

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
for sacramental preparation.

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.

**Assisted listening devices
available**

St. Perpetua School

Contact the school office for
enrollment (TK-8) and
After School Program.
Tours by appointment call
284-1640 or skoziel@csdo.org

*The
Kingdom
of
heaven*

is like a merchant
searching for fine pearls.
When he finds a
pearl of great price,
he goes and sells all
that he has and buys it.

Matthew 13:45-46



**Seventeenth Sunday
in Ordinary Time**

July 30, 2017

3454 Hamlin Road, Lafayette, CA 94549
Phone (925) 283-0272 Fax (925) 283-6534
www.stperpetua.org

Parish Office Hours
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Fr. John's Homilies Available Online
Fr. John's homilies are posted on our
website at www.stperpetua.org/homilies

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

TREASURES AND PEARLS

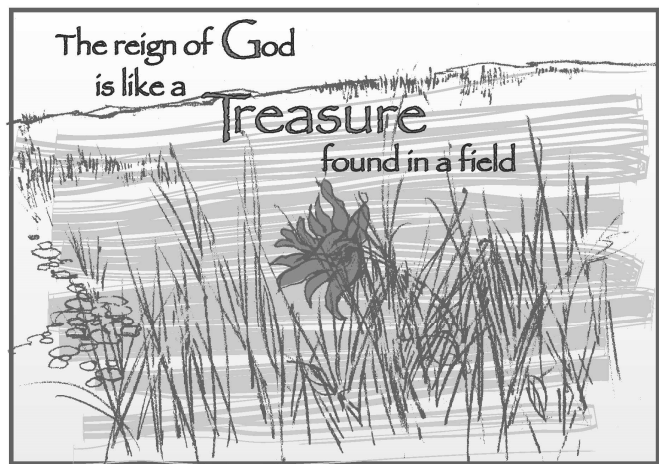
The Gospel of Matthew continues with parables that hint at what the reign of God might be like. The first parable doesn't tell us what the man was doing digging in a field that was not his, but it doesn't matter. He stumbles upon a great treasure, and recognizing its value, gives up everything he has for it. The same is true of the pearl merchant. Pearls were very rare and expensive up until the twentieth century. They are found in oysters, deep in salt or fresh water, and divers, then without any air tanks, had to dive for them and collect many thousands of oysters to find good pearls. Enough beautiful, matched pearls for a necklace were a rare and expensive find. A single rare, large pearl was a king's ransom!

DIVING AND DRAGNETS

The image of the dragnet is a good one for our unconscious mind. Hidden there is everything we experience, good and bad, that influences us in our lives. Hidden there also is the Holy Spirit, at work sorting the good from the bad, the treasure from the dross, and freeing us to begin to know our deepest desires for God. Great saints like John of the Cross and Teresa of Ávila, both doctors of the Church, wrote about our deepest selves being the dwelling place of God. While our active minds prance around all kinds of ideas and distractions, our deepest selves dwell in wordless contemplation of God. To have this revealed to us is a great gift, a priceless treasure. Because the Holy Spirit is at work in us, purifying and drawing us closer, it does not mean we do nothing. We are given free will to seek God and to pay attention to these inner workings, as God strips away whatever impedes us. This is not always comfortable. When we willingly allow God to work in us, being attentive to what the Spirit is doing, we will find God. The treasure and the pearl are real. One was found by accident, the other by much searching. It doesn't matter which we use. If we are attentive, we will find God, for God waits to be found!

*Today's Readings: 1 Kings 3:5, 7-12; Psalm 119:57, 72, 76-77, 127-130;
Romans 8:28-30; Matthew 13:44-52 [44-46]*

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Youth Ministry at St. Perpetua



Teens and Parents of Teens – Youth Ministry at St. Perpetua begins in September!

St. Perpetua's Youth Ministry invites all teens to come explore what it means to be Christian in today's world. We meet during the week and at Sunday gatherings. Take time for yourself to learn and experience how faith can be a very real part of your life!

Our day-to-day lives can be busy and hectic, and sometimes overwhelming. Juggling family, school, sports, school, community related organizations (scouts, theater), and work can be a huge challenge. Sometimes we just need to slow down and gain some insight about what and who help us grow as a person using our faith as the foundation for the response. Teens have this opportunity during the week at Youth Group gatherings, and for those who would like to prepare for Confirmation, we gather on Sunday evenings. In both Youth Group and Confirmation gatherings all high school youth have the opportunity to pray, and learn about their faith, meet other people, and have fun!

Why join other teens at St. Perpetua?

Here are a few examples of teen's experiences at Youth Group, liturgies, service projects, and Confirmation this last year:

- I met new people that I now hang out with outside of Youth Group.
- I liked our game nights, even the Church game one.
- It was helpful to talk about an updated Ten Commandments for teens.
- I never liked giving things up for Lent; I liked the chance to focus on doing something good for someone everyday and not let them know.
- I can see why going to Church is helpful.

Each gathering begins and concludes with a prayer. We all know that prayer takes many forms, and can be especially meaningful when offered by our peers so we emphasize developing a full and meaningful prayer life. Starting this week, go to St. Perpetua's website for registration forms and the Youth Group and Confirmation calendars.

Going Away to College this Year?

Join us for a couple of gatherings

Sunday evening August 6 – join other teens from the Parish for a special Youth Group gathering for our Parish college bound students. We'll have pizza and drinks, a small prayer service and suggestions on being the best version of yourself as you venture off to college. Look for an email with details shortly.

Saturday August 12 and Sunday August 13 – The Parish will offer a special blessing for a college bound students before you head off to start (or continue) your college journey. Hoping to see you! Send Gary an email at gguerrero@stperpetua.org if you have any questions.

