

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



December 3rd , 2023 First Sunday of Advent

(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

Dear Beloved Parishioners,

A new Liturgical Year begins on this First Sunday of Advent. Last year has come and gone. Where did the time go? The older I get the faster time goes by. There is no stopping time let alone slow it down. Christmas will be here before we know it. What we do with each and every day is up to us. We can waste each day or we can make the most of it. It does not come back nor will it ever. Each day is gone forever. How we live each day if not each hour is so very important as people of faith.

The very words of Jesus in today's gospel passage is key for us in how to live each and every day. The good Lord emphatically tells us to "Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come." Essentially, we do not know when our life will end. It would be foolish to think that we will live forever or to think that we have plenty of time to change our ways therefore believing we can continue to live sinful lives.

According to our Catholic faith, there are Seven Deadly Sins: pride, greed, lust, envy, gluttony, wrath and sloth. Each Deadly Sin is deadly because each can lead to the ruin and demise of oneself and of others. It only takes one Deadly Sin to do us in. The Advent season is the time for us to stop and reflect upon our lives so as to change our hearts, to confess our sins and to change our behavior. There is no time to waste therefore. As disciples of Jesus, let's be squared away as is done in the military. Be good to go at a moments notice.

God bless, Fr. Paul

About the Gospel

As we begin, this holy season of Advent, we might be tempted to bypass God's invitation to hope and holiness during this busy time of the year. When we're in a culture that constantly seems to focus on what's wrong with the world rather than what is going well, it's often challenging to be that hope-filled believer that God asks us to be.

Yet, breaking out of cynicism and the weariness it causes, is the recipe for a transformative and renewing experience.

If we reflect on the essential meaning of this liturgical season, Advent can speak to us about unfolding love, God's continuing love for us and our evolving response to God.

Advent offers us a chance to embrace some simplicity in a world filled with distractions and busyness, especially in the holiday season. This may also be a time to re-examine some of our attitudes about holiday expectations or prejudices against certain family members.

Advent is certainly a time to express our gratitude to our loving God, and to those who touch our lives in meaningful ways. In recognition of our Blessed Mother Mary, perhaps we might reflect on how we say yes to God in our daily lives. Advent is a call to reconnect with God, ourselves, and others. It is how we can "Stay awake!"

Dede Waters-Masters

Mass Intentions

St. Denis Church

| | | | |
|------------|---|----------|-----------------------------------|
| Sat. Dec. | 2 | 5:30 pm | Josephine Rose Rodriguez (+) |
| Sun. Dec. | 3 | 7:30 am | Roxann Gregory (+) |
| | | 9:30 am | Skip Johnson (+) |
| | | 11:30 am | Jerry Bagnani (+) |
| Mon. Dec. | 4 | 8:00 am | For doctors & nurses |
| Tues. Dec. | 5 | 8:00 am | For a prayerful Advent |
| Wed. Dec. | 6 | 8:00 am | For all children |
| Wed. Dec. | 7 | 8:00 am | For the care of earth's resources |
| Fri. Dec. | 8 | 8:00 am | For all humanity |

Our Lady of the Wayside Church

| | | | |
|-----------|---|---------|------------------|
| Sat. Dec. | 2 | 4:30 pm | World peace |
| Sun. Dec. | 3 | 9:30 am | World peace |
| Fri. Dec. | 8 | 5:30 pm | For all humanity |

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 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/religiousedreg> 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.

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 PANCAKES! Everyone is welcome!

CHILDREN'S CHOIR FOR CHRISTMAS

Any child who would like to sing at our Family Mass, 4:00pm on Christmas Eve, is invited to join us in the church after the 9:30am Sunday Mass on December 10 and 17.

The songs will be familiar, and we'll have songsheets to practice at home. Contact Lucy at lsoltau@stdenisparish.org for more information.

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

Each week during Advent there is a word or phrase to focus on.

This week is WATCH! God is watching us, but are we watching God?

Do we see what God is doing in our lives?

Catechist (Teacher) Needed!!

A catechist "echoes" the faith for others.

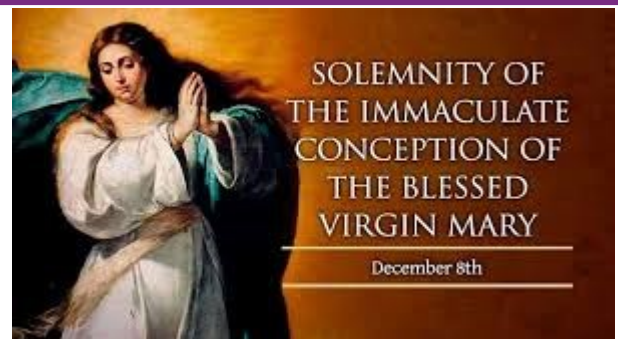
We are ALL catechists when we share our relationship with God with others. We are in need of a catechist for our 2nd grade First Communion group.

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!



Immaculate Conception of Virgin Mary



December 8th. Mass times: 8:00 am at St. Denis & 5:30 pm at Our Lady of the Wayside

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) | \$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, 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 Volunteer Opportunities

St. Anthony's Dining Room in Menlo Park are looking for volunteers to help with Christmas & everyday prep work and serving. If you're interested contact Ruth Gilroy at paduadiningroom@gmail.com or Rickey Ono at rickeyono5@gmail.com.



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.



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

