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

“This son of mine was dead, and has come to life again;
he was lost, and has been found.”

Luke 15:24

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
Dear Friends,

I once read an article in *Time* Magazine entitled “Visions of Jesus: How Jews, Muslims and Buddhists View Him.” I was surprised to discover that the story of Jesus is found in the holy writings of non-Christian religions, like the Muslim faith which looks upon Jesus as a “model and permanent message for humanity.” Many Jewish scholars see Jesus as a faithful Jew who tried to reform his own inherited tradition. And the Dalai Lama recognizes Jesus as “a fully enlightened being, or a *bodhisattva* of a very high spiritual realization.” Hindus are drawn to the figure of Jesus by his compassion and nonviolence – virtues taught in their own sacred scriptures. One of the prominent Zen Buddhist monks sees Jesus and Buddha as “brothers” who taught that the highest form of human understanding is “universal love.” It was insightful and encouraging to read such positive perspectives on Jesus from other world religions. We are not far apart.

The one thing that separates Christian faith in Jesus from the admiration and high regard in which other religions hold him is the CROSS. As the article stated: *In Islam the story of Jesus’ death is rejected as an affront to Allah himself. Hindus can accept only a Jesus who passes into peaceful *samadhi*….* A Buddhist master says that the crucifixion “does not contain joy or peace, and this does not do justice to Jesus.” There is no room in other religions for a Christ who experiences the full burden of mortal existence. As we approach the end of Lent and the beginning of Holy Week we open our minds and hearts to the story of Jesus’ passion and death with greater attentiveness and devotion. We unite our personal struggles and the many sufferings of the world with Jesus’ Passion, assured of the victory of His Resurrection. May we recognize in the Cross of Our Savior the unique sign in which we glory, the mark of contradiction in which we place our trust, the example of selfless love to which we aspire. Our faith in the cross of Christ is what sets us apart from other religions, but it is also the unique contribution that we, as Christians, can bring to the transformation of our world.

In speaking of the cross of Christ, however, we must never separate it from the resurrection of Christ. In her excellent book, *Creation and the Cross* (*The Mercy of God for a Planet in Peril*), author and theologian Elizabeth Johnson reminds us: *The cross is such a dramatic event that at times it is referred to by itself in a kind of shorthand. Even then, reference to the cross in a faith context is always made with belief that God has raised Jesus from the dead. While St. Paul waxed eloquent about the cross as the wisdom of God, for example, he stated unequivocally, “If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins” (1 Cor 15:17). As theologian David Tracy puts it, “Cross and resurrection live together or not at all.” It is the resurrection of the crucified that reveals God at work to save.* Lent is not an end unto itself; it is a period of preparation, leading us to one destination – the glory and joy of Easter: Christ’s resurrection and ours!

_Father John Kasper, OSFS_

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**Lenten Reconciliation Service**

Please join us this coming **Thursday, April 4 at 7:00 p.m.** in the church for this year’s Lenten Reconciliation service. Several priests will be available for individual confession.

**Opportunities to Participate in Holy Week & Easter Services**

Looking forward to Easter and the three days leading up to it (the Triduum), there are many opportunities for you as a community member to participate in the liturgies of these days: cross bearers, incense bearers, gift bearers, help with foot washing, decorate the church for Easter. If you’d like to help please let Christoph know at the parish office.
Teens - The dutiful son is having none of the forgiveness his father offers to the prodigal son. Every day he struggles to help his father while his younger brother squandered his inheritance on gluttonous activities. We all stand in judgement of others from time to time. Its petty grip will leave us numb with anger and righteousness. We desire recognition for our duty, loyalty, and sacrifice. Yet Jesus requires a deeper commitment to love those who hurt us and to welcome those who have abandoned us. At some point, we could be the younger brother walking toward home, tail between our legs, begging for forgiveness. It is with humility and grace we can offer the same kind of unconditional love as the father in this profound Gospel passage. He says, “Now we must celebrate and rejoice, because your brother was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found” (Luke 15:32). Celebrating the return of the repentant is our challenge for this week.

