

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:

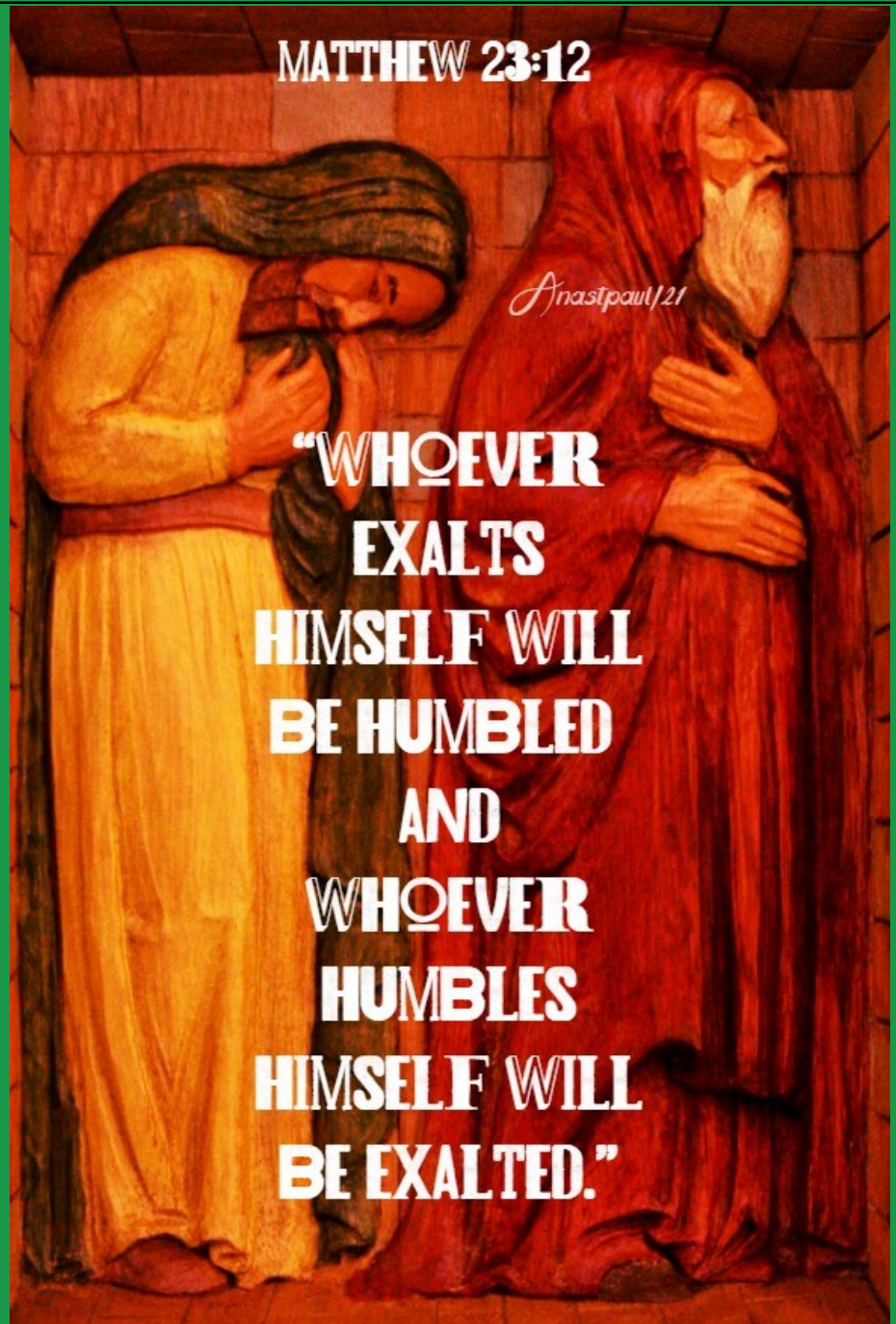
St. Denis Church
Saturday: 5:30pm (Vigil)
Sunday: 7:30am, 9:30am, 11:30am
Monday-Friday: 8:00am

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
By appointment, St. Denis

Office Hours
M-F, 9:00 am—2:00 pm



November 5th, 2023 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

(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

Today's Gospel continues to elaborate on the tension between Jesus and the scribes and Pharisees. Our Lectionary sequence at this point, however, is not quite a continuous reading of Matthew. In between last week's reading from Matthew and this week's, we find Jesus' question to the Pharisees about the Messiah being "David's son." Having concluded a series of dialogues with the Pharisees and other religious leaders, Jesus now directs his words to the crowds, warning them not to follow the example of the scribes and Pharisees.

The scribes and Pharisees were teachers of the Mosaic Law. They were entrusted with its interpretation and, thus, were influential in determining Jewish practice. In order to appreciate the conflict that is evident in this passage, we must understand that Jesus was basing his teachings on the same laws and traditions available to the Pharisees. Both were interpreting the Law of Moses in order to better adapt it to contemporary Jewish life. The differences between their teachings, therefore, are often highlighted and amplified by Matthew.

This part of Matthew's Gospel reflects aspects of the conflict between his Christian community and Pharisaic Judaism. Matthew's Church is thought to have included many Jewish Christians who may not have believed that a break with the synagogue was necessary to be a follower of Jesus. Jesus tells the crowd that it is correct to do and observe what the scribes and Pharisees teach; it is their example that is to be avoided, namely, their love of being honored and exalted. Hence, the Gospel reflects the tension of an active internal debate within the early Church.

