

December 21, 2014, 4th 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 21**) for
a Recital and Christmas Carol
Sing-A-Long
4:00 pm at St. Denis!



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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

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

Pastor's Corner

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

When the prophets spoke of the birth of the Messiah who would save the people of Israel, the people imagined it to be a spectacular event like the Exodus or the giving of the Ten Commandments to Moses. The Israelites could never believe that this most important event in the history of the human race could be hidden in the ordinariness of the birth of a child. The Gospel reading of this Sunday gives us a description of the event, the birth of the savior of the world as a little babe through an unknown person, Mary. God continues to act in the world even today, not in spectacular fashion but through small and little events in the lives of people. The celebration of Christmas is an invitation to each one of us to open our eyes to see the way God intervenes in the world and in our lives through small and insignificant looking events.

I would like to thank all those who came to OLW On December 14 to the event, carol, sweets and savories. Thank you to all those who brought food, and helped set up and clean up. Thank you! It was a wonderful afternoon!

I would like to invite volunteers to join Msgr. Jose to decorate the Church at OLW for Christmas on December 21, Sunday after the 9:30 am Mass.

I would like to invite volunteers to help decorate St Denis Church for Christmas celebration after the 11:30 am Mass on Sunday, December 21.

Yours sincerely,
Fr. Jose Shaji, Pastor

Gospel Reading

The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, "Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you." But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.

"Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." But Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?" And the angel said to her in reply, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God." Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Mass Intentions

	<u>St. Denis</u>	<u>Our Lady of the Wayside</u>
Sat. 12/20	5:30pm Jim Ciardella† (Helen Ciardella)	4:30pm Nena Gayton† (Charlyne Gayton)
Sun. 12/21	7:30am Irene Goodwin† (Hagman family) 9:30am Heather Ann Crawford† (Estella Crawford) 11:30am Tom Kirkbride† (Joe Merkert)	9:30am parishioners of OLW
Mon. 12/22	8:00am parishioners of St. Denis	
Tue. 12/23	8:00am Mary Margaret Koch†	
Wed. 12/24	8:00am parishioners of St. Denis 4:00pm CHRISTMAS EVE 6:00pm CHRISTMAS EVE	4:00pm CHRISTMAS EVE 9:00pm CHRISTMAS EVE
Thu. 12/25	7:30am CHRISTMAS DAY 9:30am CHRISTMAS DAY 11:30am CHRISTMAS DAY	9:30am CHRISTMAS DAY
Fri. 12/26	8:00am parishioners of St. Denis	

In your charity, please pray for...

Carol Armstrong, Agnes Babcock, Louise Brent, Mike Carragee, Lily Chan, Sandra Dailey, Gertrude DeZelaya, Bob Ellis, Amelia Elsbree, Michael Fil, Susan Fil, Ruben Fuentez, Johnny Gentry, Lauren Goode, Michael Ho, Ryan Johnston, Maurice Kidd, Lisa Kitz, Matthew Lear, Phyllis Lucas, Luke Mars, Ann Martin, Sheri Martin, Dorothy Meyers, Dennis Miller, Rozeh Nikili, Lorraine O'Connor, Lorie Ortega, Angie Real, Jim Rock, Raymond Schaaf Sr, Aileen Schiel, Kathy Schoendorf, Marie Scott, Omid Sharif, Dorothy Skala, Frank Vitale, David Welling, Bev Wheat, Mila Wright, William Yates, Ada Zilli and Jean Zonner.

Please call the parish office if you would like to receive Holy Communion at home.

