

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
wpodell@aol.com
(415) 686-9951
Pastor

Gina Morales
Operations Manager
gmorales@stdenisparish.org
(650) 854-5976 press 2

Lucy Soltau
Religious Ed & Youth Ministry
lsoltau@stdenisparish.org
(650) 854-5976 press 3

Dede Waters-Masters
Pastoral Minister in charge of
Liturgy & Senior Services
dedewm@pacbell.net
(650) 854-5976 press 4

Mass Times

St. Denis Church
Saturday: 5:30pm (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

Office Hours
M-F, 9:00 am—2:00 pm



December 16th, 2018 3rd Sunday of Advent

(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

Pastor's Corner

Dear Beloved Parishioners,

On this 3rd Sunday of Advent, we light the rose color candle to indicate that we are half way through the Advent season. It is more than the half way point though. It is a time of joy and rejoicing because Christmas is near, the birth of Jesus is close. The word rejoice in Latin is Gaudete, and so today is Gaudete Sunday.

Having a sense of joy is an expression of our faith in Jesus. A person of faith keeps his or her head up, not down even in difficult situations. On Veterans Day, I was in a car accident. I was at a stoplight when the car behind me ran into me. The driver thought the light turned green. She damaged my rear bumper and trunk. With three small children in the back seat, she probably got distracted. Fortunately, no one was hurt.

With faith in God, I saw this accident as a wake up call for the mother. She undoubtedly knows to be more careful than ever. Faith empowers us to see God's hand in everything, the good and especially the bad. God is with us. That is what we sing during the Advent season, "O come, O come Emmanuel." God came to protect all of us in the car accident, the mother, her three children and me. How can I not rejoice in the saving act of the good Lord and in the protective care of my guardian angel.

God bless,

Fr. Paul

We Believe

Advent Blessings and Graces

For many women Advent signals stress, which I personally hoped to alleviate by taking an eleven-day vacation this month. Unfortunately, though my time away was great, the stress was still there waiting for me upon my return.

Sometimes there seems to be a flurry of mishaps, that when compounded, seem overwhelming. I re-experienced this feeling of helplessness recently when I got in a minor fender-bender in front of Target, had my email hacked, and was fraudulently charged on my credit card all in the same week. The circumstances of these bothersome events really pointed to the obvious fact that I am totally dependent on a car, my tech communications, and the ability to purchase goods and services without cash in my pocket. These annoyances happen to us all and apparently it was my "turn."

Now that I have been provided with a loaner car, re-vamped and restored my email security, and received a new credit card I have had time to reflect on all the goodness that these mishaps revealed. Contrary to what is portrayed on the news, there are a lot of caring people in our community. As I waited for a tow truck on a dark Thursday night, countless people came over to me and asked if they could help. I had several loyal friends respond to a hacked email they received requesting money, and the person who I spoke to about the credit card responded so kindly and patiently to me on the lengthy phone call. Sometimes these annoying life events can serve to remind us to show empathy and kindness to others in stressful situations. It *does* make a difference.

I invite you to join me in trying to concentrate on the little gifts of a kind word or a thoughtful deed as we go through the last days of Advent. As we wait in grocery or post office lines, try to find a place to park, or shuffle through the crowd of Christmas shoppers, let's remember who we represent.

I acknowledge that my problems are first world annoyances. A typical Christmas tree light malfunction, is hardly on a scale with the problems facing many of our brothers and sisters today-- and the refugee family forced to spend the night in a stable under a star can serve to remind us of that.

Dede Waters-Masters

Mass Intentions

St. Denis

Sat.	Dec.	15	5:30 pm	Geraldine Kabak(+)
Sun.	Dec.	16	7 :30 am	Omid Sharif (+)
			9:30 am	Heather Crawford (+)
			11:30 am	Jack Lucier (+)
Mon.	Dec .	17	8:00 am	Deborah Guzzo (+)
Tue.	Dec.	18	8:00 am	Mila Wright (+)
Wed.	Dec.	19	8:00 am	In Thanksgiving
Thurs.	Dec.	20	8:00 am	Frannie Pierce (+)
Fri.	Dec.	21	8:00 am	Hilary Donohoe (living)

Our Lady Of The Wayside

Sat.	Dec. 15	4:30pm	Mary & Aurangzeb Khan
Sun.	Dec. 16	9:30am	Pope Francis

In your charity, please pray for...

Maria da Ponte, Sarah Lucas, Robert Roger, Holly Hermansen, Pier Iglesias, Rosa Sharif, Barbara Ham, John Hunter, Janice Varell, Peter Fulchiron

Faith Formation News

FAITH FORMATION VACATION!

There will be **NO CLASSES** on Sunday, December 23 (Christmas week) or December 30 (New Year's) Regular classes resume Sunday, January 6.

