ST. PERPETUA CHURCH

CELEBRATING OUR FAITH • ENRICHING OUR COMMUNITY • SHARING OUR GIFTS

**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.

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**SIXTH SUNDAY OF Easter**
MAY 6, 2018

**No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.**
John 15:13

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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,

Best wishes and God’s blessings to all our parish children who are sharing in their First Eucharist last week and this weekend. Bringing your little ones to the Lord’s Table to share the meal of Jesus is a great gift that parents give to children. The Eucharist is one of the three Sacraments of Initiation, along with Baptism and Confirmation, and it affirms for them a sense of belonging. Now, when they come to Mass with their parents, these little ones know in a tangible way that they too are welcome in the eyes of God and the community. The Eucharist nourishes them as it does the rest of us to live our faith fully and courageously each day.

The Eucharist is also a necessary antidote to one of the cultural values that plagues our society – *individualism*, the belief that each of us can “make it on his or her own.” By initiating our children into the Christian community we teach them the Christian values of sharing, concern for others, especially the weaker and needier members, togetherness and equality in God’s eyes. The bread and wine of the Eucharist give us a “new taste” for life. They invite us to be permeated by Jesus’ love, to rely on him with all our sense and the deepest longings of our heart. This taste of Jesus’ love is not just a momentary feeling, but can transform all our relations – at home, at work and in the world around us. When we encounter people with an awareness that Jesus is in us and also in them, what a difference it makes in the way we look at and address other people.

Our children who are inaugurated into the Eucharistic assembly in this Easter Season are transformed by the love of God. That love will grow stronger for them every day as we encourage their participation in the Eucharist and make available to them a whole-hearted and consistent sharing in the life of the Church and the grace of the Sacraments.

*Father John Kasper, OSFS*
Safe Environment
Protecting God’s Children
Safe Environment training for adults, children and youth is a concrete way we as a church can recognize situations of potential abuse and give our children the tools they need to stay safe and protect themselves from those who would do them harm. Working together we create a culture of protection and healing. Every time a victim is heard, or a survivor flourishes in spite of devastation, we participate in creating an environment that proclaims “never again.” All children in faith formation, youth ministry and Catholic schools are required to train annually in Safe Environment.

Diocesan policy requires Safe Environment training every three years for every adult engaged in ministry, and fingerprinting for those who have direct, ongoing contact with children. All other volunteers (those not required to fingerprint) are screened through Megan’s law annually. If you have trained on Virtus you will be notified by email when to recertify. If you have not trained on Virtus you must train beginning July 1, 2018 and have completed the certification no later than October 1, 2018.

Please go online to www.virtus.org and follow the instructions for Safe Environment training. For more information, contact Diana Bitz at 510-267-8315 or dbitz@oakdiocese.org or Arlene Connors at 925-283-0272 or aconnors@stperpetua.org.

Food Basket
Just a quick reminder that next weekend, May 12/13 will be the monthly food collection. Please bring Oatmeal, Other Cereal (unsweetened if possible) 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).

Welcome into the Catholic Community
Congratulations! This weekend we welcome the following child into our parish community through the waters of Baptism:

Andrew Smith O’Brien
son of Michael & Kristen O’Brien
May our community embrace Andrew and may our word and example be a reflection of God's love for him. Let us offer our joy-filled prayers and congratulations as a sign of our support and welcome!

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Maryellen Judson for her selection as the 2018 Distinguished Woman for the Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette branch of AAUW (American Association of University Women). AAUW advances equality for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research. The words/phrases used by Maryellen’s peers in the nomination process included: friendship, initiative, leadership, and commitment to equity. She has held many board positions, worked on many committees, and is known to “take on any job with a smile!” She has demonstrated a commitment to social justice throughout her community by participating in her Church Outreach Committee, teaching in juvenile hall, serving in a soup kitchen, and working at a woman’s shelter. Maryellen has demonstrated a commitment to education as a school teacher and supervisor in afternoon tutoring programs. Congratulations Maryellen for this well deserved award.

Holy Names Sisters celebrate
Holy Names Sisters will celebrate the 150th Anniversary of their arrival in California with the opening event on May 10, at Oakland's St. Theresa Parish Event Center. The reception and a short program will be from 4:30 - 6:30 pm. All are welcome. Please RSVP to www.snjmca150.org. An article about the Holy Names Sisters was in the April 23rd edition of The Catholic Voice.

The Poor People Campaign
A National Call for Moral Revival is uniting tens of thousands of people across the country to challenge the evils of systemic racism, poverty, the war economy, ecological devastation and the nation’s distorted morality.

