

[Back to Website](#)



*St Ignatius of Antioch*

**GARDEN MINISTRY**



**Annual Blessing of the  
Garden**

The St. Ignatius of Antioch Garden, with its ten 4' x 12' homemade raised beds, supply shed, automatic irrigation system and recently added greenhouse, is a much evolved construct from its early beginnings, but no less loved. In fact, if St. Ignatius had a live pet, this would undoubtedly be it!

Nurtured by those of us who have done the planning and planting, growing, harvesting and clearing once again, and sustained by those parishioners who have dropped off gifts of pots, fertilizers and soil amendments, garden tools and PVC pipe, our little paradise has made good on the promises made to those benefactors whose names still appear on the boxes, with nearly 10 years of beautiful vegetables donated on a weekly basis to the St. Vincent de Paul distribution team down at Holy Rosary.

Though more individuals requested our produce before the Contra Costa Food Truck came on the scene, our efforts still provide nutritional assistance to more than forty households per month, and we have been fortunate these past few years before Covid, to be able to offer our vegetables to them for most of the year.

Bountiful boxes of greens, garlic and onions, peppers, tomatoes, eggplant, melons and beans reach the recipients within an hour of being picked, and are of such beauty that the workers are constantly amazed.

The only thing more beautiful than our weekly gift to them is the experience of walking through the dewy garden early in the morning on picking day, peeking under vines and broad leaves to discover what prizes the plants have protected for our use. What a privilege it has been to be able be part of this life cycle!



Produce from the  
Garden



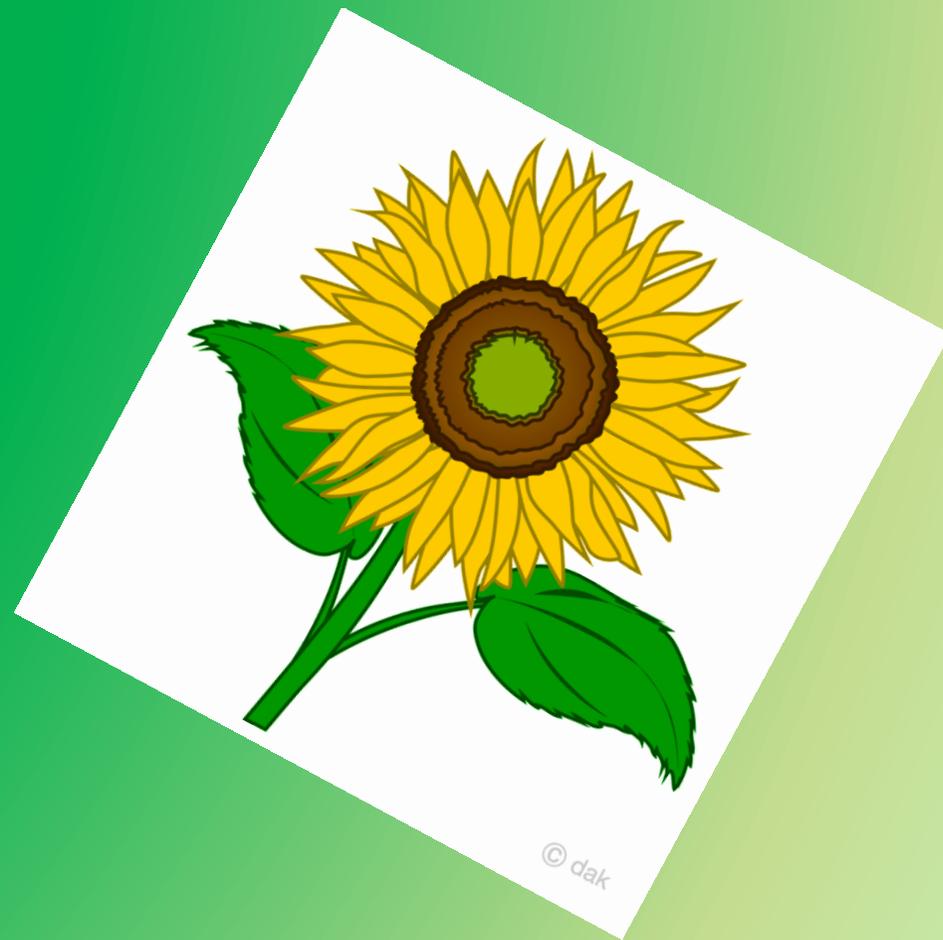
**More Produce from  
the Garden**

Starting back in 2012, our volunteers dug every spring with shovels in the gravelly soil itself, adding organic matter, aerating and reshaping the plots, and then took turns on a weekly schedule, watering by hand with the hose!

It remains a labor of love to this day, though raised beds have increased production, and the greenhouse built and donated by young Alexander Pollard, have enabled us to speed up planning, seeding and planting, and will next year, to bring back our plant sale in the spring.

There is no parish budget for the garden so we rely on our own resources, but happily so, and are able to help pay some of the water costs through that plant sale. Nets and gopher mesh have helped to deter critters, always a distraction.

The garden has also enriched the lives of the parish, as our tall sunflowers can be seen beckoning from the street, along with the bright zinnias and marigolds that interrupt the continuous green visible from the parking lot; visitors who wander out to see the garden after Masses, even on weekdays, are always offered the gift of a bouquet of basil or flowers, or perhaps a melon or a branch of excellent tomatoes.



The garden misses Jose' Palomino, I am sure, quietly looking for that perfect zucchini, that perfect branch of hot peppers he loved so much!

We knew that picking actually spurs the garden to produce more, so sharing has always been a win-win. Many happy conversations have been shared there, and many memories transmitted to others of our grandparents' and parents' gardens.

It is our happy place, and we look forward to seeing green again, very soon.



Even more Produce  
from the Garden

[Back to Website](#)