

ST. PERPETUA CHURCH

CELEBRATING OUR FAITH ♦ ENRICHING OUR COMMUNITY ♦ SHARING OUR GIFTS

Eucharist

Daily Mass

Monday-Thursday, 8:30 am
(Chapel)

Weekend Liturgies

Summer Schedule

Saturday 5:00 pm

Sunday 8:00, 9:30

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.

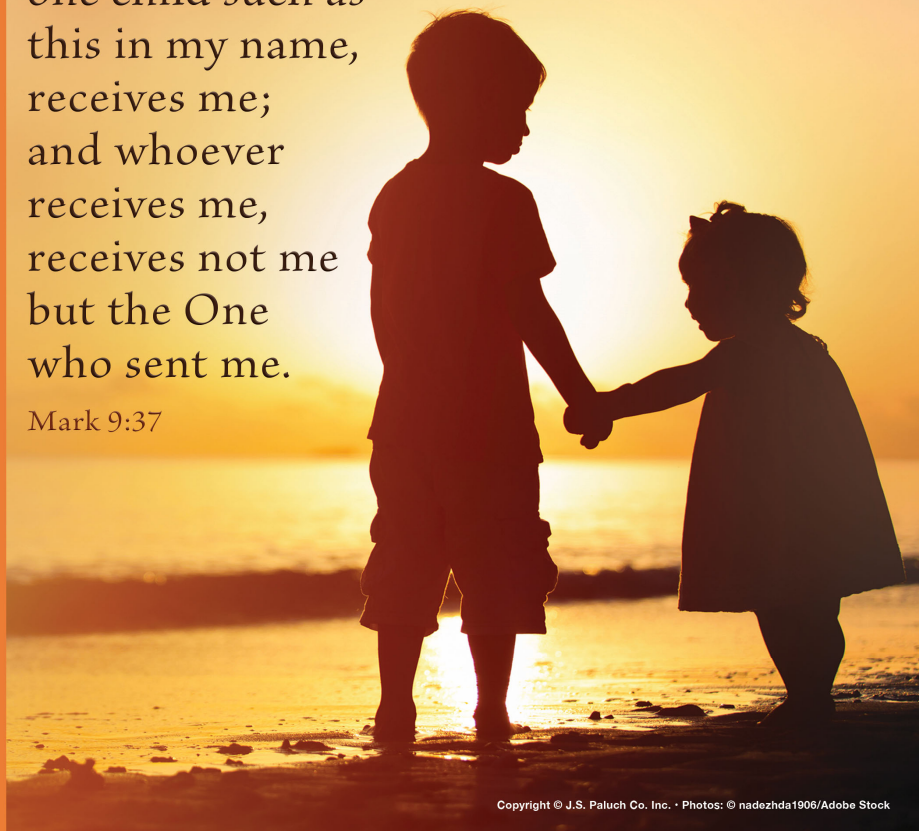
**Assisted listening devices
available**

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SEPTEMBER 23, 2018

Whoever receives
one child such as
this in my name,
receives me;
and whoever
receives me,
receives not me
but the One
who sent me.

Mark 9:37



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You've no doubt heard someone say: *I'm spiritual, but not religious*. It's usually articulated by people who choose not to be affiliated with organized or institutional religion. This is a counter point to that statement by author and theologian Nick Wagner who works with catechists and religion teachers in parishes and schools.

Seven ways to be both spiritual and religious

I ran across an article recently titled "Seven Differences Between Spirituality and Religion." From what I can tell from a Google search, the author is a young man who has survived a difficult life. I don't want to criticize whatever strategies he's used to hang onto a healthy, peaceful life. But I do want to use his article to hold a mirror up to ourselves. He deeply misunderstands what "religion" is about. We need to ask ourselves what we are doing that contributes to such misunderstandings. And what are we doing to communicate a true story of our faith? Here are his seven points.

1. Religion makes you bow — spirituality sets you free

Religion does both. Bowing is a sign of reverence, respect, and putting the other first. The author obviously means bowing in a way that indicates subjugation, as though we were slaves. We have to be better at conveying the radical freedom from any form of slavery that Jesus offers.

2. Religion shows you fear — spirituality shows you how to be brave

We know that Jesus puts an end to all fear and replaces it with a peace that passes understanding. But somehow we are not getting that message out there. Perhaps some of us grew up with an image of a fear-inducing God. The world certainly has that image. What are we doing to communicate Jesus's promise of peace?

