

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

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Pastor

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Dede Waters-Masters
**Pastoral Minister in charge of
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Mass Times
St. Denis Church
Saturday: 5:30pm (Vigil)
Sunday: 7:30am, 9:30am, 11:30am
Monday-Friday: 8:00am

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

**The Parish Office will be closed
from December 25th thru
January 2nd**



December 25th, 2019 The Nativity of the Lord

(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

Pastors Corner

Dear Beloved Parishioners,

Christmas is truly the most wonderful time of the year. It is the season of joy. It is the season of giving. It is the season in which our hopes and dreams come true. For in the birth of a child, in the birth of the Christ child our hopes and dreams come true. We are loved beyond imagination. To be loved is all that we need. To be loved is all that we could ever want in life. To be loved is the very best gift we could ever receive. God loves us in and through his son Jesus.

In the birth of the Christ child, our God's hopes and dreams come true as well. Our God desires to dwell with us. Our God desires to touch our flesh. Our God desires to be held by us. Our God desires to feel our breath upon his face. In one moment in time, yet for all time, the eternal and infinite God becomes finite, vulnerable and utterly powerless by becoming all to human. To see the Christ child is to see God himself. Our God comes to us in the birth of the Christ child. At last, God's hopes and dreams are fulfilled, but not just once though.

Is not the Eucharist the real presence of Christ? We believe that the Eucharist is the real Body and Blood of Christ. In receiving the Eucharist with our hands, the finite God feels our flesh and our breath upon his face. To feel the human touch of us is all that our God wants for Christmas. He receives the gift of us not just once a year at Christmas, but always and forever at every mass. That brings tremendous joy to our God. We are a joy to our God.

May you and your family have a very Merry Christmas and a most blessed New Year. Know that you are in my daily prayers always.

God bless, Fr. Paul

Gospel Reading

As we observe in today's reading, the Gospel of John includes highly philosophical and theological language. One example that particularly stands out is John's use of the expression, "Word of God." This expression (*logos* in the Greek) borrows from a concept found in both Jewish and Greek thought. In Jewish thought, this phrase describes God taking action—for example, in the Creation story and in the Wisdom literature. In Greek, or Hellenistic, thought, the *logos* was understood as an intermediary between God and humanity. John and others in the early Church adopted this language to describe God's incarnation in Jesus. As the term was used to express the trinitarian faith of Christians, the word *Logos* came to be equated with the Second Person of the Trinity.

In this prologue to the Gospel of John, the main themes that will be developed in his Gospel are introduced. These themes are presented as dualities: light/darkness, truth/falsehood, life/death, and belief/unbelief. We also hear in this prologue a unique aspect of John's Gospel—the motif of testimony. John the Baptist was sent by God to testify about Jesus, the light. Others in this Gospel will also offer testimony about Jesus. The reader is invited to accept this testimony, which bears witness to Jesus, the Son of God. But even more directly, Jesus' action and words will themselves testify to his identity with God as God's Incarnate Word.

Thinking about Jesus' birth in these theological and cosmological terms seems particularly appropriate as we celebrate the feast of Christmas in the darkness of winter. At this time, nature itself seems to remind us of the darkness of sin. Into this darkness, in the midst of our sinfulness, God comes to dwell among us. John's Gospel reminds us that through the Incarnation, God saves us from the darkness of sin and makes us his children.

From Loyola Press Sunday Connection

Mass Intentions

St. Denis

Dec. 24th	4:00pm	Maureen & John Geaghan (+)
	6:00pm	Adoracion Bernabe (living)
Dec. 25th	7:30am	World Peace
	9:30am	World Peace
	11:30am	World Peace
Dec.26th	8:00am	Communion Service
Dec.27th	8:00am	Communion Service

Our Lady of the Wayside

Dec. 24th	4:30pm	World Peace
Dec. 25th	9:30am	World Peace

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.

Faith Formation News

CLASS TIMES: Parents! Please remember that our early classes begin at 9:15am!

9:15am (PreK to 4th grades)

10:30am (5th & 6th)

5:30pm (7th & 8th, select Sundays)

There are NO CLASSES December 22 and 29 for the Christmas holidays.



Faith Formation

Question Of The Week

What difficult thing is God asking me to Cooperate with?



Vallombrosa Upcoming Retreats

Vallombrosa Retreat Center, 250 Oak Grove Ave., Menlo Park David Leech 650-325-5614 davidl@vallombrosa.org vallombrosa.org/calendar For complete information and registration deadlines, visit the Calendar of Events at the website, phone or e-mail.

Engaging the Heart: A Marriage Preparation Workshop
January 18, February 15, & March 7.

Women on the Journey: Inspiring Lives A one-night retreat for women with Mary da Silva Abinante February 7.

Mandala Art Workshop with Artist Sarah Dwyer Come learn and make your own March 14

Parish Outreach Committee

We will be running a towel collection in January for Life Moves clients. Anyone who might be interested in helping or leading this effort please contact Pat Mach at

patricia.mach@sbcglobal.net.



Holiday Bulletin Deadline

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Deadline for bulletin articles is Monday 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!



Stewardship

July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020 (Estimated goal)	\$459,000.00
July 1, 2019 to November 2019	\$179,401.00
Monthly Goal- November 2019	\$36,000.00
November 2019 Sunday Offertory Collections	\$34,051.00

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.

Merry Christmas!

**From the Parish Office of St. Denis & Our Lady of the Wayside Churches
wishing all a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year !**

Fr. Paul, Gina, Lucy, Dede, & Manuel



Upcoming Events

January 1st– Solemnity of Mary Holy Day of Obligation 5:30pm mass St. Denis

January 5th– Religious Education Classes resume

January 13th– Fr. Paul's First Communion Class 3:30pm in the parish library

January 25th– Confirmation Retreat 10:00am at Our Lady of the Wayside Church

Beware Of Email Scams

The scammers are out in force this holiday season. Churches and pastors throughout the Bay Area are experiencing a tremendous increase in attacks wherein parishioners receive an email or text message from a priest asking for emergency help in the form of cash or gift cards. These are NEVER real requests. If you think your pastor is asking for help via email or text, CALL YOUR CHURCH, even on the weekends or at night. Please spread the word to others in your parish to prevent anyone from being taken advantage of.