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.

Easter
APRIL 22, 2018

I am the good shepherd,
and I know mine and mine know me,
just as the Father knows me and I know the Father;
and I will lay down my life for the sheep.

John 10:14-15

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Celebrating our Faith • Enriching our Community • Sharing our Gifts

3454 Hamlin Road, Lafayette, CA 94549
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www.stperpetua.org

Parish Office Hours
Monday—Friday
7:30 am—4:00 pm
Dear Friends,

Pope Francis has blessed the Church with several insightful and pastoral Letters and Encyclicals since the beginning of his Papacy, including Evangelii Gaudium: (The Joy of the Gospel): Apostolic Exhortation on the Proclamation of the Gospel in Today’s World, November 24 2013; Amoris Laetitia: Apostolic Exhortation on love in the family, March 19, 2016; Laudato Si’: (Praise be to you – On Care For Our Common Home) – (May 24, 2015). These texts are available online and worth taking the time to read. Once again he has penned an inspiring document titled, in Latin, “Gaudete et Exultate,” Rejoice and Be Glad.” This week and next I want to include a summary of this papal document that was presented recently in America Magazine.

Father John Kasper, osfs

“Rejoice and be glad!” is what Jesus said on the Sermon on the Mount. It’s also the title of Pope Francis’ new apostolic exhortation on holiness in everyday life. Why should we “rejoice and be glad”? Because God, as Francis reminds us, calls us all to be saints. But how can we respond to that call?

Well, here are five takeaways from Francis’ new and very practical exhortation.

1. Holiness means being yourself

Pope Francis offers us many examples of holy lives throughout this document: St. Thérèse of Lisieux, the French Carmelite who found holiness in doing small tasks; St. Ignatius of Loyola, the Jesuit founder who sought to find God in all things; St. Philip Neri, the founder of the Oratorians who was renowned for his sense of humor.

The saints pray for us and give us examples of how to live, but we are not meant to be cookie-cutter versions of them. We are meant to be ourselves, and each believer is meant to “discern his or her own path” and “bring out the very best of themselves.” As Thomas Merton said, “For me to be a saint means to be myself.”

2. Everyday life can lead to holiness

You do not need to be a bishop, a priest or a member of a religious order to be holy. Everyone is called to be a saint, as the Second Vatican Council reminded us—a mother or a father, a student or an attorney, a teacher or a janitor. “Saints next door,” Francis calls them. All we need to do is to “live our lives in love” and “bear witness” to God in all we do.

That also doesn’t have to mean big, dramatic actions. Francis offers examples of everyday sanctity, like a loving parent raising a child; as well as “small gestures” and sacrifices that one can make, like deciding not to pass on gossip. If you can see your own life as a “mission,” then you soon realize that you can simply be loving and kind to move towards holiness.

You also do not have to be “swooning in mystic rapture” to be a saint or walking around with “lowered eyes.” Nor do you have to withdraw from other people. On the other hand, you do not want to be caught up in the “rat race” of rushing from one thing to another. A balance between action and contemplation is essential.

(... to be continued next week)
Teens, the Gospel according to John is full of “I am” statements. In today’s reading, the beloved Good Shepherd passage is proclaimed. Jesus sets the stage for us to recognize that everything with God is relational. Foremost is the fact that he deeply cares and chooses to give of himself for us. Our choice is to follow his voice. Today, reflect on how might a teenager, who is a Good Shepherd, act? What kind of things would he or she say or avoid saying?

Youth Group gathers this Thursday April 26 at 7:30 pm in the RRC for a continued evening on the season of Easter and how we can be good news to one another. Join us to see how God works in and through you. Gary

Welcome into the Catholic Community

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

Cole Matthew Bellusa
son of Greg and Rebecca Bellusa

Jack Everett Keane
son of John and Lauren Keane

Casey Rose Cowles
daughter of Matthew and Aileen Cowles

May our community embrace Cole, Jack & Casey 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!

