Strive to enter through the narrow gate

**Gospel Reading**

Today’s Gospel reading is the third of three parables in chapter 13 that deal with the theme of the unexpected reversals brought by the Kingdom of God. The other two parables are about the tiny mustard seed that grows into a large tree and the small amount of yeast that makes a large batch of dough rise. All three are about the few and the many and the Kingdom of God.

As this parable opens, Luke reminds us that Jesus is making his way to Jerusalem. This journey, this exodus as Luke refers to it, makes up the entire middle of the Gospel. He is teaching as he goes. A question from the crowd gives Jesus the chance to make a prophetic statement. Luke uses this question device a number of times in his Gospel. A few weeks ago, the question “What must I do to inherit eternal life?” led to the parable of the Good Samaritan. The question about who will only a few be saved uses typical Christian language about salvation but also expresses the Jewish concern about whether everyone who calls himself a Jew is actually faithful to the covenant. This was a concern of the Pharisees.

Jesus answers that they must strive in the time remaining to enter through the narrow door because many will be trying to get in but won’t be strong enough. He then moves to a parable about another door. (The translation says “gate” then “door,” but the same Greek word is used.) Once all those entering the master’s house are in and he locks the door, there will be no way for others to get in. Those left outside may knock, but the master will say he doesn’t know them. Unlike the Gospel reading from a few weeks ago where Jesus was teaching about prayer, and we were told to knock and the door would be opened, in this parable, the master will not open and say he does not know us. People from the north, south, east, and west will take our place inside. Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and all the prophets will take our place in the Kingdom of God. Those who do not make it through the narrow door will be cast out to where there is wailing and grinding of teeth.

The image of the door is replaced in the final verses of the parable with the image of the heavenly banquet. Two passages from the Book of Isaiah influence the conclusion. Isaiah 43:5-6 speaks of God bringing Israel’s descendants back from the east and from the west, the north and the south. And Isaiah 25:6 speaks of the Lord providing a feast of rich foods and choice wines for all peoples on his holy mountain. The answer to the question if only a few will be saved is no. In the end, many will be saved, but many who thought they would be saved will not be saved. The parable is a prophetic warning to repentance in order to enter the kingdom.

**We Believe**

**WHY DO PEOPLE VOLUNTEER?**

Most of us volunteer for a group, organization, school or church at one time or another. Why do we do it? Usually it’s because someone asked us. Or we saw a need. Or it looked like fun!

Here are a few other reasons that might sound familiar.

- **Achievement:** to learn some new skill, accomplish something
- **Challenge:** to stretch yourself, discover new gifts and talents.
- **Creativity:** a chance to express yourself.
- **Independence:** to do something on your own
- **Leadership:** to take responsibility for something
- **Recognition:** we all need a pat on the back sometimes!
- **Service:** to give back and help others
- **Socialization:** making new friends and finding a sense of belonging

These can be true for children, teenagers and adults alike. Of course, all of these apply when you volunteer in our parish! And we have opportunities for all ages and abilities. Look around and see what others are doing. There is no service too small.

- Time, talent and treasure are each needed and wanted!
- Find a way to serve the Lord and each other.
- Start with Donut Duty and move up from there!
- Check our parish website to sign up.

Yours in the Lord, Lucy

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**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. Aug. 24 5:30 pm Joan Rae Ferrari (+)</td>
<td>Sat. Aug. 24 4:30 pm For Catechists</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun. Aug. 25 7:30 am Sophie Daszkiewicz &amp; Lillian Eustice (+)</td>
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<td>9:30 am For Catechists</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:30 am Terry Edel &amp; Bagnani’s (+)</td>
<td>Sun. Aug. 25 9:30 am Martha Ellis (+)</td>
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<td>Mon. Aug. 26 8:00 am Communion Service</td>
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<td>Tue. Aug. 27 8:00 am Communion Service</td>
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<td>Wed. Aug. 28 8:00 am Communion Service</td>
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<td>Thurs. Aug. 29 8:00 am Communion Service</td>
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<td>Fri. Aug 30 8:00 am Communion Service</td>
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**In your charity, please pray for...**

