

## Navigating the Desert

Like Noah being prepared to navigate the Flood, so the Spirit sent Jesus into the desert. Why was he sent there? Did he need to learn something he didn't know? Did he lack something he needed? Jesus as God didn't lack anything, of course, but he needed time to pray, reflect, and prepare for his mission. He also wanted to set an example to follow. Another Scripture says he went into the desert to be tempted by the devil. That time of spiritual combat was helpful for him.

We also need to go through trials and crises to grow both in our spiritual lives and human maturity. We each have had our desert where we are challenged to our core and stretched beyond our limits. Perhaps it was a crisis such as a health, employment, or relational issue. But it doesn't always have to be such a dramatic event. It can be as simple and constant as the

prolonged embracing of daily challenges in a manner that leads to life. We probably look back and see these as some of our best times—if we truly encountered ourselves and our Lord.

The key is in peaceful acceptance, looking for what good can be learned from these inconveniences. In every cross there is a resurrection; in every storm a rainbow assures us of God's presence and victory. It tells us that clouds and storms will not lead to total death, but rather to a purified rebirth, growth, and newfound life and strength. He has promised us this.

—Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

### *For Reflection*

*What important lessons have I learned from a challenge in my life? Maybe I can share that lesson with a friend or family member.*



Piece: *Noah and the Flood*, 1508  
Artist: Michelangelo  
Location: Sistine Chapel

*[God said,] "I set my bow in the clouds to serve as a sign of the covenant between me and the earth."*

*(Genesis 9:13)*

## *Mass Intentions for the Week*

		<b>Intention</b>	<b>Requested by</b>
Saturday, Feb. 17	5 p.m.	Rodolfo Abesamis-Healing	Abesamis Family
Sunday, Feb. 18	8 a.m.	Lee Helsop-Personal Intentions	GRIP Soup Kitchen
	9:30 a.m.	Thanksgiving of Ana Prindle and Children for Blessings of Good Health	Ana Prindle and Children
	11 a.m.	Manuel H. Shute, Sr. †	Asuncion Family
	12:30 p.m.	Marta Sabado-Personal Intentions	Patricia Sabado
	6 p.m.	St. John Parishioners	St. John Parish
Monday, Feb. 19	8 a.m.	Fannie Rawls †	Renty Family
Tuesday, Feb. 20	8 a.m.	Ruth Bronner	Kathy Klatt
Wednesday, Feb. 21	8 a.m.	Thanksgiving of Ana Prindle and Children for Blessings of Good Health	Ana Prindle and Children
Thursday, Feb. 22	8 a.m.	Peter Damian Ewen †	Eric and Sharon Ewen
Friday, Feb. 23	8 a.m.	Angelo Matteucci †	Gina Lencioni
Saturday, Feb. 24	8 a.m.	Joselito Asuncion †	Alice Barce

**Stewardship**

Envelopes & EFT, February 11, 2017     \$ 2,819  
 Loose Donations     \$ 1,666

This week's Second Collection will support the Parish Youth Ministry.

*Thank you for your generosity.*

**Presidents' Day, Feb. 19**


Monday, the nation celebrates Presidents' Day. School and Church Office will be closed.

**CRS-Rice Bowl**

First Week of Lent. In Iraq, CRS encounter Majd and his family, people forced to flee violence, searching for stability. How are we called to welcome the stranger in our midst? How can you support those, worldwide, who are forced to flee their homes to find safety or better opportunities? Visit [crsricebowl.org](http://crsricebowl.org) for more.