To learn more please visit: https://www.pooreoplescampaign.org/index.php/audit/
Exuberant Advocacy: Voicing Your Support for Housing For All

Monday, May 14, 6:45 – 8:45 pm
Walnut Creek Library, 1666 North Broadway
Oak View Room

Panel: How Can Advocates Best Support Elected Leaders in Obtaining Housing for All
Presentation: How to be a More Effective Advocate
Free admission; Light Refreshments Provided

For more information: Contact Mary Fenelon at maryfenelon@gmail.com or 925.705.7756
This is an East Bay Housing Organizations’ Affordable Housing Week event.

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Do you sometimes have to dig deep in order to love some of the “unlovables” in your life? It’s probably more the case that, at certain times, on certain days, any of us is pretty unlovable. That letter of John today gives us all the energy we need, though, to have graciousness and patience in situations that can be trying. It’s so easy.

Just reflect for the tiniest moment on all the ways God has loved you. When you are tempted to say something unkind, just think of the thousands of times when people were kinder to you than you deserved. When you want to avoid eye contact with that compulsively needy talker, remember the endless patience of those who loved you through your annoying adolescence.

Sometimes the very quickest touch-point for the love of God is to simply look out the window. Oh my gosh! Look what happened on your street overnight. Trees that were barren yesterday are suddenly bursting with green. Apple blossoms are painting the trees pink and white. Spring flowers are starting to pull up out of the earth, and all creation is groaning with the delight of new birth. Oh, yeah. God’s love for us is impossible to miss.

So, as John’s letter says, it’s not that we have loved God, but that God has loved us! St. Ignatius, in his Spiritual Exercises, advises us to pay attention. Look around! Remember! Breathe in the love of God which is all around you, in your sleeping spouse, your healthy kids, your restored health, your meaningful work. Find your particular gratitude, and that will be the strength that flows to help you love others. It’s easy.

What immediately comes to your mind when you remember God’s love for you?

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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, 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, Sr., Chris Clogher, Irwin Mettler, Catherine Lomasney, Hamilton Coke, Maureen Graf and Sharon Flower.

Mass Intentions
May 5, 2018—May 13, 2018

Saturday  5:00 pm  For the Community
Sunday  8:00 am  Raymond Adler †
         9:30 am  Kathy Scanlan †
         11:30 am  Michael Hazlewood †
Monday  8:30 am  Maureen Graf—Spl. Int.
Tuesday  8:30 am  Kenneth Hoffman †
Saturday  5:00 pm  Art Lachman †
Sunday  8:00 am  Louise Silvano †
         9:30 am  Nancy Burnside †
         11:30 am  For the Community

THIS WEEK AT ST. PERPETUA
MAY 6—MAY 13

Second Collection May 6—Children/Youth

Sunday
First Eucharist, 9:30 am, Mass
First Eucharist, 11:30 am, Mass
Confirmation Final Reflection with Sponsors, 7:00 pm, Church

Monday
Centering Prayer, 7:15 pm, Chapel
Confirmation Discernment, 4:00 pm, Church

Tuesday
Youth Group, 7:30 pm, RRC

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

Thursday—Ascension
(Will be celebrated on Sunday, May 13)
Construction Meeting, 9:15 am, RRC
Confirmation Discernment, 7:00 pm, Church

Saturday
Confirmation Discernment, 9:00 am, Church

Sunday
Children’s Liturgy of the Word, 9:30 am Mass
Second Collection May 13
Catholic Communications
Love

O God, you are the source of all love and we joyfully lift our voices in song to give you praise for the gift of your Son, Jesus, who gave his life so that we might live. Help us turn away from the slavery of sin and embrace your Word, who calls us to love one another. Grant that, with hearts filled with compassion, we may courageously lay aside our needs and work to promote peace and justice throughout the world. Keep us faithful to our baptismal covenant so that we may reveal your saving power and be found on that final day praising your blessed name. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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Sunday, May 6, 2018

Love One Another


John’s first letter reminds us once again, in these final days of the Easter season, that God sent his only Son to save us from death. The theme of love permeates today’s readings. As is shown in these readings, love requires much more than warm and fuzzy feelings. In death, Christ shows us love. His suffering, death, and Resurrection remind us that love of God and for our neighbors does require, that we set aside those things that hinder us from knowing God. When we open ourselves to God, we are filled with love and love cannot be contained. God’s love overflows and yearns to be shared. Because God’s love is so great, it is easy for us to sing the words to Psalm 98. Joined with all of creation, we joyfully sing of God's salvation.

In the Gospel, Jesus commands that we love as he loves, which means we must take the cross seriously. Jesus laid down his life so that we might have life. He went about healing the sick and listening to those on the margins. This is what Jesus teaches us about love, and if we are his followers, we must lay down our life for our neighbors and be willing to risk everything for God’s Kingdom.

It is not always easy to love. This week, pray with the Gospel and be attentive to the command, “love one another.” Consider hosting a meal for friends and family to show your love.