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

Assisted listening devices
available

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Third Sunday of

LENT

March 24, 2019

“Sir, leave the fig tree for another year;
perhaps it will bear fruit.”

Luke 13:8-9

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Lafayette, CA 94549
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Website: www.stperpetua.org

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

In response to the brutal slaying last week of fifty Muslims at prayer in two mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand, Carlo Busby, co-owner of Sagrada Sacred Arts in Oakland, offered the following prayer:

**To the One Who Hears and Consoles**

We come to you in an hour of great affliction.
An affliction that has many names and no name.
In its grip even those bowed in prayer are being murdered.

Our world is under a siege of sadness
and helplessness.
Our days feel over,
even as they begin anew
in the light only you can bestow.

Impart to each of us a vital portion
of your compassion.

And guide us to overcome hatred,
prejudice and violence
in all its forms.

In our Lenten Season of penance and preparation, let’s take the ancient practice of fasting to heart. More than fasting from food, the prophet Isaiah, Chapter 58, names the true fasting that God requires: *Is not this the fast that I choose -- to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.*

Most of all, let us pray that our world will fast from violence and cruelty, from bigotry and hatred, from discrimination and prejudice. May we have the courage to speak against such evils whenever and wherever we encounter them. And may each of us, in our own way, be instruments of peace, tolerance and unity for all whom we encounter each day.

Father John Kasper, OSFS
From an early age, children learn the process for apologizing. Most of the time, little kids do not even know why they are forced to apologize for something. But learning how to do this shows grace in character building. Saying, “I’m sorry” takes a lot of humility and strength. First you have to recognize that you have hurt someone else. Next, you have to admit wrongdoing in a tone that reflects your desire to reconcile. Then you have to wait and pray that the person will forgive you for your lapse in judgement. Some in society would say it is weak to seek forgiveness, but Jesus reminds us of the importance of cultivating a life of humility and reconciliation. Luke’s account of the Gospel reports Jesus’ reminder that “If you do not repent, you will all perish” (Luke 13:3). He reminds us that no fight or transgression is worth the overall pain and convenience that taking short-cuts produces.

In Youth Ministry we look at the different ways we meet the challenge Lent presents to us through cultivating a life that promotes reconciliation. – This coming week teens gather on Sunday, March 24 for Youth Group from 7 to 8:15 pm in the RRC for an evening on how to change our hearts.

During Lent as you prepare for the coming of Easter, remember to include the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Give yourself time to reflect on areas of your life where you need healing. Enter into Reconciliation not as a duty, but as a gift about to be received. Whatever your penance is, spend time quietly in prayer and reflection after you meet with the priest before you head out into the world renewed and resolved to avoid perishing and instead feel inspired to build up the Kingdom of God. Questions, drop me an email at gguerrero@stperpetua.org - Gary

QUOTE OF THE WEEK
"The absolute desire of 'having more' encourages the selfishness that destroys communal bonds among the children of God. It does so because the idolatry of riches prevents the majority from sharing the goods that the Creator has made for all, and in the all-possessing minority it produces an exaggerated pleasure in these goods."


Operation Rice Bowl: THE DHATHCROOS FAMILY
The Dhathcroos family returned home, after fleeing violence in their country, to build a prosperous farm and become a vital contributor to their community. How can you assist refugees in your community to rebuild their lives? Visit https://www.crsricebowl.org/ for more information.

Thank You!
A huge thank you to all who donated money and/or purchased daffodils. St Perpetua raised over $2500 to benefit Friendly Manor!! A special thanks for those who donated money for the daffodils & baskets taken to our home-bound members.

Social Justice Committee
The newly formed Social Justice committee has been meeting for a few months now. After time spent discussing various Social Justice issues, 12 active members decided to focus on 3 areas - Housing (homeless), Health care and Immigration. Look for more info about these issues in the upcoming weeks and months. We’re meeting on the third Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the parish office. We hope you’ll join us or contact Christoph for more information.

Homeless Crisis in Contra Costa
A new video has been produced here in Contra Costa about poverty and homelessness in our own county. Here is a link to view it https://vimeo.com/320428162.

Music Ministry
Music ministry at St. Perpetua would like to invite new and past instrumentalists to participate in our upcoming Easter, First Eucharist, and Pentecost masses. Your talent will be a great way to enhance the service during these festive events. Regular practice attendance or auditions are not required, you will need to rehearse one time before mass. There is no age limit or professional experience needed, simply the love of music and willingness to offer your talents to the church. There is a sign up sheet in the music office by the organ. For more details you may contact the Music Director, Mary Jo Malabuyo, at Maryjom@stperpetua.org or feel free to approach her before/after mass. Thank you.
Third Sunday in Lent

So, for three years the owner comes to the fig tree for fruit and is disappointed not to find any. Hmm. The owner must not be Jewish, because every good Jew knows that the Book of Leviticus prohibits anyone from eating the fruit of any fruit tree for the first three years of its life (19:23-25).

The gardener is obviously an observant Jew, because he sneaks around this non-Jewish landowner and plucks off the early fruits— the unripened fruits—so he won’t find any when he comes.

But the landowner has another surprise coming, because next year, when the tree FINALLY bears its mature, delicious fruit, its produce belongs to God and not to him. It’s only when this long-awaited fig tree is five years old that its fruit may rightfully be eaten by the one who owns the land on which it’s planted.

This might be a Jewish joke on the Roman occupiers. Look how savvy the hired hand is! He tricks the Romans into observing the laws of Moses! Wouldn’t they be surprised if they knew they were behaving like Jews? Maybe they’ll give up and go home already.

Or maybe it’s a parable about delayed gratification. God gave us rules about trying to get to food—or anything, really— too early. We should exercise the discipline of patience in all things. The best fruits come to those who don’t squander their lives on the easy things, but work hard for that which is worth the wait.

But these are the secondary fruits. The first fruit is this: we are all on borrowed time. Take advantage of every grace offered yesterday, and make your life a delicious offering today.

How is your life a sweet fruit?
Kathy McGovern ©2019 www.thestoryandyou.com
Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony - St. Perpetua Community Center

In order to commemorate the Feast of St. Perpetua on Thursday, March 7th, the St. Perpetua School Community gathered with some of their parents and members of our construction team for a Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony in advance of the official opening of our new Community Center. In attendance were faculty, staff and students as well as representatives of the Diocese of Oakland and members of the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce. We received great press coverage from our Diocesan newspaper, The Catholic Voice, as well as our local civic community publication, Lamorinda Weekly. All were excited about this new facility, especially the children. Here are some photos from the event. On the weekend when the project is complete we will hold a blessing and reception after each Mass. A gala celebration is being planned for Saturday evening, May 18th. If you’d like to assist with the planning of any of these events, leave your name and contact information with the parish office (925-283-0272).