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

Palm Sunday
OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

Christ became obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.
Because of this, God greatly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name.
Philippians 2:8-9

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,

I read an article entitled "Visions of Jesus: How Jews, Muslims and Buddhists View Him." I was surprised to discover that the story of Jesus is found in the holy writings of non-Christian religions, like the Muslim faith which looks upon Jesus as a "model and permanent message for humanity." Many Jewish scholars see Jesus as a faithful Jew who tried to reform his own inherited tradition. And the Dalai Lama recognizes Jesus as "a fully enlightened being, or a bodhisattva of a very high spiritual realization." Hindus are drawn to the figure of Jesus by his compassion and nonviolence -- virtues taught in their own sacred scriptures. One of the prominent Zen Buddhist monks sees Jesus and Buddha as "brothers" who taught that the highest form of human understanding is "universal love." It was insightful and encouraging to read such positive perspectives on Jesus from other world religions. We are not far apart.

The one thing that separates Christian faith in Jesus from the admiration and high regard in which other religions hold him is the CROSS. As the magazine article stated: In Islam the story of Jesus’ death is rejected as an affront to Allah himself. Hindus can accept only a Jesus who passes into peaceful samadhi.... A Buddhist master says that the crucifixion "does not contain joy or peace, and this does not do justice to Jesus." There is no room in other religions for a Christ who experiences the full burden of mortal existence. As we approach the end of Lent and the beginning of Holy Week we ought to open our minds and hearts to the story of Jesus’ passion and death with greater attentiveness and devotion. The cross -- the reality of struggle and suffering, both personal and communal -- is very real. Jesus shared in the fullness of our humanity. None of our pain and difficulty is foreign to him. May we recognize in the Cross of Our Savior the unique sign in which we glory, the mark of contradiction in which we place our trust, the example of selfless love to which we aspire. Our faith in the cross of Christ is what sets us apart from other religions, but it is also the unique contribution that we, as Christians, can bring to the transformation of our world. We believe that the cross and the injustice it represents does not have the final word. On Easter we celebrate the love that led Jesus to the cross and the victory of God’s power that overcame it.

Father John Kasper, OSFS
Teens -

Close your eyes and picture someone you have mistreated either by teasing, being unkind, rude, and so on. Now, think of something you can do to remedy the situation, to lessen the hurt you caused the other person: apologize, do an act of kindness for him or her, invite him or her to spend time with you and your friends. This Sunday we hear the story of the Passion of Jesus. We remember his suffering and death. It is a time for us to reflect on suffering, suffering and see and do nothing about, suffering we may cause, and suffering we may change through our personal response.

Youth Ministry at St. Perpetua offers teens the opportunities to learn and demonstrate how to be agents of changes based on the Gospel message to love one another in real and concrete ways. We gather once this week to explore and live the message of loving one another:

Thursday, March 29, Holy Thursday Liturgy at 7:30 pm in the Church Teens share in this special evening with the Parish Community and learn how Jesus instituted the Eucharist.

This week think of a time you witnessed mistreatment of another person but did not step in to diffuse the situation or help the person. What could you have done differently? As Eater approaches, promise to be an agent of change in your family, in your circle of friends, in your community. Reach out to someone who is being mistreated and stand up for him or her. Questions? Drop Gary an email: gguerrero@stperpetua.org
Have a good week.

Operation Rice Bowl: Palm Sunday
Encounter Our Neighbors

We encounter Jesus this week in Jerusalem, a community he knew well. We prayerfully enter our own communities too, encountering those who are hungry and thirsty, those who need our help. How does our Lenten journey motivate us to serve those we meet in our daily lives? Visit https://www.crsricebowl.org for more.

Randomness and Order
(reflections by a parishioner)

Mary held a vessel of oil. So did I. We smiled at each other, hardly a formal introduction. Sometimes you know of each other, even when you don't know each other. The procession was about to start...The beauty of Church is in the people that are Church.

There is such randomness in meeting people who sit in the pews next to us, who sing with us, who join us in line for the Eucharist week after week. Randomness brings us together in the beautiful order of the Church, the liturgy and the ceremony.

In the vastness of the universe, random particles are ever in motion, some settling into order, and landing right in front of us.

Some of us are drawn to Church simply for our own personal time with God. We are content to sit quietly in relative anonymity in any sanctuary. Some of us come for the familiar community we come to know week in and week out. We become active with each other, working together with purpose or simply helping each other. Some of us are drawn to just the shepherds, beloved clergy, for guidance, comfort and absolution.

We come at random with our longings and needs. We find peace in the order that directs us to pray, to contemplate, to learn, to reflect and to confess.

Mary and I would eventually meet, bridging the shyness of the random encounter and eventually embrace, in appreciation of the community that is the order of Church.

Refugee Ministry Update – Gratitude

As we approach the one-year anniversary of Setareh, Ashkan, and Rojin’s arrival in the United States, we’d like to recognize the community members who’ve been part of the St Perpetua Refugee Ministry Team.

Suzanne Bregman
Marie Burger Ward
Jim Fulton
Mary Ho
Mary Kuhn
Wendy Levich
Kathy Measure

Christoph Nauer
Mary Olowin
Adrienne Pierucci
Karl Pister
Jan Sailard
Steve and Frances Wallace
Karen Vogt-Wilcox

Thanks also goes to many parishioners who offered hospitality, financial help, and household goods.

