

Saint Denis /Our Lady Of The Wayside Churches

*Brought together by Christ, we, the parish of St. Denis
and Our Lady of the Wayside*

respond to his call to live our Catholic faith.

Parish Staff

Rev. Paul O'Dell
Pastor
wpodell@aol.com
(415) 686-9951

Deacon Russ Wertenberg
deaconruss@stdenisparish.org
(650) 854-5976 press 5

Gina Morales
Operations Manager
gmorales@stdenisparish.org
(650) 854-5976 press 1

Lucy Soltau
Director of Faith Formation
lsoltau@stdenisparish.org
(650) 854-5976 press 3

Dede Waters-Masters
Pastoral Minister in charge of
Liturgy and Senior Services
dianawatersmasters@gmail.com
(650) 854-5976 press 4

Mass Times:

St. Denis Church
Saturday: 5:30pm (Vigil)
Sunday: 7:30am, 9:30am, 11:30am
Monday-Friday: 8:00am

Our Lady of the Wayside Church
Saturday: 4:30 pm (Vigil)
Sunday: 9:30 am

Confession Times:

Saturday: 4:00 pm, Our Lady of
the Wayside
Saturday: 5:00 pm, St. Denis

Office Hours

M-F, 9:00 am—2:00 pm

“Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again; but whoever drinks the water I shall give will never thirst; the water I shall give will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” John 4:13-14



March 12th, 2023 Third Sunday In Lent

(650) 854-5976
www.stdenisparish.org

St. Denis Church (Parish Office)
2250 Avy Avenue • Menlo Park

Our Lady of the Wayside Church
930 Portola Road • Portola Valley

Gospel Reading

In today's Gospel, the dialogue between Jesus and a woman from Samaria is among the most lengthy and most theological found in Scripture. The most startling aspect of the conversation is that it happens at all. Jesus, an observant Jew of that time, was expected to avoid conversation with women in public. The animosity between the Jews and the Samaritans should have prevented the conversation as well. The woman herself alludes to the break from tradition: "How can you, a Jew, ask me, a Samaritan woman, for a drink?" Yet Jesus not only converses with the woman, he also asks to share her drinking vessel, an action that makes him unclean according to Jewish law.

The initial conversation between Jesus and the woman is better understood if we consider the importance of water, especially in the climate of Israel. At first, the woman understands Jesus' promise of "living water" in a literal sense: "Sir, give me this water, so that I may not be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water." With no running water, the daily trip to the well by the women of the community was of paramount importance. The women of the town would have traveled to the well in the early morning, but this woman came to the well at noon, the hottest time of the day. The timing of her visit is a clear sign that she is an outcast within the Samaritan community. We learn in her conversation with Jesus that she is an outcast because of her "many husbands."

Behind the conversation lies the animosity and rivalry between the Jews and the Samaritans. Samaritans shared Jewish ancestry, but Samaritans had intermarried with foreigners when they lived under the rule of the Assyrians. Samaritan religion included worship of Yahweh, but was also influenced by the worship of other gods. When the Jews refused Samaritan help in the building of the Temple at Jerusalem, the Samaritans eventually built a temple for themselves at Mt. Gerizim (the same mountain mentioned by the woman at the well). Like the Jews, the Samaritans believed that a Messiah would come.

The high point of the conversation is when Jesus reveals himself to her as the Messiah. His answer to the Samaritan woman's questions about worship is meant to predict a time when worshiping in truth and spirit will become the way to worship.

After the conversation, the Samaritan woman becomes a disciple. Even though she is an outcast and not a Jew, she returns to her town to lead others to Jesus and to wonder whether she has found the Messiah. The Samaritan townspeople return with her to meet Jesus for themselves, and many are said to come to believe in him.

The significance of the encounter between Jesus and the Samaritan woman has many levels. The first is personal: The woman is herself converted to belief in Jesus as Messiah because he knows her sin but speaks with her just the same. The second is social: Having come to know Jesus as the Messiah, the Samaritan woman becomes an evangelist to her own people.

The third level of the story is educational: Jesus uses his encounter with the Samaritan woman to teach his disciples that God's mercy is without limit. The disciples return from their shopping quite confused to find Jesus talking with a Samaritan, and a woman at that! But the conversion of the Samaritan townspeople is a foretaste of the kind of open community that will be created among those who believe that Jesus is the Messiah.

Loyola Press "Sunday Connection"

We Believe

In the past few weeks, we have gone on a Lenten gospel journey beginning with a desert of temptation leading to a mountain of revelation, and today we are led to a well of evangelization, a place where we join Jesus and a nameless woman in a very symbolic narrative.

There is much to discover in the dialogue between Jesus and the Samaritan woman. The first to hear this written passage were early Christian Jews dealing with Samaritan Christian converts. This gospel leaves no doubt on Jesus' stand on inclusivity and the powerful witness of women.

The narrative follows a Scriptural pattern of life-changing events happening around the central locations of wells. Abraham's Rebekah, Jacob's Rachel, Moses' Zipporah and today's Samaritan woman—all playing important roles in our biblical heritage. Unlike a Nicodemus who comes to Jesus in darkness of night and quietly slinks away, the Samaritan woman, in the intense daylight of the noontime sun, engages in an honest, challenging theological dialogue, and as Jesus reveals himself to her, she reveals herself to him.

Today's gospel affirms women's role in the early Church. Just as the first Apostles left their nets or their tax stalls, the Samaritan woman excitedly leaves her water jug to go and announce the good news of Jesus to her entire village. The immediacy of her action says it all.

Today's Gospel might call us to examine how we can practice inclusion, how we can enlarge our capacity to bring God's love to others, and how we can all accept our roles as authentic witnesses to the faith we routinely profess at every Mass we attend.

