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

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

Do not be amazed!
You seek Jesus of Nazareth, the crucified.
He has been raised;
he is not here.

~ Mark 16:6
Dear Friends,

Happy Easter! And that’s what the Resurrection of Our Lord offers us – true happiness, abundant happiness. In her poem *So Much Happiness*, Naomi Shihab Nye, poet and author, born to a Palestinian father and American mother, writes:

> It is difficult to know what to do with so much happiness.  
> With sadness there is something to rub against,  
> A wound to tend with lotion and cloth.  
> When the world falls in around you, you have pieces to pick up,  
> Something to hold in your hands, like ticket stubs or change.  
> But happiness floats…. It lands on the roof of the next house, singing.

Luke’s gospel account of Jesus’ resurrection tells about the women who came to the empty tomb, spices in hand for the rituals for the dead. Peter ran to the tomb after them. Burial cloths rolled up and shoved on the side were all he encountered. These followers of Jesus wanted something more to “rub up against” in their sadness – the wounds of Jesus “to tend with lotion and cloth.” All they were given was a message from two men in shining garments: *Why are you looking in the place of the dead for someone who is alive?* As children of the Resurrection and followers of the One who lives now in glory, happiness can be our daily fare. Jesus lives and through our Baptism, which we recall and renew at Easter, we too live a new life in Him.

The sad truth is that it’s often easier to remember and speak about our aches and pains, our sorrows and sadness: the recent fight we had at home, the argument we got into with a co-worker, the hurt we felt when someone slighted us, the frustrations we feel in this lopsided world which never seems to conform to our expectations and requirements. Those are the things that lead to self-pity, to attitudes of anxiety, separation and sadness. When we look in the place of the dead how can we expect to find life and happiness there? The Holy Spirit invites us to leave our tombs and look up. “Happiness floats” all around us. Today it is present in the joy of being part of a community of faith. We hear it in the Word of God which announces hope and good news. We touch it in the Eucharist, the very life of Christ that we hold in our hands. We feel it in the embrace of those we love.

And once you have tasted “so much happiness,” contrary to the poet’s verse, it isn’t difficult to know what to do with it – you share it as widely and boldly and generously as you can. May this Easter Feast and the Great Fifty Days of the Easter Season find you echoing the words of the two men in shining garments: *Jesus has been raised from death,* and may you share abundantly in the happiness Our Risen Lord offers to all who live their lives in Him.

*Father John Kasper, OSFS*
Welcome into the Catholic Community
Congratulations to our neophytes (newly baptized), newly received and to those who completed their initiation into the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil last night. Adults who were baptized: Suzanne Argenal and Shelly Davalos. Adults who were received into full communion with the Catholic Church: Riley Fike and Kevin Hamilton. Baptized adult who completed her initiation into the Catholic Church: Jamie Smith.

Turn back, oh man!  
(reflection by a parishioner)
Why do so many part ways with the Church? What was that moment that allowed the sanctuary door to close behind us for the last time? What brought us to that turning point, a slow disillusionment, a callous affront, a hurt, a life attribute or event in conflict with Church doctrine?

We all know those who have left, parted ways citing politics, hypocrisy, outdated or misdirected dogma. We sit in our pews wishing that our spouse, our friend, our son or daughter would be sharing this time with us…not because we disagree with the points of alienation, not that we don’t understand why they don’t come, but because we want them to share this time, God’s time, with us. We quietly want them to feel that something that draws us in every week.

That “something” is what brought some of us back. We turned back to something familiar, like a favorite Christmas carol or a hug from a loving parent. We turned back looking for comfort in an uncomfortable world. We turned back because some part of us never stopped believing that we need this time with God.

Our challenge is to reserve judgment, keep love and mercy at the heart of everything we do, everything we feel — even when we are in the midst of their absence or contemplating our own. We meet this challenge through prayer, lots of prayer, and conscious filtering of our thinking.

And as St. Francis Assisi said, “preach the gospel everyday, using words only when necessary”. Because maybe by simply living the gospel, wordless, we can help those we love turn back, too.

Table Blessing for Easter Dinner
We praise you, Lord,  
with greater joy than ever in this Easter Season.  
The thirsty have come to the water.  
The poor have come to receive bread and eat.  
Blessed are you in earth’s bounty:  
the joy of the resurrection renews the whole world.  
We joyfully sing your praises, Lord Jesus Christ,  
whom on the day of your resurrection  
were recognized by your disciples  
in the breaking of the bread.  
Remain here with us as we gratefully partake of these gifts.  
At the banquet table in heaven welcome us,  
who have welcomed you in our brothers and sisters,  
for you live and reign for ever and ever.  
Amen!

