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.

Jesus said,  
“LET US GO ON  
TO THE NEARBY  
VILLAGES THAT I MAY  
PREACH THERE ALSO.  
FOR THIS PURPOSE  
HAVE I COME.”  
Mark 1:38

February 4, 2018

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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 Parishioners,

Each year our parish provides faith formation for children in 1st grade through High School to over 350 students. As a staff, it is our goal to provide the fundamentals of our faith in an engaging and supportive community. We are happy to share an update with all of the exciting events happening in our programs.

Elementary Faith Formation…
Faith Formation students meet with volunteer catechists to learn and to share our Catholic faith. In addition, students gather with their parents to attend our monthly Family Faith Formation evenings as we celebrate the liturgical seasons of our church. Children and parents alike are still talking about their “Saint Selfies.”

Our sacrament programs blend both Faith Formation and St. Perpetua School students. This year we have 61 children preparing to receive the Sacrament of First Reconciliation in late February and 93 children preparing to receive the Sacrament of First Eucharist in April and May. Our First Eucharist children will celebrate Preparing our Hearts for Jesus this week and then our Gifts of the Mass Retreat with their parents in March. Finally our last step before the sacrament will be for the children to request a Prayer Buddy from the parish community at our Masses the weekend of March 17 & 18.

Junior High Youth Ministry - TEAM…
Our junior high TEAM group is doing very well. We consistently have over 40 sixth, seventh, and eighth graders attend each gathering. Our young people are engaged in the activities and quick to answer all questions given to them! We are looking forward to learning about Lent, Stations of the Cross, and completing our service project for the Lenten season. We will be assembling ‘Blessing Bags’ once again and delivering them to Loaves and Fishes in Martinez!

High School Confirmation & Youth Ministry…
High School is an intense time in life! School is big and crowded. Friends are important. Relationships are complicated. Homework is crazy. Peer pressure is huge. Faith questions are examined. Welcome to a place where you can feel at home - St. Perpetua’s Youth Ministry!

St. Perpetua’s High School Youth Ministry exists to give teens a place to hang out, laugh, and play while asking the deep questions about their Catholic faith.

This year we have 22 freshman students registered for youth group and 61 preparing for Confirmation on Saturday, May 19. The teens meet regularly every week and go over important areas of faith such as these topics: Life’s Choices; What makes us hesitate in faith; Jesus; Prayer process; The Bible; Relationships; The Eucharist; The Holy Spirit; The Church, and how Holiness is Possible for each and every one of us.

Next up for our Confirmation Candidates is a blessing to go forward and then the annual Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit Retreat. Youth Group teens continue to build and answer the question, “How can I use my gifts to be the best version of myself for the world”.

We appreciate your on-going support to the children and teens of St. Perpetua!

Kristine, Jan and Gary
Youth Ministry

This truly is a Super Sunday!

**Confirmation** candidates mark a major milestone in the Confirmation journey. Candidates make a public commitment before each other, the community, their friends and family, of their intent to complete the Confirmation Program at the 11:30 am Teen/Family Youth Mass. At the liturgy Candidates and their sponsors receive a special blessing and a cross to mark the occasion.

This point in their preparation marks the period of moving to greater reflection, spiritual formation, purification and enlightenment for the candidates. Candidates receive a packet to complete with their sponsor on each of their faith journeys to date.

One way of supporting the Candidates on their journey from now through their Confirmation in May, is through prayer. To take an active part in their preparation through prayer, in the vestibule of the Church you’ll find a card with a list of this year’s Confirmation Candidates. If you would like to include a Candidate in your prayers, take one of the cards, and pray for them. During the next few months they will be engaged in a discernment process of how to integrate their faith life and values into their individual and unique response to the challenges and opportunities the world will present them. Thank you.

**Youth Group** gathers Monday, February 5 for a look at St. Blasé, whose feast day is February 3 with the blessing of throats. We will learn about the Saint, the role prayer has in healing, and how we celebrate the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. Teens join us Monday at 7:30 pm.

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**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.

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**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.

