

# 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 26th, 2023 Our Lord Jesus Christ,  
King of the Universe**

(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 passage is the conclusion of Jesus' discourse with his disciples. It is about the end of time, the coming of the Son of Man, and the final judgment. We hear this description of the final judgment at the conclusion of our liturgical year, the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ the King. In the context of Matthew's Gospel, this passage might also be read as a conclusion of Matthew's report on Jesus' life and ministry; the remaining chapters report the events of Jesus' Passion and Resurrection.

In today's Gospel, Jesus describes to his disciples the scene of the judgment of the Son of Man. All the nations will be assembled before him, and he will separate them as a shepherd separates sheep and goats upon their return from the pasture. The judgments made by the Son of Man will be based upon the acts of mercy shown to the least ones—the hungry, the thirsty, the naked, the ill, and the imprisoned. Indeed, Jesus, who suffered on the Cross, identifies himself with the least ones.

Recall that last week's parable of the talents taught us that the gifts that we have been given are intended to be used for the service of others, especially the least among us. Our judgment before God will be based not only on how we have used these gifts and talents, but also on how we have extended ourselves in service to these least ones. Indeed, Jesus tells us that whenever we have served these least ones, we have served Christ himself.

When we read today's Gospel in the context of the chapters that follow in Matthew's Gospel, we learn the extent to which Jesus identifies with the least ones. In accepting death on the cross, Jesus shows himself to be one of the hungry, the naked, the ill, and the imprisoned. To accept Jesus is to accept him who suffered and died on the Cross as one of the least ones.

Loyola Press "Sunday Connection"

## About the Gospel

As Americans we have mixed emotions regarding the word king. Even in the world at large, hereditary monarchies are fading away. Those which remain, as in Great Britain, have come to assume largely a ceremonial function as heads of state, with little genuine political power. Despite this, there is something about the symbol of a king which continues to captivate our imagination. Many of the stories we hear as children feature Kings or Queens. .

Kings were more common in the world in which Jesus lived. The Emperor Tiberius ruled the Roman empire. Jesus grew to manhood in a world which remembered the glories and terrors of Herod the Great, the King of Judea. Herod was king only by grace of the Roman emperor. He was known as "great" because of his accomplishments as a builder. He constructed or rebuilt fortresses and palaces throughout the land, and oversaw the creation of a magnificent harbor on the Mediterranean. Yet Herod also used his power to destroy anyone whom he felt threatened his rule, not excluding some of his own sons.

After Herod's death, the Roman occupation of the Holy Land continued, in Galilee under Antipas and in Judea under the governance of Pontius Pilate. Jesus and his contemporaries knew kings and rulers as sources of war, heavy taxes, corruption, violence, and the oppression of military occupation.

Jesus never claimed an earthly kingship. Yet he spoke of himself frequently as one who was announcing a new kind of reign, the kingdom of God. Jesus sometimes spoke of this kingdom as something that was coming in the future and sometimes he spoke as if it was already present. In his parables and pronouncements, Jesus was stating that God, not Caesar, was king of Israel. Unlike the oppressive, death-dealing earthly kings, God's kingdom was one of freedom and hope. Much of Jesus teaching was a description of what the kingdom of God is like. Signs of the arrival of God's kingdom included the release of prisoners, the restoration of sight to the blind, and freedom for all who were oppressed (Luke 4:18).

To Jesus' way of thinking, God alone was king. This made him a most subversive figure, even if he did not claim political leadership for himself.

Over time Christians began granting Jesus the title of king because his own life of servant love so completely modeled the kingdom he preached. In 1925 Pope Pius XI instituted the feast of Christ the King as a way of reminding a world once again dominated by death-dealing dictators of the rule of love that was so present in Jesus' words and actions.

Busted Halo by Fr. Joe Scott

## Mass Intentions

### St. Denis Church

Sat. Nov. 25 5:30 pm For political leaders  
Sun. Nov. 26 7:30 am Zarah Gabriel (+)  
9:30 am In gratitude for blessings  
11:30 am World peace  
Mon. Nov. 27 8:00 am For healing  
Tues. Nov. 28 8:00 am For the homeless  
Wed. Nov. 29 8:00 am For fair wages  
Thurs. Nov. 30 8:00 am For our needs  
Fri. Dec. 1 8:00 am George Emilio Rinaldi (+)

### Our Lady of the Wayside Church

Sat. Nov. 25 4:30 pm For political leaders  
Sun. Nov. 26 9:30 am In gratitude for blessings

In your charity, please pray for...

EM, Frans Mertens, 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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/religiousedreg> There you will find our schedules and other information about activities and events for families. Contact Lucy Soltau at [lsoltau@stdenisparish.org](mailto:lsoltau@stdenisparish.org) for more information.

### THANKSGIVING VACATION

There are NO faith formation sessions on November 26 for Thanksgiving weekend.

Join us on December 3 for our Advent Family gathering and Pancake breakfast!

### ADVENT FAMILY GATHERING

Sunday, December 3 after the 9:30am Mass in St. Denis Parish hall

Ideas and supplies to help you celebrate Advent at home.

Crafts for the kids, Advent wreath supplies and PAN-CAKES! Everyone is welcome!

### LITTLE BLUE BOOKS: ADVENT REFLECTIONS

Please take a Little Blue Book to use for daily prayer during Advent.

6 Minutes a day! Bonus: there is schedule of parish Advent activities and events on the front!

## Question Of The Week

In our democratic society, the idea of a KING can sound a little strange!

But Jesus IS our King, the King of the Universe.

Do I let Jesus rule my heart, my soul, my life, my universe?

## 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto:lsoltau@stdenisparish.org)

Thank you!



## Knit & Pray

Knit and Pray meets this Monday, November 27 at 4 pm in the Parish Hall Library. All are welcome.

There will be no "Knit and Pray" in December.



## 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](mailto: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)	\$392,200.00
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)	\$30,761.00

### “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](http://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.



## Christmas Giving Trees

We are once again collecting gifts & gift cards for the 4 charities we support at Christmas: Hoover Preschool, Redwood City Navigation Center (formerly Maple Street Shelter), Catholic Worker House, & St. Francis Center. Tags will be on the trees beginning Thanksgiving weekend. Check the tag to see if gifts must be wrapped or not. Please take a tag from the tree or donate through the weekly collection by writing Giving Tree in the memo. You can also get Target, Walmart, or Amazon gift cards for \$25 or \$50.

**We need to get gifts, and cards back by Tuesday, December 12, to allow sufficient time to get these gifts to the charities.**



## St. Anthony Towel Drive A Success!

Thanks to everyone for making the towel drive for St. Anthony's Dining Room a real success. I am always so impressed with the generosity of our parish. If you feel like volunteering to help with lunch service for Thanksgiving or Christmas or Monday-Friday, look for contact information in an upcoming bulletin.



Barbara Mason Outreach Committee

## Parish Advent Retreat

Our Annual Morning Retreat is slated for Tuesday, December 5 at St. Denis. Sr. Kathy Camacho will share Advent Reflections with us. We will have coffee & visiting from 9:30 am to 10:00 am. Sister's presentation from 10:00 am to 11:30 am. Mass, & lunch in the parish hall. All are invited to attend.



## 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](http://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

