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

JANUARY 28, 2018
Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
The people were astonished at Jesus’ teaching,
for he taught them as one having authority.
Mark 1:22

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
“The education of children and young people is such an important task in forming them as free and responsible human beings. It affirms their dignity as an inalienable gift that flows from our original creation as children made in the image and likeness of God. And because education truly forms human beings, it is especially the duty and responsibility of the Church, who is called to serve mankind from the heart of God and in such a way that no other institution can.”
- Cardinal Jorge Bergoglio (Pope Francis)

As we begin Catholic Schools Week, I am honored to write to you and share the many benefits of Catholic education. Numbers don’t lie: 99% of Catholic High School students graduate compared to 82% of Public High School students, 85% of Catholic High School students attend a four-year college as opposed to 44% of Public High School students.

Although these statistics are compelling, there is much more to a Catholic education than data. I am fortunate to have spent 32 years in Catholic Schools as a student and educator. When my parents enrolled me in 1st grade at our local parish school, I doubt they considered the long-term benefits I would receive. In addition to receiving an excellent education, my character and values have been shaped by my teachers and peers. My closest friends are all connected in some way to Catholic education, either as former classmates or colleagues, many of these friendships spanning 20-45 years. We have celebrated countless milestones and supported one another during challenging times.

This sense of commitment and community is reflected daily at St. Perpetua. If you visit our Café on Friday mornings, you will often see retired staff, alumni parents and students gathering and catching up. Last month at our Christmas Sharing, we repeatedly filled the library with parents and family members who came to take part in our Christmas traditions. Our students gathered in Faith Families this past week to reflect on the experiences at St. Perpetua School and those insightful and inspiring student responses are on display for our Open House.

Thank you to all our parishioners who support our school in countless ways!

Peace and Blessings,
Karen Goodshaw
Principal, St. Perpetua School

If you would like to learn more about St. Perpetua School, please visit our website at www.stperpetuaschool.org or call our office to schedule a tour 925-284-1640.
Teens – Still at the beginning of Mark’s Gospel, we see Jesus astonishing people with his teaching at the synagogue and with his command over an unclean spirit. People are amazed and wonder where he gets his authority? We are given a clear picture of Jesus’ identity, mission, and capability. The question is: How will we react today?

This week in Youth Ministry at St. Perpetua we will continue on the path of the faith working to develop the “Spirit of Christ in us” three ways:

- **Sunday, January 28, Service Opportunity** for teens at St. Anthony’s in San Francisco.
- **Sunday, January 28, Youth Group** gathers for an evening on Making Decisions as Disciples. We start at 7:00 pm in the RRC, concluding at 8:30 pm.
- **Thursday, February 1, Youth Group** gathers for an evening on St. Blasé, whom we honor with the blessing of throats. We start at 7:30 pm in the RRC, concluding at 8:45 pm.

The teaching we hear in the Gospel is in the synagogue, on the Sabbath: not the place you would expect to see a carpenter speaking! And yet Jesus astonishes all, specifically the way he taught “with authority.” The Church tells us that Jesus acted on his own authority, his followers (us!) act on his authority as well. We are not God, so we cannot commission ourselves, but we can accept the gift that Jesus offers to empower us. Pope Francis explains it by saying that our identity is found in Christ, in having the Spirit of Christ guide us. Drop Gary an email at guerrerostperpetua.org with any questions.

**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.

**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.

**St. Francis de Sales (1567-1622)**, whose feast day was on January 24, was a Bishop, author, spiritual guide and eloquent preacher. He was known for his deep faith and gentle approach, especially during the tumultuous Protestant Reformation when Catholics and Calvinists were at odds. He is often called the “gentleman saint” because of his kindness and accessibility to people of all status and states in life. Here are two prayers that he offered: the “Direction of Intention” meant to be prayed at the beginning of each day, and a Prayer for Inner Peace:

**DIRECTION OF INTENTION**

My God, I give you this day.
I offer you now all of the good that I shall do,
and I promise to accept, for love of you,
all of the difficulty that I shall meet.
Help me to conduct myself during this day
in a manner pleasing to you.

**PRAYER FOR PEACE OF MIND & HEART**

Be at Peace.

Don’t look forward in fear to the changes of life;
rather look to them with full hope as they arise.
God, whose very own you are,
will deliver you from out of them.
He has kept you hitherto,
and He will lead you safely through all things;
and when you cannot stand it,
God will bear you in his loving arms.
Do not fear what may happen tomorrow;
the same everlasting Father who cares for you today
will take care of you then and everyday.
He will either shield you from suffering,
or will give you unfailing strength to bear it.
Be at peace,
and put aside all anxious thoughts and imagination.