Dede Waters-Masters

Mass Intentions

St. Denis Church

Sat. Mar. 11 5:30 pm Victims of natural disasters
Sun. Mar. 12 7:30 am Anna Tornes (+)
9:30 am Victims of natural disasters
11:30 am Cesar Bautista (+)
Mon. Mar. 13 8:00 am For world leaders
Tues. Mar. 14 8:00 am Steve Burke (+)
Wed. Mar. 15 8:00 am For catechists
Thurs. Mar. 16 8:00 am Denis Baylor
Fri. Mar. 17 8:00 am In thanksgiving



Our Lady of the Wayside Church

Sat. Mar. 11 4:30 pm Dolly & John Choate (+)
Sun. Mar. 12 9:30 am Victims of natural disasters

In your charity, please pray for...

Marie Kenney, Susan Nappi, LG, GRM, Carol C., J.M., G.G., Janice Varvelle, Pier Iglesias, Rosa Sharif, John Hunter, Anselmo Briones, John Cummins, Sandy McGinley, Jack Walsh Names will be removed monthly unless you let the office know. Thank you.

Faith Formation News

FAITH FORMATION CLASSES MEET TODAY

PreK – 4th grade: 9:30am

5th/6th grade: 10:30am



Faith Formation

CONFIRMATION CLASS MEETS TODAY

Sunday, March 12 beginning with Mass at 5:30pm.

Bring your handbooks, Bibles and completed homework.

OLD PALMS FOR BURNING

If you have old palms from last Palm Sunday, you can bring them to St. Denis and we will burn them for you. We use them for the ashes on Ash Wednesday and the new fire at the Easter Vigil. Just place them in the basket at the back of the church.

Question Of The Week

Jesus comes to us how and where we are.

He's not waiting for us to get it together.

What is holding me back from accepting Jesus' love and forgiveness?

Is it pride? Shame? Sin?

Is it that I can't forgive myself yet?

Travel Pilgrimage With Catholic Charities

Catholic Charities of California (CCC) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit that provides statewide representation of the 12 local Catholic Charities nonprofits in California that collectively serve more than 1.5 million Californians who need the help of professional social services.

Proceeds from the pilgrimages help support Catholic Charities of California's statewide efforts, including FEMA Disaster Case Management, and advocacy efforts on behalf of the state's vulnerable populations.

Upcoming small group pilgrimages include The Camino de Santiago, Spain; and The Camino Portugues, Portugal. Catholic Charities of California also offers pilgrimages in Italy, Mexico, and Ireland.

Catholic Charities of California Pilgrimage Department
(916) 706-1539 x 12 or pilgrim@catholiccharities.org



Bulletin Deadline

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Deadline for bulletin articles is Tuesday before noon, before the weekend of publication. All announcements during Mass are to be scripted and approved by Dede prior to Masses. Contact her at dedewm@pacbell.net

NOTE: Announcement may not appear until the next bulletin until the next bulletin due to space-limitations. Thank You!



Offertory Stewardship

July 1, 2022 to June 30th, 2023 (Goal)	\$379,000.00
July 1, 2022 to February, 2023 (Received so far)	\$252,456.00
February 2023 Sunday Offertory Collections	\$29,712.00
February 2023 Sunday Offertory Collections (Goal)	\$29,152.00
Annual Appeal (Goal)	\$91,995.00
Annual Appeal (Received so far)	\$60,965.00

Donation Corner

"Save Time and Donate Online!"

Online Giving is available for parishioners with WeShare, an easy and convenient way to save time and support the church. Donating is simple, safe, and completely secure. If you would like to enroll in Online Giving, please visit our website stdenisparish.org, and follow the links. If you have any questions or concerns about the program or would like help setting up your account, please call WeShare at 877 316-0260.

Lenten Soup Suppers



Lenten Soup Suppers

JOIN US FOR HOLY MASS AT 5:30 P.M. EVERY WEDNESDAY
Dinner and short talks will follow

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1, 2023 - 6:00 P.M.
Comunidad San Dimas Inc. beginnings
Presenter: Julio Escobar, founder

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8, 2023 - 6:00 P.M.
Comunidad San Dimas Inc. / Excell Network
Moderator: Julio Escobar, founder
Student Testimonial: Billey Le

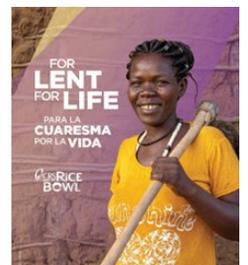
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15, 2023 - 6:00 P.M.
Comunidad San Dimas Inc. / Restorative Justice
Moderator: Julio Escobar, founder
Volunteer Testimonial: Patricia and Ramon Marquez

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22, 2023 - 6:00 P.M.
Comunidad San Dimas Inc. / Community Partnership
Moderator: Julio Escobar, founder
Partnership Testimonial: Sister Patty Riley, OP
Dominicans of San Rafael

St. Denis Parish, Menlo
Park, California
2250 Avy Ave. Menlo Park, CA 94025

Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowls

Please take a Rice Bowl to help with your Praying, Fasting and Giving during Lent. 75% of your donation supports CRS work around the world, including Turkey and Syria where they are suffering the aftereffects of very strong earthquakes, and 25% stays right here in our local community. There are recipes and stories from around the world. Filled Rice Bowls will be collected after Easter. For more information or to donate directly, go to www.crsricebowl.org



Support Your Parish!

Please continue to financially support your parish so that we can continue to provide the ministries that everyone relies on. You may mail your donations to the parish office, or you may give online through WeShare. Go to the parish website stdenisparish.org to find the links to set up your donation or you may call WeShare at 800 950-9952, press 3, then press 2 or email weshare@4lpi.com. We thank you for your support!

