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

Jesus said to Thomas,
"Have you come to believe because you have seen me?
Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed."
John 20:29

SECOND SUNDAY OF
Easter
(OR OF DIVINE MERCY)
APRIL 8, 2018
Dear Friends,

An Easter basket full of thanks to all who brought our Easter feasting to life! Many thanks to: the parish Liturgy Committee and our sacristans for planning and coordinating the prayer of the Triduum... Christoph Nauer for overseeing much of our efforts...Father Charles Talley, ofm, for his assistance and companionship to our community... Donna Stoering, Mary Beth Lamb, Suzanne Bregman and the pastoral musicians -- cantors, choir and instrumentalists, especially Martha Uhey -- who spent many hours practicing the music that was so inspiring,... Kristine Kvochak, our Faith Formation Director, who works with the children and their parents for Reconciliation and in preparation for First Eucharist... Jan Stegner who guides our Middle School program...Gary Guerrero, our Youth Minister and Confirmation Coordinator, guiding our teens who are preparing for Confirmation... Arlene Connors, Wendy Levich, Oscar Jovel, Pat Fela and our office staff for all the behind-the-scenes work... M.J. Eschen, Ramona Davis, Pat Fela, Sheila MacDonnell and Carmen Martini and the volunteers who prepared the church environment. . . The Knights of Columbus who prepared the terrific egg hunt and refreshments after the 9:30 Mass on Easter Sunday... all the liturgical ministers -- lectors, eucharistic ministers, altar servers and ushers... many people working together for the good of the community and the glory of God. Thanks to these and to all whose names I may have inadvertently forgotten.

The Season of Easter continues for Fifty Days until the Feast of Pentecost. The joy of the Risen Lord and the power of the Holy Spirit at work in the Christian community are the themes that dominate the scriptures for the next six weeks. Our Easter Season liturgies will begin with the renewal of our baptism and the rite of sprinkling each week. Instead of the cross, the Easter candle will lead the procession into church each Sunday. The season will be filled with special blessings – for all the infants and children who will be baptized, for all our mothers on Mother's Day, for expectant families and families awaiting a child through adoption during Mary’s month of May, for our children making their First Eucharist. All this is an extension of the resurrection event and our response to the goodness of God to each of us. Enjoy this special season within the Church and in your homes.

Father John Kasper, OSFS

Our parish sympathy is extended to Wendy Levich, our Business Manager, whose brother Thomas Bond died recently. May Thomas rest in the Easter glory of God’s new life forever.
Teens - Think about a recent disagreement with another person. How was the conflict resolved? This Easter season practice those conflict resolution skills (for example, honest discussion, a desire to resolve the conflict, willingness to ask forgiveness) on a daily basis in your relationships. Jesus knew human beings well. He knew that we would have arguments, disagreements, even fights with one another. He gave us help in order to become people who seek peace and reconciliation with others.

In this Sunday’s Gospel Jesus’ awesome words of greeting to the disciples is “Peace be with you.” At the same time Jesus gives the gift of the Holy Spirit to his disciples telling them to forgive sins. We celebrate the gifts of forgiveness and peace in the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation. The Holy Spirit helps us to be people who forgive and reconcile with one another. We can call upon the Holy Spirit to help us to seek ways to bring peaceful resolution to disagreements. During this Easter season make the practice of peace foremost in your daily relationships.

Saint Perpetua’s Youth Ministry gathers teens together to explore how we can be peace agents to all we engage. This week we gather twice to focus on the good news revealed through Christ’s resurrection.

**Tuesday, April 10** – An evening of “Bible-opoly” – come play the game where building churches based on good deeds is the evening currency, With Easter here, snacks have returned. 7:30 pm in the RRC.

**Sunday, April 15** – Confirmation Candidates gather for an evening to see how they are holy and how holiness is possible in their lives. This is an group gathering starting at 6:30 pm in the Church.

Saint Perpetua’s Youth Ministry has begun to look at next year and how to shape what we offer the teens of our community. If you have an idea, or suggestion, please send them to gguerrero@stperpetua.org

My hope is to continue to provide meaningful material to today’s teens.

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**Thank You**

First Eucharist Prayer Buddy Thank you to all of our parishioner who took a prayer buddy card from one of our children preparing to receive First Eucharist in April and May. In addition to praying daily for the child, Prayer Buddies are asked to write a letter to be given to the child on their First Eucharist day. Please return your letters to Kristine at the Parish Office or place in the basket in the vestibule of the church no later than April 12, 2018. If you have any questions, please contact Kristine at 925.283.0272 ext. 204 or kristine@stperpetua.org

**Operation Rice Bowl: THANK YOU**

We changed lives this Lent, thanks to YOU! Don’t forget to turn in your CRS Rice Bowl. Convert the money collected into a check made out to St. Perpetua with Rice Bowl in the memo section. Drop the check in the collection basket or return it to the Parish Office. Thanks you so much for your support of Catholic Relief Services.

