December 14, 2014, 3rd Sunday in Advent

Saint Denis Parish

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.

Join us today (December 14) for Caroling, Sweets and Savories. OLW Rectory, 3:00 pm.

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St. Denis Church
2250 Avy Avenue • Menlo Park

St. Denis Office Hours: M-F: 9:00 am - 2:00 pm
(650) 854-5976
www.stdenisparish.org

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

Bulletin Cover Art: Patrick Galligan, 3rd grade

Mass Times

St. Denis Church
Saturday: 5:30 pm (Vigil)
Sunday: 7:30 am, 9:30 am, 11:30 am
Monday-Friday: 8:00 am

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
Saturday: 5:00 pm, St. Denis

The Christmas Giving Trees will be in both churches beginning Saturday, Nov. 29. Gift tags may be removed and attached to gifts that should be returned to the church no later than Sunday, Dec. 14 (today). Please securely attach the tags to your gifts paying special attention to whether gift wrapping is required which will be noted on the back of each tag. Gifts will be delivered to St. Francis Center, Catholic Worker House, Maple Street Homeless Shelter and Hoover Pre-School. If you cannot take a tag but would prefer to contribute there will be a box in the back of each church for donations. Any amount is appreciated.

Questions should be directed to Marlene Hunter, (650) 325-4058.

The next Wine and the Word will be on Monday, January 26, 7:00 pm in the rectory.

Vallombrosa Conference & Retreat Center in Menlo Park, which is owned by Archdiocese of San Francisco, is looking to hire an Operations Director. The position involves assisting the Director with policies, procedures, organization, decisions, supervision and administration involved with the daily operations of the Center. Send resume to apply@vallombrosa.org.

Vallombrosa Operations Director

The St. Denis Men’s Group will meet on Tuesday, January 27, at 7:00 pm.
Pastor’s Corner

Dear fellow members of St. Denis and Our Lady of the Wayside,

The first line of last Sunday’s gospel reading introduced "Jesus Christ the Son of God." Today’s reading taken from the prophet Isaiah and the responsorial psalm show him as "Savior". These together were the earliest affirmation of faith in Jesus: “Jesus Christ, Son of God and Savior,” in Greek, *Iesous Christos Theou Uios Soter*. The initial letters of these words taken together – ICHTHUS – happen to mean ‘fish’. And so the fish became the secret sign of being a Christian in the times of persecution. It can be seen even today, scratched on the walls of the catacombs in Rome. That is a reminder to us of the thousands of men and women who gave up their lives for their belief that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and Savior. The early Christians would spend the entire night praying and singing before they were taken to be killed. They went to their deaths joyfully. It is to this ‘Jesus Christ, Son of God and Savior’ that John the Baptist bore witness. As we prepare ourselves for the celebration of the birth of Jesus the Son of God, we are all invited to bear witness to Christ and to his message in our lives!

I would like to remind you and invite you to caroling, sweets and savories at OLW on Sunday, December 14, at 3:00 pm and to the organ, piano and guitar recital and Christmas Carol sing-along at St Denis on Sunday, December 21 at 4:00 pm. The events will be followed by a reception.

The communal penance service will be on Wednesday, December 17 at St. Denis Church. There will be opportunity to receive the Sacrament of reconciliation individually.

Yours sincerely,

Fr. Jose Shaji, Pastor

Gospel Reading

When the Jews from Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to him to ask him, “Who are you?” He admitted and did not deny it, but admitted, “I am not the Christ.” So they asked him, “What are you then? Are you Elijah?” And he said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” He answered, “No.” So they said to him, “Who are you, so we can give an answer to those who sent us? What do you have to say for yourself?” He said: “I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, ‘make straight the way of the Lord,’” as Isaiah the prophet said.” Some Pharisees were also sent. They asked him, “Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ or Elijah or the Prophet?” John answered them, “I baptize with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie.” This happened in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