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**Living Lent Like You Mean It**

Do something special for yourself, your family/friends and your world – Find a little more meaning in your faith this Lent…

**Online Opportunities:**

- [https://dynamiccatholic.com/bestlentever](https://dynamiccatholic.com/bestlentever)
  Be inspired to live your faith on a deeper level. This daily email program will guide you on a 40-day journey to become the best-version-of-yourself.
- [https://cac.org/](https://cac.org/)
  Sign up for Fr. Richard Rohr’s daily meditations at the “Center for Action and Contemplation” website. Fr. Richard’s meditations will help you rediscover Christianity’s essential, contemplative teachings and rebuild your spirituality “From the Bottom Up.”
- [http://stperpetua.org/resources-1](http://stperpetua.org/resources-1)
  Go to the above link to access “Keeping the Seasons.” Each weekly handout is full of ideas, inspiration, tradition and Scripture. You’ll find a prayer, a beautiful illustration and a reflection on the Sunday Scripture readings.

**Small Group Gatherings:**

Meet weekly at a fellow parishioner’s home for the six weeks of Lent with a small group of St. Perpetua members to reflect on the Lenten scriptures and explore with others how to put your faith into practice. Sign-up in vestibule this weekend (Sundays at 7:00 p.m., Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. or a morning group, day & time not final)

**Adult Education Opportunities:**

- **500 Years of Reformation and 2000 Years of Reform: Protestants and Catholics Striving for God:** Thursday, March 8, 7:00 p.m. RRC
  Listen to a presentation by fellow parishioner, Dr. Zach Flanagan, Theology and Religious Studies Instructor at St. Mary’s College. On this 500th Anniversary of Martin Luther and the Protestant Reformation, we will explore how far we have come in mutual understanding, shared beliefs and ecumenical engagement.

**Lenten Day for SAGE**

Want to get more out of your Lenten observance this year?

Come join us as we return once again to **San Damiano for a Lenten Day of Recollection** on Thursday, March 8, 9:30 am to 3 pm. Fr. Charles Talley, OFM, who often celebrates the Mass with us at St. Perpetua will conduct the retreat. Cost for the day is $40 and includes lunch. Reservations and payment must be in by **Monday, February 19**. If you have any questions, please contact Ann Porcella at 925-938-4775. **ALL ARE WELCOME.**
Welcome into the Catholic Community

Congratulations!

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

Alexandra Calleigh Sugiarto
daughter of Andy Sugiarto and Jessica M. Widjaja

May our community embrace Alexandra 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!

The Story and You

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

I wish you could see the banquet of brilliance I chow through every week as I ponder the Sunday readings. I go first to Words of Grace and read the fascinating insights there, squeezed into 130 scrupulously edited words. I love the diverse variety of spiritual writers in Give us this Day. This week, of course, they called on Kathleen Norris to address the ennui of Job. She’s Christianity’s expert on soul sadness.

I never miss the scripture reflections from St. Louis University. John Pilch addresses the different kinds of fevers Peter’s mother-in-law may have had. Reginald Fuller shows the ingenious connections between the readings, and how beautifully today’s psalm—he heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds—speaks to despondent Job as well as that jubilant woman who, upon being healed, immediately rises and serves.

The great scholar Dennis Hamm, SJ, notes that Jesus is all about relationships. If there is sorrow or illness or demon possession in the life of anyone he loves—that would be YOU, by the way—he intends to be there, to lay hands and say, “Get up.”

I try to be completely open-minded about all of these insightful scholars, but once I click on John Kavanaugh, SJ I’m gone. He points his arrow of insight straight at my heart, and pierces me every time. This week’s clincher: The call of the wounded is not merely some problem to solve or avoid; it is an invitation to love’s redemptive power. I immediately flash on a dozen experiences in my life just this week that bear that out, and as I experience the delicious awareness of the Healer abiding with me I feel like 7-Up all over.

In what ways have you been aware of Christ “abiding” with you this week?

Kathy McGovern ©2018 www.thestoryandyou.com
Diocese of Oakland
Bishop’s Annual
Appeal Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, You came to us as
The Light of the world, promising that those who
believe in You will never walk in darkness. We come
to You with confidence and the sincere desire of
embracing the efforts of the New Evangelization as
true missionary disciples and good stewards of Your
manifold graces, offering our faithful hearts to You.

You also asked us to become beacons of Your light,
witnesses of Your mercy and love, lighting the way
for many to know You better and to make You better
known.

As we discern about our commitment to offer You
our time, talents and treasure, grant us compassionate
hearts for those brothers and sisters in need of that
light that will bring hope to their lives, grateful hearts
to provide care for our retired priests, hopeful hearts
to support those You have called to serve You in the
priesthood, and zealous hearts to support the works
of evangelization in our parishes and schools.

Under the protection of our Blessed Mother, Queen
of the World and star of the New Evangelization, we
entrust all our humble efforts to You, our Lord and
Savior, who lives forever and ever. Amen.