

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

wpodell@aol.com
(415) 686-9951

Gina Morales
Operations Manager

gmorales@stdenisparish.org
(650) 854-5976 press 1

Lucy Soltau
Director of Faith Formation

lsoltau@stdenisparish.org
(650) 854-5976 press 3

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

dedewm@pacbell.net
(650) 854-5976 press 4

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

Sunday: 9:30 am (temporarily
cancelled)

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



December 20th, 2020 Fourth Sunday Of Advent

(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

This Sunday we read the story of the angel Gabriel's announcement to Mary about the birth of Jesus. This story is found only in Luke's Gospel. On this fourth Sunday of Advent, the liturgy shifts our attention from John the Baptist to Mary, the mother of Jesus. Both John and Mary serve as important figures for our reflection during the season of Advent; they both played instrumental roles in preparing the way for Jesus. Last week we reflected on John the Baptist's announcement that the Savior was among us, although not yet recognized. This week we reflect upon Mary's example of faith and obedience to God, traits which permitted her to receive the angel's message that God's Son would be born as a human person, as one of us.

We are familiar with the story of the Annunciation, and it is fitting that we recall how God announced the birth of Jesus as we make our final preparations for our celebration of the Incarnation. The angel Gabriel visited Mary, a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph. Mary greeted the angel's news with awe and wonder and asked how it could be possible that she could give birth to a child. In his reply, the angel Gabriel announced the seemingly impossible reality: the child to be born would be conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and would be God's own Son. The angel reported to Mary another miracle; her relative Elizabeth was also pregnant despite having been thought to be unable to have a child. Mary's response to the angel, which is called her *fiat*, is an example of complete faith and obedience to God.

The story of the Annunciation calls to our attention God's wondrous action in human history. God chose a human person to give birth to his Son so that all humanity would know God's salvation. Mary, already full of God's grace, was able to cooperate in this great plan for our salvation. Thus Jesus was born as one of us, fully human and also fully divine. This is the mystery we prepare to celebrate at Christmas, the mystery of the Incarnation. In the model of Mary, we pray that we will be people of faith who recognize God's saving plan for us and are able respond with obedience.

Loyola Press "Sunday Connection"

We Believe

In thinking about this week's gospel, Mary's role in the Incarnation takes the liturgical center stage. Mary was a young, uneducated, and obviously a person of deep faith. Nothing in her Jewish upbringing could have prepared her for the apparition of an angel named Gabriel and the invitation she received to be the mother of the Messiah.

With the help and devotion of her betrothed, Joseph, who we know was a "just" man, Mary trusted her relationship with God and to act on it. Without really knowing the outcome of her decision to cooperate with God, Mary was willing to birth God's Son, breaking societal and religious traditions and expectations. Her journey in courage and blind faith had no precedent. She had to rely on her prayerful communication with God as well as the man she planned to marry. That was a huge investment in trust, hope, and love.

When I was in graduate school many years ago, I ran into a Jesuit, Leo Rock, who advised us to ask ourselves the following question when making an important decision: "What is the most loving thing to do?" As we approach the last few days before Christmas, we can be assured that both Mary and Joseph had to ask themselves this important question as they played their parts as co-creators of God's ultimate revelation in the person of Jesus. What situations and struggles might improve if we asked ourselves the same question, "What is the most loving thing to do?"

Dede Water Masters

Mass Intentions

St. Denis

Sat. Dec. 19 5:30 pm For an end of Covid-19
 Sun. Dec. 20 7:30 am Mariam Caldani (+)
 9:30 am Patrick Cimprich(+)
 11:30 am For an end of Covid-19
 Mon. Dec.21 8:00 am For those that follow Jesus
 Tues. Dec.22 8:00 am Those with mental illness
 Wed. Dec.23 8:00 am Tonette Corpus (living)
 Thurs. Dec.24 4:00 pm Recovery from Covid
 6:00 pm Joe Merkert (+)
 Fri. Dec. 25 (7:30 am, 9:30 am, 11:30am masses)
 Those affected by Covid-19



Our Lady of the Wayside

Sat. Dec. 19 4:30 pm End of Covid-19
 Thurs. Dec. 24 4:30 pm Recovery from Covid
 Fri. Dec. 25 9:30 am Recovery from Covid

In your charity, please pray for...

T.J. Pryor, J.M., G.G., Janice Varvelle, Holly Hermansen, Pier Iglesias, Rosa Sharif, John Hunter, Anselmo Briones, Grace Kohen
 Names will be removed monthly unless you let the office know. Thank you.

