“Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.” Luke 1:39-45

December 23rd, 2018  4th Sunday of Advent
Pastor’s Corner

Dear Beloved Parishioners,

Walls have come tumbling down. Swords have turned into plowshares. Darkness has given way to a new radiant, eternal light. Hope is once again born into our hearts dwelling there forever. Something spectacular has happened. Something wonderful has happened. Something we never thought would ever happen. It has though. In the ordinary event that is so human, new life was born. A child was born unto us. Birth happens all the time everywhere in the world. What could possibly be so different this time? A new born infant makes its entrance into the world with a cry, and it makes its presence known throughout the day and throughout the night.

With faith and only with faith, we believe that the child born from Mary in times past is no ordinary child. It is the very Son of God promised from ancient times. At last, the Messiah has arrived bringing with him the fulfillment of our hopes and dreams. We hope for a better world. The Kingdom God is upon us. We hope to be free. Sin and death no longer has power over us. We dream to not be forgotten or abandoned. We are adopted children of God chosen before the beginning of time, and we are brothers and sisters in Christ. We dream to experience something profound in our inmost being that will endure. That is not fleeting. We are loved unconditionally and always by God.

The child Jesus does all this by simply coming into our world and making it presence known by its piercing cry. Crying throughout the day and crying throughout the night letting us know that we are not alone. The cry of the Christ child is a cry that proclaims He is Emmanuel, a name which means God with us, and so he is.

May you and your family truly be caught up in the joy of Christmas. More importantly, may you get caught up in the tremendous love God has and always will have for you. Merry Christmas and have a blessed and happy New Year. Rejoice and be glad for our Savior is born.

God bless, Fr. Paul

We Believe

SPEAK TRUTH TO POWER

A prophet has a thankless job. They are called to deliver warnings and give unwelcome advice. They are called to tell the truth to those who don’t want to hear it. They are called to speak truth to power.

We all know a prophet or two. People who challenge us and nag us. People who tell us what we don’t want to hear. Parents are prophets to their children. Teachers are prophets to their students. Journalists are prophets to politicians. Scientists are prophets to those who have doubts and need proof.

Mary visits Elizabeth, and they share the truth about their sons with each other. One will be a prophet for the other. And the other will be the ultimate prophet to all of us. Jesus speaks the truth of God’s message of love and salvation to all of us, and calls on all of us to act on it.

The truth is, we are all called to be prophets, speaking the truth especially to those who do not want to hear it. It takes courage and faith in the message.

This Christmas, may we all have the courage to speak the truth, that God loves us unconditionally and wants us to love each other the same way.

Merry Christmas! Lucy

Mass Intentions

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>St. Denis</th>
<th>Our Lady Of The Wayside</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sat. Dec. 22 5:30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun. Dec. 23 7:30 am</td>
<td>Tonette Corpus (living)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>9:30 am Pete, Jose, &amp; Pauline Diaz (+)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11:30 am Debbie Ermoian (+)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon. Dec. 24 4:00 pm</td>
<td>World peace</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon. Dec. 24 6:00 pm</td>
<td>World peace</td>
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<td>Tue. Dec. 25 7:30 am</td>
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<td>Tue. Dec. 25 9:30 am</td>
<td>World peace</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue. Dec. 25 11:30 am</td>
<td>World peace</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed. Dec. 26 8:00 am</td>
<td>Communion Service</td>
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<td>Thurs. Dec. 27 8:00 am</td>
<td>Communion Service</td>
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<td>Fri. Dec. 28 8:00 am</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sat. Dec. 22 4:30 pm In Thanksgiving</td>
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<td>Sun. Dec. 23 9:30 am Susan Doe &amp; Family</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mon. Dec. 24 4:30 pm Terrence Donohoe (+)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tues. Dec. 25 9:30 am World peace</td>
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In your charity, please pray for...

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

CONFIRMATION RETREAT;
GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
Saturday, January 26 at 10:00am til 4:30pm at Our Lady of the Wayside Church.
One of the requirements for celebrating Confirmation this spring.
Bring a bag lunch and snacks to share.
For more info, contact Lucy at lsoltau@stdenisparish.org

A Mission Trip For Middle 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.

A Mission Trip For High School!!

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 at St. Denis
It’s almost time to Decorate the church for Christmas.  St. Denis will decorate December 23rd after 11:30am mass.  Plan to stay, help and socialize. There will be treats.

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 by today, Sunday December 23rd. Thank you.

Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God
Tuesday, January 1st is the Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God, a Holy Day of obligation.  Mass is at 6pm at St. Denis.

We Say Goodbye to Fr. Martin Muruli
We want to thank Fr. Martin Muruli for all of the wonderful years of his priestly ministry he has generously shared with out community. We wish him well as he embarks on another ministry. We will truly miss him. He will always be in our thoughts and prayers.