

ST. PERPETUA CHURCH

CELEBRATING OUR FAITH ♦ ENRICHING OUR COMMUNITY ♦ SHARING OUR GIFTS

Eucharist

Daily Mass

Mon-Thurs, 8:30 am (in 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
for sacramental preparation.

Homebound, ill or Infirm

Contact the Parish Office if you,
a family member or neighbor
desires to receive communion
or the Anointing of the Sick
at home or in the hospital.

Newcomers

Contact the Parish Office
to register. Newcomers can
receive a call from a member
of the Welcoming Committee.

Assisted listening devices
available

THIRD SUNDAY OF

Lent

MARCH 19, 2017



*Jesus said,
"Whoever drinks the
water I shall give
will never thirst;
the water I shall give
will become in them a
spring of water welling
up to eternal life."*

John 4:14

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School Office (925) 284-1640

www.stperpetua.org

Parish Office Hours

Monday—Friday

7:30 am—4:00 pm

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Fr. John's Homilies Available Online

Fr. John's homilies are posted on our website at www.stperpetua.org/homilies

Third Sunday of Lent

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Early Christians gave a name to the woman at the well from today's Gospel passage: Photina. It means "she who is enlightened" or "she who has received [the] light." This follows the biblical tradition of bestowing names upon characters to help us understand their role—and ours—in experiencing God's saving power. All of the evangelists, John in particular, make the characters who encounter Jesus prototypes for all of us. Like all of us, Photina doesn't "get it" at first. It takes a dialogue with Jesus (in this case, a rather argumentative one) for her to admit who she is to herself, and for Jesus to help her discover where she might find the true streams of eternal, life-giving water. By the end of the encounter, she is enlightened. Her enlightenment is the reason the early church chose this as one of the Gospels always to be read for those newly seeking Christ, who will be enlightened and initiated in the new paschal light of the Easter Vigil.

NAME OR NO NAME?

Naming the woman at the well has fallen into disuse. In a way, especially for our society, naming things tends to be primarily about making them possessions. People name their pets, their houses, their cars, and so on. It was part of biblical naming tradition that giving or changing a name showed they were in God's possession, but their new names were also chosen to imbue them with the reality of a changed or new direction in life. Most often, today we just name things to show our ownership. So it may be a good thing that we no longer name this woman, for her name could be any one of our names, male or female. She could be—she is—all of us. All of us, in baptism, are named for Christ. We are "christ-ened" and through our life, we bear our most important name: Christian. Lent calls us back to that name, back to a renewed dialogue with Christ, that we might once again be enlightened by the grace of his truth and love.

Today's Readings: Exodus 17:3-7; Psalm 95:1-2, 6-9; Romans 5:1-2, 5-8; John 4:5-42 [5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42]

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★ FIRST EUCHARIST RETREAT ★

FOR PARENTS AND THEIR CHILDREN
WHO ARE PREPARING
TO RECEIVE FIRST EUCHARIST



Saturday, March 25, 2017

9:00 - 11:30 a.m.

St. Perpetua Church



Gifts of the Mass
and
First Eucharist Preparation Activities



AN EVITE WILL BE SENT FOR RSVP DETAILS
QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT KRISTINE KVOCHAK
AT KRISTINE@STPERPETUA-ORG



Teens - The woman at the well said to Jesus, "Give me this water, so that I may not be thirsty" (John 4:15). Water has multiple meanings in John's account of the Gospel. The living water which Jesus offers will not only quench thirst, it will continue to nourish and sustain! Clearly, the woman was deeply changed by her encounter with Jesus. It was a moment of conversion, of turning toward Christ. Lent is a time of conversion, of turning toward Christ by acknowledging our sin, and of letting God's grace sink in. These changes begin with recognition of our need for God, turning toward God in prayer. God wants us to draw near, no matter what we've done in our past that might be separating us from his love.

Jesus models compassion in his encounter with the woman at the well, and his actions are a model for us to follow, too, as we engage the challenging people around us. Instead of getting wrapped up in other people's shortcomings, or focusing on what is wrong with them, let's focus on how we can be more like Jesus in this Gospel—sitting down, listening, and offering "living water." Instead of getting frustrated with others when they don't live up to our expectations, let's start by meeting them right where they are. We too, must meet others where they are. This is the basis of Christians living as disciples of Jesus. In the words of St. Teresa of Avila, "Christ has no body now but yours . . . Yours are the eyes with which he looks with compassion on this world."

In Youth Ministry at St. Perpetua we gather to see how we can change, how we can transform our lives and the lives of others based on the Gospel message to love one another. This week teens gather three times:

- ♦ **Sunday, March 19, Teen/Family Youth Mass** at 11:30 am for the third Sunday of Lent.
- ♦ **Sunday, March 19, Sunday Youth Group** at 7 pm (until 8:30 pm) in the Church Hall.
- ♦ **Thursday, March 23** – Confirmation and Youth Group have the opportunity to join the Parish for the first of three Parish Lenten Series on the human family, 6:15 pm soup dinner, and 7 pm presentation.

