

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

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Pastoral Minister in charge of
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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 17th, 2023 Third Sunday of Advent

(650) 854-5976
www.stdenisparish.org

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

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

Gospel Reading	About the Gospel
<p>Dear Beloved Parishioners,</p> <p>This third Sunday of Advent marks the halfway point of our Advent journey of faith. This Sunday is called Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete is a Latin word which means rejoice, and so as people of faith we are to rejoice. Today's second reading from St. Paul's Letter to the Thessalonians reinforces this call to rejoice, "Rejoice always. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus." How can we rejoice when we have experienced so much tragedy just this past year and essentially every year?</p> <p>We have seen and heard about the tremendous evil people have committed on others. Shootings at malls and schools, the two wars that are going on now, the worldwide rise of antisemitism and human trafficking of women and children. It seems as though things are getting much worse than better. Yet, we are to rejoice.</p> <p>Seeing life through eyes of faith rather than through my own limited eyes makes me realize that Gaudete Sunday is how we are to live our lives each and every day. Jesus is coming. Jesus will conquer the darkness of this world with his light and love. Evil will inevitably be destroyed. In time, the kingdom of God will prevail.</p> <p>Jesus challenges us to be participants of his hope and vision for the world. His light and love are already in us. It is up to each and every one of us to spread the light of faith and love to others. To remind everyone that we are made in God's image and likeness. That we are all God's beloved sons and daughters loved unconditionally. If I think about it, I see this happening now in my beloved parishioners. They are giving of themselves to the poor and the homeless. They are giving of themselves in the simple gesture of hospitality. They are caring for the sick and the ill. They are doing things nobody may know about. God's light and love is spreading far and wide conquering the darkness of evil. We can rejoice. God's light and love are a blazing the face of the earth.</p> <p>God bless, Fr. Paul</p>	<p>Overall, the people of Jesus' time had a strong hope and anticipation for the arrival of the Messiah and the fulfillment of God's promises. The man who came to be known as "John the Baptist" embraced this hope and anticipation.</p> <p>During Jesus' time, the ritual of Baptism, as introduced by John the Baptist, was understood as a symbolic act of purification and repentance. It was seen as a way for individuals to publicly demonstrate their commitment to turning away from sin and seeking forgiveness from God. The act of being immersed in water symbolized the washing away of impurities and the beginning of a new, transformed life. It was believed that through Baptism, one could prepare themselves for the coming of the Messiah and receive God's grace.</p> <p>In today's gospel, John the Baptist, cries out, "Prepare the way of the Lord!" John understood his role as God's ongoing plans for salvation were unfolding. As believers, we also have a role and how we see it evolves through our particular circumstances and spiritual growth. Like those who demonstrated their commitment through the ritual of Baptism, we are challenged in multiple ways to demonstrate our commitment to following the way of the Lord. This season of Advent challenges us to "prepare" and it is for each one of us to discover how.</p> <p>Dede Waters-Masters</p>

Mass Intentions

St. Denis Church	Our Lady of the Wayside Church
<p>Sat. Dec. 16 5:30 pm End to gun violence</p> <p>Sun. Dec. 17 7:30 am Respect for all life</p> <p>9:30 am St. Denis parishioners</p> <p>11:30 am Those separated from family</p> <p>Mon. Dec. 18 8:00 am Merlita Grospe (+)</p> <p>Tues. Dec. 19 8:00 am For those with mental illness</p> <p>Wed. Dec. 20 8:00 am For our needs</p> <p>Thurs. Dec.21 8:00 am World peace</p> <p>Fri. Dec. 22 8:00 am For healing</p>	<p>Sat. Dec. 16 4:30 pm End to gun violence</p> <p>Sun. Dec. 17 9:30 am Respect for all life</p>

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/religiousevreg> 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.

FAMILY MASS ON CHRISTMAS EVE

Join us at 4:00pm at St. Denis for the joyful celebration!

Children are invited to participate in a variety of ways, including our choir.

Take one of the GREEN FLYERS in the back of the church for more information.

There will be ONE REHEARSAL on Saturday, December 23 at 10:00am.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

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 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 a schedule of parish Advent activities and events on the front!

Question Of The Week

This week's word is REJOICE! And we light the pink candle to remind us.

But how can I be joyful when there is so much hate and sadness in the world?

What is there to be joyful about?

Woodside Priory Advent Vespers

Woodside Priory Advent Vespers is today, Sunday, December 17th at 5:00 pm in the chapel. Come join our monks for this festive annual event of prayer and song!

Woodside Priory Chapel

302 Portola Road
Portola Valley



St. Vincent de Paul

St. Vincent de Paul at St Francis of Assisi in East Palo Alto is in need of help with monetary & food donations. For more information contact Stewart Hyland at stewart.hyland@gmail.com, or call 650 384-1665



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)	\$150,755.00
November 2023 Sunday Offertory Collections	\$28,339.00
November 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.

Poinsettias

If you would like to remember a loved one with a poinsettia this Christmas season, please enclose \$10 with the persons name, & the church you would like your poinsettia of remembrance. Drop in the collection basket, mail, or leave in the parish office mail slot.



Please drop this information to us by Friday, December 22nd, to allow time to get flowers in both churches.

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.



Christmas Mass Schedule

St. Denis Church

Christmas Eve December 24

4:00 pm Family Mass (livestream)

6:00 pm Mass

Christmas Day December 25

7:30 am Mass

9:30 am Mass

11:30 am Mass



Our Lady of the Wayside

Christmas Eve December 24

4:30 pm Mass

Christmas Day December 25

9:30 am Mass

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

