

The Meaning of the Gardens of Scripture

Focus on this painting and you will be drawn across the space between the gaze of Jesus and the chalice the angel offers. Sebastiano understands the essence of the agony in the Garden—the loneliness of Jesus before the bitter cup the Father extends to him via the hands of an angel.

Jesus' attitude in receiving this passion is evident in his open arms. Like the posture he will assume when nailed to the cross, he shows his humble acceptance and abandonment.

Gardens don't appear often in Scripture, but they are important. There is the Garden of Eden, the place of God's



Piece: *Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane*, 1746
Artist: Sebastiano Conca
Location: Pinacoteca, Vatican Museums

creative love and man's original sin. There is the garden in the Song of Songs—a garden of passion, possession, and life-giving union. Where is Jesus' tomb, and where does Mary Magdalene, the transformed lover, find Jesus on Easter morning? In the Scriptures, gardens are a place of new life, sin, and redemption. It's where lovers go; where love is declared and tested.

This is important in understanding the drama of our Lord's agony in the Garden. It is the drama inside of love. It is the drama of acceptance and abandonment, trust and generosity, life and death.

Jesus knows this and goes into the Garden to do what Adam failed to do in the first Garden. He goes to pay the price of love. He engenders new life by giving his own. He looks at the chalice, the price of our salvation, and with a heart full of generous, uncomplicated love, accepts the Father's invitation. "Not my will but yours be done."

—Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

For Reflection

How can I receive Jesus' self-giving love for me more deeply?

How should I imitate Jesus' self-giving love in my relationships?

[Christ Jesus] offered prayers and supplications with loud cries and tears.
Hebrews 5:7

Mass Intentions for the Week

		Intention	Requested by
Saturday, Mar. 17	5 p.m.	St. John Parishioners	St. John Parish
Sunday, Mar. 18	8 a.m.	Esther Loreto Tatom	Joe Lewis
	9:30 a.m.	For the Deceased Members of Woo and Dong Families	John and Nancy Woo
	11 a.m.	Thanksgiving of Ana Prindle and Children for Blessings of Good Health	Ana Prindle and Childrem
	12:30 p.m.	Joseph Franz	Keller Family
	6 p.m.	St. John Parishioners	St. John Parish
Monday, Mar. 19	8 a.m.	Norman David Vargas †	Mila Vargas
Tuesday, Mar. 20	8 a.m.	Isabel B. Loyola †	Tipping Family
Wednesday, Mar. 21	8 a.m.	Maria Pires Miranda †	Domingos deGregorio
Thursday, Mar. 22	8 a.m.	Jaime Smith †	Smith Family
Friday, Mar. 23	8 a.m.	St. John Parishioners	St. John Parish
Saturday, Mar. 24	8 a.m.	St. John Parishioners	St. John Parish

Stewardship

Envelopes & EFT, Mar. 11, 2018	\$ 3,188
Loose Donations	\$ 1,284
Second Collection: Easter Flowers	\$ 1,769

This week's Second Collection will support Catholic Relief Services

Thank you for your generosity.

Adoration Chapel's Lenten Retreat

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

Saturday, March 17, 2018, 7pm-9pm
Learning About Fasting
Public Rosary (For the Traditional Marriage of One Man and One Woman), Outside the Chapel, 12pm

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

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, 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, 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, Pam Paun, Victoria Payless, Fely Sabares, Jovita Santos, Linda Schneider, Salvador Tejero, Rose Texara, Pat Tilley, Joseph Vidal, Sarah Vidal, Evodio Walle, Jan Williamson



Senior Center Event

Mar. 20, Tuesday: Guest Speaker at 11:30am/
Lunch at 12:30pm. 6500 Gladys Ave.

Fifth Sunday of Lent

“If anyone would serve me,” says Jesus in today’s Gospel, “let him follow me, where I am, there will my servant be.” In what way is Jesus inviting me to follow Him? What service is He asking of me?
 - John 12:26

This Week’s Service Schedule

Sunday Readings: Jer 31:31-34, Heb 5:7-9, Jn 12:20-33 .

Monday Readings: 2Sam 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16, Rom:4:13, 16-18, 22, Mt 1: 16, 18-21, 24a Or Lk 2:41-51a.

Tuesday Readings: Num 21:4-9, Jn 8:21-30. Or 2Kings 4:18b-21, 32-37, Jn 11:1-45.

Wednesday Readings: Dan 3:14-20, 91-92, 95, Jn 8:31-42. Or 2Kings 4:18b-21, 32-37, Jn 11:1-45.

Thursday Readings: Gen 17:3-9, Jn 8:51-59. Or 2Kings 4:18b-21, 32-37, Jn 11:1-45.

Friday Readings: Jer 20:10-13, Jn 10:31-42. Or 2Kings 4:18b-21, 32-37, Jn 11:1-45. Or 2Tim1:13-14, 2:1-3, Mt 9:35-38.

Saturday Readings: Ez 37:21-28, Jn 11:45-56. Or 2Kings 4;18B-21, 32-37, Jn 11:1-45.

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.

