@stperpetua.org
x204

Gary Guerrero
Director of Youth Ministry and Confirmation
gguerrero@stperpetua.org
x208

Jan Stegner
Middle School Faith Formation Coordinator
jstegner@stperpetua.org
x206

Arlene Connors
Secretary
aconners@stperpetua.org
X201

Donna Stoering
Music Ministry
musicministry@stperpetua.org

Sr. Laurel O’Neal, Er. Dio.
Pastoral Assistant
www.notesfromstillsong.blogspot.com

Karen Goodshaw
School Principal
kgoodshaw@csdo.org
284-1640

Suzanne Kozel
School Office Manager
skozel@csdo.org, 284-1640

Oscar Jovel
Maintenance Manager
ojovel@stperpetua.org
x214

Lorena Rojas, Housekeeping
lorojas@stperpetua.org

Knights of Columbus
Ruben Galindo,
galindojr@yahoo.com

On behalf of the St. Perpetua Community we would like to welcome Wendy Levich as our new Business Manager

Wendy has been a parishioner of St. Perpetua parish for over 30 years. She earned her undergraduate degree in business from University of San Diego and a Masters in Business Administration from Holy Name University in Oakland. Her past careers have been as a baker, a construction inspector, property manager and an HR and Accounting Manager. Wendy has owned and operated multiple businesses. In the parish, she has chaired the Oktoberfest for several years, taught in our Faith Formation program and helped with numerous events and fundraisers. Wendy serves our community as a sacristan, lector and Eucharistic minister. We are blessed to have Wendy now serve the parish as St. Perpetua Church’s Business Manager.

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

THE TIME IS SHORT

A sense of urgency is reflected in all of today’s readings. Jonah warns the Ninevites, “Forty days more and Nineveh shall be destroyed.” Paul reminds the Corinthians that “time is running out.” Jesus proclaims that “this is the time of fulfillment.” There is no denying that we humans tend to respond more readily to an urgent request; we seem to be much more motivated by something that must be done right now. This tendency makes it all too easy to put off less urgent things: “Oh, we’ve got time for that later.”

For the people in Jonah’s day, for the people of Jesus’ time and Paul’s time, the end was believed to be imminent. The words of the prophets and reformers frequently tried to evoke a sense of urgency.

We don’t know, of course, how much time we have as individuals or as nations to reform our ways, but it’s safe to say that there’s less time left today than there was yesterday. Today’s readings may be inviting us to revise our priorities.

BELIEVE IN THE GOOD NEWS

Jesus’ urgent message to the people of Galilee contains two important declarative statements. The command to “repent” is commonly heard. Far less common is a command that requires the hearer to have faith. Yet Jesus says, “Believe in the gospel” (Mark 1:15). This is not a request or a suggestion. He does not say, “I hope you can believe” or “Would you consider believing?” Baptized Christians, believers by definition, are to live their lives as if their beliefs mattered. That is why we must repent as well as believe. Whatever our calling in life, our families, neighbors, friends, and co workers should all be able to tell that we believe in the gospel by the way we live the gospel. Time is too short to do otherwise.

Today’s Readings: Jonah 3:1–5, 10; Psalm 25:4–9; 1 Corinthians 7:29–31; Mark 1:14–20

Copyright © 2005, World Library Publications. All rights reserved.
Thanks to Everyone who Contributed to our Christmas Collection

Your generosity is greatly appreciated. Our Christmas collection raised over $60,000 -- exceeding what the Finance Council had budgeted. All Catholic parishes rely on the annual Christmas collection to help cover expenses and allow ministries to continue and flourish. Your generosity this Christmas Season will certainly allow that to happen at St. Perpetua’s. In a few weeks you will be receiving your individual 2017 contribution summary. Contributions and pledges to our Capital Campaign for our new Community Center are also continuing with great generosity. The New Year holds wonderful promise for us as we fulfill our parish mission: Celebrating our Faith... Enriching our Community... Sharing our Gifts!

Altar Server Training

If you’re in 4th grade or older and would like to become an altar server please join us for our next training on **Sunday, February 11 from 12:30 – 2:30 pm** in the church. RSVPs are requested to Christoph by February 5.

**Teens** – This Sunday falls within the “Week of Christian Prayer for Unity.” Celebrated for a hundred years, it encourages Christians of all denominations to pray for their unity, as Jesus did. The readings at mass this week reaffirm that being a Christian, being a Catholic, means that we live a certain way – walking with the Lord, doing justice, loving kindness, and living peaceably among all people. Christian discipleship, we discover, means practicing what Jesus preached. Discipleship is found in a relationship with Christ and a commitment to his mission of bringing good news to all.

This week in Youth Ministry at St. Perpetua we gather to discover new ways to bring the Good News to others:

**Confirmation** Candidates gather on Sunday, January 21, for a look at relationships with Christ and with each other.

**Youth Group** gathers next on Wednesday, January 24, for a prayer and worship night looking at how we can pray with scripture.

In today’s Gospel, Jesus challenges us to bring a little slice of heaven to earth today. To bring God’s love, care, beauty, and healing to the world. Think about ways you can bring the experience of God’s love to others whose path you cross this week.

