

The

Heads Up!

Spring 2021

My dear brothers and sisters,

The words of Psalm 123, "The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy", resound in my heart in a special way today as I look back over the past 3 years. The Lord has done great things for me as he sent me to be part of such a loving, faith filled, and embracing community here at St. Denis. I have no words to thank God for the gift of you. Your faith and love for the Lord and his Church have taught me so much and have enriched my ministry and my own faith beyond measure.



It was at St. Denis where I learned what being a Pastor is about. It was here where I learned the meaning of the words of St. John Vianney – Patron Saint of Priests – when he said "a priest is not a priest for himself, he is a priest for you." It was here, at St. Denis where I discover a new depth of the sacrament of Holy Orders, as I was not just a priest, but your Pastor... and a sense of fatherhood was born in me while I was with you.

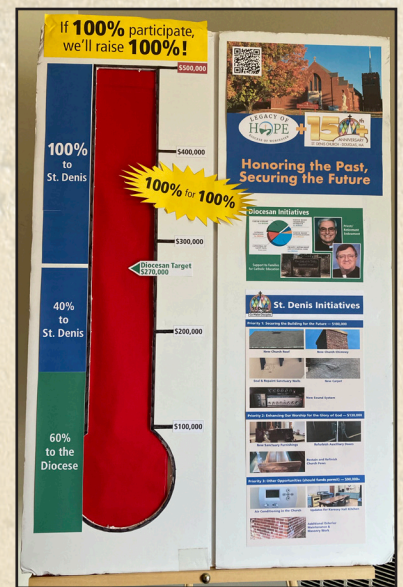
One of my greatest fears when leaving my country was to feel I would not have a home. By God's grace, these last three years have not been just a time in my assignment; I have been home. As your Pastor I am absolutely proud of you. I have witnessed a community of believers with the fire of the Holy Spirit burning brightly in your hearts. There is no limit to what you can do when you come together. I have seen all kinds of ministries flourishing as well as new ones come to life, improvements in our buildings and grounds, and the beautification of our parish – not only in its physical appearance, but most importantly in the communal life of our community. As your Priest, I think of the virtues and gifts of the Spirit that abound so greatly in this community and the many hearts that are open to God's touch to fulfill our mission to make disciples. As a fellow disciple of the Lord, I am edified by your dedication to God and His church. I have been truly blessed to work together with Deacon Patrick, Nancy, Kathy, and all our parish leaders and volunteers. I could not have done it without you!

As I said last weekend, I am eternally grateful to God and to you. I am convinced Fr. Nelson will see the face of God in you, as you will see the face of God in him. I can't wait to see what the future holds for St. Denis. I will follow you closely, in my heart and prayers, as I will never be apart from you. St. Denis is, and always will be, a part of me.

I commend my life and ministry to your prayers, and you remain in mine.

Love you all,

Fr. Juan D. Escudero M.



We did it!

Our current total is \$538,312. If you have not yet participated, please do – the more we raise, the more we can do!

Visit our Legacy of Hope webpage at SaintDenisChurch.com/legacy-of-hope to watch a short video that explains the campaign, and to learn how to participate. No gift is too small, and there are many items on our to do list.



St. Denis is now part of Amazon Smile! Support St. Denis with your qualifying purchases:

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/04-2106725>



Once you've set your account with St. Denis Church (Douglas) as your charity, be sure to bookmark the link – the donations only come in if you use the "Smile.Amazon.com" shopping portal.



Welcome Home to Mass! Highlights of parish life in the last 6 months



Christmas 2020



Parish Lenten Mission



Children's Stations at the Cemetery



Holy Thursday
Drive-Up Adoration



Good Friday



Easter Celebration



150th Anniversary Mass with Bishop McManus



RCIA - Confirmandi and newly Baptized



1st Communion At-Home Retreats



1st Communion Celebrations



CWC's Lent In A Bag Gifts



Corpus Christi - Overnight Adoration



Outdoor Faith Formation Classes



Our Community Tree



2020 Holiday Fair—held virtually!



Gifts for the Parish Giving Tree



Parish Pilgrimage to St. Joseph's Church in Charlton, MA

We celebrated the Year of St. Joseph with our Lenten Mission, parish Pilgrimage trip, and Hours of Adoration centered around St. Joseph and his virtues.

Beyond our Devotional Life...

Live videos on Facebook from our Parish Council members



Welcome Fr. Nelson Rivera

As sad as we are to lose Fr. Juan, let's welcome our new pastor, Fr. Nelson Rivera, with open hearts and arms.



Fr. Nelson Rivera comes to us from St. Joan of Arc parish in Worcester, and he's full of energy and enthusiasm. Born August 29, 1978, he began his seminary studies at Pontifical Bolivarian University, Medellin, Colombia. Following initial studies at Clark University, Worcester, he completed seminary studies at St. John Seminary in Brighton, where he received his Masters in Divinity. His pastoral assignments have included St. Peter in Northbridge and St. John Paul II in Southbridge.

New Ministries

Would you like to join?



Greeter Team

Help us welcome people as they join us for worship!



Cemetery Committee

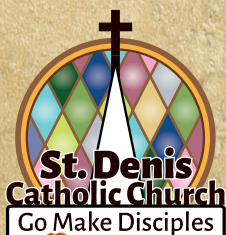
Helping to maintain our sacred space for generations



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Spring 2021

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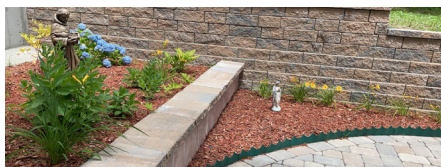
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A More Welcoming Food Pantry

We've been busy working to make this essential area more beautiful and functional for our visitors. With the pandemic we've seen a rise in families who need the supplies that our Food Pantry provides. Now this space is better organized, safer to visit, and much prettier, too. ❖



We welcomed seminarian **Peter Bui** to our parish this May. Peter spent 6 weeks with us before joining Fr. Juan at St. Rose of Lima. In August he will return to Theological College in Washington DC.. Please keep him in your prayers. ❖

Stay in touch!

Join Flocknote...



Receive emails and/or text messages with timely info, join the Weekly Bulletin group to receive them early! Use the **QR code**, text **StDenis** to #84576, or visit



Flocknote.com/StDenisDouglas

Visit our Website...



Learn more about upcoming events, get involved with ministries, and learn more about our faith. Use the **QR code**, or visit SaintDenisChurch.com

Online Giving...



Make one time or recurring payments, donate to the food pantry and support other ministries and fundraisers. **Make your regular Offertory donation, especially if you will be away!** Use the **QR code**, or visit SaintDenisChurch.com/offertory-regular

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