The Refugee Ministry would also like to thank Pastor Roger Reaber and the congregation of Grace Presbyterian Church in Walnut Creek, who held a musical fundraiser to benefit the family.

So what are you waiting for? It’s easy to get involved in the next leg of this journey. The next Refugee Ministry meeting is Thursday, April 12 at 7 pm in the Parish Office. We’ll be deciding how to celebrate the one-year anniversary of the family’s arrival and planning what is next for the ministry. Curious to learn more or get involved? Come to the meeting or contact Christoph at the Parish Office or Mary Kuhn at 925-324-8385 or larrymary.kuhn@comcast.net
This Week at St. Perpetua
March 25—April 1

Holy Land Collection Good Friday, March 30

Sunday
Children’s Liturgy of the Word, 9:30 am Mass
Faith Formation, 10:30 am, RRC/School
Faith Formation, 6:00 pm, RRC/School

Monday
Centering Prayer, 7:15 pm, Chapel

Wednesday
Choir, 7:00 pm, RRC
RCIA, 7:00 pm, Parish Office

Holy Thursday
Evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper, Church, 7:30 pm
(No morning Mass on Holy Thursday)

Good Friday
Stations of the Cross, 1:15 pm Church
The Lord’s Passion, 2:00 pm, Church

Saturday, Easter Vigil
Saturday 8:00 pm (No 5 pm Mass)

Easter Sunday
8:00 am Mass at St. Perpetua Church
9:30 & 11:30 am Mass at Stanley Middle School

Easter Treats after the 9:30 am Mass

The Parish Office will be closed on Easter Monday

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 Bruzzzone, Thomas Bond, Carol Farrell Raffa, Terry Osburn, Dylan Cazin, Bryan Inderrieden, Chris Cloagher, Irwin Mettler, Catherine Lomasney, Hamilton Coke, Maureen Graf and Sharon Flower.

Palm Sunday of the Lord’s Passion

What did Jesus know, and when did he know it? That question can haunt us as we hear the Passion read, and as we meditate throughout this Holy Week. Did he always know that he would die?

He must have known by the time of the transfiguration at Tabor. When Moses and Elijah appeared in the cloud, they spoke with him. He must have known then that his life was coming to an end.

I’m sure he must have known by the night of the Last Supper. Judas must have been behaving oddly. Even some people in Jerusalem could have been whispering, loud enough for him to hear, that someone had betrayed him. When Jesus told the Twelve that the hour of his death was upon him, their behavior must have confirmed what his heart already knew.

The arrest followed, and the night spent in Caiaphas’ dungeon. There was the sentence of death, the terrible scourging, and, finally, the cross. Mark records that his last words were, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” This is the very worst part. Nothing is as terrible as our Jesus crying out in despair, asking why God has abandoned him.

And then it is complete. The ultimate passion—to have his Father’s face turned from him—is finally finished. If he had had the comfort and intimacy of the Father with him on the cross, it would not have been the cross.

There may be a time this year that in your greatest hour of darkness you cannot find Jesus. Remember, then, that Jesus knows what that loneliness is. You have been given a share in his cross. So, likewise, in his resurrection.

What parts of the Passion resonate with an experience in your own life?

Kathy McGovern © 2018 www.thestoryandyou.com

The Pontifical Good Friday Collection

Pope Francis has asked our Parish to support the Pontifical Good Friday Collection, which helps Christians in the Holy Land.

Your support helps the church minister in parishes, provide Catholic schools and offer religious education. The Pontifical Good Friday Collection also helps to preserve the sacred shrines.

The wars, unrest and instability have been especially hard on Christians. In these times of crisis, the Pontifical Good Friday Collection provides humanitarian aid to refugees.

When you contribute to the Pontifical Good Friday Collection, you become an instrument of peace and join with Catholics around the world in solidarity with the Church in the Holy Land.

Please be generous!
For more information about Christians in the Holy Land visit:
www.myfranciscan.org/good-Friday.

Mass Intentions
March 24—April 1

Saturday  5:00 pm  Barbara Martini
Sunday  8:00 am  For the Community
         9:30 am  Michael Hazlewood
         11:30 am  Herman Wyrsch
Monday  8:30 am  Joe Parlette & Dick Oberweiser
Tuesday  8:30 am  Penny Pendola
From sundown on Holy Thursday until sundown on Easter Sunday is the culmination of the forty days of the great fast of Lent, and the doorway to the great celebration of the Easter Season. It is the focal point of the entire liturgical year. In these three days we experience all that it means to be a Christian community.

**Holy Thursday, March 29:** The Lord's Supper, 7:30 p.m. (No Morning Mass)

**Good Friday, March 30:** Stations of the Cross, 1:15 p.m. & The Lord's Passion, 2:00 p.m.

**Easter Vigil, March 31:** 8:00 p.m. (No 5:00 p.m. Mass)

**Easter Sunday, April 1:** 8:00 a.m. Mass at St. Perpetua Church

9:30, & 11:30 a.m. Mass at Stanley Middle School

*(Easter treats after the 9:30 a.m. Mass)*