

ST. PERPETUA CHURCH



FAITH FORMATION HANDBOOK  
1<sup>ST</sup> - 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

2017 - 2018



Dear families,

Welcome to the St. Perpetua Faith Formation program. It is our goal to provide the fundamentals of our faith in an engaging and supportive atmosphere. On behalf of Fr. John, the faith formation parish staff and our team of catechists we are excited to introduce our programs for the coming season. Please plan to attend a Parent Information Session on September 14<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. or September 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

Our faith formation classes will meet twice each month from September through April. The purpose of our program is to teach the children about God's Word, the Catholic Church and our responsibilities as Christians. 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.

The children 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. This year we will offer four "Faith Family Nights" and parents are asked to attend with their children to learn about our rich liturgical seasons throughout the year. Parents are the most influential teachers of faith. Our Faith Family Nights give parents the opportunity to deepen their own relationship with their faith while creating an avenue to pass knowledge, traditions and faith experiences to their children.

Our class offerings are as follows:

Sunday Faith Formation *	10:30 - 11:30 a.m.	1st - 5th grade
Sunday Faith Formation & TEAM	6:00 - 7:15 p.m.	1st - 8th grade
Tuesday Faith Formation *	5:30 - 6:45 p.m.	1st - 5th grade

\* Faith Family Nights will only be offered Sunday evening. Families may attend at either session offered at 4:00 - 5:15 p.m. or 6:00 - 7:15 p.m.

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.

On the following pages you will find detailed information and schedules for each program. 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 me.

We are looking forward to seeing you in September.  
Kristine



◆ TEAM ◆

*TEAM (Teaching, Empowering, and Affirming our Middle school youth), is a Catholic middle school ministry for youth in grades 6-8. TEAM is designed to meet the educational, spiritual, emotional, and social needs of young adolescents. With new catechetical themes delivered at each gathering, middle school youth have an opportunity to learn the Catholic faith in a fun and inviting atmosphere.*

Dear Families,

Welcome to St. Perpetua Junior High School Faith Formation program. My name is Jan Stegner and I am the coordinator of middle school ministry at St. Perpetua Parish.

Due to the upcoming construction of our new Parish Hall, we are limited in our use of the current hall and church facilities. The church's availability for use will only be on the weekends, therefore we have shifted our meeting times to SUNDAYS FROM 6:00-7:15 p.m. In addition to our Sunday TEAM gatherings we will also offer four family nights, where a parent accompanies their TEAM teen to the gathering. These four afternoon/evenings will be offered on Sunday from 4:00-5:15pm, or 6:00-7:15 p.m.

Our first TEAM gathering will be on Sunday September 24th from 6:00-7:15 p.m. This gathering is a student session only.

I feel to run the best program that we can, it is imperative for parent volunteer help. Volunteer help consists of: taking roll, facilitating a small group, and following the evening curriculum to make sure the TEAM is getting the most out of each gathering. Please see the Sign Up Genius and select a class time or two! Just two added adults at each gathering makes a world of difference.

I look forward to another fun and faith based year!

Blessings,  
Jan Stegner  
Middle School Coordinator  
925-283-0272 X206 [jstegner@stperpetua.org](mailto:jstegner@stperpetua.org)

◆ SUNDAY MORNING FAITH FORMATION CALENDAR ◆

*1<sup>st</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> grade student sessions meet 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.*

*Faith Family Nights will be held on Sunday evenings in the Church.  
On Faith Family Nights grades 1<sup>st</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> are asked to attend with at least one parent.  
Families may attend either session time at 4:00 - 5:15 p.m. OR 6:00 - 7:15 p.m.*

September 14 or September 19	9.30 a.m. 7:00 p.m.	Parent Information Meeting
September 17	9:30 a.m.	Rise & Shine Sunday Mass
September 24	10:30 a.m.	Student session
October 15	9:30 a.m.	Rise & Shine Sunday Mass
	10:30 a.m.	Student session
October 29	4:00 or 6:00 p.m.	Faith Family Night (in the Church)
November 5	10:30 a.m.	Student session
November 12	9:30 a.m.	Rise & Shine Sunday Mass
	10:30 a.m.	Student session
December 3	9:30 a.m.	Rise & Shine Sunday Mass
December 10	4:00 or 6:00 p.m.	Faith Family Night (in the Church)
January 7	10:30 a.m.	Student session
January 21	10:30 a.m.	Student session
February 11	10:30 a.m.	Student session
February 25	9:30 a.m.	Rise & Shine Sunday Mass
	4:00 or 6:00 p.m.	Faith Family Night (in the Church)
March 11	10:30 a.m.	Student session
March 18	9:30 a.m.	Rise & Shine Sunday Mass
March 25	10:30 a.m.	Student session
April 15	4:00 or 6:00 p.m.	Faith Family Night (in the Church)

