Fifth Sunday of Lent
April 7, 2019

I put water in the desert
and rivers in the wasteland
for my chosen people to drink.

ISAIAH 43:20

St. Perpetua Church
Celebrating our Faith • Enriching our Community • Sharing our Gifts

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

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,

The annual liturgical highlight of our Catholic tradition is the three-day festival called **Triduum**. For those who have never taken the opportunity or shared in the privilege of worshipping with the community during these days, let me briefly outline the ceremonies:

**• Holy Thursday – Evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper**
(7:30 p.m. – April 18th)

No other Eucharist is permitted this day. This premier Eucharist begins as the sun sets. We listen to the ancient story of the Passover of the Israelites, our ancestors in faith. We recount Jesus’ action at his last supper with his disciples – how he washed their feet as a sign of his love and service. Then, any members of the community who wish share in the same ritual action: the **mandatum** - literally and humbly washing the feet of another community member as a sign of all our love and service to others. At the end of the Mass, we walk in candlelight procession from the church to our new Community Center to place in reservation the Eucharist which will be shared the next day. All depart in silence.

**• Good Friday – The Passion of Our Lord**
(1:15 p.m. – April 19th)

Silence and a profound meditative spirit mark this day. We pray the Stations of the Cross, remembering Jesus’ last hours before his crucifixion and death. This year the prayer of the Stations of the Cross will take on a special meaning as we gaze upon the beautiful new images which parishioners have donated. We listen to the Passion according to John. Our prayer is expansive, embracing the needs of all the world that Jesus came to save. With a genuflection, a kiss or a touch, we come in procession to venerate a large wooden cross, uniting our lives to the saving death of Jesus. We pray the Lord’s Prayer and share in Communion from the previous evening’s Eucharist. All depart in silence.

**• Easter Vigil – The Resurrection of Our Lord**
(8:30 p.m. – April 19th)

After sundown the assembly gathers outside in silence to light the new fire and the paschal candle. In candlelight procession we enter the church to break the darkness and to listen to the ancient chant of the **Exultet**. Then we sit in vigil, listening to many of the stories of our salvation history from the Hebrew scriptures, culminating in the gospel which proclaims Our Lord’s rising from the tomb. We bless the new waters of baptism and those adults who have been in long preparation are baptized and received into the Church. All renew our baptismal promises. The Eucharist is celebrated with great joy and, following the liturgy, we gather in our new Grand Hall for a reception of Easter foods and refreshments to break our Lenten fast. The Forty Days of Lent are over; the Great Fifty Days of Easter begin.

If you have never participated in the Triduum -- these three days united in prayer with a community of believers, united with Our Lord in the fullness of his saving love: His Passion, Death and Resurrection – consider joining us this year for one or all three days.

_Father John Kasper, osfs_
In the Gospel reading this week, a woman is brought to Jesus who had been caught in the act of adultery. The Law of Moses prescribed stoning as the punishment for those found guilty of adultery. The scribes and Pharisees brought the woman to Jesus to see what he would say. Actually, they wanted to find evidence to use against Jesus and condemn him. In his response to them, Jesus teaches us something important about how God looks upon sinners and our sins.

At one point in the Gospel, Jesus writes in the sand. What did Jesus write in the sand? Twice we see Jesus bend over to write in the sand as the scribes and Pharisees challenge him to determine an adulterer’s fate. He throws the question back at those whose righteousness envelops them. No one can respond as they walk away heads hanging. Everyone leaves until only the accused woman is left. Jesus then offers his forgiveness and encourages her not to sin again. Who do you most identify with in the Gospel today? The woman who sins? Those casting judgement and shame? Or do you identify with Jesus’ pause and creative outlet before responding? Either way, as followers of Christ, we will continue on our journey sure to follow in one of these three categories at any point given our ability to cope with life’s events.

In youth ministry at St. Perpetua we gather teens to go over how to cope with life’s events. Join us as we take the Gospel message and make it concrete and real today.

- Thursday, April 11 – Youth Group gathers from 7:30 to 8:45 pm in the RRC
- Sunday, April 14 – Confirmation gathers from 6:30 to 8:30 pm - TBD
- Thursday, April 18 – Confirmation joins the parish for the Holy Thursday Liturgy

A meditative ritual that some people use involves sand. Often experienced as a part of a reconciliation service, participants draw or write their sins into the sand. The sand is then wiped clean in a ritual focused on letting go of burdens or sins. Make yourself a meditative sand box to use this week. Find a plate or tray to pour the sand in. Spend time reading this Gospel and imagine what Jesus writes in the sand. Take time to reflect on your own faith journey this Lent by writing your prayers into the sand. See you soon.

Gary

Operation Rice Bowl: ENCOUNT ONA
We encounter Ona in Gaza, where, despite lack of economic opportunity, people pursue their dreams by building businesses to better their lives. How do your daily choices impact others throughout the world? How can your choices support the dignity of workers? Visit https://www.crsricebowl.org/ for more information.

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.