Faith Formation News

Faith Formation takes a break!

Our Zoom classes are taking a break for the holidays, but will resume January 10. There will be NEW MATERIALS to pick up before that, so watch your email for details. If you are not registered but would like materials to teach your children at home, contact Lucy at lsoltau@stdenisparish.org and we'll take care of you!

PreK/Kindergarten/First grade Families!

Dede has finished another great video for you to share with your little ones! She tells the four stories of Christmas and offers suggestions for celebrating at home. Contact Lucy at lsoltau@stdenisparish.org and we'll send them directly to you.

Christmas Family Mass

Sadly, we will not be able to gather the children for any kind of presentation this year. However, the 4:00pm Christmas Eve Mass at St. Denis will be livestreamed on Facebook and available on our website to share at home with your family. If you do attend in person, there will be extra outdoor seating and candy canes for the kids after Mass. Please join us! Dress warm and wear a mask!

Question Of The Week

Mary said YES to cooperating with God to bring the savior into the world, but she did have questions!

What is God asking ME to cooperate with, and what questions do I have for God?

Join Us For Our Christmas Celebrations

We will be celebrating our FULL Christmas Mass schedule OUTDOORS at BOTH church locations!

At St. Denis at 4:00pm Christmas Eve, we will be on the church patio and the hall patio, with CCTV, and livestreamed on Facebook. You can even sit in your car and watch online, then join us for communion. There will be Mass on the church patio again at 6:00pm, then on Christmas Day at 7:30am, 9:30am and 11:30am. Dress warm, wear a mask and sit with your family.

At Our Lady of the Wayside, we will have Mass in the parking lot in front of the church on Christmas Eve at 4:30pm and Christmas Day at 9:30am. Parking will be available at the Windmill Preschool next door. Bring your own chair, dress warm, wear a mask, and sit with your family.



Bulletin Deadline

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!



Stewardship

July 1, 2020 to June 30th, 2021 (Estimated Goal)	\$410,000.00
July 1, 2020 to November 30, 2020	\$156,005.00
Monthly Goal- November 2020	\$40,195.00
November 2020 Sunday Offertory Collections	\$32,285.00
Annual Appeal 2020 Goal	\$107,655.00
Annual Appeal 2020 Actual	\$107,655.00

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.

Our Evolving Covid-19 Precautions During Mass

There are a few things you should know before you come: If you are at risk, either by age or health concerns, or if you are not feeling well, please do not attend. The archbishop has extended dispensation from Sunday obligation. Everyone over the age of 3 should wear a face covering (covering nose and mouth) Use the hand-sanitizers provided. Please maintain 6 feet distancing by following the marks on the floor, pews, and refrain from singing as tiny droplets can spread even through masks per California Public Health and San Mateo Guidelines.

Effective December 18th, 2020– Due to The State of California Health compliance for San Mateo County masses will be outside only. Mass at St. Denis is in the patio. Mass at Our Lady of the Wayside will be in the courtyard. 9:30am Mass at Our Lady of the Wayside is still temporarily cancelled. Thank you for your patience and understanding in helping us to protect parishioners and staff.

Effective since July 2020—with the increased outbreak of Covid-19 the California Department of Health guidelines are mandating no singing in public gatherings, including churches. We will have instrumental music.

Thank you for your patience and understanding in helping us to protect the parishioners and staff. We will continue to live-stream the Mass Monday thru Friday at 8:00am and Sunday at 9:30am. It will be available on our parish website www.stdenisparish.org immediately following the Mass. We look forward to seeing you and being able to worship face to face, in community, with the Sacrament. Thank you for your faithfulness and prayers during this unusual time.

Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Schedule

As of now, we are planning to have a full schedule of Masses, in person outdoors. Of course, this is subject to change, following state and local guidelines.

Christmas Eve: Thursday, December 24

4:00pm at St. Denis (live streamed on our Facebook page)

6:00pm at St. Denis

4:30pm at Our Lady of the Wayside

Christmas Day: Friday, December 25

7:30am, 9:30am, 11:30am at St. Denis

9:30am at Our Lady of the Wayside



Supporting Your Parish During These Difficult Times

Please continue to financially support your parish so that we can continue to provide the ministries that everyone relies on. You may mail your donations to the parish office, or you may give online through WeShare. Go to the parish website stdenisparish.org to find the links to set up your donation or you may call WeShare at 800 950-9952, press 3, then press 2 or email weshare@4lpi.com. We thank you for your support!