◆ SUNDAY EVENING FAITH FORMATION & TEAM CALENDAR ◆

*1<sup>st</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> grade student sessions meet in the School Building from 6:00 - 7:15 p.m.*

*TEAM will meet in the Church.*

*Faith Family Nights will be held on Sunday evenings in the Church.  
On Faith Family Nights grades 1<sup>st</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> are asked to attend with at least one parent.  
Families may attend either session time at 4:00 - 5:15 p.m. OR 6:00 - 7:15 p.m.*

September 14 or September 19	9:30 a.m. 7:00 p.m.	Parent Information Meeting
September 17	9:30 a.m.	Rise & Shine Sunday Mass
September 24	6:00 p.m.	Student session & TEAM
October 15	9:30 a.m. 6:00 p.m.	Rise & Shine Sunday Mass Student session & TEAM
October 29	4:00 or 6:00 p.m.	Faith Family Night (in the Church)
November 5	6:00 p.m.	Student session & TEAM
November 12	9:30 a.m. 6:00 p.m.	Rise & Shine Sunday Mass Student session & TEAM
December 3	9:30 a.m.	Rise & Shine Sunday Mass
December 10	4:00 or 6:00 p.m.	Faith Family Night (in the Church)
January 7	6:00 p.m.	Student session & TEAM
January 21	6:00 p.m.	Student session & TEAM
February 11	6:00 p.m.	Student session & TEAM
February 25	9:30 a.m. 4:00 or 6:00 p.m.	Rise & Shine Sunday Mass Faith Family Night (in the Church)
March 11	6:00 p.m.	Student session & TEAM
March 18	9:30 a.m.	Rise & Shine Sunday Mass
March 25	6:00 p.m.	Student session & TEAM
April 15	4:00 or 6:00 p.m.	Faith Family Night (in the Church)

◆ TUESDAY FAITH FORMATION ◆

*1<sup>st</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> grade student sessions meet in the School Building from 5:30 - 6:45 p.m.*

*Faith Family Nights will be held on Sunday evenings in the Church.  
On Faith Family Nights grades 1<sup>st</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> are asked to attend with at least one parent.  
Families may attend either session time at 4:00 - 5:15 p.m. OR 6:00 - 7:15 p.m.*

September 14 or September 19	9:30 a.m. 7:00 p.m.	Parent Information Meeting
September 17	9:30 a.m.	Rise & Shine Sunday Mass
October 3	5:30 p.m.	Student session
October 15	9:30 a.m.	Rise & Shine Sunday Mass
October 17	5:30 p.m.	Student session
October 29	4:00 or 6:00 p.m.	Faith Family Night (in the Church)
November 7	5:30 p.m.	Student session
November 12	9:30 a.m.	Rise & Shine Sunday Mass
November 28	5:30 p.m.	Student session
December 3	9:30 a.m.	Rise & Shine Sunday Mass
December 10	4:00 or 6:00 p.m.	Faith Family Night (in the Church)
January 9	5:30 p.m.	Student session
January 23	5:30 p.m.	Student session
February 6	5:30 p.m.	Student session
February 25	9:30 a.m.	Rise & Shine Sunday Mass
	4:00 or 6:00 p.m.	Faith Family Night (in the Church)
March 6	5:30 p.m.	Student session
March 18	9:30 a.m.	Rise & Shine Sunday Mass
March 20	5:30 p.m.	Student session
April 15	4:00 or 6:00 p.m.	Faith Family Night (in the Church)

◆ **FIRST EUCHARIST** ◆

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

**First Eucharist Parent Meeting**

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

Wednesday, November 8, 2017 at 9:30 a.m.  
Religious Resource Center

OR

Monday, November 13, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.  
Religious Resource Center

**Preparing our Hearts for Jesus**

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

Thursday, February 8, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.  
St. Perpetua Church

OR

Monday, February 12, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.  
St. Perpetua Church

**Family Retreat & Rehearsal**

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

Saturday, March 10, 2018 at 9:00 - 11:30 a.m.  
St. Perpetua Church

**Rise & Shine - Prayer Buddy Mass**

*Children may attend the 5:00 p.m. or 9:30 a.m. Mass and will ask a member of the congregation to pray for them as they prepare for First Eucharist.*

*A brief reception will follow Mass so children have the opportunity to personally meet their Prayer Buddy.*

Saturday, March 17, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. Mass

OR

Sunday, March 18, 2018 at 9:30 a.m. Mass  
St. Perpetua Church

**First Eucharist Masses**

*Date requests will be issued at November parent meetings.*

Saturday, April 28, 2018 at 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 29, 2018 at 9:30 and 11:30 a.m.