First Eucharist Masses

Please join us in celebrating with the children of St. Perpetua who will be receiving First Eucharist on the following dates:

Saturday, April 28 at 5:00 pm
Sunday, April 29 at 9:30 and 11:30 am
Saturday, May 5 at 5:00 pm
Sunday, May 6 at 9:30 and 11:30 am

April Outreach Articles

Continuing 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 – Ongoing

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 @ 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 $3000.00 ($500.00 each) to the following agencies within Contra Costa County: Foster Family Network of CCC, Friendly Manor/St. Mary’s Center, Hope Conference, Loaves and Fishes, Monument Crisis Center, Options for Women (Pregnancy Care Clinic). Thanks to your ongoing support, these agencies are able to continue helping those in need of their services.

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!

April Food Basket

This month, Al & Virginia LaFaille delivered 20 bags of canned fish/meat (tuna, chicken, turkey, Spam, corned beef) to the St Vincent de Paul Food Pantry at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Concord. This was substantially less than usual so please remember this need when you are grocery shopping or making that trip to Costco. The food pantries are constantly being depleted and replenished so thank you for your continued support and thanks to the LaFailles for continuing to deliver the items to St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry.

Next collection: May 12/13 - Oatmeal, other cereal (unsweetened, if possible)
This Week at St. Perpetua
April 22—April 29

Sunday
Children’s Liturgy of the Word, 9:30 am Mass
Faith Formation, 10:30 am, RRC/School
Teen/Family Mass, 11:30 am

Monday
Centering Prayer, 7:15 pm, Chapel

Tuesday
Faith Formation, 4:00 pm & 6:30 pm, RRC/School

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

Thursday
Construction Meeting, 9:15 am, RRC
Youth Group, 7:30 pm, RRC

Saturday
Silent Saturdays, 9:00 am, Chapel
First Eucharist, 5:00 pm, Mass

Sunday
First Eucharist, 9:30 am, Mass
Teen/Family Mass, 11:30 am
First Eucharist, 11:30 am, Mass
Confirmation, 4:30 pm, 5:30 pm & 6:30 pm, Church

Second Collection, April 29, Outreach

Mass Intentions
April 21—April 29

Saturday  5:00 pm  Herbert Batley ṭ
Sunday  8:00 am  Marion Gulick ṭ
         9:30 am  Bill Gardner ṭ
         11:30 am  Thomas Bond ṭ
Monday  8:30 am  Edward Ryan ṭ
Tuesday  8:30 am  Dylan Cazín—Spl. Int.
Wednesday  8:30 am  Nanette Snyder ṭ
Sunday  8:00 am  For the Community
         9:30 am  Michael Hazlewood ṭ
         11:30 am  Jonathan Antonio ṭ

Together We Pray for the Sick
Chris Fliflet, Elizabeth Cox, Jennifer Rosko, Giselle Contreras, Juanita Estrellas, Dennis Callahan, George Buonocore, Charlotte Cairney, Judy Russell, 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 Cazín, Bryan Inderrieden, Chris Clogher, Irwin Mettler, Catherine Lomasney, Hamilton Coke, Maureen Graf and Sharon Flower.

Fourth Sunday of Easter
I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. Don’t those magnificent words of Jesus sit well with your soul? I remember the anguished nights of my youth, praying for all those around the world who would die that night and go to hell because no one had ever told them about Jesus. Even as a ten-year-old I knew, in that deep, warm place where grace and truth hover in the heart, that God was greater than all that.

The Vatican II pastoral document Gaudium et Spes (The Church in the Modern World) gives words to our intuitions about who the sheep in Christ’s pasture might be:

We ought to believe that the Holy Spirit in a manner known only to God offers to everyone the possibility of being associated with this paschal mystery. (22)

In the sixth book of C.S. Lewis’ classic Christian allegory, The Chronicles of Narnia: Voyage of the Dawntreader—such a beautiful book, my favorite of the seven—the odious, insufferable cousin Eustace has a terrifying encounter with a dragon, and is saved by a Lion. He immediately feels terrible about his past behavior, and asks his cousins Lucy and Edmond to forgive him, and to tell him more about this Lion (the Christ). Do you know him? asks Eustace.

Yes, says Edmond. I know him. But he knows me better. Ah. Beautiful. God is near to us, and knows us better than we can know God. There is, unfortunately, one caveat: God looks upon the lowly and supplies them. But the proud God knows from afar (Ps. 138:6). What are you doing to make sure God doesn’t know you from afar?

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