

# 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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**Gina Morales**  
**Operations Manager**  
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**Lucy Soltau**  
**Director of Faith Formation**  
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**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

**The Parish Office will be closed  
December 25th thru January  
3rd. May God bless you and  
your loved ones.  
Merry Christmas!**



**December 24th thru January 2nd  
Nativity of the Lord, Holy Family, Solemnity of Mary**

(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

## Pastor's Corner

Dear Beloved Parishioners,

There is hope in our world. There is hope in our world because hope was born into the world on a cold winter's night in the fullness of time. It was not God's desire for us to lose heart when all seemed lost. In time, in God's time, our God gives the world the hope that all of humanity yearns for in the most miraculous of ways. In the wonderment of a newborn infant, hope is poured into our hearts. Out of love for us, our God gives and sends us the Christ child, his very beloved Son Jesus. There is no greater gift than that of a child. Nothing fills us with the hope we are meant to have like that of a newborn infant.

Jesus is not only God's beloved Son, but he is the incarnation of God's love for the whole wide world for all eternity. The infinite love of God is made real and present in the human person of Jesus. Believing that we are loved unconditionally by our God instills and stirs in us tremendous hope. How can it not.

For so long the world has experienced so much suffering with this horrible pandemic. On top of that, the effects of the devastating fires that ravaged our state of California has brought so much loss. It is only natural to feel a sense of hopelessness. If you should feel this way, though, be still. Open your heart. Listen carefully. One just might hear the faint cry of a child echoing through the centuries to us living now. It is the cry of the Christ child reminding us that he is here, that hope is here, and that everything is under God's providential care and so are we. Be strong. Have faith. Remember what the name Emmanuel means, God with us. And so He is in the birth of the Christ child.

May you and your family have a blessed and Merry Christmas and a happy New Year. Know that you are in my daily prayers at mass. Together we will get through whatever comes our way with faith and trust in God who loves us. For we are a People of Hope.

God bless, Fr. Paul

## We Believe

God came to us as a poor, dependent child born in a stable and placed in a feeding trough. Sadly, children are still born in similar circumstances everyday. But what better way could God manifest who God is? Our belief in Christ is a belief that God exists in every dimension of our humanity. Our God took on human flesh and blood so that we might come to recognize the divinity within all creation from the beginning of time, most especially within ourselves and our brothers and sisters. Christ manifests that "Earth is crammed with heaven," (Elizabeth Barrett Browning,) and that is cause for celebration.

But we have to decide how comforting that is as we journey through the continued "Breaking news" of the day. Illness, death, economic hardship, and political unrest cause uncertainty, anxiety, and fear. While, this year we may rely on memories of Christmases past, God is calling us to envision an Emmanuel future.

Perhaps in this gift-giving season we can be open to giving and receiving an awakened sense of healing, hope, and love through a renewed commitment to our relationship with God. As we miss the usual holiday gatherings and the hugs and kisses from our loved ones, let's tap into the generosity of holiness, yet to be unveiled, that our Creator bestowed on each of us as manifested by the birth of Christ. The Christmas story is still unfolding!

May you know the blessings of Christmas!

Dede Waters-Masters

## Mass Intentions

### St. Denis

Thurs. Dec. 24 4:00 pm Those recovering from Covid  
6:00 pm Joe Merkert (+)  
Fri. Dec. 25 (7:30 am, 9:30 am, 11:30am masses)  
Those affected by Covid-19  
Sat. Dec. 26 5:30pm Those recovering from Covid  
Sun. Dec. 27 7:30am Robert & Mary Hagman (+)  
9:30am Those recovering from Covid  
11:30am Those recovering from Covid



### Our Lady of the Wayside Church

Thurs. Dec. 24 4:30pm Recovering from Covid  
Fri. Dec. 25 9:30am Recovering from Covid  
Sat. Dec. 26 4:30pm Those affected by Covid  
Sun. Dec. 27 9:30am Mass temporarily cancelled

[Monday December 28th thru Friday January 1st No Masses](#)

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](mailto: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](mailto: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

### Questions for the Holidays:

Christmas, Holy Family, and Epiphany! So many stories to tell, and so much to celebrate. Take some time during these holidays to read and reflect on these stories. They can be found in both the Gospel of Matthew and Luke. Who knows, you might even discover something new in them!

## 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

## Outreach Christmas Giving Tree

Thank you to everyone that contributed to our annual Christmas Giving Tree. We were able to give 20 individual gift cards of \$25 each to St. Francis Center, Catholic Worker House, & Maple Street Shelter. All of the 15 families from Hoover Preschool were adopted, & we provided gifts for the children, more than \$250 each for the families. Your generosity is very much appreciated by all of these organizations especially in these times of COVID when there is so much need. May you all have a blessed Christmas!



## 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@pachell.net](mailto:dedewm@pachell.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](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.

## 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 and Holy days of 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 patio. 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](http://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 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



*Masses will be outside. For your safety and those around you wear a mask & stay 6 feet apart. Dress warm and sit with your family. The church and chapel are closed for your safety and the safety of our staff.*

## 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](http://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](mailto:weshare@4lpi.com). We thank you for your support!