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.

If you were asked to be a First Eucharist Prayer Buddy please return your letter to Kristine at the office or in the basket in the vestibule of the Church by April 10. Thank you for being a prayer buddy!
For questions contact kristine@stperpetua.org
Fifth Sunday of Lent

Let’s gaze on the first reading (Isaiah 43: 16-21) for a moment. Every day we read of suicides of tormented young people who need this scripture so desperately.

Years ago I was stricken with a sudden staph infection. At noon I was going to lunch with a friend. At 3pm I was in the emergency room, screaming. Months later, after five hospitalizations, the infection was cleared. But the shock of the experience left me badly shaken.

A psychologist-friend approached me with a new treatment for PTSD. Over the course of three months she worked with me, placing small electrodes in each palm. She invited me to remember the frightening experience of being helpless and in pain. The electrode in one hand pulsed mildly. Then she invited me to think of my safe places, my loved places, and she gave the electrode a stronger pulse. Over time the pulse of the electrode in that palm was increased to the point that it overrode the strength of the pulse in the other palm. She forged a path in my brain—Isaiah would say—that diminished the memory of the terror and increased my peaceful spirit.

Remember not the former things, we pray for those who have witnessed school shootings and other horrors. Behold, God is doing something new. Watch, and it will spring forth.

Isaiah knew about PTSD. He was speaking to the traumatized Jews who had witnessed the burning of Jerusalem and had been taken into exile. He begged them to let God’s liberating power override their terrible memories.

The God of “something new” can heal our memories. Hold fast to this powerful scripture.

What approach have you used to stop “pondering the things of the past”? Kathy McGovern ©2019 www.thestoryandyou.com

Social Justice Committee

Inspired by Catholic Social Teaching, the newly formed Social Justice committee has been meeting for a few months now. Our church teaches that "our relationship with God is closely related to our relationship with other persons. To love God is to love our neighbor. This love of neighbor cannot exist without justice." After time spent discussing various Social Justice issues, 12 active members decided to focus on 3 areas - Housing (homeless), Health Care, and Immigration. We are working to educate ourselves on these issues and will soon share information on them with the parish. We will also share opportunities for related actions so that we may all work for justice for all. Please join us this Thursday, April 11 at 7:00 pm in the parish office. We hope you'll join us or contact Christoph for more information.

Volunteers Needed for Elderly

If you are looking for a local, impactful and rewarding volunteer opportunity John Muir/ Caring Hands may be it. They have over 50 elderly people in the East Bay on a waiting list for a once a week companion to help with errands, doctors appointments, social outings etc. They live independently and often have little family for support. You can also volunteer to just be a driver when it fits your schedule. For more information contact parishioner Barbara Price at 925-324-7366 or email barbara3152@gmail.com or visit the website www.johnmuirhealth.com/caringhands. Please consider this very wonderful, local organization that really needs more volunteers.

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, Manuel Luna, Tish Reardon and Paul Bregman.

Mass Intentions

April 7—April 14, 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>8:00 am</td>
<td>For the Community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9:30 am</td>
<td>Coleman Fannin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11:30 am</td>
<td>Sheila DeSilva</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>5:00 pm</td>
<td>For the Community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>8:00 am</td>
<td>Red Millette</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9:30 am</td>
<td>Juraj Hostynek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11:30 am</td>
<td>John West</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Story and You

Sacred Conversations

Grand Opening Celebration

Be sure to mark your calendar for Saturday, May 18. You don't want to miss the Celebration of the Grand Opening of our new Community Center. You are the reason we built it … so let's gather, give thanks to God and celebrate. Join us from 6:15-9:00 p.m. (following the 5:00 Mass) for the Grand Opening celebration - food, drink, music and fun! Details and ticket purchasing info to follow.

Mass Intentions

April 7—April 14, 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>8:00 am</td>
<td>For the Community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9:30 am</td>
<td>Coleman Fannin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11:30 am</td>
<td>Sheila DeSilva</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>5:00 pm</td>
<td>For the Community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>8:00 am</td>
<td>Red Millette</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9:30 am</td>
<td>Juraj Hostynek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11:30 am</td>
<td>John West</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
From sundown on Holy Thursday until sundown on Easter Sunday we mark the end of the forty days of the great fast of Lent and enter the doorway to the great celebration of the Easter Season. It is the focal point of the entire liturgical year.
In these three days we experience all that it means to be a Christian community.

Holy Thursday, April 18:
The Lord’s Supper, 7:30 p.m. (No Morning Mass)

Good Friday, April 19:
Stations of the Cross, 1:15 p.m. &
The Lord’s Passion, 2:00 p.m.

Easter Vigil, Saturday, April 20: 8:30 p.m. (No 5:00 p.m. Mass)
(All the above services will be held in the Church)

Easter Sunday, April 21: 8:00, 9:30 & 11:30 a.m. Masses
(All the Easter Sunday services will be held at Stanley Middle School)
(Easter treats after the 9:30 a.m. Mass)