3. Religion tells you the truth — spirituality lets you discover it

This is a difficult point to challenge. Of course, Jesus is the truth, and it is our job to proclaim that truth. But humans are hard-wired to believe we are the truth. Or we know the truth. The church has certainly gotten things wrong in the past, and we will in the future. But on the whole, as a community, we get closer to the truth of Jesus than any one of us will on our own. How well are we acknowledging the imperfections of the church while at the same time proclaiming the truth of Jesus that is found within the church?

4. Religion separates from other religions — spirituality unites them

Over the course of history, we Catholics haven't been very good at combatting this idea. In fact, we've done a lot to give it credence. But that is one of the imperfections of our past, not the goal of our future. Pope Francis recently said: *Many think differently, feel differently, seeking God or meeting God in different ways. In this crowd, in this range of religions, there is only one certainty that we have for all: we are all children of God.... We should not stop praying for and collaborating with those who think differently*. The pope is giving us an example. We have to hold fast to our belief in Christ without denigrating and separating from other religions.

5. Religion makes you dependent — spirituality makes you independent

This one is 100% true, and I'm glad. Christianity is a community of brothers and sisters, all dependent upon one another. And as a body, we are dependent upon God. This is way better than being alone, isolated, and completely dependent upon myself. In the Western world however, "independence" has become a kind of secular religion. We have to inculcate ourselves into the lives of those who value independence and find gentle ways of sharing the greater value of community life.

6. Religion applies punishment — spirituality applies karma

I don't really know what karma is. The author says it is the consequence of our actions. I don't see how that is different from what the church teaches about sin and punishment. But I do see that the world thinks Christianity is focused on punishment. As Catholics we have to get way better at getting the message of unconditional love and mercy out there.

7. Religion makes you follow another's journey — spirituality lets you create your own

It is true that we invite others to follow the way of Christ, but no one makes followers follow. Each of us is on our own journey. The fact that we choose to follow the way of Christ and we are on that journey with others does not make the journey any less our own. The challenge here is not knowing the truth. It is communicating that truth to others in a way that is liberating and not oppressive.



Teens and parents - check out the St. Perpetua website for the latest calendar update.

The weekly *Teens@StPerpetua* will start the first week in October. In the interim all of the registrations are being entered.

This week for Teens at St. Perpetua -

- **Wednesday, September 26** - a look at the Bible and sharing reflections. Generally the last week of the month we will have a Bible Study group.
- **Sunday, September 30** - Confirmation gathers at the 11:30 Teen/Family Youth Mass, and again at either 4:30 or 6:30pm in the Chapel in the upper lot.

Teens, remember that things don't always work out the way we want them to, or the way we think they will. Sometimes we don't even see it coming. We get hit with some form of pain out of nowhere leaving us feeling desperate and helpless. But that's the way life is. Still, it makes us wonder how God can let these things happen to us. How God can just stand by and watch us suffer. Where is God when it really hurts? Maybe God is actually closer to us than we think. Maybe it's when we're in these situations, where everything seems to be falling apart, that God gets an opportunity to remind us of how much He really loves us. Have a good week. Any questions, drop me a note at gguerrero@stperpetua.org and I will get back to you shortly.



This year's carnival will be held in the upper lot on the lawn by the Garden of Learning as such there will be ample parking. Fun games with cool prizes, you can win many ways. Great food and drink including popular beer brews to

enjoy at the tables by the pavilion. WrokDay will be live again to keep you entertained. Enter the raffle, the more tickets you buy the better your chances to win a 7 day Thanksgiving vacation in Maui. The Silent Auction will have gifts and goods. New this year...Tiki Toss, Lawn Darts and Yard Pong! You can also watch the 49ers and Raiders games in the sports lounge. Bring the whole family, invite neighbors and have a blast. All this can only happen with your help. Please visit our website to volunteer or sign up after the Masses this weekend.

Welcome into the Catholic community

Congratulations! This weekend we welcome the following children into our parish community through the waters of Baptism:

Lucas Henry Groholski
son of David & Tracy Groholski
Aurelia Claire Briones
daughter of Adrian & Tina Briones

May our community embrace Lucas & Aurelia and may our word and example be a reflection of God's love for them. Let us offer our joy-filled prayers and congratulations as a sign of our support and welcome!

