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.

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.
Tour by appointment call
284-1640 or skozel@csdo.org.

Assisted listening devices
available

“You have kept the good wine until now.”
John 2:10

January 20, 2019
Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

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
Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
“SEEING IS BELIEVING”

Turn that saying around and you get “Believing is seeing.” Faith is the gift of looking right through and beyond what is obvious. Believing is seeing what lies beyond sight. Isaiah had faith. He saw right through and beyond the “forsaken” and “desolate” circumstances of the people. Isaiah saw through to the faithfulness and love of God—and dared to proclaim it. Saint Paul had faith. Faced with ordinary people struggling with ordinary jealousies and divisions, he told them (and tells us) to look beyond the obvious. One person heals, another works wonders, another preaches. People have different functions. But so what? Behind the different gifts is “one and the same Spirit [who] produces all these” gifts (1 Corinthians 12:11). Jesus’ disciples were developing faith. Through the “signs” of this ordinary-seeming man who went with his mother to a wedding reception, they began to see beyond the visible, to discern divinity at work in him.

IT TAKES PRACTICE

Like the disciples, we are developing faith. We are discovering that there is a world beyond the world at the tip of our noses. Call it the world of the Spirit; call it the supernatural; call it what you will. But behind what is obvious lies a divine presence, a hidden reality.

And yet not completely hidden. With faith, we glimpse the hand of God at work, especially in our own lives. But if not looked for, that divine hand surely will remain unseen. When we try to see how everything works for our good, we begin to see the signs of divine love gently moving us. The excitement of a new job or the possibilities opened up by losing a job; warm sunshine or cold rain; winning or losing—it’s a matter of opening up our eyes to the benefits of everything.

Not always easy, of course. But it certainly doesn’t take a saint. It takes practice. We must look at our lives and see beyond the obvious. We must practice looking for the miracle, the sign, the presence of the Spirit.


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Today’s readings focus on gifts: gifts we are called to share with others in our community and the great gift Jesus shares at the Wedding at Cana. St. Paul reminds the first followers in 1 Corinthians that each person has their own unique gifts. These gifts must be identified and shared with the community in order to uplift others’ gifts.

In Youth Ministry we look at the different ways we are gifts to one another and how we can build up each other using the gifts God has given to each of us. This coming week teens gather twice:

- **Wednesday, January 23**, teens gather to compare the values and standards that society tells them are important and the values that Scripture upholds through a reflection upon the Beatitudes found in the Gospel of Matthew.

- **Sunday, January 27**, Confirmation gathers for an evening look at the Eucharist and where we gather each week to be nourished in our faith.

Teens, sometimes we need help identifying our unique gifts. This week, take some time to ask four people whose opinion matters to you (friend, parent, coach, youth minister, etc.) what they see as your best gift. Are there similarities or differences? Are you surprised by the responses? Did you learn something about yourself? Take one of these gifts that you would like to focus on developing more and create a visual aid to put up in your room or to set as the wallpaper to your phone or laptop. Meditate on this gift and live it out! *Gary*

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**Celebrate Rev. Dr. Kings’ Life & Message**

“What Does God Require … a Prescription For Systematic Change”

Keynote speaker: Rev. Dr. Yvette Flunder, Senior Pastor of the City of Refuge UCC congregation in Oakland and Presiding Bishop of the Fellowship of Affirming Ministries. **Monday, January 21 at 12:00 Noon,** Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church, 1801 Lacassie Ave. With Leonard Pete and the voices of St. Benedict’s and Dwight Stone, pianist, refreshments and conversation following.

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**Crab Feed Reminder**

The Knights of Columbus annual Crab Feed will be held **Saturday, January 26.** Where: **St. Monica’s Peace Room 1001 Camino Pablo, Moraga.** Time: **6:00 pm No-Host Cocktails, 7:30 pm All-You-Can-Eat Crab Dinner Price:** $60 per person. In addition to many wonderful Raffle prizes and our Silent Auction, the Knights of Columbus Council #7683 will be holding a Live Auction during the Crab Feed. The winner will receive two Orchestra tickets to the June 6, 2019, 7:00 pm showing of the epic musical HAMILTON at the Orpheum Theatre in San Francisco! Order Your Crab Feed Dinner Tickets Now Please call Mike Arnold to reserve your seats: (415) 254-8437. You may also go here: [https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c044a4aad28a0f58-2019](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c044a4aad28a0f58-2019)

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**Ruby Slippers**

**Contra Costa Interfaith Housing Fundraiser**

We need your help with donations for our silent auction. Gift cards to restaurants and shopping and bottles of wine $25-$40. *We also hope that you will join us Saturday, February 9th at Blackhawk Auto Museum for dinner, dancing and most importantly changing lives one family at a time.*

For more information contact Wendy Levich at the Parish Office, 283-0272, or go to CCIH’s website: [ccinterfaithhousing.org](http://ccinterfaithhousing.org) for more information or to purchase tickets to Ruby Slippers.

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**Worldwide Marriage Encounter**

The next Marriage Encounter Weekend will be in Danville: June 28-30, and November 15-17. For more information and/or to register for a weekend, visit our website at: oaklandwwme.org or contact Chuck and Annie at applications@oaklandwwme.org or 925-849-5466.

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**Healing Through Grief**

All are welcome to a nondenominational drop-in grief group at the Pleasant Hill Senior Center every Tuesday from 10 - 11:30 am. Pleasant Hill Senior Center, 233 Gregory Ln., Pleasant Hill.
Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

There are different kinds of talents, thank God, and the Holy Spirit breathes in each of them. The brilliance it takes to put together parish websites, for example, blesses the visitor who goes there, perhaps, to connect with the Church for the first time.

To one is given the skill to create parish databases, to another the savvy to create the easiest way for us to contribute financially to the parish. These are some pretty technical skills, but it’s the same God who gives the energy and passion it takes to make these things happen.

To some are given so much love of children that our religious education classes and schools abound in joy and love. There are even some—God bless these unique people—who give their lives for the formation of adolescents. A thousand blessings on their heads.

Some have the expertise to serve as administrators and pastoral associates, carefully watching over to assure the sacramental and spiritual needs of the parish are met. Some oversee the many outreaches to shelters, sandwich lines, and safe houses, and some work with people one-on-one through the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

Some devote their time to praying for each of us. Yes, there are parishioners who do this, every day, their whole lives. They take the lists of the sick and dying, and pray. There is one dear couple, in a parish where I served years ago, who have prayed for me at breakfast every day for fifteen years.

This is the tip of the iceberg, of course. We haven’t even talked about music, and scripture, and liturgy, or even priesthood, for heaven’s sake. Church, do we know how rich we are?

How will I use my energy and talents to work for the Kingdom of God this year?

Kathy McGovern ©2019 www.thestoryandyou.com
Please join us

St. Perpetua School Open House
Jan 27, 2019 following the 9:30 Mass until noon
Jr. High Informational Meeting in the Science Lab at 11:45am

Currently enrolling students entering TK-8th grade
for the 2019-2020 school year
For more information visit our website at www.stperpetuaschool.org
or call the school office at 925 284 1640

St. Perpetua School Mission Statement

The St. Perpetua Parish School community nurtures each student in a safe environment rich in Catholic values and academic excellence.

We are determined to provide our student in grades TK-8 with the gospel values and the skills to meet the challenges of our changing world.

We are committed to a dynamic and constantly improving environment of academic excellence, spiritual awareness, emotional support, and physical well-being.

We believe that our Administration, Teachers, Parents, and Students are all accountable for the fulfillment of our goals. We pledge our joint effort to these ends.