**Let Us Pray for the Sick**

Rodolfo Abesamis, Virginia Alday, Gera Assefa  
 Evelyn Baker, Niani Barber, Pearl & Patrick Batiste  
 Paul Batist, Irene Blair, Robert Britto, Richard Calapini, Evelyn Canepa, Jeff Chavez, Bernadine Clark, Brenna Clark, Jennette Cleadenger  
 Betty Cooper, Linda Crittendon  
 Cora Dongon  
 Joann Douglas, Pablo de la Vega  
 Mary Dong, Tami Duncan, Juanita Estrellas, Filomena Giese, Mike Giovannini, Joseph Golinveau  
 Domingos deGregorio, Andy Gutierrez, James Gutierrez, Ruben Gutierrez, Maydelle Halligan, Joanne, Marvin & Maurice Haynes, Sherry Highlander, Tamaya Hunt, Pat Jeffre, Ann Jones, Tom Kennedy, Robin Laws, Maria Impang Lozada, Bernice Luckett, Marian & Michael Luoma, Nancy McVey  
 Francis Mondragon, Ester Oppus, Judith Padilla, Theresa Parella, Angelina Patacsil, Victoria Payless, Fely Sabares  
 Jovita Santos, Linda Schneider, Dimitri Smith, Salvador Tejero, Rose Texara, Pat Tilley, Joseph Vidal, Sarah Vidal, Evodio Walle, Jan Williamson



**Senior Center Event**

Feb. 20, Tuesday: Presidents' Week Observed. Center is Closed.

## First Sunday of Lent

The waters of Baptism make us part of the new covenant in Christ. But the bishops' pastoral letter on stewardship reminds us that "there is a fundamental obligation arising from the Sacrament of Baptism...that people place their gifts, their resources - their selves - at God's service in and through the Church."

### This Week's Service Schedule

**Sunday Readings:** Gen 9:8-10, 15, 1Peter 3:18-22, Mk 1:12-15.

**Monday Readings:** Lev 19:1-2, 11-18, Mt 25: 31-46.

**Tuesday Readings:** Is 55:10-11, Mt 6:7-15.

**Wednesday Readings:** Jon 3:1-10, Lk 11:29-32. Or 2Tim 4:1-5, Jn 15:1-8.

**Thursday Readings:** 1Peter 5:1-4, Mt 16:13-19.

**Friday Readings:** Ez 18:21-28, Mt 5:20-26. Or Rev 2:8-11, Jn 15:18-21.

**Saturday Readings:** Deut 26:16-19, Mt 5:43-48.

**Liturgy of the Hours, Mon.- Fri. at 7:40am.**

**Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena, Wed., 8:30am at the Church and 6pm at the Chapel.**

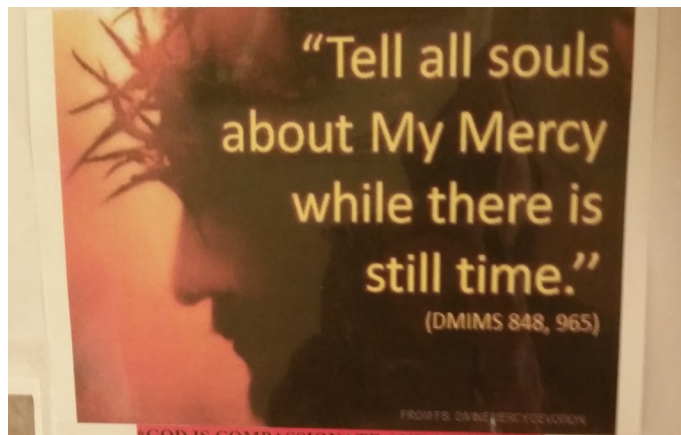
**Rosary and the Divine Mercy Chaplet, Mon.- Sat., 8:30am at Church; Daily, 3pm, 9pm, and 10pm (Spanish) and Wed., 7:30pm (Spanish), Chapel.**

**Holy Infant of Prague Novena, Thu. at 8:30am at Church.**

**Devotion to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Fri., 6pm at the Chapel.**

**Confession, Sat., at 4pm or at an appointed time.**

**Stations of the Cross, Fri., 8:30am; 7:30pm with Benediction.**



### Protecting God's Children

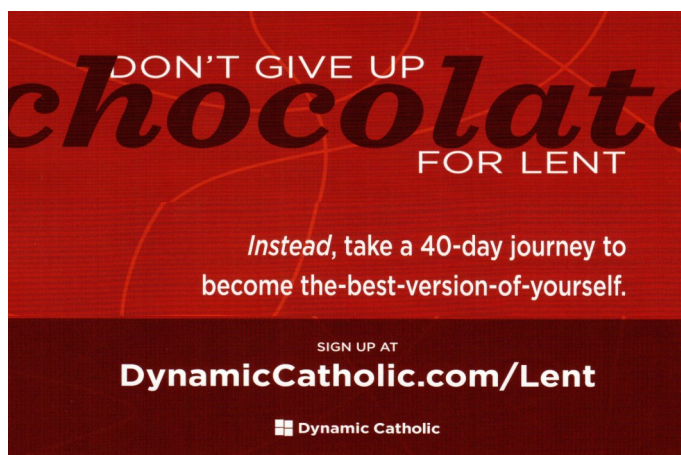
All volunteers and church employees must complete the training at [virtusonline.org](http://virtusonline.org).

