

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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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



February 11th, 2024 Sixth Sunday In Ordinary Time

(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

In today's Gospel, we continue to hear Mark report the miraculous healings that Jesus performed in Galilee. The Gospel begins with Jesus healing a man with leprosy. Leprosy is a disfiguring, infectious skin disease that has been surrounded by many social and religious taboos throughout history. In 1873, the cause of leprosy, also known as Hansen's disease, was identified. We now know that leprosy is caused by a bacterial infection. Although it is infectious, modern medical studies have shown that transmission is more difficult than previously thought. Since the 1940s, medical treatments have been available, and the patient no longer needs to be isolated once long-term treatment has begun.

In Jesus' time, however, religious and social taboos dictated the behavior of those with leprosy and other skin diseases. The Law of Moses provided for the examination of skin diseases by the priests, and if leprosy was identified, the person was declared unclean. People with leprosy lived in isolation from the community. They were instructed to rip their clothes and to announce their presence with loud cries when moving in the community. If the sores of leprosy healed, the Law of Moses provided a purification rite that permitted the person to return to the community.

In today's Gospel, the man with leprosy took the initiative, approaching Jesus and asking for healing. In doing so, the leper violated the religious customs of the day by approaching a person who was clean. His request to Jesus can be interpreted as a courageous and daring act. The confidence of the leper in Jesus' ability to heal him is evident in the words of his request. But his words can also be read as a challenge to Jesus, asking just how far Jesus was willing to extend himself in order to heal someone. While healing the man, Jesus touched him, which also violated established social norms. This is an important sign of the depth of Jesus' compassion for the man and an important statement about Jesus' interpretation of the Law of Moses.

Although Jesus touched the leper, he did not break completely with the Law of Moses. He instructed the man not to tell anyone about the cure and told him to present himself to the priests as prescribed by the Law of Moses. The first instruction sounds nearly impossible to honor. Certainly, the man would want to share the good news of his healing, and his quick improvement would require an explanation. The second instruction honors the Law of Moses.

Mark's Gospel tells us that after this healing, it became difficult for Jesus to travel freely. There are several possible explanations for this. There might have been concern about the repercussions of Jesus' breach of social and religious norms. In touching the man with leprosy, Jesus made himself unclean. Mark's narrative, however, leads to the conclusion that Jesus' movement was hampered by his popularity. Despite his instructions, the cured man spread the word about Jesus' healing power. Even when Jesus was in deserted places, people sought him out in search of his healing.

Loyola Press "Sunday Connection"

About the Gospel

In Mark 1:40-45 we find a person of great faith in the leper who humbly and hopefully approaches Jesus. The stigma as an unclean societal outcast does not hinder him. Jesus received the leper and Jesus receives each one of us.

The leper's reaction to his miraculous healing demonstrates sincere gratitude and thankfulness. After being healed, the leper couldn't contain his joy and went on to spread the news of his healing. This reminds us of the importance of expressing gratitude for the blessings we receive and sharing our testimonies with others.

While the leper's disobedience was not in keeping with Jesus' instruction to keep his healing a secret, it is a totally understandable reaction.

Perhaps the consequences of his exuberance could remind us that sometimes our enthusiasm and excitement can lead to errors in judgement. While the leper's intentions were likely pure, it's a reminder for us to be mindful of following instructions and seeking guidance even in moments of joy and excitement.

As we enter the penitential season of Lent, let us remember the healing of the leper as a reminder of the healing and wholeness God offers each one of us.

Dede Waters-Masters

Mass Intentions

St. Denis Church

Sat. Feb. 10 5:30 pm A holy Lenten season
 Sun. Feb. 11 7:30 am For equality
 9:30 am Charles Eggleton (living)
 11:30 am An end to human trafficking
 Mon. Feb. 12 8:00 am For honest leaders
 Tues. Feb. 13 8:00 am Victims of floods
 Wed. Feb. 14 8:00 am Janice Covolo (+)
 Wed. Feb. 14 12:00 pm Peace in the Middle East
 Thurs Feb.15 8:00 am In gratitude
 Fri. Feb.16 8:00 am Gordian Boteilho (+)

Our Lady of the Wayside Church

Sat. Feb. 10 4:30 pm A holy Lenten season
 Sun. Feb. 11 9:30 am Terrence Donohoe (+)
 Wed. Feb. 14 5:30 pm A holy Lenten season

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

NO FAITH FORMATION CLASSES Feb.11 and 18

Feb. 11 is our Lent workshop

Feb. 18 is President's Day weekend.

All classes resume Feb. 25

LITTLE BLACK BOOKS ARE BACK!

For your daily Lenten reflections, including a schedule of Lent events.

Question Of The Week

What amazing thing has God done for me?

Did I tell everyone?

I shouldn't keep it a secret!

Ash Wednesday Services

Ash Wednesday Services February 14th.

8:00am at St. Denis

12 noon at St Denis with soup luncheon in the hall

5:30pm at Our Lady of the Wayside Church



Sneaker & Socks Collection

The Sisters & Associates of Notre Dame de Namur are collecting sneakers & socks for children at their refugee processing center in Phoenix. If you can help, please put your donations in the box at the back of both church.



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 dianawatersmasters@gmail.com

NOTE: Announcement may not appear 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)	\$241,240.00
January 2024 Sunday Offertory Collections	\$33,879.00
January 2024 Sunday Offertory Collections (Goal)	\$30,761.00
Annual Appeal 2024 (Goal)	\$89,282.00
Annual Appeal 2024 Collections (Received so far)	\$3,675.00

"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.

Lent Family Gathering & Pancake Breakfast

Join us Today! Sunday, February 11 after the 9:30am Mass at St. Denis.
We'll have everything you need to observe Lent at home, and pancakes!
Everyone is welcome!



Votive Candles In The Chapel

Please come, light a candle, and spend some time in prayer.

The candles are electronic and remain lit for up to 2 hours.

The chapel will be open whenever the parish office is open and during Masses.



Pray, Fast, Give

Take a Rice Bowl home and use it to help your Lenten practices.

Pray for those in need, make a sacrifice, then put that sacrifice in the bowl!

Filled bowls will be collected during Holy Week and Easter season.



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

