

# *In Loving Memory*

## *Heavenly Garden*

*In Heaven's greenest pastures  
where the brightest blossoms grow,  
lives a very special person  
whom it was a privilege to know.*

*In this garden of bright colors  
your Guardian Angel sings,  
may you be resting peacefully  
Beneath the shelter of her wings.*

*You're missed so very much  
and are thought about each day,  
and the memories of all we shared  
are a pleasure to replay.*



*Sanaí Lisa Nelson*

*September 1, 1939 ~ June 29, 2024*

Sanai Lisa Nelson was born in Hiroshima Japan on September 1, 1939 to Mr. Wataru Minami and Mrs. Masami Minami. She had an older brother Makoto. She excelled in Zen archery and mathematics.

In 1960 she married Kenneth Kirby. They had one son Daniel (Danny). The marriage lasted six years. She lost custody of her son (customary). She met John Nelson in San Francisco in September 1968 and after a whirlwind romance, they were married on January 7, 1969. They have one daughter (Kathleen).

Sanai worked for Japanese restaurants, notably, Benihana, where she served conductor Seiji Ozawa, Robin Williams, SF 49ers Joe Montana, and Dwight Williams, and others. She loved her work. She loved gardening. She had many different fruit trees and flowers and shared everything, to everyone's delight. She spoiled her cats, especially her last cat, Socks, who never left her side.

She adored her husband John, proud to be his wife. She enjoyed going to restaurants and trips. They held hands until the day she left the planet. Sanai loved hanging out with Kathleen. They would go for rides, day trips – she even went to choir practice (rarely singing)! They loved to laugh. She regularly went out with: Kazuko, Namie, Lynnelle, her 'high tea' club, St. Matthews Choir, Rebekah, etc. She enjoyed her Buddhist friends, especially MihoKo - but also loved talking with Monsignor John Talesfore and Fr. Dominic Lee. She treasured her friendship with Fr. Tom Parenti, who passed away in 2022.

Last year Sanai met her son Danny's daughter Alison! Overjoyed at being "Grandma", she looked forward to their FaceTime calls. She always made sure she looked her best whenever Alison would call.

Predeceased by her parents, brother, son, and numerous friends, Sanai leaves behind her husband of 55 years John, her daughter Kathleen, her granddaughter Alison, and friends who became family. We will miss her smile, grace, laugh, sweetness and her beautiful heart.

## Memorial Mass

3:00 p.m. ~ Saturday ~ November 16, 2024  
St. Matthew Catholic Church Chapel  
San Mateo, California

**Celebrant:** Msgr. John Talesfore

**Co-Celebrant:** Fr. Dominic Lee

**Musicians:** St. Matthew Choir & Friends  
Directed by Lynelle Bilsey,  
Kathleen Nelson (pianist)



<b>Processional Hymn</b> .....	“Amazing Grace”
<b>Opening Prayer</b> .....	Msgr. John Talesfore
<b>Words of Remembrance</b> .....	John Nelson Alison Kirby Kathleen Nelson
<b>First Reading</b> .....	Revelation 21:1-5a, 6b-7 Lisa Schuster
<b>Responsorial Psalm</b> .....	“Shepherd me O God beyond my wants, beyond my fears, from death into life.”
<b>Second Reading</b> .....	1 Corinthians 13:4-7 Lisa Schuster
<b>Alleluia (Chant Mode VI)</b>	
<b>Gospel &amp; Homily</b> .....	Matthew 5:1-12a Msgr. John Talesfore
<b>Prayers of the Faithful</b> .....	Sandra Kiapi
<b>Offertory Hymn</b> .....	“Prayer of St. Francis”
<b>Communion Hymn</b> .....	“One Bread, One Body”
<b>Recessional Hymn</b> .....	“City of God”