In Youth Ministry we look at the different ways to meet the challenge Lent presents to us through reconciliation, and creating a new heart. – This coming week teens gather three times:

- Sunday, March 31 for Confirmation from 6:30 to 8 pm
- Wednesday, April 3, Youth Group in the RRC
- Thursday, April 4 with the entire parish community to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

This week, notice the judgements you carry with you on a daily basis. Who is the focus of your judgement? Is it a younger sibling or classmate? As you pray this week, hold each of these people in prayer asking God to wash over your enemies with love and kindness. Pray for yourself that you may find patience, understanding, and a release from the grip of judgement. Questions? Drop me an email. Gary

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.

March Food Basket

Kudos to your continuing generous support of our ongoing monthly food collection. This month, because of you, Al and Virginia LaFaille happily delivered 45 bags of canned fruit, vegetables and hominy and other items to the St Vincent de Paul Food Pantry at St Francis of Assisi Church in Concord.

We are blessed to have such a caring community reaching out to these wonderful agencies so that they may continue to serve the individuals and families that are so in need of the services they offer.

The requested items for the month of April are Canned Fish/Meat: Tuna/Chicken, Turkey, Spam, Corned Beef. The date for the next collection will be April 13 & 14.

Outreach Agency Distributions

Thanks to your generous contributions on our 5th Sunday collections and ongoing individual monthly support, we are able to send $2,500.00 ($500.00 each) to the following agencies: RotaCare, SHARE, Shelter Inc., STAND! for Families Free of Violence and Trinity Center.

These contributions help the agencies reach out to provide needed services to those who will benefit from them.

The first 5th Sunday weekend of the year takes place this weekend March 30 & 31.

Blue Barrel Collection

The response to the recent Blue Barrel collection of men’s & women’s underwear and socks, diapers and baby wipes was a wonderful success thanks to YOU! The following agencies, dedicated to providing services for people who are homeless or suffering from domestic violence, were grateful to receive the items: Friendly Manor, Project Hope, Trinity Center and STAND! for Families Free of Violence.

Thank you for being such a supporting community. We are truly blessed!

Operation Rice Bowl: ENCOUNTER KUMBA

We encounter Kumba from Sierra Leone, who, through her education, is providing hope for her family and community. How has education given you opportunities in life? How do you use your education for the common good? Visit https://www.crsricebowl.org/ for more.
Fourth Sunday of Lent

One of the things I enjoy about this forum is that I get to talk about books. It’s also unfair, because I get to share what I’m reading while the reader doesn’t.

Right now the book that captures me is *Tattoos on the Heart* by Gregory Boyle, S.J. It’s his memoir of the ministry that the Jesuits set up in South Central L.A. for the ten thousand gang members within the boundaries of the parish where he serves.

At the center of each of the stories is one theme: forgiveness is the only thing that can heal us, ever. Fr. Boyle has presided over hundreds of funerals of children he loved who were killed by children he loved. (And then those children were killed by the “families” of the murdered, and the miserable vortex of violence just spiraled higher and wider.)

The Paschal (Easter) Mystery, which is the center of our faith, says this: Your dad beat you? You will never, never beat your own children. Your brother was killed by a gang member? You will not avenge his death, but will pray for his murderers. Your son has shamed you and squandered his inheritance on dissolute living? You will wait for him at the city gate and run to greet him when he, half-starved and humiliated, returns.

That iconic story of forgiveness is the one we all need to tattoo on our hearts.

*Have you experienced a reconciliation this year?*

Kathy McGovern c. 2013 [www.thestoryandyou.com](http://www.thestoryandyou.com)

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**Readings for the Week**

**Monday:** Is 65:17-21; Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-13b; Jn 4:43-54

**Tuesday:** Ez 47:1-9, 12; Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9; Jn 5:1-16

**Wednesday:** Is 49:8-15; Ps 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18; Jn 5:17-30

**Thursday:** Ex 32:7-14; Ps 106:19-23; Jn 5:31-47

**Friday:** Wis 2:1a, 12-22; Ps 34:17-21, 23; Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

**Saturday:** Jer 11:18-20; Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-12; Jn 7:40-53

**Sunday:** Is 43:16-21; Ps 126:1-6; Phil 3:8-14; Jn 8:1-11

Alternate readings (Year A):

Ez 37:12-14; Ps 130:1-8; Rom 8:8-11; Jn 11:1-45 [3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45]

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**This Week at St. Perpetua**

**March 31—April 7, 2019**

**Fourth Sunday of Lent**

Whoever is in Christ is a new creation: the old things have passed away; behold, new things have come.

