**ST. PERPETUA CHURCH**

*Celebrating our Faith • Enriching our Community • Sharing our Gifts*

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**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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**Second Sunday of Easter**
(or Sunday of Divine Mercy)

Jesus said to Thomas, “Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.”

John 20:29

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**April 28, 2019**

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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 of Easter

**SIGNS AND WONDERS**

People long for “a sure thing,” concrete proof that they can see and touch. The healing of the sick, as in today’s reading from Acts, is surely concrete proof of divine action. But just as Jesus, when he healed the sick, wanted people to see more than the immediate healing of ailments, so, too, Peter and the apostles are given the gift of healing the sick to lead the people to God. There is more to illness than the body; Peter and the apostles, and indeed all in ministry today, are charged with the healing of souls. That’s where we must make a leap of faith, because we can’t see or touch the healing of souls, but we must know it in our hearts. We do not see, yet we must believe.

The second reading, from Revelation, draws on many images that resonate with those familiar with the Hebrew scriptures. The author has a vision of heaven, a vision given only to him, and he is commanded to testify to Jesus Christ, the risen Lord who now dwells in heaven, who has conquered death and sin for all time. We are called in faith to believe his testimony. We do not see, yet we must believe.

**BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO HAVE NOT SEEN AND HAVE BELIEVED**

John’s Gospel today places us with the disciples, behind a locked door, hiding, whimpering, fearful. Yet Jesus Christ comes to us, because Jesus knows us better than we know ourselves. He knows that we have the ability to spread the word of salvation, to be the church of Christ on earth. So he comes and bestows on us the great power of the Holy Spirit, the power that will build the church, the power that will spread the word. But not everyone was there, not everyone believes. Thomas needs more; he needs concrete proof. So Jesus comes back, because Thomas needs to see him. Jesus loves Thomas, and invites him to deepen his faith. So, too, Jesus Christ invites all of us to a deeper faith. Some of us may need miracles or signs and wonders to believe. But many of us have been given the gift of faith without the need to see for ourselves. Let us help each other come to deeper faith in the resurrected Lord.


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**Bay Area Crisis Nursery**

One of the agencies supported by you, the parish, through the Outreach Committee, is the Bay Area Crisis Nursery (BACN). The mission of the nursery is to prevent child abuse and neglect by providing support to families that are in crisis or under extreme stress. BACN operates two 24-hour facilities for children from birth to 11, where the children receive unconditional love and attention from BACN's trained staff and volunteers. The services are free, voluntary and confidential. They allow grateful families the time they need to heal, make plans and move forward. BACN is 100% funded by private donations, including many faith communities. You can learn more and schedule a tour by calling 925-685-6633.

On May 11 there will be a fundraiser for BACN - "Notes of Love: An Evening of Giving and Music" which will feature performances by a cappella ensembles from Campolindo, Miramonte, and Athenian High Schools. It will also offer delicious food, raffles and auctions. It will all happen at Carondelet High School in Concord. Tickets may be purchased at BayAreaCrisisNursery.org

**Friendly Manor Lunches Ongoing Volunteer Opportunity**

Friendly Manor is a drop-in place of respite serving homeless women. There are showers, laundromat facilities, ability to take a nap, hot coffee and pastries along with the availability of counseling.

On the 4th Friday of each month, a small group of people from St. Perpetua go to Friendly Manor and serve lunch to the women offered by that agency. Last month, they served sloppy joes to 27 women. If you are interested in finding out more about the 4th Friday lunch or are interested in possibly helping out, please contact Karen Kalvass at (925) 284.8130 or krkvolunter@gmail.com.

**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.

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**Voci’s Northern Lights Concert**

at St. Perpetua Church

Sunday, May 11 at 7 pm

Voci Women’s Vocal Ensemble presents “Northern Lights,” a concert featuring rich and rarely performed works by 20th and 21st century Baltic and Scandinavian composers, including recent works from Sweden, Norway, Finland, Latvia and Estonia.

The May concert will feature works by Karin Rehnqvist, Ēriks Ešenvalds, Ola Gjeilo, Frode Fjellheim, Kim André Arnesen, Imant Ramiņš, Einojuhani Rautavaara, Galina Grigorieva, as well as arrangements of traditional songs by Veljo Tormis, Matti Hyökkö and Aldonis Kalniņš. Partial funding for these concerts is provided by a grant from the Barbro Osher Pro Suecia Foundation.

Since the last half of the 20th century, there has been a significant flowering of choral music composition in these northern European regions. Music for women’s voices in particular is being produced in abundance, with great diversity and exquisite quality. Voci will bring some of this extraordinary music to life for Bay Area audiences this May.

