ST. PERPETUA CHURCH

CELEBRATING OUR FAITH  ●  ENRICHING OUR COMMUNITY  ●  SHARING OUR GIFTS

Eucharist
Daily Mass
Monday-Thursday, 8:30 am
(Chapel)

Weekend Liturgies
Summer Schedule
Saturday 5:00 pm
Sunday 8:00, 9:30
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.

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.

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.

Assisted listening devices
available

Whoever wishes to be great among you will be your servant;
whoever wishes to be first among you will be the slave of all.
~ Mark 10:43-44

3454 Hamlin Road
Lafayette, CA 94549
Phone (925) 283-0272
Fax (925) 283-6534
Website: www.stperpetua.org

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

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STOLEN THUNDER
By the time the Gospels were written, James and John, sons of Zebedee (sons of “thunder”) were revered leaders of the Christian community. It is a common device of the evangelists to place the failings of the early Christians on the shoulders of their leaders to illustrate a point about discipleship, and perhaps to comfort them with the fact that Jesus chose common, flawed humans to spread the Gospel. It must have seemed doubly odd that these two, already honored and revered, were chastised by Jesus when they requested positions of honor. Jesus, as it were, stole their thunder, and in the Gospel he likewise steals the thunder of the others who get indignant at James and John. Today’s readings from Isaiah and Hebrews, along with Jesus as portrayed in Mark, steal the thunder of the places of honor they had attained by reminding us that it is in the humility of service that we come to know the reign of God in our midst.

SERVANT CHRIST, SERVANT CHURCH
In Matthew’s Gospel, it is the mother of James and John who makes the request of Jesus (Mark omits this scene). It is “only natural” for mothers to want to see their sons “get ahead in the world,” just as it is for us as individuals to seek those positions of honor and power. But again it is the lesson of Jesus, along with the lessons of Isaiah and Hebrews, that reminds us that we need to examine constantly our “only natural” ways of living to make sure that we are living as Christ, the head of the church. When Isaiah writes of the Suffering Servant, it can be seen as a prophecy of Jesus; but it is also a prophecy of the ongoing presence of Jesus, the church. When the author of Hebrews writes of the weakness known by Christ the great High Priest, it is also about the need for weakness on the part of the Body of Christ, the church. In this way the scriptures today show all of us, the baptized, the church, how we must continue to be the Servant Christ for the life of the world.

*Today’s Readings: Isaiah 53:10–11; Psalm 33:4–5, 18–19, 20, 22; Hebrews 4:14–16; Mark 10:35–45 [42–45]*

Knights of Columbus BBQ Lunch
Sunday, October 28th after all Masses

Featuring real Texas style smoked brisket and link sausage
Plate lunches to-go: $12
(brisket, sausage and two sides)
Smoked Brisket by the pound: $22
Whole smoked briskets: $120
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Benefits St. Perpetua COMMUNITY CENTER Construction
Teens - A few years ago, Pope Francis led the Catholic Church in a Jubilee Year of Mercy. Communities all over the world responded to this year by making a pilgrimage or trying to live out the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. This effort made the nightly news and penetrated the spirit of World Youth Day in Poland, 2016. The ripple effect ignited the Church to live more fully a life of mercy. The reading’s today remind us of the vibrancy of God’s mercy. Isaiah reminds us that the Messiah will come to suffer for us and Paul reminds the Hebrews that they should all confidently approach the throne of grace to receive mercy. In the Gospel, Jesus reminds the Apostles that to live a life of mercy requires that others go before you. Closely embarking on a continuous journey toward mercy can bring us all closer to Jesus’ left or right.

Google the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. Pick one from each to work on this week. For example, one spiritual work of mercy is forgiving injuries. This doesn’t mean forgiving someone for a bruised knee but rather letting go of grudges or apologizing for hurting someone. Where in your life are you in need of offering mercy to another? Act on it and make it happen. Join with other teens in St. Perpetua’s Youth Ministry to explore questions and answers about Christian life. We gather twice this week:

- Sunday, October 21 – Confirmation gathers for a look at the Jesus Question – just who is He?
- Wednesday, October 24 – Youth Group gathers from 7:30 to 8:45 pm in the RRC.

Questions? Drop Gary an e-mail at gguerrero@stperpetua.org

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. All 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 complete the training by December 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.

Friendly Manor Monthly Lunch - Ongoing
A Friendly Manor/Friendly Place is a drop-in center for homeless women open Monday through Friday. It is a safe place where women can come to shower, do laundry, use the telephone, enjoy a cup of coffee and even rest, all in a safe environment. On the last Friday of the month, a small number of members of the community have been preparing lunch for the women at A Friendly Manor. The women usually have a sandwich of some sort on a daily basis but are delighted when these dedicated members come in with any variety of delicious lunches. Just to see the happiness on these ladies faces, and to know that they will enjoy something other than a sandwich, is the reason the volunteers continue in this endeavor.

If you are interested in finding out more about the 4th Friday lunch and possibly volunteering, please contact Karen Rose Kalvass at 925.285.4669 for more information. The commitment is approximately 3 to 4 hours. There is no ongoing commitment and they would be delighted to have a new face in the group once in a while.

Join Artist and Author Mickey McGrath for a weekend of contemplative creativity as we explore three mysteries of our faith: Christ’s birth, death and Resurrection. Using his own art and stories, Bro. Mickey will lead us from the garden of the Annunciation, to the cave of the Nativity, the tomb of Christ’s death and Resurrection and end with the Cosmic Pentecost–where things are only just beginning!

To Make a Reservation: Please send a check of $50 deposit to San Damiano Retreat, P.O. Box 767, 710 Highland Drive, Danville, 94526, phone (925) 837-9141, fax (925) 837-0522. Cost: $245 for private room, $215 per person for double occupancy. Registration online is available at www.sandamiano.org or call at (925) 837-9171 to make your reservation by phone.

Oktoberfest was a great success, St. Perpetua made $32,500 on the event! Thank you to all for your donations and your participation. A fun time was had by all!
Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

The 1983 movie Without a Trace is a terrifying tale of a missing child. Reporters gather around the hysterical mother, saying, “We know how you feel, but try to be coherent.” Her reply is perfect: “If you felt what I feel you’d be screaming right now.”

I think of that moment when this section of the letter to the Hebrews comes around: “For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has similarly been tested in every way” (4:15).

We have a God who knows everything we experience. Imagine the terror Jesus felt when the Romans came to lay hold of him in the Garden of Gethsemane. Imagine being betrayed with a kiss. (That’s not hard, I’ll bet, for people whose spouses have had affairs.) Imagine being held, in chains, by those who seek your harm. (Again, this is an easy step for those who serve in militaries, or those captured by terrorist groups like ISIS.)

Imagine being unable to get away from someone who is hurting you. (The huge numbers of women and men whose stories are surfacing at this moment in the culture is enough proof that there are millions who can identify.) Imagine being thirsty (as they surely are today in the Florida Panhandle). Imagine watching your mother weep as you die (as must surely happen everywhere prisoners are executed).

The crucifixion was a scandal to the Greco-Roman world, whose untouchable gods reigned forever over the skies and seas, and even Hades. That these odd Jews worshiped a God who had been mercilessly nailed to a tree was incomprehensible. Who needs a God like that? We do.

*What suffering in your life is similar to the suffering of Jesus?*

Kathy McGovern ©2018 www.thestoryandyou.com
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