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
Dear Friends,

One of the members of my religious order, Father Dick DeLillio, responded to the recent tragedies in El Paso and Dayton with these words which I want to share with you as we all try to make sense of the violence which has become senseless and the bigotry which poisons the human heart.

Recently I had the good fortune of vacationing in Australia’s Outback. Every evening when the cavalcade of stars appeared in the sky, everyone had the urge to raise their hands and pluck as many stars as they fancied. The stars seemed that close and bright. In fact each stars’ brilliance competed with the moon’s rich glow. This entire nocturnal panorama was astounding.

However the star attraction of each evening southern sky is the dramatic sighting of the Southern Cross. Finding its easily recognized six stars (as seen encrusted on the Australian flag) is a cross which is every star-gazers’ delight. I was no exception. The more I gazed at its mesmerizing gleam the more I was drawn towards its light.

I thought of this bright shiny light as I heard the terrible news of the double mass shootings in El Paso and Dayton. The Southern cross with its lustrous sheen and cross shaped stars recalled these powerful words: “Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.” Memorable words of Martin Luther King Jr. written after battling much hate in his lifetime, never believed hate’s darkness would win.

Today we hear more frequently hatred’s numerous voices mingled often with the noisy bursts of multiple gun-shots from Texas to Ohio, from schools to mosques, from synagogues to malls and from country fairs to churches. All in the name of making America white again or some similar misunderstood purpose.

Don’t they know that their hate only darkens America, stains America, breaks down America and spreads divisiveness? Jesus walked this earth to teach us this, Martin Luther King Jr. died showing us this, and every follower of Jesus Christ is asked to believe this. That’s why Jesus, Savior of our created world, gives his fundamental mandate to make creation prosper: “Love God and Love your neighbor as yourself.”

“Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.” These shooters under the cover of hate’s darkness only leave more darkness in their wake.

These misguided mass shooters wielding multiple firing guns simply smother Jesus words to love God and love your neighbor as yourself while simply prolonging hate. We who believe in Jesus message have to help Jesus be heard. We need to speak Jesus message more clearly, and help smother the noise rapidly firing guns make, while seeking leaders who believe deeply that “Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.”

Last word from St. Francis de Sales: Everything through love, and Nothing through fear.

Father Dick DeLillio, OSFS
**Donate for Carnival Raffle**

The carnival committee is looking for donations for the Oktoberfest raffle grand prize. Do you own a vacation home or time share that you’d be willing to donate for a 1 week use? We’re also looking for 2nd and 3rd prize items. If you can help please contact Christoph at the Parish Office.

**Hospitality Committee**

With the completion of the Community Center it is now time to plan future events. As such, we believe it would be wonderful to establish a hospitality committee. If you’d be willing to assist with this please 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 for more information.

**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.

**JustFaith**

*Be the change. (Mahatma Gandhi)*

JustFaith is an inspiring and energizing, small-group program of JustFaith Ministries that invites participants to live more simply and love more compassionately. Through engaging reading, thought-provoking dialogue and relationship building around today’s issues, you’ll share a journey of faith that invites you to consider how you can “be the change” in our world. JustFaith is comprised of three phases that 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 kristine@stperpetua.org.

**Mission Statement of Social Justice Committee**

“Believing in the God given dignity of all human beings, we provide non-violent advocacy for basic rights and needs for the vulnerable, consistent with the actions of Jesus and Catholic Social Teaching. We strive to promote public policy transforming lives so that all are physically, socially and emotionally secure. Through education, advocacy and encouraged involvement, we hope to integrate a quest for social justice into the life of the parish.”

To date the Social Justice committee has engaged in the following activities in support of our 3 main areas of focus – Housing/ Homelessness, Immigration, and Health:

- **Education:**
  - Weekly bulletin information on social justice teachings and committee focus.
  - Attended Contra Costa Housing Summit that gave information on encouraging people to get involved.
  - Attending the Multi-faith coalition and lobby days in Sacramento.
  - Coming this Fall: Just Faith Workshop to begin September 16th for an eight-week session.

- **Advocacy:**
  - Contacting elected officials to support bills aligned with Catholic Social Teaching for Housing, Homelessness and Immigration.

- **Encouraged Involvement:**
  - Point in Time count supporting HUD funding and the need for proper housing for the homeless in Contra Costa County.
  - Public action in support of just treatment of children and families at the border, Thursdays from 5:30-6:30pm in Walnut Creek.

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*Andrew, Elizabeth, Gary, and Kristine*
I used to listen to the radio all day, every day, when I was a teenager. It was so easy then. The dial never moved, and we could listen to the great music of the sixties late into the night. Thanks to all the great advances in technology I haven’t been able to figure out how to get a station on my car radio in decades. I keep pushing buttons, but all I get is that infuriating static.

The prophets, on the other hand, have figured out the radio frequencies so brilliantly that they can actually find God’s voice on the dial, and they know just where to place themselves so that the signal is loud and clear. Jeremiah, way back in the sixth century B.C., was getting God’s voice in stereo, and the message was unmistakeable: tell the king of Jerusalem to surrender to the Babylonians, for it is God’s will.

What an inconvenient truth this was. They hated him for it, and beat him, threw him in prison, and tossed him down into a muddy cistern to die of starvation at the peak of the famine brought about by the Babylonian siege of the city that he had prophesied for so long. He’d been right, of course. Those who speak for God always are.

We all want to be on the right side of history. We’d love to be the one about whom people say, “If only we had listened.” Or maybe we’re the ones who need to listen. I have a feeling that the words of the prophets are starting to come in loud and clear. Turn your radio on.

Have you ever suffered persecution for telling a truth that is now realized as correct?

Kathy McGovern c. 2019 www.thestoryandyou.com
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