Questions? Drop Gary an e-mail gguerrero@stperpetua.org.

---

The Knights of Columbus Annual Crab Feed

The Knights of Columbus annual Crab Feed will be held this coming Saturday, January 27, in the St. Monica’s Peace Room in Moraga (1001 Camino Pablo). Appetizers and no-host beverages will be served beginning at 6:00 p.m. Dinner will be served at 7:30 p.m. and will include salad, pasta, French bread, fresh cracked crab and dessert. Chicken is available when ordered in advance. Tickets are $60 each and 100% of all funds raised go to Bay Area charities. Tickets must be reserved and paid for in advance and are non-refundable. This is always a popular event, so make your reservation NOW by calling Stephanie Anderson at (925)946-9003. After your call send your check to her at 815 Arnold Dr. #3, Martinez, CA 94553.

**Coffee & Donuts**

Isn’t it wonderful to have a delicious cup of coffee and a donut waiting for you at Café Perpetua after the 9:30 Mass? This is only possible thanks to some wonderful and dedicated volunteers. Most of them have done it for many years. In order for this wonderful tradition to continue we need your help. Here is what you’d be doing: pick up donuts at Safeway, set up, make coffee and lemonade and clean up after. You can do it once a month or less often, whatever your busy schedule allows. Please contact Christoph at the Parish Office if you’re willing to assist.

**January Shelter Meal**

On the first Thursday of this month, members of St. Perpetua School Board prepared, transported and served the monthly meal for the guests at the local shelter. Thanks to those involved in making this month’s meal a success as evidenced by the appreciative and happy guests. Your time and involvement is greatly appreciated. Thanks to all for your continuing dedication to this rewarding and much needed ministry. If you have any questions regarding preparation or transporting of a monthly meal, please contact Monica Chappell at monicachappell@comcast.net.

**Continuing Outreach Support**

Thanks to your continuing support on the 5th Sunday second collections for Outreach. We began 2018 with $6055.00 including the December 31, 2017 (5th Sunday) collection. Included in that amount, $800.00 was collected for Cash for Turkeys with half ($400.00) being sent to Bay Area Rescue Mission and the other half ($400.00) to Contra Costa County Food Bank. We were then able to distribute a total of $4000.00 ($500.00 each) to the following agencies: Monument Crisis Center, Options for Women, Project Hope, Putnam Clubhouse, Meals on Wheels/Senior Outreach Services, RotaCare, Share and Shelter Inc.

The 2018 calendar will have only four 5th Sundays: April 29th, July 29th, September 30th and December 30th. We are grateful for your support throughout the year and especially for your help on the 5th Sunday collections. Your continuing help enables support of our various agencies within Contra Costa County with their offering of various services to those in need.
Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
January 21, 2018
The kingdom of God is at hand.

Friendly Manor Volunteer Opportunity
Are you available and interested in helping serve lunch at Friendly Manor in Oakland on Friday, January 26th? Looking for a couple more people for this date, with a time commitment from 10:30 – 1:30. We will meet at St. Perpetua’s upper parking lot and carpool. If you are interested, please contact Karen Rose Kalvass at 925.284.8130 for details or if you are interested in being put on a list of those who wish to serve in the future.

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
As Jonah glowered under the tree God graciously raised up for him—and then caused to wither, leaving him with no shelter from the blazing sun—we can imagine his soliloquy: I know this isn’t very politically correct of me, but is anyone else rolling their eyes at this girly-girl of a God we have? Those Ninevites terrorized the whole nation of Samaria—our own kin! —and now all they have to do is skip breakfast and roll around in sackcloth and ashes and all is forgiven? So what if they “believed God”? I believed God plenty, but I had to do my whole time in the belly of that beast. No special treatment for me.

I guess you have to be a murdering, marauding Assyrian to get God’s compassion. The rest of us have been faithful and righteous our whole lives—and we’re the Chosen People, no less! But these filthy, uncircumcised Ninevites get God’s whole focus and forgiveness.

I’m just going to say it: we need a God who doles out justice instead of all this cry-baby mercy. I wanted to crawl in a hole when I realized that, after just one day, those cowards started weeping and admitting that they were sinners. I had thirty-nine more sermons ready to go, and only got to give one.

Huh. I must be a great preacher. Just one fire-and-brimstone for me and the whole nation falls to its knees. Come to think of it, even the cattle are fasting! I have a great future as God’s right-hand man. The first thing I’ll demand is that God cease and desist with the forgiveness already. Make ‘em sweat. Speaking of which, what happened to that tree?

Can you think of a time when your resentment of God’s mercy created more misery for you?
Kathy McGovern ©2018 www.thestoryandyou.com

TOGETHER WE PRAY FOR THE SICK
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 McIn, 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, Irwin Mettler and Catherine Lomasney.
Please join us.....

St. Pepetua School
Open House

Sunday, January 28, 2018
Beginning with 9:30 Mass until noon
Jr. High information meeting 11:45am

For more information please visit our website at www.stperpetuaschool.org
or call our school office at 925 284 1640