Saturday, May 5, 2018 at 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, May 6, 2018 at 9:30 and 11:30 a.m.

If you are unable to attend these events, please contact  
Kristine Kvochak at 925.283.0272 or [kristine@stperpetua.org](mailto:kristine@stperpetua.org)

◆ **FIRST RECONCILIATION** ◆

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

**Rise & Shine Mass**

*4<sup>th</sup> grade students will actively lead and participate in the liturgy*  
Sunday, November 12, 2017  
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.*  
Thursday, January 11, 2018  
9:30 a.m.  
Religious Resource Center  
*or*  
Tuesday, January 16, 2018  
7:00 p.m.  
Religious Resource Center

**Sacrament of Reconciliation**

Tuesday, February 27, 2018  
7:00 p.m.  
St. Perpetua Church  
*or*  
Thursday, March 1, 2018  
7:00 p.m.  
St. Perpetua Church

If you are unable to attend these events, please contact  
Kristine Kvochak at 925.283.0272 or [kristine@stperpetua.org](mailto:kristine@stperpetua.org)





Each month the students in our faith formation program and parish school will be asked to actively participate in the celebration during our 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**

**Sunday, September 17, 2017**  
Celebrating Catechist Sunday  
*Middle School students will bless all of our faith formation and school teachers  
as they begin their work for the year*

**Sunday, October 15, 2017**  
*5<sup>th</sup> grade students*

**Sunday, November 12, 2017**  
*4<sup>th</sup> grade students*

**Sunday, December 3, 2017**  
Celebrating Saint Nicholas  
*Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade students*

**Sunday, January 28, 2018**  
**Catholic Schools Week**  
Open House Mass

**Sunday, February 25, 2018**  
Celebrating the season of Lent  
*3<sup>rd</sup> grade students*

**Sunday, March 18, 2018**  
Celebrating our First Eucharist Prayer Buddies  
*2<sup>nd</sup> grade students may attend the Saturday 5:00 p.m. Mass or the  
Sunday 9:30 a.m. Mass to request a Prayer Buddy from the congregation  
A brief reception will follow the 5:00 p.m. and 9:30 a.m. Mass  
so children have the opportunity to personally meet their prayer buddy*

## ◆ VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES ◆

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

### **CATECHIST (TEACHER/TEAM LEADER)**

Parent volunteers are needed to lead the monthly lessons. 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. Teaching commitment is once per month. Teachers may partner with another parent but both parent teachers must be present each student only class. Teachers receive free tuition for one child and 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 monthly 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 HELP**

Parents are needed to assist with various craft preparations. Supplies and templates are provided. Most preparation can be done at home or will be scheduled 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 20 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 Tuesday and Sunday evenings to lead the efforts in the drop off/pick up carpool lane. Traffic Duty parents arrive 15 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**

Throughout the year we have celebrations. Our bakers provide treats for the children.

*...Want to be the most loved parent in faith formation?...Bake a name for yourself!*

### **OUTREACH PROJECT**

Each year in December we prepare gift bags stuffed with toiletries for the ANKA organization that support the homeless of Contra Costa County. 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 10, 2018 at 9:00 - 11:30 a.m.

*...Like a Saturday morning workout without the sweat and tears*

◆ REGISTRATION FEES ◆

Faith Formation/TEAM per student	\$185.00 each
First Eucharist sacrament fee (to be paid at parent meeting)	\$ 75.00 each
First Reconciliation sacrament fee (to be paid at parent meeting)	\$ 25.00 each

All parents are asked to volunteer for a minimum of 5 hours per school year.



Please complete the online registration form, permission slip, and volunteer commitment through Sign Up Genius at [stperpetua.org](http://stperpetua.org) and return with payment no later than August 25, 2017.



Children registering for the first time must include a copy of their baptismal certificate with registration.



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

ST. PERPETUA CHURCH  
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