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

Take care to guard against all greed,
for though one may be rich,
one’s life does not consist of possessions.
LUKE 12:15

Eighteenth Sunday
in Ordinary Time
AUGUST 4, 2019

3454 Hamlin Road, Lafayette, CA 94549
Phone (925) 283-0272, Fax (925) 283-6534
Website: www.stperpetua.org
Parish Office Hours
Monday—Friday
8:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.
Dear Friends,

Our national scene has been rife with discussion, both supportive and critical, of political women of color—strong women who speak their minds and challenge prevailing ideas and attitudes—“the Squad.” In one of his recent reflections, Fr. Richard Rohr, OFM, has written about a strong woman of color from the early days of our nation—a woman we should get to know: Sojourner Truth. Rohr writes: “Mysticism is not all ecstatic visions. People who have endured great suffering and let it open them to a new consciousness or perspective are often mystics. They discover that they are always sustained by Love’s presence. So lived Sojourner Truth.

Sojourner Truth (1797–1883)—an abolitionist and advocate for women’s rights—was born “Isabella” to an enslaved couple in New York. When she was nine, Isabella was sold to another slave-holder that brutally beat her. One author describes how Isabella’s mother taught her children strategies to survive “within the oppressive system of slavery. Mau-Mau Bett would sit with her children during the evening under the stars and teach them how to call upon God to help them in times of crisis.” Isabella gradually came to know God as what I might call “the eternal now,” beyond human comprehension. God is only known by loving and experiencing God. Sojourner Truth wrote of her own mystical encounters with God in the third person:

As soon as Isabella saw God as an all-powerful, all-pervading spirit, she became desirous of hearing all that had been written of him, and listened to the account of the creation of the world . . . with peculiar interest. For some time she received it all literally, though it appeared strange to her that ‘God worked by the day, got tired, and stopped to rest,’ . . . after a little time, she began to reason upon it, thus—‘Why, if God works by the day, and one day’s work tires him, and he is obliged to rest, either from weariness or on account of darkness, or if he waited for the “cool of the day to walk in the garden,” because he was inconvenienced by the heat of the sun, why then it seems that God cannot do as much as I can. . . . If I had been God, I would have made the night light enough for my own convenience, surely.’

But the moment she placed this idea of God by the side of the impression she had once so suddenly received of his inconceivable greatness and entire spirituality, that moment she exclaimed mentally, ‘No, God does not stop to rest, for he is a spirit, and cannot tire; he cannot want for light, for he hath all light in himself. And if “God is all in all,” and “worketh all in all,” as I have heard them read, then it is impossible he should rest at all; for if he did, every other thing would stop and rest too; the waters would not flow, and the fishes could not swim; and all motion must cease. God could have no pauses in his work, and he needed no Sabbaths of rest. Man might need them, and he should take them when he needed them. . . . As it regarded the worship of God, he was to be worshipped at all times and in all places; and one portion of time never seemed to her more holy than another.’

Father John Kasper, OSFS
FAITH FORMATION REGISTRATION

Faith Formation Registration for the 2019-2020 is now available for children in 1st grade - 5th grade Faith Formation 6th - 8th grade TEAM High School Youth Group & Confirmation Class Schedules, Registration forms and on-line payments can be found on our website at www.stperpetua.org.

The Faith Formation Team will be back in the office August 15. questions...contact kristine@stperpetua.org We look forward to learning with you in September!

Andrew, Elizabeth, Gary, and Kristine

Food Basket

Just a quick reminder that next weekend, August 10/11 will be the monthly food collection. Please bring Peanut Butter, Jelly and Crackers (Saltines, Graham) MANY THANKS to all parishioners who have participated in the monthly food collections to the St. P. Food Basket. Your contributions over the past years have been such a blessing to individuals and families serviced by two caring agencies: Monument Crisis Center and Food Pantry at St. Francis of Assisi (sponsored by St. Vincent de Paul).

JustFaith

Living simply, loving compassionately. JustFaith is a small group program of JustFaith Ministries comprised of three phases that will help you explore today’s issues through the lens of your faith, and discover how you can make a difference. Through reflection, discussion and encounter you will learn more about how to live more simply and love more compassionately. Phases can be taken individually or together. We will be offering the first phase beginning Monday, September 16. If you would like more information or would like to register for JustFaith contact Christoph at the parish office.

Becoming Catholic

Are you or someone you know interested in becoming Catholic? Reach out and invite a friend or neighbor to explore membership in the Roman Catholic Church. Meetings will begin in late August and intended for those who were baptized in another Christian denomination, but who are no longer formally affiliated with it, and for those who are not baptized, but are seeking answers to life’s important questions. Please contact Christoph at the Parish Office.

Safe Environment Protecting God’s Children

Diocesan policy requires Safe Environment training every three years for every adult engaged in ministry, and fingerprinting for those who have direct, ongoing contact with children. All other volunteers (those not required to fingerprint) are screened through Megan’s law annually. If you have trained on Virtus you will be notified by email when to recertify. Please go online to www.virtus.org and follow the instructions for Safe Environment training. For more information, contact Diana Bitz at 510-267-8315 or dbitz@oakdiocese.org or Arlene Connors at 925-283-0272 or aconnors@stperpetua.org.