September Food Basket

Next collection: October 13th -14th Canned or Dried Beans – Refried, Pinto, Black, Kidney, Pork & Beans, Baked

Outreach Agency Distributions

The next 5th Sunday collection for 2018 will be September 29/30. Your ongoing support of these collections is appreciated!

Friendly Manor Monthly Lunch -

If you are interested in finding out more about the 4th Friday lunch and possibly volunteering, please contact Karen Rose Kalvass at 925.285.4669 for more information. They would be delighted to have a new face in the group once in a while.

Weekend of October 13 & 14th "Share the Warmth"

Blue Barrel Collection

St. Perpetua Outreach committee is hosting a "Share the Warmth" event the weekend of October 13 & 14th. The collection will be for all warm winter things: coats, hats, mittens, scarves, sox, sweatshirts, boots, blankets, comforters, sleeping bags. Sizes needed are from infant to adult.

Some of the organizations that will benefit from these warm items are: the women at Friendly Manor in Oakland, Hillcrest Community Church clothes closet in Pleasant Hill, White Pony Express, Winter Nights, St Vincent de Paul and others. Any questions, please call Karen Rose Kalvass at 925.284.8130.

Dear Wonderful Community of St. Perpetua Church,



Thank you for your continued support of our annual "Back-2-School"

Backpack Drive! Your terrific donation of 27

new backpacks filled with school supplies helped to give many at risk and low income students in our community such a terrific sense of pride and enthusiasm for the challenges that each school year brings, as well as the tools needed for academic and personal success. Your generosity is truly appreciated by our underserved youth, who rarely have anything new, that they can call their own - such a great and unique feeling for all of them. With your assistance, we were able to distribute over **1,800 backpacks** to students in our community. The entire team here at Monument Crisis Center sends you our Heartfelt thanks--you helped to make "Back-2-School 2018" happy for so many!"....**Sandra Scherer, Executive Director"**
Monument Crisis Center

St. Perpetua Children's Choir

Welcome to the new school year! I hope everyone had a restful summer. My name is Lisa Holmes and I am the St. Perpetua School music teacher. I am starting a children's choir this year comprised of 4th - 8th grade students **for all parish children in our church community**. We will have fun sharing our voices and our fellowship! If your child enjoys singing, even if they have had no formal training, I would like to invite them to join me on Monday afternoons from 3:30 (or ASAP after school) - 5:00 p.m. in the RRC through April 15th. We will focus on learning songs to share/perform at the 9:30 Rise and Shine Masses throughout the school year. If your child is interested in joining the group even after we have started, please let me know. We will always make room! Please contact me if your child is interested at lhomes@csgdo.org

The Story and You™



Sacred Conversations

Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

It was even more dangerous to be a child in the ancient world than it is today. The infant mortality rate was huge, and if you made it to your first birthday you still had to survive the many calamities that still plague children today. Think back on your own childhood. What accidents or illnesses might have proved fatal without modern medicine?

In times of food scarcity children were the last to be fed—first the boys, and, finally, the girls. In some Middle Eastern cultures, children were sacrificed to the gods in order to ensure good harvests, and rain. That little child whom Jesus called over had already beaten the odds a million times.

It was the very low economic and social status of children that Jesus was pointing out to his disciples. *Here's this child*, he seems to say. *Take a good look. When you serve a child, you serve me.* That must have been incomprehensible to those who had followed Jesus for hundreds of miles, in deserts and on lakes, because of his great charisma and warmth. He had much higher status than a child, didn't he?

If you're like me, I'll bet your friends are popular, attractive, accomplished. As I survey my own "contacts," I have to honestly admit that I don't have any friends who have severe mental challenges. I don't have any friends who are in prison, or who live on the street.

It's not that I haven't had the time to make these friends. I somehow found the time, after all, to cultivate the friends I have. *Notice the ones you never notice*, says Jesus. *There I am, in the midst of them.*

Who is the person you've been trying not to notice?

Kathy McGovern ©2018 www.thestoryandyou.com

This Week at St. Perpetua
September 23—September 30
Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
The fruit of righteousness is sown in peace
for those who cultivate peace.

