

# 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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Dede Waters-Masters  
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 31st, 2023 The Holy Family of  
Jesus, Mary, & Joseph**

(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

While, the Feast of the Holy Family serves as a reminder of the importance of the relationships we strive to have with our loved ones, many of us do not live in the perfect world of family harmony. Estrangement within families seems to be quite acceptable in our culture and the holidays can be very painful for many of us. Surviving permanently unresolved family breakups can be incredibly challenging, especially for believers who hold strong values and beliefs about the importance of family.

Our faith community can be a support during these difficult times. Our prayer lives and spiritual practices can be of great comfort, a source of solace, and sometimes even clarity. Reaching out to our faith community, friends, or various support groups can provide emotional support, guidance, and understanding during times of distress. This is also a reminder of the importance of reaching out to one another, whenever we find the opportunity.

Forgiveness can be a powerful tool in healing and moving forward. While it may be difficult, try to forgive those who have caused a family breakup, even if they are not seeking reconciliation. Remember that forgiveness is not condoning their actions, but rather freeing ourselves from the burden of anger and resentment.

It is important that we take care of our own well-being by engaging in activities that bring us joy and peace. We can look for lessons and opportunities for personal growth in the midst of the pain. Sometimes difficult experiences can lead to a deeper understanding of oneself, increased empathy for others, and a stronger connection to one's faith.

As a holy family of faith, let us all move into the new year with grace-filled hope and the promise of God's healing where needed.

Dede Waters-Masters

## Mass Intentions

### St. Denis Church

Sat. Dec. 30	5:30 pm	For refugee families
Sun. Dec. 31	7:30 am	For refugee families
	9:30 am	For refugee families
	11:30 am	For refugee families
Mon. Jan. 1	8:00 am	Mother Mary's intentions
Tues. Jan. 2	8:00 am	For educators
Wed. Jan. 3	8:00 am	For the homebound
Thurs Jan. 4	8:00 am	For those with disabilities
Fri. Jan. 5	8:00 am	For immigrants

### Our Lady of the Wayside Church

Sat. Dec. 30	4:30 pm	For refugee families
Sun. Dec. 31	9:30 am	For refugee families

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.



*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, Mary and Joseph, and Zechariah, Elizabeth, John, Anne, Joaquim, and others!

The Holy Family was bigger and more complicated than we think.

## 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](mailto: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](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)	\$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](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.



# 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](mailto:paduadiningroom@gmail.com) or Rickey Ono at [rickeyono5@gmail.com](mailto: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](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

