Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and the one who humbles himself will be exalted. Luke  18: 14
Dear Beloved Parishioners,

I first heard the term Fundamental Option for the poor when I was in the seminary. At that time, I did not realize that the Catholic Church had social teachings. Our Church has always been at the forefront when it comes to social issues because it is deeply rooted in our faith, which has its beginnings in the Old Testament.

Today’s first reading from the Book of Sirach and the Responsorial Psalm upholds the dignity and intrinsic value of the poor. They are particularly close to God. Our God does not ignore or abandon them. He responds to them. He saves them. He lifts them up. The poor are the ones who have seats of honor in the kingdom of God. The poor are last in this world, but first in the afterlife.

St. Vincent de Paul and Mother Teresa remind us and challenge us to see the poor with and through eyes of faith, and to respond to them with love. To see the poor is to see Christ himself. To help the poor is to help Christ himself. We will ultimately be judged in how we respond and treat the least in this world. God will ask us if we gave drink to the thirsty, if we fed the hungry, if we clothed the naked, and if we visited the imprisoned and the sick. Faith is about helping those in need. In a real sense, the poor are a blessing to us because they are Christ to us.

God bless, Fr. Paul

Celebrating Halloween can be a very Catholic thing to do!

The word ‘Halloween’ is a contraction of the phrase ‘All Hallows Eve’ or the ‘Eve of All Saints’.

And that’s what it is, the eve of All Saints Day on November 1.

In ancient times, people believed that the spirits of those who had died would visit them. They looked forward to these visits from their loved ones. They would welcome these spirits with their favorite foods and drinks, gifts, and decorating their graves. But they were also afraid of the spirits of those with whom they did not have good relationship! To avoid those spirits, they would disguise themselves and leave treats out, in the hope these spirits would leave them alone! Our modern traditions of costumes, candy, decorations, even the custom of saying “Trick or Treat” come from these ancient beliefs and practices.

To celebrate Halloween, remember that it’s really about celebrating the Communion of Saints, being united with those folks who have gone before us and are waiting for us to join them. Look to their example of faith, imitate their loving actions in the world, and ask them to pray for us. But mainly, just have fun with the costumes and the candy!

For more information about the Saints, Fr. James Martin SJ has a fun video at https://bustedhalo.com/ministry-resources/the-saints-on-halloween

And for your next family movie night, check out Disney’s “Coco”, which helps to explain some of the Latino customs around All Souls Day (Dia de los Muertos) on November 2.

St. Denis, pray for us!

Yours in the Lord,
Lucy

In your charity, please pray for...

Teresa Bautista, Sarah Lucas, Holly Hermansen, Pier Iglesias, Rosa Sharif, John Hunter, Anselmo Briones, Grace Kohan, Names will be removed monthly unless you let the office know. Thank you.
**Stewardship**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Goal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020 (Estimated)</td>
<td>$459,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 1, 2019 to Sept. 1, 2019</td>
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<td>Monthly Goal-- September 2019</td>
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<td>Sept. 2019 Sunday Offertory Collections</td>
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**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.

**Class Times:**

- 9:15am (PreK to 4th grades)
- 10:30am (5th & 6th)
- 5:30pm (7th & 8th, select Sundays)

**Confirmation Class Meets**

Sunday, October 27 beginning with Mass at 5:30pm then dinner and class til 8:00pm.

**Supplies For Veterans**

We are collecting for our men and women in the armed services. Toiletries in small sizes, cards and envelopes, and stationery are needed. They are being sent to a platoon overseas in an undisclosed location. We will be collecting up until Veteran's weekend.

**FAQ**

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**Question Of The Week**

This is a NEW FEATURE in our weekly bulletin designed to get you talking about your faith between Sundays!

All Saints Day is Friday November 1st. Who is your favorite Saint and why?

**St. Denis Book Group**

**Spiritual Book Group: Exploring Our Faith**

This lively group meets most Wednesdays from 10:00am to noon in a private home. We come together to consider a variety of topics such as personal spirituality, scripture study, and contemporary topics relating to world religions and moral dilemmas. We like to raise questions as a means of deepening our faith. We share our personal stories and we pray for personal intentions. We generally read one chapter per week.

Why not drop in for a session? Newcomers are welcome at any time. For more information, please contact Tereza McNamee at 4tereza@comcast.net or 650-323-6859.

Our reading for Fall 2019. Richard Rohr’s *The Universal Christ: How a Forgotten Reality Can Change Everything We See, Hope For and Believe*. Richard Rohr invites us to discover the Sacred in all of Creation and to recognize Christ as continually transforming the world. Rohr offers a renewed spirituality for our challenging times.

We purchase most of our books at Kepler’s. Our selections are in the Book Club section and our group members receive a 15% discount.

**Friendly Reminders**

**Bulletin Announcements**

The Deadline for bulletin articles is Tuesday before noon, before the weekend of publication. All announcements during Mass are to be scripted and approved by Dede prior to Masses. Contact her at dedewm@pacbell.net

NOTE: Announcement may not appear until the next Bulletin due to space limitations.

**Thank You!**

This is a NEW FEATURE in our weekly bulletin designed to get you talking about your faith between Sundays!

All Saints Day is Friday November 1st. Who is your favorite Saint and why?
Upcoming Events

October 27th—Bake sale at St. Denis Church for St. Anthony’s Kitchen after 9:30am and 11:30am masses.

October 27th—Confirmation Class meets at 5:30pm for Mass, dinner and class til 8:00pm

October 31st– Solemnity of all Saints vigil mass at Our Lady of the Wayside Church at 5pm

November 1st– Solemnity of all Saints Mass 8am at St. Denis Church

November 5th– Senior Lunch with Communion Service at noon in the St. Denis Hall.

November 10– Veteran’s Day Brunch following 9:30am mass at Our Lady of the Wayside

November 10– No Faith Formation Classes today

Upcoming events at Vallombrosa

Vallombrosa Choir Thanksgiving Performance– A prayers service with the Vallombrosa Choir, a much loved tradition November 17th at 2pm. A suggested donation of $20.

Art is Prayer made Visible– An artistic retreat designed to help you “Find God in All Things.” A day workshop to reconnect with our souls and pray through artistic creation. Taught by Katie Wolf MFA. Sunday November 9am to 3pm, lunch included $45

What Are You Waiting For: Become the Christ You Were Meant to Be- Best selling author and retreat master Fr. Nathan Castle, O.P. returns on an Advent mission as we move from “regular time to extraordinary time,” and helps us to develop in our devotion and love. Saturday November 30th –December 1st. $150 for private room, $140 for shared double room. Includes all meals. For all of these please visit their website www.vallombrosa.org or call 650 325-5614 attn. David Leech