



st. perpetua faith formation
2020 – 2021
events & dates



st. perpetua faith formation
1st – 5th grade faith formation
welcome

What is children’s Faith Formation?

In children’s faith formation it is our goal to provide the fundamentals of our faith in an engaging and supportive atmosphere. Our programs combine religious education, participation in weekly liturgies, faith families, and preparation for sacraments. Each component is equally important and will provide a joyful experience designed to immerse children into our Catholic community while developing their relationship with Jesus.

How does Faith Formation work?

Student Sessions:

Our faith formation sessions will meet approximately twice each month from September through April. The purpose of our sessions is to teach the children about God’s word, the Catholic Church and our responsibilities as Christians. During the student sessions, children and teens meet with their catechist leaders to learn the practices of our faith, our beliefs and to explore how to make God an everyday part of life.

Our class offerings are as follows:

Sunday morning Faith Formation	10:30 - 11:30 a.m.	1st - 5th grade
Sunday evening Faith Formation & TEAM	6:15 - 7:30 p.m.	1st - 8th grade

Family Sessions:

We know family schedules are busy. This year we will offer four “Faith Family Nights.” Parents are asked to attend with their children to learn about our rich liturgical seasons throughout the year. Our family sessions give parents the opportunity to deepen their own faith while creating an avenue to pass knowledge, traditions and faith experiences to their children.

Faith Family Nights will be offered on Sunday evenings.

How can you help?

Our Faith Formation program serves over 350 children each year and our success depends largely on the support of many parent volunteers. Each family is asked to contribute volunteer hours to the program. Many opportunities are available with a variety of skills needed. Your participation provides the children with beautiful examples of our faith. The more parent involvement we have, the more loving and nurturing of a program we can provide. The Sign Up Genius with all volunteer opportunities can be found on our registration webpage.

Ready to join?

On the following pages you will find detailed information and schedules for each program. Click to see the faith formation guide to which sessions are your best fit. If you need assistance in choosing which session is best for your family or if you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us.

Welcome to the St. Perpetua Faith Formation Program!



st. perpetua faith formation
6th - 8th grade TEAM
welcome

What is TEAM?

TEAM is St. Perpetua's middle school (6th-8th grade) youth ministry program that meets twice a month on Sundays from 6:15-7:15 pm on Zoom. We use the acronym TEAM to remind us of what our middle school youth need most in their faith development:

TEACHING:

As our youth are going through this incredible period of growth, they begin asking some important questions, such as:

What is my purpose in life?

How do I know that God is real?

Who are my real friends and am I a good friend to them?

Who can I believe and trust?

Why should I be part of a Church community?

As their critical thinking skills continue to grow and develop, we want TEAM to be a place where they can find answers to their biggest questions. We want to offer them a space to learn and to be challenged by the Gospel and the wisdom of our Church.

ENCOURAGING:

As we all know, middle school can be a time of intense peer pressure as our youth seek out ways of belonging. Unfortunately, peer pressure can lead to conformity—our youth just following the crowd or that popular clique. We want TEAM to be a place where students are encouraged to take a risk, to stand up for what they believe in and to be unafraid to courageously live out what they know to be right and true.

AFFIRMING:

In their search for clarifying their own values and identity, our middle school youth do some pretty amazing things! Oftentimes these great things (e.g. serving at a homeless shelter, taking care of an elderly grandparent, standing up to a bully, etc.) go unnoticed. We want TEAM to be a place where the good work that our youth do is celebrated and affirmed. Our hope is that TEAM is a safe space where our students have their good affirmed so they will continue to make a difference in this world.

MIDDLE SCHOOLERS:

Although middle school is a relatively short three-year time in the lives of these young people, it is a time of GREAT change. It is during this time that our youth are changing socially, physically, intellectually, emotionally and spiritually. Unfortunately, according to the most robust study of young people in the Catholic Church, it is at the age of 13 that most young people make their decision whether or not to stay in the Church. And many do not stay. (Read *Going, Going, Gone: The Dynamics of Disaffiliation in Young Catholics* by St. Mary's Press for more information.) We want TEAM to be a place where our middle school students recognize how vital and important they are to the Catholic Church. They are a huge part of the TEAM!