Teresa Bautista, Maria da Ponte, Sarah Lucas, Holly Hermansen, Pier Iglesias, Rosa Sharif, John Hunter, Anselmo Briones, Grace Kohan, Ken Newell

Names will be removed monthly unless you let the office know. Thank you.
CATECHISTS (TEACHERS) WANTED AND NEEDED!
Sharing your faith with others is a great way to witness to your own children. We are always looking for energetic, faith-filled people willing to share that faith with others, to be co-teachers in our faith formation programs. All our programs meet on Sundays during the school year. We provide all the materials, training and children! You supply your time, talent and faith! If you are interested, please contact Lucy Soltau anytime at lsoltau@stdenisparish.org

FAITH FORMATION REGISTRATION
The Faith Formation calendar and registration form are now on our parish website www.stdenisparish.org Please take some time this summer to check it out and register your children for our programs and classes. Just click on the Faith Formation tab to complete and submit the registration form. NEW THIS YEAR: Sunday classes will gather at 9:15am instead of 9:30am to give the children more time in class and give parents more time in church!

EVERYTHING STARTS SEPTEMBER 8
Catechist gathering: Sept. 8 at 10:30am
Confirmation Parents and Teens meeting: Sept. 8 at 5:30pm (Mass, dinner, meeting)
Catechetical Sunday Mass & Pancake breakfast: Sept. 15 at 9:30am
Family Retreat Day: Sat. Sept. 21 at 3:00pm (retreat, Mass, dinner, movie)
ALL CLASSES BEGIN: Sun. Sept. 22 at 9:15am (PreK to 4th grades)
10:30am (5th & 6th)
5:30pm (7th & 8th)

Family Retreat Day
FAMILY RETREAT DAY: SAT. SEPT. 21
Come and join us for an afternoon of fun and faith sharing!
We'll start at 3:00pm with games and activities for the whole family.
Then, we’ll join the 5:30pm Mass, followed by dinner and a movie in the hall.
Come for all or part of the day.
RSVP to Lucy at lsoltau@stdenisparish.org so we know how many folks to plan for.

Online Giving
Summer is here and many people will spend time enjoying vacations. Whether you’re planning to visit the beach or camp in the mountains, don’t forget about St. Denis and Our Lady of the Wayside Churches. The best way to maintain your financial support is to set up a recurring gift. It’s fast, easy, and convenient. Once you sign up, you’ll never need to think about it again. A link to our online giving site can be found on our website stddenisparish.org. Thank you for your generosity.

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 and okayed by Dede prior to masses. Contact her at dede@pacbell.net
NOTE: Announcement may not appear until the next Bulletin due to space limitations.
Thank You!

Donation Corner
“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 800 950-9952.
Upcoming Events

Wine & Cheese– Tonight, August 24th after 5:30pm mass at St. Denis

Wine & Cheese– Today, Sunday, August 25th after 11:30am mass at St. Denis

Knit & Pray– Monday, August 26th at 5:30pm in the library at St. Denis

Senior Lunch with Communion service– Tuesday, September 3rd at noon in the hall at St. Denis

Wine & Cheese– Saturday, September 7th after 4:30pm mass at Our Lady of the Wayside

Catechist Gathering– Sunday, September 8th 10:30am in the St. Denis library

Confirmation Parent/Teen Meeting (with mass & dinner) - Sunday September 8th from 5:30pm –8:00pm

Catechetical Sunday, Pancake Breakfast- Sunday September 15th 9:30am mass St Denis

NEW!! Family Retreat Day, with mass, dinner, & movie– Saturday September 21st 3:00pm to 9:00pm

Grow With Your Faith This Summer

Build a Mary garden  Prayer gardens allow a person time in solitude to contemplate, pray, & meditate by reflecting on the sacred space that can include specific flowers, or statues. Mary gardens include flowers named after Our Lady, such as roses, lilies, marigolds, Our Lady’s Tears, among other varieties. If you have space in your yard, take time this summer to make this a family endeavor of dedicating to Mary.