

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

**Second Collection For
Catholic Communications
This Weekend**



May 16th, 2021 The Ascension 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

The Gospel

Today is our liturgical celebration of the Ascension of the Lord, when Jesus was taken to heaven on the fortieth day after Easter. In Cycle B, our Gospel is taken from the conclusion of the Gospel of Mark. Scholars have long noted some irregularities about the ending of Mark's Gospel. There is a natural break in the story line at verse 8, when Mark's report of the discovery of the empty tomb comes to an abrupt conclusion. This verse reports that the women were so frightened by what they had seen at the tomb that they told no one. This may be the original ending of Mark's Gospel, but it is also possible that the more complete ending has been lost.

Some manuscripts of Mark's Gospel, written between the fourth and ninth centuries, include what scholars have termed the Shorter Ending. This is often printed in our Bibles for reference. This ending indicates that the women told their story to Peter's companions. Scholars believe that this ending is not original to Mark. They theorize that this ending was added by copyists who sought to resolve the original abrupt ending at verse 8.

Other early manuscripts include a Longer Ending that scholars also believe was written by someone other than the Evangelist. Nonetheless, quotations from this Longer Ending are found in the writings of the early Church Fathers, and it was accepted at the Council of Trent as part of the canonical Gospel of Mark. Our Gospel for today's celebration of the Feast of the Ascension is taken from this Longer Ending.

There are similarities in the reports of Jesus' Ascension found in the Synoptic Gospels—Mark, Matthew, and Luke. In each case, Jesus assigns his disciples the task of proclaiming the gospel message to the entire world. There are also notable distinctions. In the Gospels of Mark and Matthew, the disciples are sent by Jesus to baptize and to preach. In Luke's Gospel, however, the commission to baptize is absent. Instead, Jesus directs the disciples to return to Jerusalem to await the fulfillment of his promise to send them the Holy Spirit. Curiously, only the Gospels of Mark and Luke actually report Jesus' ascension into heaven. Matthew's Gospel concludes with Jesus' promise to remain with his disciples forever. Only the Gospel of Mark notes that Jesus ascended to sit at the right hand of God. In noting this, Mark teaches that Jesus' ascension affirms the glory Jesus received from God after his death and Resurrection.

Even if this ending to Mark's Gospel was written by someone other than the Evangelist, in the commission that Jesus gives to his disciples, there are elements that are quite typical of Mark's Gospel. The signs that will accompany belief in Jesus are as vivid as the action performed by Jesus during his ministry. Those who believe in Jesus will be empowered to do what Jesus himself has done. During his ministry, Jesus sent his disciples to preach, to heal, and to drive out unclean spirits. Now they are sent again to do these things and more. From his place with God in heaven, Jesus helped his disciples, and he continues to help us as we try to live as his followers.

Loyola Press "Sunday Connection"

We Believe

The Feast of the Ascension reminds us of our roles as believers. We profess that the Jesus of history ascended to his Father, while realizing that the eternal Christ is ever present with us. Allowing this truth to sink in, we will come to see that each moment of our lives in Christ bring us to new awareness, new insights, and an expanding, evolving consciousness of God in our world. As Joan Chittister says, "Everything speaks of God."

Jesus, who at the Ascension, raised our minds and hearts to heaven, told us he is "the Way." He showed us "the Way" beyond suffering and death to eternal life; from destructive hate to the power of forgiveness; from fear and doubt to the glory of wholeness and unity with God.

Jesus' total existence as a human being, fully immersed in living in this world, makes our very existence sacramental. As the old Baltimore Catechism states, "A sacrament is an outward sign, instituted by Christ, to give grace." When we truly live our lives through the lens of Christ, we are living a sacrament and we are graced. As we remember the Feast of the Ascension today, let us commit to keeping Jesus' legacy open, inclusive, and alive.

Dede Waters-Masters

Mass Intentions

St. Denis Church

Sat. May. 15 5:30pm For world peace
Sun. May. 16 7:30 am For world peace
9:30 am For world peace
11:30 am Rusty Grosse (+)
Mon. May. 17 8:00am Phillip Richards (+)
Tues. May. 18 8:00 am Lois Allen-Byrd (+)
Wed. May. 19 8:00 am Those with mental illness
Thurs. May. 20 8:00 am Chris Janczewski (+)
Fri. May. 21 8:00 am Maureen McGee (+)



Our Lady of the Wayside Church

Sat. May 15 4:30pm For World Peace
Sun. May 16 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

We have finished a very challenging year in our Faith Formation programs!

