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

Men of Galilee,
why are you standing there
looking at the sky?
Acts 1:11

June 2, 2019
The Ascension of the Lord

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

It has only been forty days since the disciples stood open-mouthed, gazing at the empty tomb. Since then Jesus Christ has been with them in his glorified body, teaching and encouraging the disciples to hold fast to the message of salvation. But now they are gathered, and it seems that the disciples are still thinking about things of this world: "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" they ask (Acts 1:6). One can imagine Jesus silently shaking his head and saying, "Don’t these folks get it yet?" But Jesus is patient once again, knowing that soon the disciples will understand. And just as at the tomb, two men appear to the disciples and ask them, “What are you looking at? Jesus is returning to heaven, and you have work to do, so go do it!”

WE WAIT IN JERUSALEM

In the Gospel reading from Luke, the disciples are told to wait in Jerusalem for the promise of the Father, the power of the Holy Spirit. What might this mean? Jesus has said that his message and his ministry were something new. He said that he was calling his followers to a new way of thinking, doing, and being. What does it mean that Jesus is in heaven with the Father, and yet with us always on earth? Soon the disciples would understand, as we understand, that it is through the work of the church, the fellowship of the baptized, that Christ walks among us every day, spreading the Good News of salvation. It is because of the power of the Christ in his church that we can pray with Paul in his letter to the Ephesians: "May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a Spirit of wisdom and revelation resulting in knowledge of him" (Ephesians 1:17).


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Our Faith Formation season came to a close for the school year with our TEAM Band leading us in song at our Masses on May 19. This year over 300 students participated in faith formation from 1st through 8th grade. We are thankful to our dedicated volunteers who led the children and teens each gathering as Catechists, TEAM leaders and our TEAM Band.

Our community is very grateful for you!

Kim Anderson, Alondra Barajas, Catherine Battaglia, Crystal D’Amato, Reilly Baker, Riley Daggs, Sean Donovan, Casey Drouillard, Dylan Duque, Whitney Firestone, Danielle Ginestro, Rafael Gomez, Will Grubbs, Maggie Heiskell, Robert Hernandez, Christina Hickey, Carla Hilton, Tim Jones, Isabelle Krochmal, Mike Malone, Sammie Marchetti, Adam Massey, Sean McCourt, Michelle McGrath, Damian McKenna, Rosy Mighetto, Ana Moon, Meg O’Hare, Jazmine Oncena, Julie Parks, Brennan Pittsey, Mia Policchio, Erin Sharov, Marco Stassi, Charisse Stratford, Katie Terhar, JC Wackowski

During the summer please consider if being a faith formation teacher is of interest to you. Our teachers receive a tuition discount, first choice on class time, priority date selection and seating for sacraments AND have the wonderful opportunity to share and learn with the children about our faith. Teaching commitments range from 3-4 hours per month during the school year and teaching materials are provided.

We would love to have you join our teaching team.

Registration packets for Fall 2019 will be sent via email in mid-July. All Class Schedules are available on our website at www.stperpetua.org

Social Justice Committee—Housing

Particularly in the Bay Area, housing, shelter and homelessness are well-known national topics and concerns for all of us. From young students looking for a place to live for work or school, long-time residents struggling to stay in their homes, as well as the much-publicized homeless crisis, all these issues impact our lives.

And recently, there has been a shift from the housing shortage as an urban issue to a suburban and rural problem that is rapidly growing.

Committee members are working to educate ourselves and share information about activities taking place in Contra Costa County with agencies and faith groups that are addressing problems and creating solutions to the housing crisis. With this information, we hope to share experiences and what we learn with parish members. An overview video of the homeless in our county, along with agencies providing housing and other services is available at: https://vimeo.com/320428162

For more information, email: phijoliston@gmail.com. Please join us at our next meeting on Thursday, June 20 at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Office.

Myths and Facts about Homelessness

Myth: Navigation centers will attract crime, drug activity and uncleanliness.

Fact: Center participants are carefully screened and must follow strict rules to be accepted at the center, which provides enhanced services and treatment. Centers may also provide security, which is often welcomed by the participants.

Outreach Agency Distributions
The next 5th Sunday Collection for Outreach will be the weekend of June 29/30.

Requested items for the June 08/09 collection: Powdered Milk, Vegetable Oil and Masa Harina

May Food Basket Collection
Thank you for continuing to remember the monthly request for various items for the two food pantries. Your generosity is a blessing that helps the pantries serve the people for which they exist.

Heads Up! Coming Soon Blue Barrel Collection
The Outreach Committee will be sponsoring a Blue Barrel Collection for new backpacks (Please no solid red or blue) on the weekends of June 22/23 and June 29/30. A flyer will be included in an upcoming bulletin with more information. Stay tuned!
Ascension/ Seventh Sunday of Easter

We went to the most beautiful concert the other day. I’m still meditating on the many ways it touched and expanded my heart. It began with two songs sung beautifully by a “traditional” choir. Then a larger choir stepped up and joined them, and WOW. The sound and richness of their voices seemed to multiply ten times the sound of the original choir.

Applause. They disappear, and the sanctuary fills with the sublime colors of the Korean Choir, a combination of choirs from the Korean churches in the area. Oh, how this choir watches the director. Every note is perfect, every movement choreographed meticulously.

Applause. The colors swirl away, and now the church fills with the delightful dancers from India. The drums gently beat as these gorgeous dancers get everyone up on their feet and we all pretend we’re in the closing dance sequence of some charming movie from “Bollywood.”

Applause. Ha! Here come the Jews. All it takes is a clarinet, violin, two singers playing some kind of fascinating but unidentified string instruments, and we are transported to a pre-Holocaust Eastern European shtetl. The sound is haunting, dissonant, challenging, utterly stunning. I release my heart once again. The Jews own it.

And so it goes. One choir after the other commands the room, and then they all come together for the last piece, “Make the circle wider.” I notice, for the first time, that there are four Caucasians mixed in with the Mexicans, and three African-Americans dancing with the Indians. And the words of today’s gospel seem to sound all through the church, the city, the world: Father, may they all be one.

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And they were. And we are.

In what ways are you using your life experience to make the circle wider?
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Celebrate the New Community Center
June 1 & 2

Saturday, June 1 after 5:00 p.m. Mass
Wine & Cheese reception and
tour of new Community Center

Sunday, June 2 after all the Masses
Everyone is invited for a FREE Pancake
Breakfast sponsored by the Knights of
Columbus, after the 8:00 a.m. and 9:30
a.m. Masses. Breakfast will be served in the
new Community Center. Enjoy the Knights’
breakfast with pancakes, sausages, ham, eggs,
cereal, fruit, yogurt, coffee, tea and juice.

After the 11:30 a.m. Mass, fruit, yogurt,
sandwiches, donuts and refreshments
will be served.

Free will donations will benefit the
St. Perpetua Building Fund.