Sunday

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

Monday

Children's Choir, 3:30 pm, RRC

Capital Campaign Meeting, 7:00 pm, RRC

Centering Prayer, 7:15 pm, Chapel

Tuesday

RCIA, 7:00 pm, Parish Office

Wednesday

Staff Meeting, 10:00 am, Parish Office

Youth Group, 7:30 pm, RRC

Thursday

Construction Meeting, 9:15 am, RRC

Sunday

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

Faith Formation Class, 10:30 am, School/RRC

Teen/Family/Youth Mass, 11:30 am

Confirmation, 4:30 pm, Chapel

Faith Formation Class & Team, 6:00 pm, Church/
RRC/School

Confirmation, 6:30 pm, Chapel

Mass Intentions

September 22, 2018—September 30, 2018

Saturday	5:00 pm	Loriann Calgery †
Sunday	8:00 am	Mass for the People
	9:30 am	Richard Larrabee †
Monday	8:30 am	Arthur Connolly †
Tuesday	8:30 am	The Combi Family— Spl. Int.
Saturday	5:00 pm	Gene Fela †
Sunday	8:00 am	For the Community
	9:30 am	Bill Gardner †

TOGETHER WE PRAY FOR THE SICK

Elizabeth Cox, Jennifer Rosko, Giselle Contreras, Juanita Estrellas, Dennis Callahan, George Buonocore, Charlotte Cairney, Judy Russell, Orlando Portillo, Alex McLin, Fabricio Mendoza, Anne Lagache, Karl Smida, Bruce Wood, Pat McGinnis, Mary Beth Metz, Steve Luna, Chris Bruzzzone, Carol Farrell Raffa, Terry Osburn, Dylan Cazin, Bryan Inderrieden, Sr., Chris Clogher, Irwin Mettler, Hamilton Coke, Maureen Graf, Al Swimmer, George Kalvass, Lesley Kirchman, Hope Ramponi and Michael Gilson.



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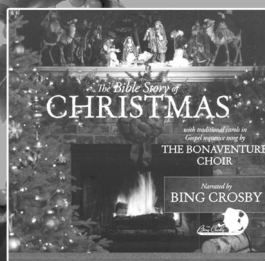
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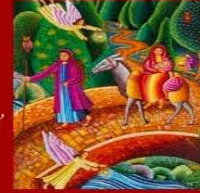
COMPASS





Oakland Catholic Worker

'A ministry to Latin American immigrants and East Oakland neighbors'



The Oakland Catholic Worker is a transitional shelter and accompaniment program for migrant Latin American families. Rooted in the nearly seventy-year presence of Catholic Worker communities in Oakland initiated by Br. Antonius (1950's) and renewed by Anne Symens (early 1980's), the current ministry of the Oakland Catholic Worker has existed since 1986 co-founded by Bob Lassalle and Francisco Herrera. Besides offering temporary lodging and meals, we provide psychological, emotional, spiritual and moral support for our guests. We link them to resources that offer more permanent housing, legal and social services and employment opportunities. We offer our guests and neighbors ESL classes to help them adjust to their new lives in the United States.

We also serve our East Oakland neighborhood by offering hot food each Monday and Wednesday from 11:00 to 2:00 p.m. to anyone who comes to our door. We host a neighborhood grocery distribution each Thursday for over 300 families in need. In the Catholic Worker tradition we also advocate and promote changes to institutional structures which unjustly deprive our immigrant populations of basic human rights as inspired and outlined in Catholic social doctrine. Finally, we host regular bi-lingual liturgical, para-liturgical and cultural events.

Needs and Wish List

- **On-going financial donations**
- **25 lb. bags of pinto beans and white rice**
- **Toiletries like toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap and shampoo for guests; razors and shaving cream; female hygiene products**
- **Wash cloths, bath and hand towels**
- **Travel size toiletries for hygiene kits**
- **Socks and underwear (all sizes, children, men and women)**
- **Blankets**
- **Gift cards to Smart and Final, Home Depot and Office Depot**
- **Volunteers to help prepare and serve hot food once a month on either Mondays or Wednesday; Bi-lingual volunteers to interview Christmas gift recipients in October;**
- **And most importantly your regular prayers...**

For more information contact Matt Parsons, Oakland Catholic Worker,
510-533-7375 or oaklandcatholicworker@yahoo.com