How does TEAM work?

Throughout the school year TEAM will be meeting a dozen times on **Sunday evenings 6:15-7:15pm on**

Zoom. At each gathering middle school students can expect to be welcomed and introduced to a contemporary worship song. Each session they will have an opportunity to do a fun virtual activity or icebreaker with the large group or in their small group. They can expect to hear a challenging message based on our year's theme - **CONNECTED**. They will always have time to meet in smaller groups (led by high school and college students) where they can talk in a safe space about things important in their lives. When they are done, our hope is that they will feel more informed, encouraged, and **CONNECTED** to the rest of the TEAM!

What is this year's theme?

Our theme this year is simple—**CONNECTED**! Although this is a simple word, it is difficult, especially for middle school students, especially during a pandemic, to feel connected. Throughout this year we will be exploring ways for our students to know, feel, experience, and help others feel connected. Now this is not just about being connected socially, although that is very important at this time in their lives. We also will explore ways for our students to be connected to this parish community, especially if they aren't able to physically be on the parish grounds. Beyond just the parish boundaries, we will explore ways our students can be connected to the larger Church community. Finally, and most importantly, we will explore ways our students can maintain their connection to the one who is the source of all connection—God, through his son, Jesus Christ. The following passage from St. Paul's letter to the Romans will be our guide:

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor present things, nor future things, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:38-39)

How do I join TEAM?

We want all students in 6th-8th grades to feel welcome at TEAM meetings. We hope TEAM can become a supportive community for all middle school teens. Students are encouraged to invite their friends to be a part of TEAM. Please fill out the "**Registration Form**" tab on this page to be part of the TEAM.

Welcome to TEAM!

Andrew and Elizabeth Berkes



st. perpetua faith formation
sunday morning events & dates

◆ parent information meeting ◆

Please plan to have at least one parent attend - no children. Meetings last one hour.
September 13 at 7:00 p.m. or September 15 at 9:30 a.m.

◆ faith family sessions ◆

Faith Family sessions will be held on Sundays in the Community Center.
On Faith Family Sessions grades 1st - 8th are asked to attend with at least one parent.

October 25 at 6:15 p.m.
December 13 at 6:15 p.m.
February 21 at 6:15 p.m.
April 11 at 6:15 p.m.

◆ student sessions ◆

Students grades 1st - 5th grade are invited to meet by grade with a parent leader
in the School Building from 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.
Students meet in the vestibule immediately following communion after 9:30 a.m. Mass.

September 20
October 4
November 15
December 6
January 10
January 24
March 7
March 21
April 13 or 18 (year two only)

◆ rise and shine mass ◆

Each month the students in our faith formation program and parish school actively participate in
leading our liturgy. All Rise and Shine Sundays are held during our 9:30 a.m. Mass.

September 13
October 4
November 8
December 6
January 31 (Catholic Schools Week)
February 28
March 21



st. perpetua faith formation
sunday evening events & dates

◆ parent information meeting ◆

Please plan to have at least one parent attend - no children. Meetings last one hour.
September 13 at 7:00 p.m. or September 15 at 9:30 a.m.

◆ faith family sessions ◆

Faith Family Nights will be held on Sundays in the Community Center.
On Faith Family Sessions grades 1st - 8th are asked to attend with at least one parent.

October 25 at 6:15 p.m.
December 13 at 6:15 p.m.
February 21 at 6:15 p.m.
April 11 at 6:15 p.m.

◆ student sessions ◆

All classes begin at 6:15 p.m.
1st - 5th grade will gather in the School Building.
TEAM 6th - 8th grade will gather in the Community Center.
All students will gather at the end of our classes in the Church for prayer
and song from 7:15 - 7:30 p.m.