FR. PAUL'S FIRST COMMUNION CLASSES

Fr. Paul will be offering optional classes for those children preparing to celebrate First Communion in the spring. Classes will be on Mondays at 3:30pm in the parish library. His NEXT class is Monday, January 14

CHILDREN'S CHOIR FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

We're forming an informal choir of children to lead the singing at our Family Mass on Christmas Eve at 4:00pm at St. Denis. Join us for practices after 9:30am Mass on Sundays, December 9, 16, and 23. If you can read, you can be in the choir!

CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY MASS

Our Annual Family Mass is on Christmas Eve at 4:00pm at St. Denis Church. Children can participate in various ways during the Mass, by being in the choir (see above), dramatizing the Gospel, or greeting and ushering. Please see the bulletin insert for details.

There will be **ONE REHEARSAL** for everyone on Sunday, December 23 at 10:30am. Contact Lucy for more information at lsoltau@stdenisparish.org



A MISSION TRIP FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL!!

Last year, Fr. Paul and Lucy took 8 kids to Hawaii to work, learn, and make friends.

This year, we're headed to Anchorage, Alaska! June 24-28, 2019 We are limited to 10 kids currently in 6, 7 or 8th grades. The cost is \$310 per person (not including airfare) and scholarships are available. For more details about the program, go to www.just5days.org

To sign up, contact Lucy at lsoltau@stdenisparish.org

Deadline for sign up is January 31st.



Mission Trip For High School!!



We're adding a mission trip for teens currently in 9-12 grades. And we're headed for Buffalo, NY!

July 21-26, 2019

We are limited to 5 teens only!

The cost is \$395 per person (not including airfare) and scholarships are available. For more details about the program, go to www.youngneighbors.org

To sign up, contact Lucy at lsoltau@stdenisparish.org

Deadline for sign up is January 31st.

Valley Ecumenical Group

Valley Presbyterian Church, 945 Portola Road, Portola Valley, is hosting *The Longest Night*, on Thursday, December 20, at 7:00 PM. "On the eve of winter solstice, we gather amidst the festivities of the holiday season to honor the dark places in our world and in our lives where all is not calm or bright. In this service we will honor grief, loss and suffering and wait together for the light to come." All are invited. There are seven member churches in Woodside & Portola Valley that make up the Valley Ecumenical Group.



Friendly Reminders

Bulletin Announcements

The Deadline for bulletin inserts is (The Tuesday Before Noon,) before the weekend of publication. All mass announcements are to be scripted & okayed by Dede prior to masses. Contact her at dedem@pacbell.net NOTE: Announcements may not appear until the next bulletin due to space limitations.

Thank You!



Stewardship

July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019 (Estimated goal)	\$468,000.00
July 1, 2018 to November, 2018	\$181,163.00
Monthly Goal- November 2018	\$36,000.00
November 2018 Sunday Offertory Collections	\$37,139.00

Donation Corner

ONLINE GIVING WITH WESHARE

Whether you are new to online giving, or would like to make an update to your existing donations, follow the link below to give.

<https://stdenisparish.churchgiving.com/ws/opportunities>

<https://olwparish.churchgiving.com/ws/opportunities>

Christmas Mass Schedule at St. Denis & Our Lady of the Wayside

Monday December 24 Christmas Eve Masses

4pm Family mass at St. Denis

4:30pm mass at Our Lady of the Wayside

6pm mass at St. Denis

Tuesday December 25 Christmas Day Masses

Regular mass schedule:

St. Denis 7:30am, 9:30am, 11:30am

Our Lady of the Wayside 9:30am



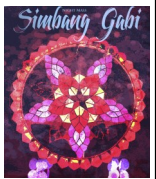
Christmas Tree Decorating

It's almost time to Decorate the churches for Christmas. Our Lady of the Wayside will decorate this Sunday December 16th after 9:30am Mass and St. Denis will decorate December 23rd after 11:30am mass. Plan to stay, help and socialize. There will be treats.



Simbang Gabi

We invite you to attend the 1st SIMBANG GABI at St. Denis Church on Thursday, December 20th at 7pm. Simbang Gabi ("Mass at Night") is a devotional tradition from the Philippines that leads up to Christmas. The San Francisco Diocese will celebrate masses as part of the tradition. Reception and Fellowship follows after Mass in the hall.



Christmas Giving Trees Are Due!

All Christmas Giving Trees Gifts Are DUE TODAY. Thank you for your donations!

Poinsettia Remembrance

You can remember a loved one in a special way with a poinsettia plant labeled with your loved ones' name. We are requesting \$10 to cover the cost of each plant. We will be labeling them at both churches. If you would like to participate put your name, your loved ones name, and mark on the envelope or check that you are using. Please use a separate check from the offertory monies. We will be happy to take care of the rest for you. Please hand in requests by Saturday, December 23rd. Thank you .



Woodside Priory Vespers Service

The annual Vespers Service at Woodside Priory Chapel is a lovely event in which you can forget your hectic holiday calendar, embrace the spirit of the season, and pray. Join us this Sunday, December 16th at 5pm with prelude music at 4:45pm.