Refugee Update

Ashkan, Setareh, and Rojin began their new lives in the United States close to three months ago. The family is making progress thanks to the unwavering commitment of a small and valiant group of volunteers, enabled by contributions of time, talent, and treasure from many across the Parish.

In honor of July 4th, a small American flag flies at the front porch of their current home. It is one of the flags our Parish volunteers brought to the airport to welcome them last April.

Jobs and Housing

Ashkan is actively looking for regular employment as he and the entire family continue to learn English. His experience includes metal fabrication and welding (MIG and stick), CCTV security system design and installation, as well as general handyman work.

If you or someone you know has any job opportunities that you think would be a good fit, please do let us know. You can contact the Parish office, or Refugee Team members Wendy Levich or MaryKuhn.

The family is also looking for housing in the Pleasant Hill/Martinez area. If you know of any below market rate rentals, please let us know. As you can appreciate, affordable housing is a big challenge.

Team Meetings

The Refugee Team meets monthly. All are welcome. Our next meeting is Thursday, August 17.

Free Voice Lessons For All! This Summer



Youth, teens, or adults of all ages - if you have ever wanted to discover your voice or develop it further, now is your chance! Donna Stoering, who has joined us at St Perpetua's this year with her husband Andy Anderson, is internationally renowned as a concert pianist, choral conductor, vocal soloist and voice coach (check out her website at www.donnastoering.com) Donna is offering to give FREE voice lessons, to any St Perpetua's member who wants them, on Wednesday evenings at 7 pm throughout the summer!

She will be waiting at the music office (entrance is at the back of the Church Hall) at 7 pm to see who comes. If no one shows up by 7:30 pm she will leave. If you know you want to participate but can't get there by that time on a particular week, just let her know so she doesn't leave - (Donna's cell is 408 406 6240).

You can come once, or many times - or every week. Your choice. Just come try it! Summer is a great time for trying new things, and singing has many proven health benefits! Fr. John is hoping to pop in sometimes, but he also hopes that many more of our parishioners of all ages will take advantage of this great opportunity!

BELIEVE THERE IS GOOD IN THE WORLD

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The Story and You™



Sacred Conversations

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

It's so interesting to watch the birds in our neighborhood. They appear to be just hanging out, chattering to their friends from the trees, or languidly floating around, making circle eights in the sky. But, all of a sudden, a whole flock of sparrows descends on one little patch of grass, and away they fly, carrying worms and other gems back to their nests. That's the thing. If you want the hidden treasure, you have to put yourself in the position to find it. Then there's the matter of discerning what is truly valuable. Skim milk, sang Gilbert and Sullivan, often masquerades as cream.

If we want something badly enough we are willing to buy a whole field in order to own the treasure we know is hidden there. But great gifts like a loving spouse, faithful friends, nurturing families and great jobs require our devoted attention. We can't just drop them off somewhere and expect they'll be there when we return. The greatest treasures require our greatest efforts.

Faith is like that. A grown-up, nurturing faith that goes the distance for a lifetime is the pearl of greatest price, but we have to keep ourselves in the game in order to own it. Like birds circling in for the food they've been watching for, human beings also need to hover close to that which truly nourishes.

Catholics today are living in a time of spiritual explosion. There must be twenty great publications, in print or online, that offer insightful reflections on the gospel for each day of the year. Classes and retreats abound. Spiritual directors are available. Are you feeling hungry? Swoop down and get yourself some breakfast.

*In what ways are you keeping your faith alive
and nourished?*

Kathy McGovern ©2017 www.thestoryandyou.com

THIS WEEK AT ST. PERPETUA JULY 30, 2017—AUGUST 6, 2017

Sunday

Children's Liturgy of the Word
During the 9:30 am Mass

Monday

Centering Prayer, 7:15 pm, Chapel

Wednesday

Free Voice Lessons, 7 pm, Church

Sunday

Children's Liturgy of the Word
During the 9:30 am Mass

Readings for the Week

Monday: Ex 32:15-24, 30-34; Ps 106:19-23;
Mt 13:31-35

Tuesday: Ex 33:7-11; 34:5b-9, 28; Ps 103:6-13;
Mt 13:36-43

Wednesday: Ex 34:29-35; Ps 99:5-7, 9; Jn 11:19-27
or Lk 10:38-42

Thursday: Ex 40:16-21, 34-38; Ps 84:3-6a, 8a, 11;
Mt 13:47-53

Friday: Lv 23:1, 4-11, 15-16, 27, 34b-37;
Ps 81:3-6, 10-11ab; Mt 13:54-58

Saturday: Lv 25:1, 8-17; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 7-8; Mt 14:1-12

Sunday: Dn 7:9-10, 13-14; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 9;
2 Pt 1:16-19; Mt 17:1-9

MASS INTENTIONS

July 29, 2017—August 6, 2017

Saturday	5:00 pm	Robert Melignano ✠
Sunday	8:00 am	Tom Evans ✠
	9:30 am	For the Community
Monday	8:30 am	Bud Hartman ✠
Tuesday	8:30 am	Roger Newman ✠
Saturday	5:00 pm	Kyle Tracy ✠
Sunday	8:00 am	For the Community
	9:30 am	Rollie Mullen ✠

TOGETHER WE PRAY FOR THE SICK:

Marie Saroyan, Chris Fliflet, Elizabeth Cox, Jennifer Rosko, Giselle Contreras, Juanita Estrellas, 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, Mary Beth Mettz, Steve Luna, Chris Bruzzzone, Thomas Bond, Betty Magnoli, Jane Meagher and Carol Farrell Raffa.



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