

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 skozel@csdo.org

AUGUST 6, 2017 | THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD



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Parish Office Hours
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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

Dear Friends,

Summer goes speeding by, yet still beckons us to take in all the warmth and beauty of these glorious days. In a couple weeks teachers will be attending staff days, parents and students will be filling backpacks with school supplies and traffic will increase to our usual maddening back-up. I hope you're enjoying these waning weeks of summer. While things at the parish are relatively quiet we have had some wonderful summer celebrations. Two weeks ago a large number of parishioners and their families shared a Sunday afternoon/evening on our beautiful upper lawn and Pavilion. Delicious food, supportive friendship, new acquaintances, games for the kids – thanks to those who attended and those who helped to plan and prepare. You can see some photos of the Parish Picnic on the back of today's bulletin. Our Pavilion and Garden of Learning have proven to be some of the best investments and features of our campus. We owe a debt of gratitude to St. Perpetua School parents who gave their time and finances several years ago to make these two facilities possible.

On Monday evening a group of parishioners and guests gathered to celebrate the Feast of St. Mary Magdalene. While serenaded by beautiful music of flute and violin provided by Martha Uhey and Audrey Burns, we listened to a moving meditation on the life of Mary Magdalene and her transformative encounter with Jesus. The text of the guided meditation was written and elegantly delivered by Suzanne Bregman and can be found on our parish website. Even seven local deer and four turkeys sauntered nearby in the cool of the evening, probably lured by the aura of prayer and tranquility.

Finally, we are nearing a critical point in plans for our new Community Center. Approvals from the various City and County departments are in, architectural plans have been value-engineered and are ready to go. We're hoping to have a groundbreaking in mid-autumn. However, we still need your financial support to bridge the funding gap. Some folks have said they were waiting to contribute until they felt assured that the project would be a "go." Well, we're definitely a "go," so if you have not yet made a pledge or donation to this project, now is the time to do so. We need your help. Remember, this is not a project of extravagance or excess. We are one of the few parishes in our Oakland Diocese that does not have an adequate indoor gathering space for all the many activities that make up our parish and school life. Our current hall, kitchen and restroom facilities are inadequate and not serving us well. We need to look ahead and create a Community Center that is both functional and attractive to serve our ministries and activities now and for years to come. Contact the Parish Office to make your contribution and be a part of this exciting venture.

Father John Kasper, OSFS

Teens Off to College this Fall



St. Perpetua invites all college-bound students in our Parish to attend Mass Saturday, August 12, or Sunday, August 13, 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.

For teens in high school, our day-to-day lives can be busy and hectic, and sometimes overwhelming. Juggling family, school, sports, community-related organizations (scouts, theater, social clubs), 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 St. Perpetua 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 work together to understand our faith, to pray, to learn from each other, to meet other teens, and to have fun!

Why join other teens at St Perpetua? We take time to understand and practice our faith as a part of the larger community and the Church. Here are a few examples of our focus for the coming year:

- Ways to Celebrate What is Right With The World
- Discovering our Gifts
- Social Justice through feeding and being with the poor
- Understanding the Sacraments
- The Ten Commandments – Updated for today’s teens
- Helping others through community service work

Starting this week, go to St. Perpetua’s website for registration forms and the Youth Group and Confirmation calendars. Paper copies will be available in the Parish Office and Church foyer this week. Youth Group starts Wednesday, September 13. Information meetings about this year’s Confirmation programs are on Sunday, August 27, Monday, August 28, and then September 5, 6, or 7. All information meetings are at 7:30 pm in the RRC.

Gary

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. Please contact Christoph for more information.

Refugee Update

The family enjoyed meeting parishioners at our annual picnic. Setareh shared delicious Iranian dishes with us. It was a fun day for all.

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.

Financial support is still needed, checks can be made payable to St. Perpetua, please note “Refugee Family” in the memo section of the check. Checks can be mailed in or dropped off at the Parish Office or you may place them in the Sunday collection basket at Church.

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!



Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord

“Once, when I was in the service in Iraq, a bird I had never seen before flew right in front of me and stared at me. From that moment on I knew I was going to make it home okay.”
 “Once, when my mom was dying, I got a call from a friend I hadn’t seen from high school. I can still remember the goosebumps I had, realizing that God was near me.”

Oh, the things we remember. These are actual “moments of encounter with God” that students have shared with me through the years. They have two things in common. First, the comforting experience occurred during a time of great stress in the person’s life. Second, even though it only happened once, they never forgot it, not even a lifetime later.

Were they “God sightings”? Well, they certainly weren’t visions of a transfigured Jesus on a mountain. But their effects were the same. We enshrine those moments in that sacred place where we store wonder. We “build tents” around our memories of encounters with the Divine so as to recover them throughout our lives.

The three disciples up on Tabor knew something about stress. They had left their lives behind in order to follow the Rabbi. The hostile Jewish authorities, and the Romans, waited in the wings. The next time they would be alone with Jesus would be in Gethsemane. No wonder they longed to stay on the mountain.

But what of those who honestly report that they have never once felt the nearness of God? No worries. Scripture has lots of people who saw actual miracles, and then forgot and despaired of God’s goodness.

In the end, it’s the waiting in joyful hope that gets you to the finish line.

*How will you watch for God’s comforting presence
 in your life today?*

Kathy McGovern ©2017 www.thestoryandyou.com

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THIS WEEK AT ST. PERPETUA AUGUST 6—AUGUST 13, 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

Thank you

I’d like to thank all of you for your nice cards, comforting words and prayers upon the passing of my Mom. I really appreciate your thoughtfulness and kindness. It meant a lot to me during these painful days and weeks.

Readings for the Week

Monday: Nm 11:4b-15; Ps 81:12-17; Mt 14:13-21

Tuesday: Nm 12:1-13; Ps 51:3-7, 12-13;
 Mt 14:22-36 or Mt 15:1-2, 10-14

Wednesday: Nm 13:1-2, 25 — 14:1, 26-29a, 34-35;
 Ps 106:6-7ab, 13-14, 21-23; Mt 15:21-28

Thursday: 2 Cor 9:6-10; Ps 112:1-2, 5-9; Jn 12:24-26

Friday: Dt 4:32-40; Ps 77:12-16, 21; Mt 16:24-28

Saturday: Dt 6:4-13; Ps 18:2-4, 47, 51; Mt 17:14-20

Sunday: 1 Kgs 19:9a, 11-13a; Ps 85:9-14;
 Rom 9:1-5; Mt 14:22-33

MASS INTENTIONS

August 5, - August 13, 2017

Saturday	5:00 pm	Kyle Tracy ☩
Sunday	8:00 am	For the Community
	9:30 am	Rollie Mullen ☩
Monday	8:30 am	Ed Nevin ☩
Tuesday	8:30 am	Michael Tonsing ☩
Wednesday	8:30 am	Jon Cain ☩
Thursday	8:30 am	Connie Phillips ☩
Saturday	5:00 pm	Elisabeth Nauer ☩
Sunday	8:00 am	For the Community
	9:30 am	Gene Fela ☩

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, Bruce Wood, Pat McGinnis, Mary Beth Mettz, Steve Luna, Chris Bruzzone, Thomas Bond, Betty Magnoli, Jane Meagher, Carol Farrell Raffa and Terry Osburn.



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