

# 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**  
**Pastor**

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**Dede Waters-Masters**  
**Pastoral Minister in charge of  
Liturgy and Senior Services**

dedewm@pacbell.net  
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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 29th, 2019    The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary,  
& Joseph**

(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

## Gospel Reading

Today we celebrate the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. As we do so, our Gospel invites us to consider Joseph's protection of Jesus in the face of danger. Just as in the announcement of Jesus' birth, an angel appears to Joseph in a dream. The angel warns him of Herod's plans to harm Jesus. Joseph follows the command of the angel and takes Joseph and Mary to Egypt, returning only after receiving word in another dream that it was safe to do so.

This feast is part of the Christmas season, so we should look at today's Gospel in the context of what Scripture tells us about Jesus' birth. Today's reading is found in the Gospel of Matthew, following the story of the visit of the Magi. Recall that Matthew's story about the birth of Jesus makes Joseph the primary character. Among Matthew's themes in this infancy narrative is Jesus as the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies about the messiah. Indeed, the story of the Holy Family's flight to Egypt recalls the story of Moses in the Book of Exodus.

It should also be noted that today's reading omits the verses that recount Herod's order of the massacre of the infant boys in and around Bethlehem. We mark this event on the Feast of the Holy Innocents on December 28.

These events remind us of the difficult reality of Jesus' birth. While the story of the Magi's visit will be recalled in our liturgy on the Feast of the Epiphany, our Christmas celebration is made more sober by the recollection that not everyone received Christ's birth with joy or obedience. Herod's jealousy and malice contrast with Joseph's obedience to the words of the angel. The Holy Family's escape to Egypt and the massacre that Jesus is saved from remind us of the struggles and sacrifices that are required as preparation for God's salvation.

Loyola Press Sunday Connection

## Shrine To Our Lady Of Lourdes

### Vallombrosa Center Shrine to Our Lady of Lourdes Gaffey Plaza

In 2018, a benefactor attending one of Vallombrosa's sponsored retreats came forth and offered to reconstruct the rather humble Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes originally built in the early 1950's. The vision grew and now we hope to add an associated project of gardens and a plaza named for the beloved, late Fr. Kevin Gaffey—a priest in residence at Vallombrosa who had a great devotion to Our Lady.

Plans include a Fountain of St. Bernadette and the "Path of Spiritual Works" with two formal gates and numerous benches. All these parts surround the Shrine and create a quiet and sacred space for prayer, reflection and devotion. There will be an outdoor altar for Masses at the Shrine in Gaffey Plaza.

A donation of any size will help this project come to life. For more information on donation levels and memorializing a loved one at the Shrine, please visit [vallombrosa.org/shrine](http://vallombrosa.org/shrine) or contact David Fencl at 650 325-5614.



## Mass Intentions

### St. Denis

Sat. Dec. 28th	5:30pm	Family unity
Sun. Dec. 29th	7:30am	Edward Pinkman (+)
	9:30am	Heather Crawford (+)
	11:30am	St. Denis Parishioners
Mon. Dec. 30th	8:00am	Mary Margaret Koch (+)
Tues. Dec. 31st	8:00am	Safety for travelers
Wed. Jan. 1st	5:30pm	Marjorie Bruno (+)
Thurs. Jan. 2nd	8:00am	World Peace
Fri Jan. 3rd	8:00 am	St. Denis Parishioners

### Our Lady of the Wayside

Sat. Dec. 28th	4:30pm	Family unity
Sun. Dec. 29th	9:30am	Our Lady of the Wayside Parishioners

**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 4<sup>th</sup> grades)

10:30am (5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>)

5:30pm (7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>, select Sundays)

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



## Faith Formation

## Question Of The Week

**Family relationships can be complicated!  
Is there a family member that you need to reach out to?**



## Vallombrosa Upcoming Retreats

Vallombrosa Retreat Center, 250 Oak Grove Ave., Menlo Park David Leech 650-325-5614 [davidl@vallombrosa.org](mailto:davidl@vallombrosa.org) [vallombrosa.org/calendar](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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 7th– Senior Luncheon with Communion Service 12 noon in the St. Denis parish hall.

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.