Bishop’s Appeal 2019

Thank you for your help and support in the annual Bishop’s Appeal. Your contributions have helped support:

• Pastoral Ministries & Services
• Religious Education & Formation
• Clergy Formation & Support
• Support for Catholic Schools & Parishes in Need
• Assisting Local Parishes

Please consider making a donation or pledge to the 2019 Bishop’s Appeal “Rebuild My Church”.

2019 Bishop’s Appeal Goal
Parish Goal $46,400
Funds Raised to Date $27,437.75
% of Goal 59.13%
Let’s keep it going!
The Story and You
Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

So, the summer project—which is the same project I’ve had for the twenty-five years we’ve lived in our house—is to finally organize the thousands of pictures and letters I’ve saved through the years. After an agonizing month I finally transferred all my stuff from the garage, to the porch, and now, yes, to the living room.

We can’t eat at the table because it’s covered with my grade-school report cards. Ugh. Why on earth have they traveled with me all these years? And why, I wonder, is the picture of the family of the unnamed hired help at my grandfather’s dairy sitting where the dinner plate should be?

Sentimentality, said Kafka, is giving something more attention than God gives it. I cringe when I imagine the nameless mother in that ancient picture somehow walking into our living room today and seeing the picture of her family one hundred years ago and saying, “Are you kidding me? THIS picture is more important to you than your present life? Even I didn’t keep that picture, and I actually know who those people are.”

What if this very night my life were demanded of me? I know without a doubt that stuff would be shoveled into the recycle bin in a heartbeat. The table would be cleared, and set with my beautiful china (which brings me such joy in my real life), and all my family and friends would gather around it. We would sing, and laugh, and pray, and eat! And I would die in peace, finally rid of the stuff that was keeping from being rich in the ways that matter to God.

What “treasures” do you store that are keeping you from real happiness?
Kathy McGovern c. 2019 www.thestoryandyou.com

St. Perpetua School

St. Perpetua School is hiring! Spread the word! Are you looking for flexible hours close to home, or know of someone who is? St. Perpetua School is looking for an Extended Care Director and staff to support our before and after care program. We are also looking to increase our substitute teacher pool. Call the school office 925 284-1640 or email Karen Goodshaw at kgoodshaw@csdo.org for more information.

reduce your income taxes with an IRA Gift

As you know if you have an IRA, once you reach age 70 1/2 you must take out a certain amount every year—the Required Minimum Distribution (RMD). To avoid being taxed on this distribution at your ordinary income tax rates, consider a gift to St. Perpetua from your required minimum distribution.

With the standard deduction doubled and given that state and local tax deductions have been limited to $10,000 more individuals will take the standard deduction on their taxes. As you may know, if you take the standard deduction, you cannot deduct charitable gifts. However, a gift made directly from an IRA is not included in donors’ income for tax purposes. Thus, IRA gifts represent a way for non-itemizers to make tax-efficient gifts to charity. In addition, IRA gifts may be tax-efficient for itemizing donors, including but not limited to donors residing in states that offer no state income tax deduction for charitable gifts. To qualify, donors must be 70 1/2 or older, the gift would be distributed directly from IRA to a charity. As always, please consult with your own financial advisors before making any such payments. You may also contact the Parish Office.

Youth Ministry at St. Perpetua

St. Perpetua invites all college-bound students in our Parish to attend Mass Saturday, August 10, or Sunday, August 11, for a special “going away” blessing. At the liturgies we will offer our prayers and support to you as you venture in further pursuit of developing your gifts. Families come for the special blessing and to say good-bye to friends met through school and Youth Ministry here at St. Perpetua.

Mass Intentions
August 4—August 11, 2019

Monday 8:30 am Rosemarie Maffei
Thursday 8:30 am Rollie Mullen (deceased)
Saturday 5:00 pm Connie Phillips (deceased)
Sunday 8:00 am Leland Mitchell
9:30 am For the Community

Together We Pray for the Sick
Dennis Callahan, Heronda Davis, Anne Lagache, Bruce Wood, Chris Bruzzone, Dylan Cazin, Maureen Graf, Arelene Fannin, Jimmy Fulton, Gladys Radecke, Tish Reardon, and Mary Barker.

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All are invited to join in celebrating

FR. JOHN!

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION
50TH ANNIVERSARY OF RELIGIOUS PROFESSION
& 70TH BIRTHDAY

Sunday, August 11th
4:00 – 8:00 p.m.
St. Perpetua Community Center

4:00 – 5:00 jazz music & appetizers
5:00 – 6:30 dinner is served
6:30 – 8:00 all of Fr. John's faves...
games, dancing, singing, and fun

BBQ hamburgers, hotdogs,
birthday cake & ice cream will be provided

If you are able to attend please bring
one of the following to share:
potato salad, pasta salad, fruit salad, green salad,
coleslaw or baked beans

BYOB – bring your own beverages

Reservations appreciated but not necessary
RSVP - email wlevich@stperpetua.org
OR call 925.283.0272

no gifts please, at Fr. John's request. donations, if desired can be made to
"St. Perpetua Capital Campaign"