

# 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

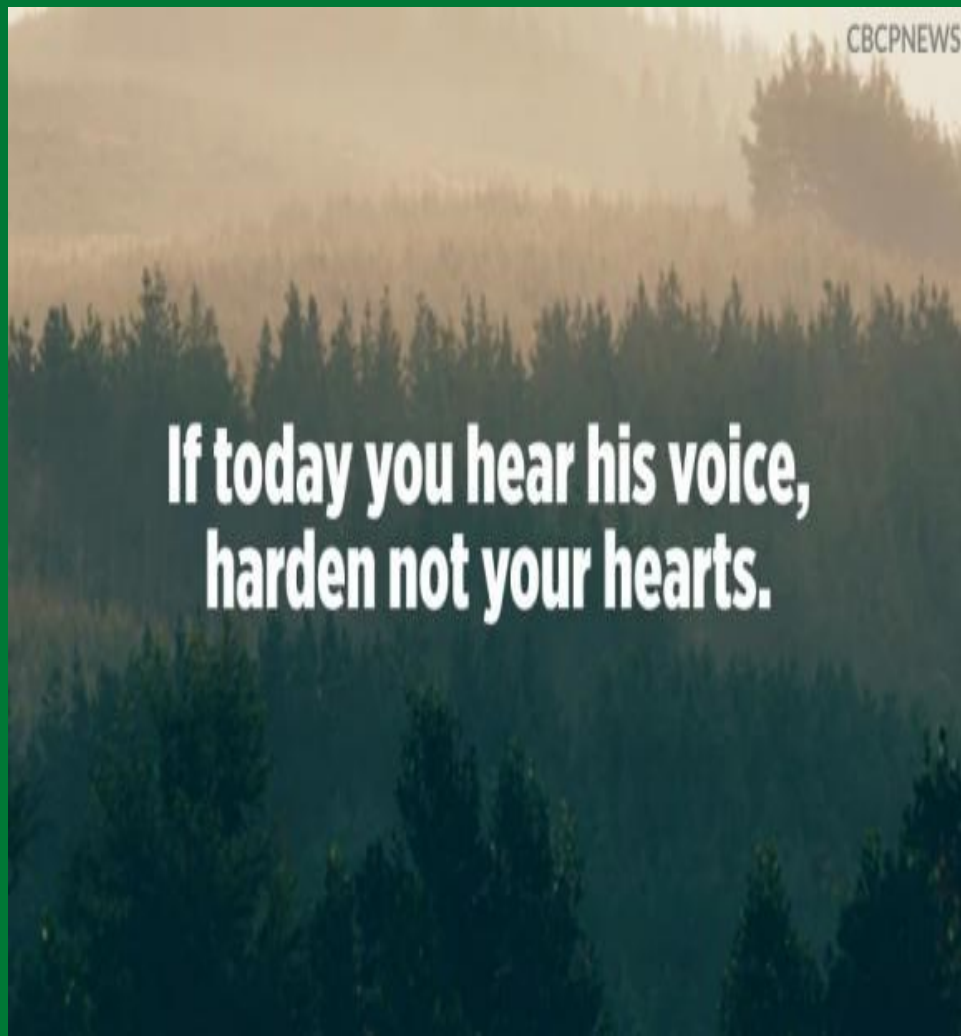
Saturday: 4:00 pm, Our Lady of the  
Wayside

Saturday: 5:00 pm, St. Denis

## Office Hours

M-F, 9:00 am—2:00 pm

**5th Sunday Collection  
for Kenya Help**



**If today you hear his voice,  
harden not your hearts.**

**January 31st, 2021 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

(650) 854-5976  
[www.stdenisparish.org](http://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's Gospel continues our reading from Mark and describes what some believe was likely to have been a typical day in Jesus' ministry. Jesus and the disciples that chose to follow him in last week's Gospel arrive at Capernaum, a small village on the Sea of Galilee. Jesus teaches in the synagogue on the Sabbath. Mark reports that the people respond to Jesus' teaching with astonishment, noting Jesus' authority and contrasting it with the scribes'. Early in Mark's Gospel we already find evidence of the tension that will manifest itself fully in Jerusalem.

After Jesus' preaching, an even more astonishing thing happens. A man possessed with an unclean spirit calls out to Jesus. As we see in this example and throughout Mark's Gospel, the spirits and demons seem to know Jesus and are often fearful of him. In fact, they seem to understand Jesus' identity better than his disciples. As we will read again and again in Mark's Gospel, Jesus orders the spirit to be quiet and drives the unclean spirit out of the man. Jesus' ability to heal those possessed by demons is an indication of his power over evil.

In the prescientific age of Jesus' time, all illnesses were understood to be manifestations of evil and sinfulness. Our modern understanding of illness is very different. Possession by unclean spirits may have been a way to describe what we might call mental illness today. It may have even been a way of describing certain kinds of physical conditions. There is evidence that there were many kinds of exorcists and healers in first-century Palestine. Jesus appears to be like these healers, but he heals with unique authority and connects his healing activities with the words of his preaching.

We are missing the point that Mark is trying to make in this Gospel, however, if we try to explain away the healing work of Jesus. The crowds see in Jesus' cure of the possessed man further affirmation of his authority. Jesus' power to heal gives greater credence to his teaching. Jesus impresses the crowds through his words, which are manifested with power in his deeds. Mark's Gospel tells us that because of the authority with which he healed, Jesus' fame spread throughout all of Galilee.