Questions? Drop Gary a note.

Part-Time Caregiver Needed

Two sisters in their late seventies are looking for a part-time relief caregiver mainly for the night shift. Contact Katherine at the Parish Office for more information at kkorsak@stperpetua.org or 925-283-0272, ext. 207.

THIRD WEEK OF LENT: ENCOUNTER OPPORTUNITY

We encounter Fernando in El Salvador where, despite a lack of economic opportunity, youth are pursuing their dreams of building businesses to better the lives of their families. How have you worked to better the lives of others this Lent? Visit crsricebowl.org for more information.

Lenten Reconciliation Service

Please join us on Monday, March 27 at 7:00 p.m.

Thursday Night Bible Study and Prayer Group

The Thursday Night Bible Study and Prayer Group will not meet for three weeks in order to attend the special Lenten soup suppers and adult ed. presentations at St. Perpetua as follows: Meetings canceled for Thursday nights March 23, 30 and April 6. Regular meetings will resume on Thursday, April 20.

Monthly Food Basket Collection

As a result of your generous support of the monthly food basket, Bill Gardner delivered 307 pounds or approximately 38 bags of pasta, tomato sauce and spaghetti sauce to Monument Crisis Center. Thank you for your ongoing support of the monthly collection. The need is evident because the food pantries are quickly depleted. The items requested for the March collection are: canned fruit, vegetables and hominy.

Monthly Shelter Meal

St Perpetua's 7th grade JHOP (Junior High Outreach Program) group did all the preparation, transporting and serving of the February Shelter meal. These young people make us proud with their generous gift of their time and enthusiasm in all aspects of this meal. If you have any questions or are interested in preparing or transporting a monthly shelter meal, please contact Monica Chappell at monicachappell@comcast.net. She is always happy to answer questions to help with your decision to give this ministry a try. There is no additional commitment other than the one meal in which you are involved. Think about it. Give it a try!

Outreach Agency Distributions

Because of your continuing monetary support of the fifth Sunday Outreach Collection and additional contributions, we were able to send \$5000.00 (\$500.00 each) in the month of February to the following agencies: The Food Pantry at St. Vincent de Paul at St. Francis of Assisi Church, Foster Family Network, Friendly Manor/St. Mary's Center, Hope Conference, Loaves & Fishes, Monument Crisis Center, Options for Women, Project Hope/Anka Behavioral Health, Meals on Wheels/Senior Outreach Services, and SHARE. Thank you for being such a generous community. Because of that generosity, we can reach out to our various agencies within Contra Costa County.

SAGE
Senior Activities Group, Etc.

On **Wednesday, May 17**, SAGE will take a docent led tour of the **Blackhawk Museum**. In the **Automotive Museum** we will see their collection of classic, rare and unique cars from Italy, France, England and the U.S. In the **Spirit of the Old West Museum** we will experience the rich history of the Western Frontier settlers and Native Americans struggling together and against each other as a path is carved to the Pacific Ocean. Checks for **\$8 made out to St. Perpetua** must be in to the office by **April 10**. Carpools will leave from upper parking lot at **8:30 am**. Bring a sack lunch or plan to eat in a nearby restaurant. For information, call Sandi Gritzer 284-7133.

The Story and You™



Sacred Conversations

Third Sunday in Lent

Is the Lord in our midst or not? Now there's a question. Once they passed safely into the desert—with its challenges of hunger and thirst—the Hebrew slaves began questioning whether the Divine Power that parted the sea for them was really just all in their minds. Perhaps it was collective hysteria. But—ahem—how WAS it that they were now safely on the other side?

Isn't that exactly how the life of faith goes? We position ourselves to receive every gift God pours out on us. We can name the thousands of ways God is gracious to us. But drought and fire, illness and heart-breaking death, war and starving refugees remain. Is the nearness of God just wishful thinking?

The reason the Church gives us that refrain from Psalm 95 so often—if *today you hear God's voice, harden not your hearts*—is because every single day we can make a decision for or against the nearness of God. We were sustained through the night and woke up feeling wonderful. Yes, God is near. The morning news is filled with images of terror and injustice all over the world. No, God is clearly not in our midst at all.

In our particular moment in history there are more and more baptized Christians transitioning to a place of a hardened heart. The world is too full of sadness for them to find a way to accept that there is a loving God "with us."

The daily decision to not harden our hearts is exactly what is required of a believer. We don't believe because the kingdom is fulfilled. We choose to wait in joyful hope—and work for justice every day—until it is.

