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.

FEBRUARY 18, 2018

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert,
and he remained in the desert for forty days, tempted by Satan.
He was among wild beasts, and the angels ministered to him.
Mark 1:12-13

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,

When the topics of church and religion are raised, some will say: “I’m spiritual, but not religious.” That phrase gives the impression that spirituality is the new and improved substitute for religion. However, the assumption that spirituality and religion are separate entities is flawed. Spirituality without practice and disconnected from religion denies community, tradition, and lacks accountability. Such spirituality quickly becomes private and rootless, directly in opposition to the Christian understanding of ‘life in the Spirit’ as the Body of Christ.

Spiritual practices are concrete, specific, intentional actions that give practical purpose to faith. Eucharist remains the ‘source and summit’ of our Catholic faith, and participation in the sacraments is arguably the most well known spiritual practice of Catholicism. Christian spirituality is expressed most authentically in the living out of our Christian baptismal promises. Renewed commitment is made possible by God’s grace, sustained by Christian community, and supported by engaging in meaningful spiritual practices, such as the Sacraments, prayer and works of charity. Religion gives expression to the extraordinary sense of divine presence, and anchors spiritual experiences. Rituals contain something greater than themselves, providing routine, repetition, familiarity, security, and even providing language with which to speak – words that require a lifetime to ponder and practice - - like grace, redemption, salvation, reconciliation, resurrection.

We were created as spiritual beings to begin with, while being religious takes conscious effort. Therefore, we are not physical beings on a spiritual journey, but we are spiritual beings on a physical journey! Our deepest identity is the life of the Spirit within us; that’s the life that lives on forever. By living out faithfully our religious tradition we allow that life of the Spirit to take shape in us and in our world. Here, the best of both worlds is what counts: being spiritual AND religious. They should be mutually inclusive.

With the Season of Lent beginning this week, we each have the opportunity to make the words and deeds of our religion very real. PRAYER, FASTING and ALMSGIVING – the three ‘pillars’ of Lent – are concrete, specific and intentional actions that support our faith life. May the Holy Spirit guide us as we enter into Lent, the Triduum and Eastertime. These are graced seasons that have the power to foster renewal in our parish, in our families and in our own hearts. Let them put the practical back into religious practices and the Spirit back into our spiritual lives. With blessings and prayers for a holy paschal season, here’s to a good fast of Lent and a glad feast of Easter.

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If you have not yet made your pledge to the Annual Bishop’s Appeal you can do so through the Parish Office or directly to the Diocese by going to https://www.oakdiocese.org/giving/bishops-appeal

Fr. Bill Auth, Oblate of St. Francis de Sales who ministers to the Mayan people in the Yucatan Peninsula, will be with us next weekend to preside at our liturgies and seek our support.

Fr. John Kasper, OSFS
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.

Operation Rice Bowl: First Week of Lent Encounter Majd
In Iraq, we encounter Majd and his family, people forced to flee violence, searching for stability. How are we called to welcome the stranger in our midst? How can you support those, worldwide, who are forced to flee their homes to find safety or better opportunities? Visit csricebowl.org for more.

Shoes That Fit
The Outreach Committee is beyond grateful for your generous support of our Shoes That Fit Program. This weekend, we will have another list of students in need of new, sturdy, athletic shoes (no solid red please) posted on our bulletin board in the vestibule at all the Masses. This could be a Lenten opportunity to give to the kids at Willow Cove Elementary School in Pittsburg. We know that it can be a sacrifice of time and money on your part, but we can only imagine the smile on a child's face as they open the box and find new shoes!

February Shelter Meal
Monica Chappell and crew prepared this month’s meal of tacos, black beans, rice with chips and salsa…ole’. Trina and James Audley and Barbara Price transported and served the meal to the guests who thoroughly enjoyed the filling and delicious meal. Thank you to all those involved in the various aspects of this meal and for your continued dedication to this enriching and much needed ministry. There is a need for more volunteers in the area of food preparation and transport and serving of meals to the shelter. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please contact Monica Chappell at monicachappell@comcast.net.