2 Corinthians 5:17

**Second Collection Outreach**

**Sunday**

*Children’s Liturgy of the Word*, 9:30 am Mass

*Teen/Family Mass*, 11:30 am

*Confirmation*, 6:30 pm, Church

**Monday—Parish Office Closed in observance of Cesar Chavez Day**

*Children’s Choir*, 3:30 pm, RRC

*Centering Prayer*, 7:15 pm, Chapel

*Women Walking with Purpose*, 7:30 pm, RRC

**Tuesday**

*Liturgy Committee*, 6:30 pm, Parish Office

*Lenten Prayer Group*, 7:00 pm, Lunch Room

*RCIA*, 7:00 pm, Lounge

*Outreach Cmte.*, 7:30 pm, Conference Room

**Wednesday**

*Bible Study*, 9:30 am & 7:00 pm, Chapel

*Choir Practice*, 6:30 pm, Church

*Youth Group*, 7:30 pm, RRC

**Thursday**

*Communal Penance Service*, 7:00 pm, Church

*Knights of Columbus*, 7:00 pm, RRC

**Sunday**

*Children’s Liturgy of the Word*, 9:30 am

*Faith Formation*, 10:30 am, RRC

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**Mass Intentions**

**March 30—April 7, 2018**

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*TOGETHER WE PRAY FOR THE SICK*

Elizabeth Cox, Jennifer Rosko, Giselle Contreras, Juanita Estrellas, Dennis Callahan, Orlando Portillo, Fabricio Mendoza, Anne Lagache, Karl Smida, Bruce Wood, Pat McGinnis, Mary Beth Metz, Steve Luna, Chris Bruzzone, Carol Farrell Raffa, Dylan Cazin, Irwin Mettler, Hamilton Coke, Maureen Graf, Al Swimmer, Lesley Kirchman, Laura Zellmer, Arelene Fannin, Jimmy Fulton and Manuel Luna.

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**Readings for the Week**

**Monday:** Is 65:17-21; Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-13b; Jn 4:43-54

**Tuesday:** Ez 47:1-9, 12; Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9; Jn 5:1-16

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Alternate readings (Year A):

Ez 37:12-14; Ps 130:1-8; Rom 8:8-11; Jn 11:1-45 [3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45]
On March 19th and 25th our parish children celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time. Please pray for our children as they grow closer in their relationship with Jesus.

We are grateful to our catechists for preparing the children for this day. Thank you Damian McKenna, Isy Milosevich, Meg O’Hare, and Julie Parks for your dedication to the children of St. Perpetua.

Paul Bacon
Brady Beeman
Ezra Bishop
Jackson Boselli
Olivia Britton
Olivia Chiarucci
Carolyn Colachico
James Cusumano
Emily Damesell
Lucy Delaplane
Arden Ellis
Luca Fazio
Wilson Firestone
Eloise Gafni
Grant Gebhardt
Matthew Gillette
John Greenaway
Luke Griffith
Stella Hamilton
Connor Harley
Justice Hembrador
Aislinn Hetteg
Logan Houston
Megan Ingham
Joaquin Jonsson
Kendall Lee
Matthew Lee
Bryce Mansour
Estella Markey
Margaret Marusich
Gillian Massey
Jonah Mateo
Suraya Mathai-Jackson
Liam McKenna
Madden McSorley
Jude Middleton
Camila Monahan
Samantha Murphy
Madalena Obertello
Emma O’Connor
Cade O’Hare
Colin O’Keeffe
William Parks
Frankie Polichio
Isabella Polson Flanagan
Noelle Rios
Lenie Roggensack
Hunter Sabarese
Kayla Schaffer
Tatum Schmedding
Harrison Sheffer
Rocco Stassi
Aldrik Suok
Peyton Swanson
Maurice Thomas
Cannon Thuma
Rhys Thuma
Charlotte Tschann
Audrey Tugade
Durham Vail
Tess Veronda
Tyce Watenmaker
Ava Wooler
Lillian Yung