Zooming and live-streaming everything we could to help children and their families stay connected to their faith and our community. And celebrating the Sacraments of Confirmation, Eucharist and Reconciliation, with masks at a distance. Next fall, we hope to be back in person, with all the activities we have missed so much. Until then, we will have the Liturgy of the Word for Children during the 9:30am Sunday Mass.

Thank you to our volunteers who accepted the challenge of sharing their faith remotely: Michelle Donatelli, Lisa Cooper, Patty Dewes, Yvonne Schmidt, Mark Leake, Dede Waters-Masters and Yolanda Cheung.

And thank you to the parents who took this opportunity to expand their role as Primary Catechist to their children at home!

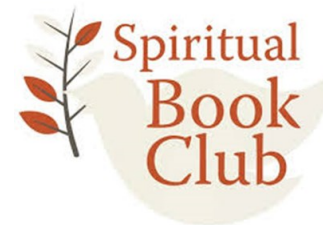
Watch the bulletin and your emails for updates on schedules and registration.

Have a wonderful, healthy and adventurous Summer!

Spiritual Book Group

On May 19, we'll begin our discussions of *Barking to the Choir: The Power of Radical Kinship* by Fr. Greg Boyle, SJ. Fr. Boyle founded Homeboy Industries in Los Angeles to offer young men coming out of prison an opportunity for their first jobs. Fr. Boyle uses his heartwarming stories of the Homeboys to address the negativity in our present culture and to invite us all to recognize both our biases and our shared brotherhood/ sisterhood.

Come join our discussions of the book and how these issues touch our lives. We read one chapter a week and meet Wednesday mornings on Zoom at 10:00 am. Please contact Tereza McNamee for more info. 650-323-6859. We happily offer Zoom orientation if needed.



Bulletin Deadline

Question Of The Week

“Why do you stand there looking up at the sky?”
Am I looking for Jesus in the wrong places?
Where can I find him?

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 April 30, 2021	\$336,298.00
April 2021 Sunday Offertory Collections (including Easter)	\$64,844.00
Annual Appeal 2021 Goal \$98,096	\$98,096.00
Annual Appeal 2021 Actual	\$98,096.00

Donation Corner

“Save Time and Donate Online!”

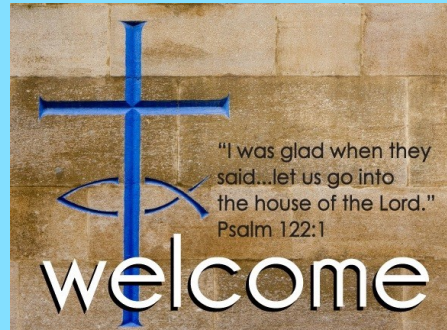
Online Giving is available for parishioners with WeShare, an easy and convenient way to save time and support the church. Donating is simple, safe, and completely secure. If you would like to enroll in Online Giving, please visit our website stdenisparish.org, and follow the links. If you have any questions or concerns about the program or would like help setting up your account, please call WeShare at 800 950-9952.

Welcome Back To Masses Inside Church

As we welcome you back to Mass inside of church here are a few reminders:

Wear a face mask, covering your nose and mouth at all times. Practice physical distancing by staying 6 feet apart by following the marks and taped areas on the floor and pews. Use the hand-sanitizers that are provided.

We will continue to live-stream the Mass Monday thru Fridays at 8:00am and Sunday at 9:30am. on Facebook. It will be available on our website www.stdenisparish.org immediately following mass.



Volunteers Needed At St. Pius Church For Grief Care Program

St. Pius Church and parishes in that area are beginning to search for new volunteers for their grief care programs. A training will hopefully follow in late May 2021. A date will be posted and details of the training will be given to those responding. All parishes in the three counties are invited to identify and invite people to be trained to respond to those in grief regardless of the outreach program or structure you are finding useful within your parish.

Contact Sr. Toni Lynn, to receive information on the training. tlgallagher@sistersofm...



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!

