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.
Dear Friends,

Belonging to a parish requires patience, perseverance and surrender. Because a church community is made up of people — flesh-and-blood human beings — it’s inevitable that cultures, genders, different spiritualities and personalities will clash. There is no end to the frustrations and problems that can exist from inadequate space to the never-ending quest for volunteers and participants. So why keep coming to the same place week after week? Why invest time and energy and money to make it go?

The gospel gives us a good reason: Because we believe that being a follower of Jesus is not a me-and-God affair. It has to be rooted in a community of people — people who are trying, however imperfectly, to be the hands and feet of Christ each day. We are all part of the Body of Christ, infused with His Spirit through Baptism. We are part of one another.

We can learn the blessings of being thrown together with people whom we might not otherwise meet, yet they’re our brothers and sisters in Christ, it challenges the nice rhetoric we might spout about living our faith when we have to live it out with real people. *(But that guy’s a pain in the neck!)* Around any parish is a cast of characters straight from the gospels: Peter, a great guy proclaiming his beliefs but a little shaky on the follow-through; Martha, having mental debates with the Lord about always getting stuck with refreshment duty; and the persistent woman in Luke’s ‘parable of the unjust judge’ who drives the rest of us crazy recruiting us for every parish project and program.

Most of us would like to remain on the parish sidelines, sit in the back, hope to remain invisible. Jesus, however, isn’t interested in helping to preserve our invisibility. Through the parish he makes inconvenient demands, inviting himself over for dinner on short notice as he did with Zaccheus the tax collector. The next thing you know, life just isn’t the same any more. And that’s the point. As branches on the vine of Christ, we are part of something greater than ourselves. May we have the wisdom and love to realize and rejoice in our belonging to this enterprise called “Church!” Enjoy our summer experience in a new venue — our outdoor Cathedral!

Father John Kasper, OSFS

**REMEMBER:** While our church building is being fitted with a sprinkler system for fire protection as mandated by the County, we will celebrate:

**MASS on the GRASS begins this weekend through mid-August**
5:00 p.m. • 8:00 a.m. • 9:30 a.m. *(no 11:30 Mass throughout the summer)*
Teens and Parents of Teens!
Do we get so wrapped up in religion that we miss out on what's important to God? Why do we do the things we do? Why do we go to church or give money away? Because we're supposed to or because we think God needs it? Do we honestly put on our best clothes for an hour once a week, stand and sit at all the right times, and sing all the appropriate songs for God's sake, or because it'll make us look better to the world around us? We're tired of all the empty rituals and routines. And so is God. God hates it when we call ourselves Christians but ignore all the things he really cares about. He hates it when we go through hollow religious routines out of some feeling of duty or obligation. God doesn't want the meaningless rituals. God wants our hearts.

Look for details about Youth Ministry (Youth Group, Confirmation, Liturgies, and Service) at St. Perpetua in the coming weeks with registration in mid-July for next year. In Youth Ministry at St. Perpetua we focus on coming to see God in our life, in the various ways God reveals his presence. Teens, especially incoming 9th graders, join us to stay connected to your faith and understand God’s presence in your life when we start up again in early September with Confirmation, and Youth Group to begin in mid-September.  

Gary

Mission Cooperative Appeal
We extend a warm welcome to Rev. Father Joey Aguilar of the Diocese of Virac, Philippines, who is speaking at all Masses today, regarding pastoral work in his Diocese. A special second collection will be taken to provide support to the Diocese of Virac for the training of seminarians, ongoing catechesis and evangelization, pastoral care for families, orphans and malnourished children. Please help generously as you can and keep Father Aguilar and the people of Virac in your prayers.

Nursery/Child Care During 9:30 Mass
It is not in the nature of toddlers to sit still during Mass. As such, we’d like to offer childcare for youngsters 4 years or younger. We’re currently looking for people who’d like to assist with this program. Time commitment would be about 90 min on Sundays. This is ideal for high school and college students or parents whose children are grown. Please contact Christoph at the Parish Office if interested.

Don’t Let Your Donations Go on Vacation
Summer is almost here! Sign up for electronic giving to ensure your support of our community. You can manage your electronic giving online with improved security, convenience and communication. If you are not using online giving to make your church donations, please consider it. Visit www.stperpetua.org and click on “Give Online”. If you have any questions, please contact Arlene Connors at aconnors@stperpetua.org or 925-283-0272, ext. 201.

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. 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.

Calling All Women!
Magnificat SOTI, a Ministry for Catholic Women invite all to join them at their Prayer Breakfast June 30, 9:30 am—12:30 pm Crowne Plaza, 45 John Glenn Drive, Concord

Please join us for a morning of Praise, Prayer, and Inspiration from our speaker Susan Potvin! Susan has been a worship leader and inspirational speaker for over 30 years. She is passionate about adoption and she and her husband have raised 4 children. In her testimony Susan shares her oldest son's battle with drug addiction and how the power of the Lord’s forgiveness can heal broken families. Susan is the leader of Living Praise and Worship team which travels nationally and internationally. She has also produced six worship CD’s. Men are always welcome to attend! Tickets are $33/$40 after June 23rd. For more information go to: https://magnificat-ministry.net/chapters/chapter-states-a-d/ca-walnut-creek/ Go to Magnificatsotirsvp@gmail.com for reservations or call Jennifer Rogers (503)709-8449
**Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time**

This section from Mark may be my favorite part of the entire New Testament. I’ve never seen the unfolding of our lives expressed more beautifully than when Jesus offers his brilliant analogy of the secret seed (4: 26-29).

This is how the kingdom of God is built: with daily kindness and graciousness, with the unrecognized nurture of parents and teachers, with ethical decisions that others take note of but never mention. Evening comes, and morning follows, year after year. And one day a person you don’t remember takes you aside in an airport and says, “I’ll never forget what you said to me that day. It changed my life.”

Or maybe one day, after years of struggle, you sit down and play a Mozart sonata with beauty and ease. Or maybe your daily Spanish tutorial finally pays off when you can converse with— or at least understand a conversation with—those nice people in the parish whom you’ve been smiling at for ages.

Or maybe your skinny jeans FINALLY fit. Or maybe you finally throw them away and stop measuring your right to live by whether you can wear them or not. Now THAT’S the kingdom of God, for sure.

My favorite line occurs after the farmer scatters seed on the land, and sleeps and rises, day after day, and the seed, without him doing anything else, sprouts and grows. How? *He does not know.*

Take fathers, for example. No child consciously decides which of his traits she’ll carry into the world. But studies show that his day-to-day presence and strength will help form her into a confident woman. How? *She does not know.* But such is the kingdom of God.

In what ways has your father most influenced your life?

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Mass on the Grass

We are happy to announce that we will be celebrating Mass on the Grass due to our construction beginning this weekend through mid-August. The Parish Staff and the Liturgy Committee have been working to make the liturgical experience both prayerful and enjoyable. Over the past few years, we have had numerous occasions when Mass was celebrated outdoors under St. Perpetua Pavilion on the upper field. We have ample parking on the upper lot and shade.

Contra Costa County Fire Department is requiring that we add sprinklers to our church building. This is a fire safety requirement and an important one. The installation of the sprinkler system will require that the church be closed for several weeks during the summer. At this time we will also complete utility trenching throughout the construction area making access to the church impossible. While it will be an inconvenience, summertime is the best possible time for this part of the project to happen.