Loyola Press "Sunday Connection"

## We Believe

Jesus chose the bustling city of Capernaum as his home base for his ministry in Galilee. The synagogue had become more than a community center, a place for Jews to gather; it was a place of Scriptural interpretation and teaching. That Jesus was there preaching and teaching signals his notoriety as a teacher and healer, despite his humble background.

The scribes in today's gospel were the experts of scriptural interpretation, giving instruction to the flock on how to live out the Torah in minute detail. Their goal was to help people remain ever faithful through careful adherence to biblical law, basing their instruction on both tradition and past interpretations, always citing examples of respected Rabbis who adhered to the law in the same way.

When Jesus basically says, "This is what I say," his authority is shocking to the status quo. Coupled with the observable humility and reverence Jesus had for his Father and his compassion for humanity, as demonstrated by the healings he worked through that loving Father-Son relationship, gave this carpenter's Son the authority he needed to project his message to those who were receptive enough to hear it. Jesus invited people to open up their thinking to the possibility of a graced, universal, diverse, and loving kingdom of God.

In a world where many have closed down in cynicism, transferred their anger into revenge and/or fear, or stood their ground *no matter what*, the appearance of the demon in Mark's gospel might help us open up to Jesus' message as we apply it to the challenges we face today. Jesus reacts to the demon by commanding it to leave, "Out!" he orders. If we have truly integrated the message of Christ into the reality of our own lives, we, too, have Christ's authority to tell our demons to "Be quiet!" and to dare to forge a new world that attests to the confidence God has in his beloved, each one of us.

Dede Waters-Masters

## Mass Intentions

### St. Denis Church

Sat. Jan. 30 5:30pm Joseph George Koch (+)  
Sun. Jan. 31 7:30am Peace in our nation  
9:30am Peace in our nation  
11:30am Peace in our nation  
Mon. Feb. 1 8:00am For the sick and their caregivers  
Tues. Feb. 2 8:00 am For those that follow Jesus  
Wed. Feb. 3 8:00 am For medical workers  
Thurs. Feb. 4 8:00 am For vaccine availability  
Fri. Feb. 5 8:00 am In thanksgiving



### Our Lady of the Wayside Church

Sat. Jan. 30 4:30pm Peace in our nation  
Sun. Jan. 31 9:30am Mass temporarily cancelled

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 Zoom TODAY

Use the Zoom links you already have.

If you need the link, please contact Lucy at [lsoltau@stdenisparish.org](mailto:lsoltau@stdenisparish.org)

Class materials are available during office hours.

There are no classes Feb. 7 (Lent workshop) and Feb. 14 (Presidents' Day)

CONFIRMATION CLASS meets today, January 31 on Zoom at 3:00pm



### LENTEN WORKSHOP

PRAY more and better,  
FAST, or give something up,  
GIVE to charity.

On Sunday, February 7 and 14, there will be Lenten materials available outside the parish office after all Masses. Pick up your Rice Bowls, Little Black Books, craft projects for the kids, and other ideas for celebrating Lent at home.

## Question Of The Week

I was baptized to be a prophet, to speak the Word of God.

Do I speak God's Word, or just my own?

## Outreach Committee Opportunity

The Outreach Committee provides a monthly meal to the Maple Street Shelter at 1580 Maple Street in Redwood City. Volunteers prepare/buy the food according to a menu and the meal is delivered to the shelter for distribution by their staff. Please contact Pat Mach if you would like to help with this at [patricia.mach@sbcglobal.net](mailto:patricia.mach@sbcglobal.net).



## 5th Sunday Collections

Aside from specific fundraisers we sponsor throughout the year, the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Collections support the following local charities: Catholic Worker House, St. Francis Center, Maple Street Shelter, St. Anthony's Dining Room, St. Vincent de Paul/Catherine Center. We are adding Kenya Help, which funds a Catholic High School for girls to this list. Thank you for your continued local and international support.

## 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](mailto: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 December 31, 2020	\$186,746.00
December 2020 Sunday Offertory Collections	\$30,741.00

## 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.

## 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.

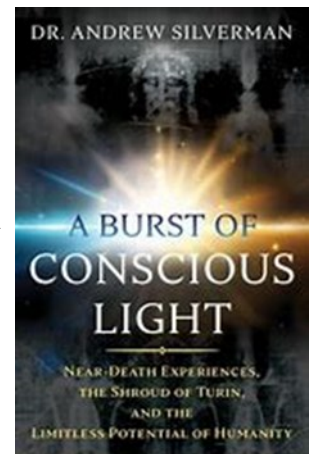
Effective since July 2020—with the increased outbreak of Covid-19 the California Department of Health guidelines are mandating no singing in public gatherings, including churches. We will have instrumental music.

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.

## Retreats At Vallombrosa

A Burst of Conscious Light: Shroud of Turin & Science with Dr. Andrew Silverman A Vallombrosa Online Event Sunday, January 31, 2021 10:00 - 11:30 am

A medical doctor with a background in physics, Dr. Andrew Silverman has been conducting research on the ‘mind-matter continuum’, near death experiences and the Turin Shroud for over thirty years. More recently his findings have been presented in peer-reviewed scientific papers and at international scientific conferences. He is widely recognized as one of the leading experts on the Shroud and is currently in collaboration with other major scientists from around the world to solve the riddle of this unique object and how the image was formed. In his new book 'A Burst of Conscious Light' Dr. Andrew Silverman provides evidence that human consciousness can never be reproduced and exposes the perils of artificial intelligence. [www.vallombrosa.org](http://www.vallombrosa.org)



## 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!