**Tickets**

$25 suggested donation at the door
$20 advance, $15 students
FREE for children between 6 and 12
Available at the door; or online brownpapertickets.com or www.vocisings.org

Information: (510) 531-8714
Transcontinental Railroad Presentation on Sunday, May 5

To celebrate the 150th anniversary of the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad, you are invited to attend an informative presentation in the St. Perpetua Community Center on May 5 at 3:00 pm. Former parishioner and renowned engineer and historian Paul Giroux will share the presentation that he created for the RR anniversary celebrations nationwide, including symposiums in Sacramento and at Stanford University. This presentation brings the story of the Transcontinental Railroad to life, providing unique learning opportunities about how the railroad was initiated, constructed, and its impact on United States history. Appropriate for STEM students and lifelong learners.

This Week at St. Perpetua

Divine Mercy Sunday
April 28—May 5

Sunday
Chromatic Concert, 4:00 pm, Church
Confirmation Rehearsal Dinner w/sponsors, 6:30 pm, Grand Hall

Monday
Children’s Choir, 3:30 pm, RRC
Centering Prayer, 7:15 pm, Chapel

Tuesday
RCIA, 7:00 pm, Parish Office

Wednesday
Choir Practice, 6:30 pm, Church
Youth Group, 7:30 pm, RRC

Thursday
Knights of Columbus, 7:00 pm, RRC

Sunday
Presentation Transcontinental RR— Grand Hall, 3:00 pm

Readings for the Week

Monday: Acts 4:23-31-37; Ps 2:1-4, 7-9; Jn 3:1-8
Tuesday: Acts 4:32-37; Ps 93:1-2, 5; Jn 3:7b-15
Wednesday: Acts 5:17-26; Ps 34:2-9; Jn 3:16-21 or (for the memorial) Gn 1:26 — 2:3 or Col 3:14-15, 17, 23-24; Ps 90:2-4, 12-14, 16; Mt 13:54-58
Thursday: Acts 5:27-33; Ps 34:2, 9, 17-20; Jn 3:31-36
Friday: 1 Cor 15:1-8; Ps 19:2-5; Jn 14:6-14
Saturday: Acts 6:1-7; Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19; Jn 6:16-21
Sunday: Acts 5:27-32, 40b-41; Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-13; Rev 5:11-14; Jn 21:1-19 [1-14]

Mass Intentions
April 27—April 28, 2018

Saturday 5:00 pm Juraj Hostynek ✝
Sunday 8:00 am For the Community
              9:30 am Terry Osborn ✝
              11:30 am Jim Irving ✝

TOGETHER WE PRAY FOR THE SICK
Elizabeth Cox, Jennifer Rosko, Giselle Contreras, Juanita Estrellas, Dennis Callahan, Orlando Portillo, Fabricio Mendoza, Anne Lagache, Karl Suida, 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.

Divine Mercy Sunday

This is the Sunday when I most like to recall the mercies of God throughout this past year. Let me invite you into a similar meditation.

Remembering back, what victories did you have in holding your temper, in holding your tongue, in holding back a savvy “shade” on someone? That’s mercy. Blessed are those who have not had unkind words spoken to them; more blessed indeed are those who have not spoken unkind words themselves.

What physical challenges have you overcome this year? Did you fall prey to the horrible flu, or the bad colds of this season, or even pneumonia? How blessed are you who were sick and are now well. Even more blessed are those who stayed with you, cared for you, nursed and doctored you back to health. They have shown mercy, and mercy will be shown to them.

How about your prayer life? Did you experience the comfort and companionship of the Holy Spirit as you navigated the depths of Christ’s life in you? Maybe a faith community has welcomed and loved you. For that mercy, in the winter and spring of your days this year, be grateful. Even more blessed are those who have extended that friendship and grace.

I know a little bit about mercy, because I am the endless recipient of it. On this Divine Mercy Sunday, I offer this suggestion. Find the image of Divine Mercy. Stand in front of it. Imagine the healing rays coming from the heart of Jesus pouring straight into whatever part of your body or soul is hurting. Let those rays in. The mercy of the Risen One longs to pour into you.

Jesus, we trust in you.

How can the Divine Mercy of Jesus transform you this year?

Kathy McGovern ©2019 www.thestoryandyou.com
Mark your calendar for Saturday, May 18. You don’t want to miss the Celebration of the Grand Opening of our new Community Center!

St. Perpetua 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. May 18, 2019 following the 5:00pm Mass

Grand Opening celebration - food, drink, music and fun!
Details and ticket purchasing info available www.stperpetua.org.