**Welcome into the Catholic Community**

Congratulations! This weekend we welcome the following children into our parish community through the waters of Baptism:

- **Ethan Brian & Hunter Cecil Ward**  
  sons of Brian & Elizabeth Ward

- **Sky Noel Argenal**  
  daughter of Justin & Suzanne Argenal

May our community embrace Ethan, Hunter & Sky 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!

**Food Basket April 14/15**

Just a quick reminder that next weekend, April 14/15 will be the monthly food collection. Please bring Canned Fish / Meat – Tuna, Chicken, Turkey, Spam, Corned Beef.

*Please note drop off locations during construction:*

1. by School Office door

2. by Parish Office door NOT at Church!

MANY THANKS to all parishioners who have participated in the monthly food collections to the St. P. Food Basket. Your contributions over the past years have been such a blessing to individuals and families serviced by two caring agencies: Monument Crisis Center and Food Pantry at St. Francis of Assisi (sponsored by St. Vincent de Paul).

**Worldwide Marriage Encounter**

Learn the tools to put God in your Sacrament of Marriage. The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekends are May 18-20th or September 7-9th. Space is VERY limited! Early registration is highly recommended. For more information contact Mike and Jeanne at 925.672.2016 or Joe and Sue at 925.680.7767 now or go to oaklandwwme.org.
Second Sunday of Easter
(or Sunday of Divine Mercy)
April 8, 2018
Who indeed is the victor over the world
but the one who believes that Jesus
is the Son of God?
- 1 John 5:5

Thank you to all who donated
to our Easter Flowers
and added to our beautiful church environment.

Divine Mercy Sunday
If you struggle with the actual truth of the resurrection,
consider two things. First, after the resurrection every one
of the Twelve (excluding Judas) went out into the farthest
corners of the known world, filled with the utter conviction
that he had seen the Risen Lord. Every one knew exactly
what would befall him, and every one chose to go anyway.
Such was the faith of those who had watched Jesus die, and
seen the empty tomb, and experienced the Divine Mercy.
Resurrection faith changes us.

The second may be just as compelling. In the earliest
Christian communities, those who owned property or
houses would sell them, and the proceeds were distributed
each according to need. Think of that. These early
Christians SO BELIEVED in the resurrection that they sold
their belongings and shared all things in common, carefully
taking care of those in need. Resurrection faith seeks
nothing but to love.

If you observe women and men in religious communities
you see this first-century faith. Imagine doing your job all
week, and then putting your paycheck in a communal kitty.
Each one takes from the kitty only what she needs, but of
course some members need more than others do, and this is
how you survive, every day for the rest of your life.
Resurrection faith is stronger than death.

Maybe that’s why Thomas needed to place his hands in the
wounds of Christ. He could already sense, in the joy and
strength of those who had seen Him, that his life would be
forever transformed if he believed. His very act of touching
His wounds was his first-class ticket into the community of
the martyred. Resurrection faith doesn’t care.
What experience of Divine Mercy have you had this year?
Kathy McGovern ©2018 www.thestoryandyou.com

The Story and You.
Sacred Conversations

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,
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Lomasney, Hamilton Coke, Maureen Graf and Sharon
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SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER / DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Heart and Mind

God, font of all life, through the Paschal Mystery of your Son, Jesus, you have restored your people to life. Our house gives you praise for your enduring mercy and unending love.

Watch over and protect our community as we work to make known the message of salvation.

Keep us one in heart and mind as we work to build up your Kingdom. Give us hearts overflowing with mercy as we minister to those most in need. Help us remain faithful to your call so that our words and actions may always proclaim Christ as Lord. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, April 8, 2018
Easter Sunday

Today’s Readings: Acts 4:32–35; Psalm 118:2–4, 13–15, 22–24; 1 John 5:1–6; John 20:19–31. Jesus’ Resurrection establishes a new way of living. He is the new covenant and in his life, death, and Resurrection, he reveals our loving and merciful God. This new way of living is one of mercy and reconciliation, one of peace and hope, one where the chains of sin can no longer hold us captive. Christ has changed us and, as we proclaim in the refrain to the Responsorial Psalm, we “give thanks to the Lord” because “his love is everlasting.” Our First Reading gives a sense of this new way of living. Acts tells us that the community was united in one heart and mind and that they held their possessions in common. The final lines describe the social outreach of this early community. Christ brought them together and continues to bring us together. We are united to him in one Body, which invites us to risk everything for him and the Kingdom.

Too often we hear of division in our communities. Being members of Christ’s Body urges us to love and forgive. This mercy should not be insular but lead us into the world to advocate for justice. If Christ has truly united us in one heart and mind, then we must work to reconcile differences and let the light of Christ within us shine forth so others may know the transforming love of God. Consider how your faith in Christ leads you to build up the Body of Christ. This week, reach out to your neighbors and friends for conversation or a meal.