

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 25th, 2023 The Nativity of the Lord

(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

Dear Beloved Parishioners

Emmanuel is his name. What a name it is! For Emmanuel means God with us, and so he is. In the powerless and vulnerability of a newborn infant, God comes to his people. The once infinite and eternal God becomes finite and tangible. Flesh and bone confine the once almighty and powerful God. He is one of us. God becomes a newborn infant for all to behold.

In loving a child that is not our own, in loving a child that is a foreigner, in loving a child that is a stranger, in loving a child that is an alien miraculous and wonderful things can happen. Hearts are transformed. The face of the earth is renewed. Barriers and walls come tumbling down. We no longer see differences that divide and separate us. We begin to see and we begin to believe in our hearts that we are one, one race, one human race longing to be loved and desiring to love. For that is our true nature. The Christ child makes it so.

Before we were ever born, and before we were ever a thought God loved us. He always has and he always will love us for God is love the evangelist John wrote. God love us in ways we did not expect. He loves us in and through an innocent and pure child born in time and in human history to be with us. To be loved by a child that is not our own, to be loved by a child that sees us not a foreigner, to be loved by a child that sees us not a stranger, to be loved by a child that sees us not an alien is a spectacular thing. How can a child who does not know me love me beyond imagination? God works in mysterious yet amazing ways. God does know us because we are made in his image and likeness. Our God knitted each and every one of us in our mother's womb.

May this Christmas season remind us and instill in us once again the truth that we are all God's beloved sons and daughters. Christmas is the season of love. The greatest gift we could ever give to each other is our love. Let us therefore generously share it with everyone.

God bless,

Fr. Paul

About the Gospel

In the world of 2023, the current meaning of Christmas, depending on your particular point-of-view, has either evolved or declined. If you are reading this bulletin article, it is fair to say that for you Christmas is still a religious celebration of love, joy, and togetherness.

It may surprise you to know that Christmas was never celebrated in the early Church. The first recorded celebration of Christmas as a Christian holiday took place in Rome in the 4th century AD. , under the reign of Emperor Constantine, but it was not widely celebrated until much later. Over time, the celebration of Christmas spread to different parts of the world and evolved into the holiday we know today. With that in mind, considering the advancements in technology and the changing dynamics of society, the way people celebrate and interpret Christmas should continue to evolve.

Christmas will continue to hold deep religious significance in its commemoration of the birth of Jesus Christ. In the best of times, Christmas will remain a celebration for family and friends to come together, exchange gifts, and create lasting memories. Yet, perhaps as believers in a more globalized world, we might also embrace the opportunity to appreciate and learn about different cultures and traditions during the holiday season. In Christmas 2023, we might also emphasize the importance of giving back to the community and spreading kindness.

The spirit of Christmas could extend beyond individual celebrations to include acts of charity, volunteering, and supporting those in need. This could be facilitated by technology, making it easier for people to connect and contribute to causes they care about. Ultimately, the meaning of Christmas in 2023 and those Christmases in our future will be indicators of our values and priorities, while still holding onto the core principles of love, joy, and togetherness. As our own faith journeys evolve, so should our understanding of the true meaning of Christmas.

Dede Waters-Masters

Mass Intentions

St. Denis Church

Sun. Dec. 24 4:00 pm Guido & Florence Budelli (+)
6:00 pm World peace
Mon. Dec. 25 7:30 am Eugene Nelson (+)
9:30 am Heather Ann Crawford (+)
11:30 am World peace
Tues. Dec. 26 8:00 am For all church volunteers
Wed. Dec. 27 8:00 am For scholars & theologians
Thurs. Dec. 28 8:00 am For our children & youth
Fri. Dec. 29 8:00 am In thanksgiving

Our Lady of the Wayside Church

Sun. Dec. 24 4:30 pm Jack Sullivan (+)
Mon. Dec. 25 9:30 am World peace

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.



Faith Formation

FAITH FORMATION CHRISTMAS BREAK

There are NO CLASSES on December 24, 31, January 7, 14 due to all the school holidays!

Have a wonderful Christmas and New Year and we'll see you all back on January 21, 2024!

Question Of The Week

Jesus came over 2000 years ago, and will come again someday.

But what am I doing to welcome him into my life right now?

Ignatian Mindfulness: Godfulness

The Jesuit Retreat Center of Los Altos is hosting a silent retreat Ignatian Mindfulness: Godfulness on Friday, January 26, 3:00 pm thru Sunday, January 28th, 1:00 pm. For more information click on the link below.

<https://irc.retreatportal.com/calendar/event?programcode=24SON03792>



THE JESUIT
RETREAT CENTER
OF LOS ALTOS

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.

Merry Christmas!

We Wish you a blessed Christmas &

A Happy New Year!

Fr. Paul, Deacon Russ, Gina, Lucy, Dede, & Manuel.

Staff of St. Denis & Our Lady of the Wayside.



Senior Luncheon & Communion Service

Start the new year off with other seniors for a Communion Service & Senior Luncheon on Monday, January 8th at noon in the St. Denis hall. All seniors & their caregivers are welcome!



St. Anthony Volunteer Opportunities

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



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