Volunteers and church employees, who mentor minors, or administer the Eucharist at homes or visit vulnerable adults need to be livescanned/ fingerprinted.

Send copy(s) of these to the Rectory. For questions, please call the Rectory or the Safe Environment, Diocese c/o Diana Bitz 267-8315.

### The Holy Father's Prayer Intention for the Month of February

Universal: Say "No" to Corruption. That those who have material, political or spiritual power may resist any lure of corruption.



Jorge Santos

**Get On The Bus**

So it is that time of year again, St. John Parish-ioners ask me about Get On The Bus. At present we are contacting families, many of whom need our prayers as they struggle to raise children for someone in prison. Know that, as a parish, you are greatly appreciated and have been most generous to this project.

Thanks to Fr. Thuong I will be announcing this year's program at Masses on the week-end of

Feb. 25. As usual we will have a video explaining how we get children to visit their incarcerated par-ents. Bus U, our bus, which cares for families in the Richmond/Oakland area, will be leaving for Chow-chilla on Friday, May 11. Looking forward to shar-ing with you on **Feb.25, 2018** -Sr. Carmel

**Holy Land Pilgrimage, Dec. 3-13, 2018**

Walk the Path Filled with Miracles.

For information: [www.polandmej.com](http://www.polandmej.com)  
Or call Victoria at 650-758-5802, or Luvi at 510-918-5825. Fr. Joseph Tran will preside at all daily Mass of the pilgrimage.

**Pilgrimage to Greece and Turkey Plus: 7 Days Greek Islands Cruise September 20 - October 3, 2018**

14 Days Pilgrimage with Daily Masses. The "Footsteps of St. Paul" Pilgrimage in Greece and Turkey visiting the House of the Blessed Mother in Ephesus including Seven Days cruising the Greek Islands. The Pilgrimage cost is \$4,599 (includes air, hotels, cruise, island short excursion and meals) from San Francisco (RT). Flyers are avail-able at the vestibule and at St. John the Baptist Of-fice.

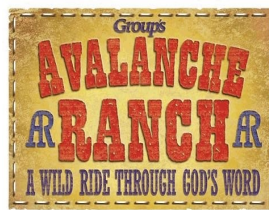
Due to high demand, please make your reserva-tion early.

The Spiritual Director of the pilgrimage is Fr. Thuong H. Nguyen. For more information and reservation, contact the Group Leader, Linfa Beli-sario @ (510) 599-4210.

**Calls for Help & Hope**

The Contra Costa Crisis Center has provided a lifeline of help and hope for 42 years.  
Call 1-800-833-2900

**Vacation Bible Day Camp**



St. John The Baptist Church 17th Annual Vacation Bible Day Camp will be held June 25-29th, 2018. Our School Gym will be transformed into a Country Western Ranch

Experience for "A Wild Ride at Avalanche Ranch".

Prairie Dog Pre-School is for 3-5 year olds who haven't started kindergarten. The same time and fees apply. All Day Campers are 9 a.m. - 5 p.m for only \$170, Morning only Campers are 9 a.m.-12 noon For \$70. (One of the Best Bargains in the Bay Area!, Kids can arrive at 8 a.m. at no extra charge.)

Kids will enjoy: Sing & Play Stampede Skits & Songs, Cowpoke Crafts & Science, Wild Bible Adventures, Chuck Wagon Chow Snacks, Horse-play Games, Special Guests & Service Projects, new friends and much more!