Outreach Agency Distributions
Because of your continued monetary support through the 5th Sunday collection and individual monthly support, we were able to send $3,500.00 ($500.00 each) to the following agencies: Bay Area Crisis Nursery, Bay Area Rescue Mission, CCIC – Contra Costa Interfaith Coalition, STAND! for Families Free of Violence, Trinity Center, We Care and Youth Homes. We mention again that 2018 has only four 5th Sunday Collections: April 29, July 29, September 30 and December 30. Your support of these collections is greatly appreciated!

February Food Basket
Pasta, Tomato Sauce and Spaghetti Sauce were the requested items for our February collection. You responded, generously as usual, and enabled Al LaFaille to deliver 31 bags and 3 cases of canned goods to St. Vincent de Paul Pantry at St Francis of Assisi Church in Concord. Thank you for your support! The requested items for March 10/11 are Canned Fruit/Vegetables and Hominy.

Friendly Manor Lunch
On the last Friday in January, a number of members of the Outreach Committee prepared and served lunch to a group of between 40 and 50 women at A Friendly Manor in Oakland. The ladies prepared lasagna, transported and served the meal to the women who absolutely loved the delicious and filling offerings. We are told there was a line for one “special” homemade lasagna that was served! The plan is to continue this service on the last Friday of each month. If you are interested in volunteering for about 3 hours, including the necessary carpooling to A Friendly Manor, please contact Karen Rose Kalvass at 925.285.4669 cell. A Friendly Manor/Friendly Place is a drop-in center for homeless women open Monday through Friday. It is a place where women can come to shower, do laundry, use the phone, enjoy a cup of coffee and even rest in a safe environment. Breakfast and lunch are served each day.

The agency website: stmaryscenter.org/friendly-manor

Teens - Are you ready? Lent began on Ash Wednesday. These next forty days can seem like a long haul. Trudging through ash, and mud, and all the way up the hill to the cross on Calvary. The road may get a little daunting, but the happy truth is that we are never walking it alone. God is with us every step, and he sends us companions for the journey to help carry the crosses, the burdens, the heavy weights life sometimes puts in our path. So, are you ready? Who is your traveling buddy? Who is there to help on the days you need them?

As we begin the journey to Good Friday (and on to Easter), spend some intentional time in prayer asking God to reveal who and what he has placed in your life to help you along the way -- people, resources, the Word, the Church, the Sacraments. No matter the length of your list, be assured that Christ is beside you every moment.

For Teens at St. Perpetua this week – Youth Group gathers on Tuesday, February 20, in the chapel from 7:30 to 8:45 for our first evening on Lent.

During Lent we prepare ourselves to celebrate the high point of our Christian life, Easter. Each year, the readings during Lent call us to a change of heart and teach us about the traditional Lenten practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. These disciplines are to be part of the Christian life during every season, but during the season of Lent, we renew our commitment to them.

Have a good week. Questions? Send Gary an email at gguerrero@stperpetua.org
**Rite of Election**

Yesterday afternoon, Saturday, February 17, two catechumens celebrated the *Rite of Election* with Bishop Barber, beginning the final stages of preparation for Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil. 3 candidates celebrated the *Rite of Enrollment* with Bishop Barber, beginning the final stages of preparation for full communion with the Church. Please keep the following candidates and catechumens in your prayers and extend a special welcome to them when you meet. Suzanne Argenal, Shelly Davalos, Kevin Hamilton, Riley Fike and Jamie Smith. Their pictures along with the sponsors' testimonies are posted in the vestibule along with a basket of prayer cards.

**First Sunday of Lent**

So, we had a baptism during Mass last Sunday. Baby boy twins Thomas and Owen shared the historic baptismal gown that has been used in their dad’s family since it was hand-sewn in 1882. Think about that. The Civil War was less than twenty years in the past. The owning of human beings had only been legally eradicated since 1865.

The tragic “re-settlement” of the native peoples in the west would not be complete until 1892. Two world wars would bracket a Great Depression. Periods of great prosperity followed the second war and have continued, for many, into our own time.