Saint of the Week - St. Stephen the Martyr

December 26 - Stephen's name means "crown," and he was the first disciple of Jesus to receive the martyr's crown. Stephen was a deacon in the early Christian Church. The apostles had found that they needed helpers to look after the care of the widows and the poor. So they ordained seven deacons, and Stephen is the most famous of these. God worked many miracles through St. Stephen and he spoke with such wisdom and grace that many of his hearers became followers of Jesus. The enemies of the Church of Jesus were furious to see how successful Stephen's preaching was. At last, they laid a plot for him. They could not answer his wise argument, so they got men to lie about him, saying that he had spoken sinfully against God. St. Stephen faced that great assembly of enemies without fear. In fact, the Holy Bible says that his face looked like the face of an angel. They rose up in great anger and shouted at him. But Stephen looked up to Heaven and said that he saw the heavens opening and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. His hearers plugged their ears and refused to listen to another word. They dragged St. Stephen outside the city of Jerusalem and stoned him to death. The saint prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!" Then he fell to his knees and begged God not to punish his enemies for killing him. After such an expression of love, the holy martyr went to his heavenly reward.



Millie Rieth, a St. Denis Treasure

This weekend, the communion hymn is "Mary's Song" by Millie Rieth. Millie was St. Denis' choir director for more than a decade through the 1980's. At that time, our pastor Fr. Jack Dietz wanted to update our liturgy and introduce guitar Masses. Millie, a musician and elementary school teacher, enlivened our community with her lovely spirit, her sense of humor, and her dedication to congregational singing. Millie died of cancer around 2005 (sadly we do not have the exact information). Having been a Sister of the Presentation earlier in life, Millie returned to the Sisters in Los Gatos for care during her final illness. Millie continues to bless us through her music.

Millie's songs include "How Good You Are God", "Yahweh is my Shepherd Now", and "An Irish Blessing". Currently these songs and others can be downloaded from Amazon. On YouTube there is a beautiful slide show of paintings of Mary set to Mary's song. See Mary's Song (Millie Rieth) on YouTube.

-Tereza McNamee

Weekly Stewardship Report

December 13/14, 2014			December 14/15, 2013		
	Sunday Collection	E-Giving		Sunday Collection	E-Giving
St. Denis	\$5,132.00	\$2,667.25	St. Denis	\$5,432.00	\$2,635.04
OLW	\$1,219.00	\$545.41	OLW	\$3,162.00	\$578.34
Total: \$9,563.66			Total: \$11,807.38		
Monthly Total, November 2014			Monthly Total, November 2013		
	Sunday Collection	E-Giving		Sunday Collection	E-Giving
St. Denis	\$19,503.00	\$11,589.66	St. Denis	\$24,574.00	\$10,511.00
OLW	\$6,339.00	\$1,984.16	OLW	\$5,090.00	\$2,562.00
Total: \$39,415.82			Total: \$42,737.00		

Religious Education

THIS Sunday, Dec. 21st
No Classes – Christmas Break

Classes Resume Sunday, January 11th

Upcoming Dates & Events
1/18 (Sun) - Altar Server Appreciation Bowling Party

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 Fundraising Dinner

Get Your Tickets!

The 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 and 11:30am Mass at St. Denis Church! Or contact Lindsey in the parish office – lwest@stdenisparish.org or 650-854-1081.

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.

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 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: <https://eventbrite.com/event/14994513995/> Questions? Contact Lindsey at lwest@stdenisparish.org.

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.

Ministry Schedule

St. Denis

December 27/28

5:30pm **Lector:** Beverly Huss

E.M.: Brigitte Mornand, Tina Morris, Anne Marie Jewell

7:30am **Lectors:** Maria Decker, Danuta Eustice

E.M.: Jackie Ternes, Sandy Rock

9:30am **Lectors:** Pat Mach, Dennis Monohan

E.M.: Ann O'Hearn*, George Quiter III, Kathie Shaw, Jill Stanley, Scott Stanley, Estelle Crawford

11:30am **Lector:** Ellen Parsons

E.M.: L. Lombardi, Marco, Dewes

Our Lady of the Wayside

4:30pm **Lector:** Sullivan

E.M.: DeStaebler, Schar

9:30am **Lector:** Carroll

E.M.: Carroll, Aymerich, Healey

* sacristan