September 20
October 4
November 15
December 6
January 10
January 24
March 7
March 21
April 13 or 18 (year two only)

◆ rise and shine mass ◆

Each month the students in our faith formation program and parish school actively participate in leading our liturgy. All Rise and Shine Sundays are held during our 9:30 a.m. Mass.

September 13
October 4
November 8
December 6
January 31 (Catholic Schools Week)
February 28
March 21



st. perpetua faith formation
sacrament of first eucharist events & dates

The following dates are for the families of children who are preparing to celebrate First Eucharist typically in 2nd grade and above.

◆ first eucharist parent meeting ◆

Please plan to have at least one parent attend - no children. Meetings last one hour.

Tuesday, November 3, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

OR

Wednesday, November 4, 2020 at 9:30 a.m.

St. Francis Room in the Community Center

◆ preparing our hearts for jesus, a reconciliation ceremony ◆

Please plan to have at least one parent attend with child. Ceremony lasts one hour.

Monday, February 8, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

OR

Wednesday, February 10, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

St. Perpetua Church

◆ family retreat & rehearsal ◆

Please plan to have at least one parent attend with child.

Saturday, March 6, 2021 at 9:00 - 11:30 a.m.

St. Perpetua Community Center

◆ rise & shine mass ◆

Children will ask the congregation to pray for them as they prepare for First Eucharist.

Saturday, March 20, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. Mass

or

Sunday, March 21, 2021 at 9:30 a.m. Rise & Shine Mass

◆ first eucharist masses ◆

Date requests will be issued at the October parent meetings.

Saturday, April 24, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 25, 2021 at 9:30 and 11:30 a.m.

Saturday, May 1, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, May 2, 2021 at 9:30 and 11:30 a.m.

If you are unable to attend these events, please contact
kima@stperpetua.org



st. perpetua faith formation
sacrament of first reconciliation events & dates

The following dates are for the families of children who are preparing to celebrate First Reconciliation typically in 4th grade and above.

◆ rise and shine mass ◆

4th grade students will actively participate in the liturgy.
Sunday, November 8, 2020
9:30 a.m. Mass
St. Perpetua Church

◆ first reconciliation parent meeting ◆

Please plan to have at least one parent attend - no children. Meetings last one hour.
Tuesday, January 12, 2021
7:00 p.m.
or
Wednesday, January 13, 2021
9:30 a.m.
St. Francis Room in the Community Center

◆ sacrament of first reconciliation ◆

Monday, March 15, 2021
7:00 p.m.
or
Thursday, March 18, 2021
7:00 p.m.
St. Perpetua Church

If you are unable to attend these events, please contact
kima@stperpetua.org



**st. perpetua church
rise & shine mass schedule**

Each month the students in our faith formation program and parish school are invited to actively participate in leading our celebration during Rise & Shine Sundays. Please join us in supporting the integration of their classroom efforts and participation in celebrating the Eucharist and Liturgical Seasons throughout the year.

All Rise & Shine Sunday Masses will be held during
9:30 a.m. Mass
St. Perpetua Church

celebrating the gift of community
Sunday, September 13, 2020
3rd grade students

celebrating the gift of family
Sunday, October 4, 2020
5th grade students

celebrating the gift of thanksgiving
Sunday, November 8, 2020
4th grade students

celebrating the gift of generosity
Sunday, December 6, 2020
Kindergarten and 1st grade students

celebrating the gift of learning - catholic schools week
Sunday, January 31, 2021
All St. Perpetua School students

celebrating the gift of forgiveness
Sunday, February 28, 2021
Middle School students

celebrating the gift of friendship - first eucharist prayer buddies
Sunday, March 21, 2021

Students receiving First Eucharist may attend the Saturday, March 20 at 5:00 p.m. Mass or the Sunday 9:30 a.m. Mass to request a Prayer Buddy from the congregation



st. perpetua faith formation volunteer opportunities

Please consider how you might be able to share your gifts with the children of St. Perpetua.