Cultural convulsions erupted and changed the world, creating entirely different boundaries, economic systems, new enemies, and leading to many wars around the world, which also continue in our time.

The world of 1882 is nearly unrecognizable to us today. Well, that’s not quite true. We'd recognize a baptismal gown anywhere. Thomas and Owen are the 108th and 109th babies in their family to be baptized in that gown, made so lovingly 134 years ago.

Go back and find those old scrapbooks in the attic. I’ll bet you’ll find glimmers of the long-ago faith of your forebears, passed on to you, one baptism at a time. And today we hear readings for the First Sunday of Lent which have been treasured and proclaimed by the Church since the fourth century.

Think about THAT. Think about all the changes in ritual just in our lifetimes. Reflect on the millions of believers who have come to Mass on this day and heard Jesus debate the Great Liar. In every age, the message has not changed. Repent and believe in the Gospel.

*Wouldn’t this Lent be a great time to finally frame your baptismal certificate?*

Kathy McGovern ©2018 [www.thestoryandyou.com](http://www.thestoryandyou.com)

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**TOGETHER WE PRAY FOR THE SICK**

Chris Fliflet, Elizabeth Cox, Jennifer Rosko, Giselle Contreras, Juanita Estrellas, Dennis Callahan, George Buonocore, Charlotte Cairney, Judy Russell, Karen Zapotowski, Orlando Portillo, Alex McLin, Fabricio Mendoza, Anne Lagache, Karl Smida, Bruce Wood, Pat McGinnis, Mary Beth Metz, Steve Luna, Chris Bruzzone, Thomas Bond, Betty Magnoli, Carol Farrell Raffa, Terry Osburn, Dylan Cazin, Bryan Inderrieden, Chris Clogher, Irwin Mettler and Catherine Lomasney.
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

❖ Learn • ADULT EDUCATION EVENT ❖

500 YEARS OF REFORMATION AND 2000 YEARS OF REFORM - Protestants and Catholics Striving for God
A presentation by parishioner, Dr. Zach Flanagan, Theology & Religious Studies Instructor at St. Mary’s College
Thursday, March 8, 7:00 p.m. in the RRC or Monday, March 12, 9:15 a.m. in the Chapel
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.

❖ Grow • ON LINE OPPORTUNITIES ❖

DYNAMIC CATHOLIC at https://dynamiccatholic.com/bestlentever
This daily email program will guide you on a 40-day journey to become the best version of yourself.

CENTER FOR ACTION AND CONTEMPLATION at https://cac.org/
Fr. Richard’s meditations will help you rediscover Christianity’s essential, contemplative teachings and rebuild your spirituality “From the Bottom Up.”

ST. PERPETUA RESOURCES at http://stperpetua.org/resources-1
“Keeping the Seasons” is a weekly handout full of ideas, inspiration, tradition and Scripture. You’ll find a prayer, a beautiful illustration and a reflection on the Sunday Scripture readings.

LOYOLA PRESS at https://goo.gl/vggGc9
Spend a few minutes each day of Lent with the “Living Lent Daily” series.

❖ Pray • WITH OUR COMMUNITY ❖

DAILY EUCHARIST...Monday - Thursday 8:30 a.m. in the Chapel
Join with fellow parishioners each morning for a beautiful experience of the Mass in a smaller, intimate setting. Reflect on the scripture of the day and bring your personal prayer intentions to the Lord.

COMMUNAL Penance Service...Thursday, March 15 at 7:00 p.m.
Gather with your brothers and sisters of the parish for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. We will examine our hearts, listen to the Word of God and pledge ourselves to grow deeper in faith, hope, and love. Several priests will be available for individual confessions.

SMALL GROUP GATHERINGS
Meet weekly with fellow parishioners in private homes for the six weeks of Lent to reflect on the Lenten scriptures and explore with others how to put your faith into practice.
Groups available: Sundays at 7:00 p.m., Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m., or Thursdays at 10:00 a.m.

For more information contact Christoph Nauer at the Parish Office.