Mark your calendars & set the date for the Cool-est week of the Summer! On-line registration will be available in March: [www.sjtbc.us/vbdc.html](http://www.sjtbc.us/vbdc.html). Questions: Pam Vincent [email:pam@sjtbc.us](mailto:pam@sjtbc.us)

**Home Made Lasagna Luncheon Fundraiser YLI Mother of Perpetual Help #159**

Come to a fundraiser for the Richmond Police Canine Association. For \$15 in advance or \$17 at the door, you will enjoy a hearty home made lasagna, green salad, garlic bread and a tasty des-ert.

Purchase raffle tickets at \$1 each or \$5 for 6 tickets to win fun prizes. Luncheon is from 12:30PM to 2PM, Saturday, March 3rd 2018 at St. Jerome Church downstairs in Rohan Hall in El Cerrito.

We are a Catholic women's non-profit organi-zation that is dedicated to helping our local churches and community. Please join us and enjoy good food and fun prizes.

RSVP: Alia Zuniga, (510) 384-8978 from 10AM-5PM. We accept cash and personal checks only. Make checks payable to: MOPH#159.

**Church Linen Volunteers Needed**

We are looking for 3-4 volunteers to join the Church Linen Ministry. This task includes picking up, laundering, ironing and returning the linens used in the celebration of the Eucharist, i.e. purificators, corporals, and hand towels.

If we get enough volunteers, each person's task may occur every six or eight weeks (truly not too burdensome!).

Thank you for considering joining. Please let Kathleen Keller know if you are willing to serve. (510-734-1267).

**Adoration Chapel's Lenten Retreat**

A Topic About Prayer  
Saturday, March 10, 2018, 7pm-9pm

Learning About Fasting  
Saturday, March 17, 2018, 7pm-9pm

Understanding Almsgiving  
Saturday, March 24, 2018, 7pm-9pm

**2018 Bishop's Appeal**

TAKE a bishop's appeal envelope and make a pledge. You will be contributing to the different services and programs that the diocese extends toward increasing vocations, elderly priests and religious, catechesis, neighboring needs, i.e. healthcare, food, shelter.

**Sunday Mass Schedule Survey**

Thank you all for participating in the survey to select a new Sunday Mass time for our parish. As you'll recall, the current 11:00 a.m. & 12:30 p.m. Sunday Masses will be combined into one new Mass. You were asked to select the time for the new Mass: 11:30 a.m. or 12:00 noon.

We received a total of 323 survey responses. By a 2 to 1 majority, the choice was to make 11:30 a.m. the new Mass time. The change will become effective Sunday, May 6, 2018.

Thank you for your comments and support for St. John's parish, as we usher in this new change.

**St. Jerome Church Lenten Retreat**

Gerald Hair with 60 years of experience in Spiritual Ministry and 50 years in Spiritual Direction and Pastoral counseling will share topics on Compassion, Petition, and Gratitude, Feb. 17, Saturday, 9:30am-2:30pm. A sandwich for \$5.00 or you may bring your own bag lunch. Please call 510-525-0876 RSVP.

**Vocation Discernment**

Daughters of Charity invites single women, 18-40 years for a weekend retreat at Los Altos from Apr. 20-22. For more information, contact Sister Lisa Laguna, D.C., 26000 Altamont Road, Los Altos Hills, Ca. 650-949-8890 or 213-210-9903 or srlagfuna@doc1633.org. or DaughtersOfCharity.com

**Marriage Encounter Weekend**

The mission of the Worldwide Marriage Encounter is to proclaim the value of Marriage and Holy Orders in the church and the world! - Joe & Sue Talarico, Diocese of Oakland 925.680.7767 now or go to oaklandwwme.org or contact Mike & Jeanne @ 925.672.2016

**Oakland Symphony Chorus  
Italian Tour 2018**

Sing with the Oakland Symphony Chorus in some of the finest cities and concert venues in historic Italy. You will be traveling to Rome, Venice, Florence, and Pisa from June 21 to July 1, 2018.

Join parishioners Bernie Juat and Cynthia Webb-Beckford singing in Rome and Florence.

For more information, log on: [www.oaklandsymphony.org/about-us/chorus/International Tours](http://www.oaklandsymphony.org/about-us/chorus/International%20Tours) Next Stop: June 21-July 1, 2018



Help keep our church clean.