Mass Intentions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>St. Denis</th>
<th>Our Lady of the Wayside</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sat. 12/13</strong></td>
<td><strong>4:30pm Margaret Petersen† (Frank Koch)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>5:30pm Tom Kirkbride† (Mary Ann Robiano &amp; family)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sun. 12/14</strong></td>
<td><strong>9:30am parishioners of OLW</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>7:30am Maria Sa-ing Swang-Ngam† (J. Nitayo)</td>
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<td>9:30am Al Yujuico† (Yujuico family)</td>
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<td>11:30am Tom Kirkbride† (James Quinn family)</td>
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<td><strong>Mon. 12/15</strong></td>
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<td>8:00am parishioners of St. Denis</td>
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<td><strong>Tue. 12/16</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>8:00am parishioners of St. Denis</td>
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<td><strong>Wed. 12/17</strong></td>
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<td>8:00am parishioners of St. Denis</td>
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<td><strong>Thu. 12/18</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>8:00am Mary Margaret Koch†</td>
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<td><strong>Fri. 12/19</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>8:00am parishioners of St. Denis</td>
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In your charity, please pray for…


Please call the parish office if you would like to receive Holy Communion at home.
Religious Ed News
THIS Sunday, Dec. 14th
9:30am—Pre-K through 5th Grade
10:30-11:30am—6th/7th Grade
10:30-11:30am—Big Kids’ Sacramental Prep Class
12:30pm-1:30pm—TOB for HS
3:00pm-7:00pm—Maple Street Shelter Dinner by Year 2 Confirmation

Next Sunday (12/21)
No Classes! Christmas Tree Decorating after the 11:30am Mass.

Upcoming Dates & Events
12/17 (Wed) - TOB for Middle School
12/24 (Wed) - Christmas Eve Family Mass 4pm (with Children’s Choir)
1/18 (Sun) - Altar Server Appreciation Bowling Party

Classes Resume January 11th

Merry Christmas, safe travels, and a blessed start to 2015! Thank you for being a part of the Religious Ed family at St. Denis Parish.

YOUTH COUNCIL
After the great success working with our Youth Leadership Team and incorporating feedback from our teens, St. Denis is forming a Parish Youth Council to be the voice of the teenage members of our community.

The Youth Council will meet monthly with Fr. Jose and Lindsey West to advise and help implement best practices and programs for the enrichment and empowerment of the youth of our parish and within our local community.

There is a very brief application for the Youth Council now available in the back of the church and on our website on the Youth Ministry Page. We invite all high schoolers interested in making a change and improving our parish to apply. Apps due by January 18th, 2015.

Questions? Contact Lindsey West at lwest@stdenisparish.org.

Annual Youth Fundraising Dinner is Saturday, January 31st at 6:30pm. Proceeds towards our fundraising dinner go to support youth enrichment trips such as the Teen Leadership Conference in June 2015 and, especially, World Youth Day in Krakow, Poland in Summer 2016.

Tickets on sale this Sunday after the 9:30am Mass!
**Echoes of Worth** is a call to the young of the Bay Area to hear, maybe for the first time, the depth & truth of John Paul II’s teachings on Theology of the Body.

Our Guest Hosts for the weekend, **Jackie Francois** & **Bobby Angel**, will lead us in understanding the reality of God’s love found in our creation and our purpose.

This weekend encounter will take place **February 6-8, 2015** at Mission Springs in Scotts Valley, CA. **Registration IS OPEN**. Go to [EchoesofWorth.com](http://EchoesofWorth.com) to reserve your space.

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**XLT Mid-Peninsula:**

**Does Faith Matter After High School?**

High School and Middle School students are invited for **XLT Mid-Peninsula II** on **Wednesday, January 28th**.

St. Denis, St. Raymond, and Church of the Nativity are teaming up again to host an hour and a half of praise & worship, and inspiring talk by a Stanford student, and Eucharistic Adoration.

Tickets are $5. XLT is 7pm-8:30pm, with hospitality 6:30pm-6:55pm. Tickets are available through Eventbrite. Questions? Contact Lindsey at lwest@stdenisparish.org.

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**For Parents**

**Parents of Toddlers**

We are so happy you and your family are here at **Mass at St. Denis**. *We know Mass with little ones can be a challenge, so we have a couple of newer resources to help you out.* In the Chapel at St. Denis Church, we have a small organizer with religious and biblical coloring pages and supplies.

We’ve also just added a Toddler Board Book Library. We invite you to check out the books and coloring pages, if you’d like, for your little ones.