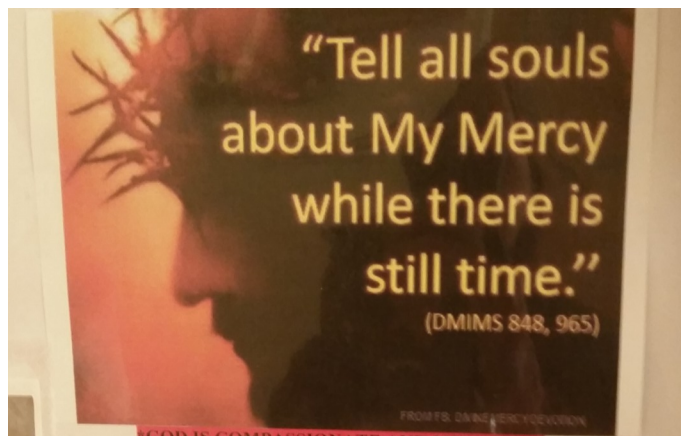
Holy Infant of Prague Novena, Thu. at 8:30am at Church.

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

Retreat and Penance Service, Fri.,7:30pm



The Holy Father’s Prayer Intention for the Month of March

Evangelization: **Formation in Spiritual Discernment.**

That the Church may appreciate the urgency of formation in spiritual discernment, both on the personal and communitarian levels.

Almsgiving Thru Rice Bowl

Catholic Relief Services guides us this Lent by reflecting on our role to care for the most vulnerable-those who are experiencing hunger, lack of economic opportunity or violence that forces people to migrate. crsricebowl.org



Bernice Stewart

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 srllagfuna@doc1633.org. or DaughtersOfCharity.com

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

Support for the Incarcerated and Their Families

Catholic Charities offer three sessions on how the Church support the incarcerated and their families with both practical and spiritual resources. Attend a session at either St. Joan of Arc in San Ramon on March 24 from

1-4pm, Cathedral of Christ the Light in Oakland on March 28 from 6-8:30pm or Catholic Charities in 217 Harbour Way, Richmond from 9-12pm.

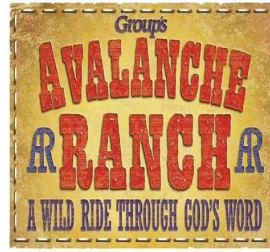
Lighting the Way Update

The parish has reached 59% of its goal of \$23,400, with 22% accounting for pledge amounts and 37% in contributions received. Consider making a pledge or contribution and be a part of making a sacrificial gift, proportionate and thoughtful gift to neighboring areas of Contra Costa and Alameda

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 pm 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, Horseplay Games, Special Guests & Service Projects, new friends and much more!

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

The "Footsteps of St. Paul" Pilgrimage

This pilgrimage to Greece and Turkey will visit the House of the Blessed Mother in Ephesus. Mass will be celebrated daily during the 14-Day Pilgrimage.

The pilgrimage includes seven days of cruising the Greek Islands. The cost is \$4,599 for a round-trip airfare from San Francisco, hotel accommodations, meals, cruise and island short excursions. Flyers are available at the vestibule and at the St. John the Baptist Office. Due to high demand, please make your reservation early for this pilgrimage from September 20 to October 3, 2018. The pilgrimage will be accompanied by Fr. Thuong H. Nguyen as the Spiritual Director. For reservation and for more information, contact Group Leader, Linfa Belisario, @ (510) 599-4210.

Thank You, Donors and Parishioners

Our St. Vincent de Paul Pantry distributed Easter Food Baskets consisting of ham and groceries to many families this weekend. The parish extends its warm gratitude to all of you for sharing the joy of God’s gift which we celebrate this Easter.

Feast of St. Joseph, March 19

It may very well be a day for fathers, fathers-to-be, grandfathers, husbands, guardians, patrons, carpenters, workers, peace officers, rescuers, helpers, teachers, catechists, mentors, caregivers, doctors, nurses, builders, leaders, drivers, priests, peacekeepers. God giving you to us as a model to a family, pray for us.

Pilgrimage to the Holy Land at Christmas Season

Come and Join this Extraordinary unforgettable Trip to the Home Land of Jesus

With Fr. Joseph Tran December 3-13, 2018 \$3,200/person
 -Round Trip from USA -Breakfast / Dinner Daily -Mass Daily
 Hotel Included



For more Information, Visit www.polandmej.com
 Contact: Victoria Tannady (510) 847-7773
 email: beatitudes8@rocketmail.com OR Luvi Lumibao
 (510) 918-5825 email: luvilumibao@aol.com

Worldwide Marriage Encounter

The mission is to proclaim the value of Marriage and Holy Orders in the church and the world! - Joe & Sue Talarico, Diocese of Oakland

How about taking some time for the two of you -- to be alone and rekindle that flame of love and intimacy. Relax, let go and grow your love for one another by participating in a Worldwide Marriage Encounter (WWME) weekend held at **San Damiano Retreat Center**, Danville. Space is VERY limited! Early registration is highly recommended. For more information contact Mike &

Jeanne @ 925.672.2016 or Joe & Sue @ 925.680.7767 now or go to oaklandwwme.org

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FOR LENT

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SIGN UP AT
DynamicCatholic.com/Lent

Dynamic Catholic

The Philippines: 500 Years of Catholicism

Kick-Off Celebration & Mass at the Cathedral of Christ the Light, March 16, 7pm. Celebrant, Bishop Michael Barber, S.J.
 Dedicating 2018 to St. Lorenzo Ruiz at St. Isidore, Danville, Sep. 22, 9:30am-3pm.
 Devoting 2019 to Our Lady of the Rosary, Oct. 5, 2019. (Venue to be announced).
 Dedicating 2020 to St. Pedro Calungsod, Sep. 19, 2020. (Venue to be announced).
 Honoring Señor Santo Niño on 2021, March 6. (Venue to be announced).