Shelter Meals Hiatus
Our monthly Shelter Meal that has been taking place on the first Thursday of each month for years, will be suspended because of lack of a certified commercial kitchen in which to prepare the meals. Once our new hall and kitchen facilities are complete and certified, the meals will resume.

Friendly Manor Lunch
On the last Friday of the month, a number of members of the St. Perpetua community have been preparing lunch for the women at A Friendly Manor. 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
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.

Outreach Agency Distributions
This month, because of continuing support of the Outreach committee during the month, we were able to send $1500.00 ($500.00 each) to the following agencies within Contra Costa County: Child Abuse Prevention Council, Contra Costa Food Bank/Extra Helping and the Saint Vincent de Paul Food Pantry at St. Francis of Assisi Church. Your ongoing support is greatly appreciated and helps so many people in need.

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!

March Food Basket
Thanks to your continued generosity to the ongoing monthly food collection, Jim Fulton was delighted to deliver 29 bags/boxes and 9 cases of canned fruit/vegetables and hominy to Monument Crisis Center in Concord. The food pantries are constantly being rapidly depleted and replenished, so your purchase of that two for one item or that trip to Costco are so appreciated.

April 14/15 Canned Fish / Meat – Tuna, Chicken, Turkey, Spam, Corned Beef

Blue Barrel Collection
Our first Blue Barrel Collection of 2018 was, thanks to you, successful! We asked for men’s and women’s underwear, warm socks and baby cleansing wipes, and you responded. There were even some children’s items (games, coloring items, jackets). The items were taken to three agencies: Project Hope, Hillcrest Community Clothing Room, and A Friendly Manor/A Friendly Place. Your generous donations will be distributed to the homeless individuals that these agencies serve. Thank you!
**Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord**  
April 1, 2018  
I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the LORD.  
— Psalm 118:17

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**THIS WEEK AT ST. PERPETUA APRIL 1—APRIL 8**

**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**

**Monday**  
- Centering Prayer, 7:15 pm, Chapel

**Tuesday**  
- Outreach Cmte., 7:30 pm, Parish Office

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

**Thursday**  
- Construction Meeting, 9:15 am, RRC  
- Knights of Columbus, 7:30 pm, Panther House

**Sunday**  
- Children’s Liturgy of the Word, 9:30 am Mass  
- Teen/Family Youth Mass, 11:30 am Mass  
- Confirmation, 6:30 pm, Church

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**Mass Intentions April 3—April 8**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>8:30 am</td>
<td>Thomas Bond</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>8:30 am</td>
<td>Dylan Cazin Spl. Int.</td>
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<td>Saturday</td>
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<td>For the Community</td>
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<td>Sunday</td>
<td>8:00 am</td>
<td>Bryan Patrick Vierengel</td>
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<td></td>
<td>9:30 am</td>
<td>Inez Fort</td>
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<td></td>
<td>11:30 am</td>
<td>Laurel Love</td>
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**TOGETHER WE PRAY FOR THE SICK**

Chris Fliflet, Elizabeth Cox, Jennifer Rosko, Giselle Contreras, Juana 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, Carol Farrell Raffa, Terry Osburn, Dylan Cazin, Bryan Inderrieden, Chris Clogher, Irwin Mettler, Catherine Lomasney, Hamilton Coke, Maureen Graf and Sharon Flower.

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**The Story and You**

This might be the most uneasy Easter I’ve ever experienced. The climate is so weird. School shootings now occur at the rate of one a week. Worse, it seems like we, like the frog in the water, are adjusting, adjusting, until all of a sudden we are trapped in a boiling cauldron out of which there is no escape.

If there is an image that lifts me up right now it’s this: Mary Magdalene RAN to tell the others that Jesus was not in the tomb. Picture that. We don’t know how old she was. She could have been a teenager. I’ll bet she was.

We’ve all seen the images of teenagers running, running for their lives out of schools that are under siege. We’ve seen them filing out of hiding places, arms on the shoulders of the student ahead of them, with watchful, armed police searching for the shooter in their midst.

And, God help us, we’ve seen their terrified, grateful parents running towards them, arms outstretched to receive their babies, overjoyed that they were spared, overcome with grief for the parents who were not.

Those are our Good Friday images. But let this Easter image work in you. Mary Magdalene RAN from the tomb. She RAN to find Peter. She is still RUNNING.

This young woman who stood bravely at the cross and was the first witness to the resurrection is RUNNING as hard as she can in your direction, crying *The tomb is empty! RUN with me! RUN to change the hearts of those who will not see Him!* RUN to change the minds of those who will not speak for Him!

RUN, ye joyful ones. RUN.

Are you willing to RUN to proclaim the resurrection?

Kathy McGovern ©2018 www.thestoryandyou.com
St. Perpetua
2018 Faith Formation – Preparing for Easter