*Please take home pictures with you, but please leave the books in the chapel for others to use.* Questions or ideas? Contact Lindsey West—lwest@stdenisparish.org or 650-854-1081.
The third Sunday of Advent, is called Gaudete Sunday from the first word of the Introit at Mass (Gaudete, i.e. Rejoice). The season of Advent originated as a fast of forty days in preparation for Christmas, commencing on the day after the feast of St. Martin (12 November), whence it was often called "St. Martin's Lent"-- a name by which it was known as early as the fifth century. The introduction of the Advent fast cannot be placed much earlier, because there is no evidence of Christmas being kept on 25th December before the end of the fourth century and the preparation for the feast could not have been of earlier date than the feast itself. In the ninth century, the duration of Advent was reduced to four weeks and it preserved the characteristics of a penitential season which made it a kind of counterpart to Lent, the middle (or third) Sunday corresponding with Laetare or Mid-Lent Sunday. Gaudete Sunday, therefore, makes a breaker like Laetare Sunday, about midway through a season which is otherwise of a penitential character, and signifies the nearness of the Lord's coming. Gaudete Sunday is further marked by a new Invitatory, "The Lord who is now nigh and close at hand". The spirit of the Liturgy all through Advent is one of expectation and preparation for the Christmas feast as well as for the second coming of Christ, and the penitential exercises suitable to that spirit are thus on Gaudete Sunday suspended, as were, for a while in order to symbolize that joy and gladness in the Promised Redemption which should never be absent from the heart of the faithful.

Weekly Stewardship Report

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<th>December 6/7, 2014</th>
<th>December 7/8, 2013</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sunday Collection</td>
<td>E-Giving</td>
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<td>$3,711.00</td>
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<td>OLW</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Monthly Total, November 2014</th>
<th>Monthly Total, November 2013</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sunday Collection</td>
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<td>OLW</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$39,415.82</strong></td>
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Second Collection

Today the annual collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious is being taken. The women and men Religious of the Archdiocese are appreciative of any help you can give and count on your assistance as they face retirement with limited resources. More importantly, though, please remember in your prayers the more than 630 women and men religious living and serving in the Archdiocese of San Francisco.
## Sacrament of Reconciliation

There will be a communal penance service at St. Denis Church on Wednesday, December 17, at 7:00 pm. There will be an opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation individually.

## Christmas Mass Schedule

### Christmas Eve
**Wednesday, December 24**
- St. Denis Church
  - 4:00 pm & 6:00 pm
- Our Lady of the Wayside Church
  - 4:00 pm & 9:00 pm

### Christmas Day
**Thursday, December 25**
- St. Denis Church
  - 7:30 am, 9:30 am & 11:30 am
- Our Lady of the Wayside Church
  - 9:30 am

## Wine and the Word

The next Wine and the Word will be on Monday, January 26, 7:00 pm in the rectory.

## Men’s Group

The St. Denis Men’s Group will meet on Tuesday, January 27, at 7:00 pm.

## Christmas Giving Tree

The Christmas Giving Trees will be in both churches beginning Saturday, Nov. 29. Gift tags may be removed and attached to gifts that should be returned to the church no later than Sunday, Dec. 14 (today). Please securely attach the tags to your gifts paying special attention to whether gift wrapping is required which will be noted on the back of each tag. Gifts will be delivered to St. Francis Center, Catholic Worker House, Maple Street Homeless Shelter and Hoover Pre-School. If you cannot take a tag but would prefer to contribute there will be a box in the back of each church for donations. Any amount is appreciated. Questions should be directed to Marlene Hunter, (650) 325-4058.

## Musicians’ Recital

Please join us on Sunday, December 21, 4:00 pm at St. Denis Church for an organ, piano and guitar recital and Christmas Carol Sing featuring our parish musicians: Kelly Lim, Ethan Williams, Bryan Lorentz and Jeffery Abbott.

## Ministry Schedule

### December 20/21

#### St. Denis
- **5:30pm** Lector: Jerry Griffin
  - E.M.: Brigitte Mornand, Tina Morris, Anne Marie Jewell
- **7:30am** Lectors: Paul Kirincich, James Tornes
  - E.M.: Jackie Tornes, Sandy Rock
- **9:30am** Lectors: Scott Stanley, Jill Stanley
  - E.M.: Susanna Tang, Catherine Coluzzi, Josephine Dorval, Marlene Hunter*, Barbara Mason, Heather Scholl
  - **11:30am** Lector: R. Draeger

#### Our Lady of the Wayside
- **4:30pm** Lector: Mingram
  - E.M.: DeStaebler, Sullivan
- **9:30am** Lector: Aymerich
  - E.M.: Aymerich, Healey, Anderson

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