Jesus references two aspects of Jewish spiritual life prescribed by the Law of Moses. *Phylacteries* are small boxes which contain Scripture verses that are placed on the left forearm and forehead. *Tassels* refer to the fringes worn on the corners of a person's garments; the tassels help to remind those who wear them to keep the commandments.

The warning Jesus gives against seeking places of honor in the community was directed as much toward the Christian community as the named Jewish leaders. Indeed, it is a warning that resonates with us today. Christian leadership is a call to service for the glory of God; those who would be leaders among us must, like Jesus, be servants of all.

Loyola Press "Sunday Connection"

About the Gospel

Today's gospel reading, Mt. 23:1-12, visits the importance Jesus places on genuine humility. Basically, humility can be seen as the art of recognizing our own strengths and weaknesses without letting them define our worth. It's about being open to learning from others, acknowledging that we don't have all the answers, and a willingness to admit when we're wrong.

Humility also involves treating others with respect and kindness, regardless of their background or status. It's about embracing a mindset of empathy and understanding, and valuing the contributions of others as much as our own. Ultimately, humility allows us to connect with others on a deeper level and fosters an environment of collaboration and growth.

As followers of Christ, we are called to realistically recognize our own strengths and weaknesses, being self-aware and honest with ourselves about what we excel at and where we may struggle. Humility comes into play when we don't let these strengths and weaknesses define our worth as individuals.

In a world that often values achievements, success, and external validation, it's so easy to fall into the trap of tying our self-worth solely to our accomplishments or abilities. True humility reminds us that our worth as human beings goes beyond our achievements. It's about understanding that our value and the value of others lies in our inherent dignity, our capacity for growth and compassion, and our ability to contribute to the world in meaningful ways.

Dede Waters-Masters

Mass Intentions

St. Denis Church

Sat. Nov. 4 5:30 pm Peace in the Middle East
Sun. Nov. 5 7:30 am Rosa Sharif (+)
9:30 am Heather Ann Crawford (+)
11:30 am Our deceased loved ones
Mon. Nov. 6 8:00 am For our needs
Tues. Nov. 7 8:00 am For protection
Wed. Nov. 8 8:00 am Angela Streeter (living)
Thurs. Nov. 9 8:00 am For healing
Fri. Nov. 10 8:00 am In thanksgiving

Our Lady of the Wayside Church

Sat. Nov. 4 4:30 pm Peace in the Middle East
Sun. Nov. 5 9:30 am Our deceased loved ones

In your charity, please pray for...

EM, Frans Mertens, Marie Kenney, Susan Nappi, LG, GRM, Carol C., J.M., G.G., Janice Varvelle, Pier Iglesias, 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

Our elementary grades PreK to 6th are meeting Sunday mornings at 9:00am.

Our Confirmation group meets on selected Sundays at 11:30am.

Parents are welcome to join us on the patio at 9:00am for discussion of Sunday readings, share ideas, etc. Please use this link to register: <https://stdenisparish.org/religiouslydereg>

There you will find our schedules and other information about activities and events for families. Contact Lucy Soltau at lsoltau@stdenisparish.org for more information.

FR. PAUL'S FIRST COMMUNION CLASS (optional)

Fr. Paul will meet with those preparing for First Communion

On Monday, November 6 at 3:30-4:30pm in the parish hall.

VETERANS DAY WEEKEND – NO CLASSES

There are no faith formation classes on November 12 for the Veterans Day holiday.

CONFIRMATION GROUP MEETS TODAY!

November 5, beginning with Mass at 11:30am, then lunch and class til 2:00pm.

Bring your Bibles and your homework!

Question Of The Week

How do I exalt myself over others every day?
How can I practice humility in my daily interactions?
What can I do to lift others up?

Catechist (Teacher) Needed!!

A catechist “echoes” the faith for others.

We are ALL catechists when we share our relationship with God with others.

We are in need of a catechist for our 2nd grade First Communion group.

If you know someone who has shared their faith effectively with you,

and can handle a group of 8 year olds,

please encourage them to contact Lucy at lsoltau@stdenisparish.org

Thank you!



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, 2023 to June 30th, 2024 (Goal)	TBD
July 1, 2023 to June, 2024 (Received so far)	\$122,416.00
October 2023 Sunday Offertory Collections	\$35,383.00
October 2023 Sunday Offertory Collections (Goal)	TBD

“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.

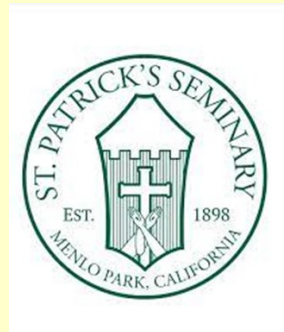
Monday Night Football Fundraiser

Even though the 49ers lost the game, the fundraiser was a success. We hope to do more in the future. Thank you for your participation & generosity. \$1,167.00 was raised for St. Anthony's of Padua Dining Room & Life Moves.



Second Collection For St. Patrick's Seminary

There is a second collection for St. Patrick's Seminary. St. Patrick's Seminary serves the Roman Catholic Church by forming priests whose lives are configured to the sacrifice of Jesus, rooted in His Word and Sacrament, and dedicated to serve the people of God with the pastoral charity of Christ.



Support Your Parish!

Financially supporting your parish helps us 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 Egiving. Simply use the QR Codes, or go to our website stdenisparish.org to find the links to set up your donation. If you need assistance call WeShare 877 316-0260. We thank you for your support!

St. Denis QR Code



OLW QR Code