In what ways will you soften your heart today?
Kathy McGovern ©2017

This Week at St. Perpetua
March 19, 2017—March 26, 2017

Second Collection—Facilities Maintenance

Sunday

Rise & Shine Mass, 9:30 am, Church
Faith Formation, 10:30 am, RRC
Teen Family Youth Mass, 11:30 am, Church
Faith Formation, 5:30 pm, RRC
Youth Group, 7:30 pm, Hall

Monday

Centering Prayer, 7:15 pm, Chapel

Tuesday

Faith Formation, 3:00 pm, RRC
Lenten Prayer Group, 7:00 pm, Parish Office

Wednesday

RCIA, 6:00 pm, Parish Office Conference Room
Choir, 7:00 pm, Church

Thursday

Lenten Soup Supper, 6:15 pm, Hall
Lenten Presentation, 7:00 pm, "Take the Child and His Mother and Flee", Fr. Tom Bonacci, CP

Saturday

First Eucharist Retreat, 9:00 am, RRC
Small Faith Group, 11:00 am, Parish Office

Sunday

Children's Liturgy of the Word, during
the 9:30 am Mass
Confirmation, 7:00 pm, Hall

Second Collection
Catholic Charities—Bishop's Overseas

MASS INTENTIONS
March 18, 2017—March 26, 2017

Saturday	5:00 pm	For the Community
Sunday	8:00 am	Lauretta Engh †
	9:30 am	Theresa Sarasin †
	11:30 am	Margaret Mutti †
Monday	8:30 am	Hope Hofmann †
Tuesday	8:30 am	Henri & Sabine Begouen †
Wednesday	8:30 am	Sr. Mary Ann Kasper, SJ †
Sunday	8:00 am	Olga Piantidosi †
	9:30 am	Jacqueline Gallegos
	11:30 am	For the Community

TOGETHER WE PRAY FOR THE SICK:

Marie Saroyan, Chris Fliflet, Elizabeth Cox, Jennifer Rosko, Giselle Contreras, Juanita Estrellas, Elisabeth Nauer, Rico Ramponi, Doug McArthur, Dennis Callahan, George Buonocore, Caroline Bancroft, Charlotte Cairney, Ron Olowin, Judy Russell, Karen Zapotowski, Orlando Portillo, Jenny & Norma Carosella, Alex McLin, Fabricio Mendoza, Anne Lagache, Karl Smida, Roger Gregory, Bruce Wood, Pat McGinnis & Betty Magnoli.



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THAT YOU MAY BE ONE AS I AND THE HEAVENLY ABBA ARE ONE

THERE ARE MANY GIFTS IN THIS ONE FAMILY OF HUMANKIND

This Lent St. Perpetua offers a three week series on Unity that explores the treasures of diversity and difference as key to the communion of persons we call the human family. Our first reflection will explore the ideal of a family as it is understood and explored in the biblical tradition. Insights from Hinduism and Buddhism will bless our explorations. Our second reflection will explore the power of community to shape our individual identities. The ethical teachings of Jesus will provide the sum and substance of our appreciation of one another and all creation. Simply, all aspects of our lives are interconnected, interrelated, and interdependent. Finally, we will propose practical ways of encountering the peoples of the World. Verses from the Quran will touch our hearts. World peace and security begins in the mind, heart, and soul of each and every one of us.




March 23, 2017

TAKE THE CHILD AND HIS MOTHER AND FLEE

– Rev. Thomas P. Bonacci, C.P. –

What every parent knows and every child understands - What makes a family whole, redeems the World

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, as presented in the Gospel of St. Matthew, provides the basis for our reflection of what it means to be united in love.


March 30, 2017

THE GREATEST AMONG YOU SERVES THE LEAST

– Rev. Andrea Goodman –

Power as the Service of Caring for one another - A Reflection on the Samaritan Neighbor of Luke 10: 25-37

The ethical teachings of Jesus are embedded in one of his most famous parables, the Story of the Samaritan neighbor. This parable powerfully portrays the manner in which Jesus lived his own life providing an example for those who would be inspired by his teachings. Jesus reveals the depth of authentic community living as practical caring one for another.


April 6, 2017

I AM A BETTER ME BECAUSE I MET YOU

– Rev. Thomas P. Bonacci, C.P. –

You shall not suppress the stranger among you

The wisdom of the Faith Traditions of the World contributes to the well-being of all. Our final reflection will offer some practical principles by which we might meet and rejoice in one another. We are, in the last analysis, citizens of the Earth and Children of the Universe. In the tradition of Psalm 8, we will explore who we are in the sight of God.

Presenters

Rev. Andrea Goodman: PRESIDENT OF THE INTERFAITH PEACE PROJECT
Rev. Thomas P. Bonacci, C.P.: DIRECTOR OF THE INTERFAITH PEACE PROJECT