◆ catechist (teacher/team leader/coach)

Parent volunteers are needed to lead the monthly student sessions. Professional teaching experience is not required. Classes range from 12-20 children. All curriculum, teacher guides, training, and lesson outlines are provided. Just bring a willingness to share your faith with the children of St. Perpetua. Full time teachers receive free tuition for one child. Teachers also receive first choice date/seating selection for sacraments. Being a teacher is truly a gift to our children and you will be amazed at how much you learn from them!

...one step closer to sainthood

◆ classroom assistant

Parents are needed during the monthly student sessions in the lower grades to help with classroom management. No preparation is needed. Simply arrive 10 minutes prior to the start of class to assist the teacher with set up, class activities and clean up.

...an extra hour of quality time with your child...priceless

◆ craft coordinator

Parents are needed to assist with class preparation including craft activities. Most preparation can be done at home prior to the scheduled class time. The teacher and classroom assistants will manage the craft during class time.

...an opportunity to tap into your inner martha stewart...it's a good thing

◆ lead volunteer

Assist the Faith Formation Director with classroom set up, copies during class, welcome, and hospitality. No preparation is necessary. Lead Volunteers will need to attend a training session in September and be willing to arrive 15 minutes prior to our class start times. On occasion the Lead Volunteer will need to unlock/lock the classrooms when the Faith Formation director is not present. Two Lead Volunteers are preferred to share the role throughout the year.

...don't let the power go to your head

◆ traffic duty

Parents are needed for the student sessions to lead the efforts in the drop off/ pick up carpool lane. Traffic Duty parents arrive 10 minutes prior to the start of class and help children get to and from their cars safely. Shifts are usually complete 10 minutes after class is finished.

...everyone knows the parking lot is where the real action is

◆ sunday morning shepherd

A parent volunteer is needed to lead the children from the Church to the School. Children are dismissed immediately after communion on Sunday mornings. The Shepherd will be asked to sit near the front pews so as to exit the church immediately after receiving communion to greet the children in the vestibule and then walk over to the school for class.

...take a walk on the wild side

◆ baking and snacks

Throughout the year we have celebrations. Our parents provide treats or snacks for the children and teens.

...want to be the most loved parent in faith formation?...bake a name for yourself!

◆ outreach project

Each year we participate in a community service project. This year we working with 10,000 Lunches a local nonprofit that feeds our local homeless. Parents are needed to help sort the donations and to help children stuff and load their completed bags.

...good tidings to you for all that you do

◆ retreat assistant

Each year we have a Sacrament Retreat for the children preparing for First Eucharist and their parents. Over 250 people attend. Assistants help with set up, retreat stations and clean up. This year our retreat is scheduled for March 6, 2021 9:00 - 11:30 a.m. This opportunity is *not* available to Year Two Sacrament parents.

...like a saturday morning workout without the sweat and tears



st. perpetua faith formation registration fees

Faith Formation/TEAM first child	\$185.00 each
Faith Formation/TEAM each additional child	\$150.00 each
First Eucharist sacrament fee (to be paid in October)	\$100.00 each
First Reconciliation sacrament fee (to be paid in January)	\$ 25.00 each

All parents are asked to volunteer for a minimum of 2 - 4 hours per school year.

*

Please complete the online registration form, permission slip, and volunteer commitment through Sign Up Genius at stperpetua.org and return with payment no later than September 4, 2020.

*

Children registering for the first time must include a copy of their baptismal certificate with registration (not needed if baptized at St. Perpetua)

*

Please do not hesitate to discuss financial assistance with our office.
All requests will be handled confidentially.

st. perpetua church
3454 Hamlin Road
Lafayette, California 94549
925.283.0272
kima@stperpetua.org
aberkes@stperpetua.org
eberkes@stperpetua.org