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

Jesus said to Simon Peter,
“Feed my sheep.”
John 21:17

May 5, 2019

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,

Throughout the Easter Season the first reading each Sunday is taken from the “Acts of the Apostles” rather than a reading from the Old (First) Testament, as it is throughout the rest of the liturgical year. The Acts of the Apostles provides a valuable history of the early Christian church. Acts was apparently written in Rome, perhaps between A.D. 70 and 90. After an introductory account of the descent of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles at Pentecost, Luke pursues as a central theme the spread of Christianity to the Gentile world under the guiding inspiration of the Holy Spirit. He also describes the church’s gradual drawing away from Jewish traditions. The missionary journeys of St. Paul are given a prominent place, because this close associate of Luke was the preeminent Apostle to the Gentiles. Without Acts, a picture of the primitive church would be impossible to reconstruct; with it, the New Testament letters of Paul are far more intelligible. Acts concludes rather abruptly after Paul has successfully preached the gospel in Rome, then the acknowledged center of the Gentile world.

The early Christians did not see themselves as separate from Judaism. It was only over time that the small movement of followers of “the Way” gained a self-understanding as a “new Creation” in the Risen Lord. This awareness began to bring about a separation and an individuation of the followers of Jesus. It also led to tensions between Christians and Jews. As we hear these scriptures of the Easter Season, we need to take great care that we not make generalizations about Judaism or “the Jews,” as the term is used in the New Testament. This is more critical as the increase of anti-Semitism takes place in our country and other places in the world. The two recent tragic killings in Pittsburgh, PA, at the Tree of Life Synagogue, where 11 people were murdered, and in Poway, CA, last Saturday on the last day of Passover, when one woman was killed and the Rabbi and a young girl were injured, demonstrate that anti-Semitism is still a present reality in our country and in our world. Violence against people at worship also has increased as we saw in the killing of 300 people in Sri Lanka on Easter Sunday and 50 people at two mosques recently in Christchurch, New Zealand.

We believe that our scriptures are the inspired Word of God, but they must be understood within their historical context. We must not read or hear the term “the Jews” and misconstrue it as a blanket condemnation of all people who practice Judaism or are of Jewish descent. The Second Vatican Council’s Declaration on the Relation of the Church to Non-Christian Religions (1965) addressed this very point: “Even though the Jewish authorities and those who followed their lead pressed for the death of Christ, neither all Jews indiscriminately at that time, nor Jews today, can be charged with the crimes committed during His passion. It is true that the Church is the new people of God, yet the Jews should not be spoken of as rejected or accursed as if this followed from Holy Scripture. Consequently, all must take care, lest in catechizing or in preaching the Word of God, they teach anything which is not in accord with the truth of the Gospel message or the spirit of Christ” (#4). It will help us to remember that Jesus was a faithful Jew, born of Jewish parentage. His “prayer book” was the Jewish Book of Psalms and he saw himself as a descendant of Abraham. Jesus himself said: Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. (Matthew 5:17)

Father John Kasper, OSFS
Social Justice Committee - Immigration
“When an alien resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the alien. The alien who resides with you shall be to you as a citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God.” Leviticus 19:33-34

One of the principles of Catholic Social Teaching is the preferential option for the poor and vulnerable in our midst. The Catholic Church is, by its very title, a universal church, not a national church. Therefore, as Catholics, we must view the issue of immigration from a universal perspective, not a nationalistic one.
The St. Perpetua Social Justice Committee will study the issues surrounding immigration from a Catholic perspective in order to understand its causes, identify solutions and learn how we can get involved. Particular attention will be placed on immigration issues in our greater community of the East Bay.

For more information, contact Buzz Sherwood diananbuzz@earthlink.net. Please join us at our next meeting on Thursday, May 23 at 7:00 pm in the Parish Office to learn more.

Question: Why are we experiencing the current wave of immigration?
Answer: Most of the current wave of immigrants is made up of women and children fleeing violence in their home country.

“Sexual and gender based violence (SGBV) forces many women, girls and LGBTQ persons to flee El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras.” “Honduras has the highest femicide rate per capita in the world; a woman is murdered every sixteen hours. In El Salvador in 2017, a woman was murdered every 18 hours and 46 minutes. On average, two women are murdered each day in Guatemala, and the number of women murdered each year has more than tripled since 2000.”

Grand Opening Celebration
Come join us and celebrate our Grand Opening
Saturday, May 18
6:15-9:00 pm
Food, Drink, Music and Fun
Tickets $70 per person
Purchase tickets on the website or stop by the Parish Office

Operation Rice Bowl: THANK YOU!
Our community changed lives this Lent, and CRS Rice Bowl want to say THANK YOU!

Don’t forget to turn in your Rice Bowl. Please turn the money collected into a check made out to St. Perpetua with Rice Bowl in the memo section and place it in the collection basket or drop it off at the Parish Office.

Voci’s Northern Lights Concert
at St. Perpetua Church
Sunday, May 11 at 7 pm
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

April Food Basket Collection
This month, Jim Fulton delivered 24 bags of canned fish/meats (canned tuna, chicken, turkey, Spam and corned beef) to Monument Crisis Center.

Thank you for continuing to think of the two food pantries that we support through the generosity of your food donations on the second weekend of each month. There are so many families that rely on these pantries to make ends meet and these two agencies are thankful for your support!

May Food Basket Collection – May 11 & 12 – Mother’s Day Weekend
Oatmeal, other cereal (unsweetened, if possible)
Third Sunday of Easter

Even though it’s nowhere in scripture, tradition says that Peter, when an old man, was dragged away and crucified. Because he did not feel worthy to receive the same death as his Lord, Peter asked to be crucified upside down. Scripture never tells us where or when this took place, but the author of John’s gospel certainly knows about it, because he says that Jesus’s words to Peter—

the day will come when you will be led where you do not want to go---
signified by what kind of death Peter would glorify God.

Peter was probably martyred by Emperor Nero in Rome in the mid-60s, AD. The origin of the tradition of him being crucified upside down is unknown. But his death HAS glorified God, hasn’t it, all these centuries? Hasn’t the image of Peter begging to endure a more humiliating death than even Jesus endured been a source of inspiration and strength to you from the day you first heard it?

We don’t have to dance around the facts of the resurrection. The eyewitnesses to the empty tomb, and to the Risen One, didn’t say things like, “Well, he’s risen in our hearts,” or “We feel his Spirit and are strengthened.” That would never be enough to ask your executioners to nail you to a cross upside down.

Peter and all the martyred ones went to their deaths utterly positive that the grave that held Jesus was empty, and that Christ would raise them up with him. The witness—that’s another word for “martyr”—of those first believers rings out throughout the ages: He is Risen, and our lives and deaths are meant to give glory to that Name.

What deaths have you witnessed that give glory to God?
Kathy McGovern ©2019 www.thestoryandyou.com

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 Mary Barker.
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If you or someone you know is struggling with addiction, please contact our 24-hour help line at 888.882.9251
Ask about our scholarship program!
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150th Anniversary of the Transcontinental Railroad
Presentation at 3:00 pm, Sunday, in the new St. Perpetua Community Center Free and Open to the public. Learn about the construction of the railroad and its impact on the history of our nation.

Paul Giroux received his B.S. in Construction Engineering from Iowa State University in 1979. For the past four decades, he has been with Kiewit Corporation, working on a wide variety of heavy civil engineering mega projects throughout the United States. He serves on national civil engineering committees and is a frequent presenter at over 60 universities nationwide.