**January Food Basket**

Thanks to your continuing generosity for our monthly food basket requests, Jim Fulton transported and delivered 6 cases of Ramen and 30 bags of soups and other items to Monument Crisis Center. Jim said they were very busy both receiving and dispensing food, an experience he found very moving.

The next Food Basket Collection will be the weekend of February 10/11 – Pasta, Tomato Sauce, Spaghetti Sauce.

Please remember to drop off the food at the following locations: upper lot – the Parish Office, & lower lot – the school. Both locations are marked with signs on the appropriate weekend.

Please keep this week’s bulletin insert and post it on your refrigerator regarding future food basket collections.
Welcome into the Catholic Community
Congratulations! This weekend we welcome the following children into our parish community through the waters of Baptism:

Griffin William Collins,
son of Michael & Cameron Collins

Eleanor Anne and John George Deal,
children of Garret & Lacy Deal

May our community embrace Griffin, Eleanor & John 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!

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us?

Somehow I really resonate with that unclean spirit. You can almost hear the fear, the grasping, the terror the spirit has that the status quo might be upended by The One who, truly, wants our deepest good.

Why is it that when someone new comes into a rehearsal, say, the tension is palpable? Is this new voice going to change the dynamic and sound of the group? (And why, by the way, would we be afraid of that?)

Oh gosh, I can think of so many little corners that I want to keep to myself, and I’m very uncomfortable when the gospel sends Jesus straight into them, challenging me to stop hoarding my time, wondering why I don’t have any friends who are disabled, or elderly and sick, or living on the street.

Have you come to destroy me? My little, much-afraid voice can barely squeak out the question as I hide behind my books. Make God go away. That’s what I’m praying, but to whom? To the very God who wants to wreak havoc with my comfortable life.

But that’s enough about me. Let’s talk about YOU (please). Are you trying to protect a disordered relationship with alcohol, or food, or prescription drugs? Are you chasing after relationships with the very people from whom God’s grace is actively strengthening you to gain some distance?

Imagine how threatening it would be to have Jesus the Healer walk into a crack house, or a pornography shop, or a sex trafficking ring, and say to the demons that live there, “Quiet! Come out!”

Imagine, indeed.

What sinful habits are you afraid Jesus might come to destroy?
Kathy McGovern ©2018 www.thestoryandyou.com

THIS WEEK AT ST. PERPETUA
JANUARY 28 - FEBRUARY 4
For the past 7 years, we’ve hosted a pasta feed fundraiser for the Winter Nights program, a rotating family shelter by the interfaith Council of Contra Costa County. This program operates from October through May, providing shelter from the elements for some of the most vulnerable homeless families and seniors. Due to our construction of a new community center, we will not be able to host this wonderful event this year. However, the need is still great, and as such, we are taking up a second collection today to support the Winter Nights program. Any contributions are greatly appreciated.

Sunday
Rise & Shine Mass, 9:30 am Mass
Youth Group, 7 pm, RRC

Monday
Centering Prayer, 7:15 pm, Chapel

Wednesday
Choir, 6 pm, RRC
RCIA, 7 pm, Parish Office

Thursday
Youth Group, 7:30 pm, Chapel
Knights of Columbus, 7:30 pm, Panther House

Sunday
Children’s Liturgy of the Word during the 9:30 am Mass
Teen/Youth Mass, 11:30 am

Mass Intentions
January 27—February 4

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<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>5:00 pm</td>
<td>Joe Irwin ‡</td>
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<td>Sunday</td>
<td>8:00 am</td>
<td>Ellie &amp; Dan Spillane ‡</td>
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<td>Norman Z. Wong ‡</td>
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<td>Simon Shin—Spl. Int.</td>
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<td>Monday</td>
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<td>Robert Bond ‡</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
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<td>Simon Shin—Spl. Int.</td>
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<td>Saturday</td>
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<td>Sunday</td>
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<td>Luigi Silvano ‡</td>
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<td>Judi Walgenbach ‡</td>
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<td>11:30 am</td>
<td>Sr. Mary Ann Kasper ‡</td>
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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 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, Bryan Inderrieden, Chris Clogher, Irwin Mettler and Catherine Lomasney.
a dozen reasons
to choose Catholic Schools

1. We provide an education that combines Catholic faith and teachings with academic excellence.
2. We partner with parents in the faith formation of their children.
3. We set high standards for student achievement and help them succeed.
4. We provide a balanced academic curriculum that integrates faith, culture and life.
5. We use technology effectively to enhance education.
6. We instill in students the value of service to others.
7. We teach children respect of self and others.
8. We emphasize moral development and self-discipline.
9. We prepare students to be productive citizens and future leaders.
10. We have a 99 percent high school graduation rate. 85 percent of our graduates go to college.
11. We cultivate a faculty and staff of people who are dedicated, caring and effective.