

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

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

**There will be a 2nd collection
this weekend for our local
5th Sunday charities.**

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23



August 29th, 2021 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

(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

In today's Gospel, Mark provides a significant amount of information about the Jewish observance of ritual-purity laws. Most scholars believe that Mark includes this information because his audience includes Gentile Christians who have no knowledge or experience of these laws. We can infer, therefore, that many in Mark's community were not Jewish Christians.

In this Gospel, Mark addresses the question of which Jewish practices would also be observed in the newly emerging Christian community. This was a significant question for the early Christian Church, especially in communities that included both Jewish and Gentile converts to Christianity. We also hear this question addressed in the letters of Paul with regard to table fellowship. In Gospel passages such as the one today, we see the Gospel evangelists finding justification for a Christian practice distinct from Judaism in the remembrances of Jesus' teaching and the practice of his first disciples.

Jesus first criticizes the Pharisees for putting human tradition above God's Law. Here, Jesus is referring to the tradition of the elders, the teachings of the Pharisees, which extended the ritual-purity laws of Temple worship to everyday Jewish life. Jesus criticizes the Pharisees for making this tradition equal to and as binding as the Law of Moses.

Next, Jesus comments on the meaning behind the Pharisees' language of holiness—clean and unclean. Jesus teaches that a person is not defiled by the food that enters his or her body, but rather by sin that emerges from his or her words and actions. In this teaching, Jesus unmask a deeper question behind the one posed to him by the Pharisees. The real issue is holiness, which is not found in external acts alone. Holiness comes from within and is evidenced in the actions and attitudes that emerge from a person's life.

If we read today's Gospel carefully, we will see a pattern in Jesus' teaching method that will be repeated in the weeks ahead. Jesus' first teaching is directed to the Pharisees who questioned him. Jesus' words are then directed to the crowd, teaching that a person is defiled by his or her words and actions, not by the food that he or she eats. In verses omitted in today's reading, we learn that Jesus returned home with his disciples, who in turn questioned him about what he had taught. The words we read at the conclusion of today's Gospel are addressed to Jesus' disciples. Mark's narrative shows several audiences for Jesus' teaching: his antagonists, the crowds, and Jesus' disciples. As we see in this reading, the words to the Pharisees are often words of challenge. The teaching to the crowds is often a general, sometimes cryptic, message. With the disciples, who often misunderstand Jesus' words, further explanation is offered about his message and its meaning.

Jesus' words challenge us as well. In our desire to show that we are holy, we might also give too much credence to externals, following rules without thinking about the intention behind them. Jesus reminds us that we do not make ourselves holy by our actions. Rather, we become holy when we allow God's Spirit to transform us. Our actions should be an expression of the conversion of our heart to God and to God's ways.

Loyola Press "Sunday Connection"

We Believe

In this week's gospel reading we see the concern the Pharisees have with outward appearances. Jesus answers their accusations by telling them that such scrupulous behavior is meaningless without the inner conversion to go along with such adherence to the law. Jesus is not discounting the law, but he is discounting outward appearances over heartfelt intention. This is an opportunity to ask ourselves just what our own heartfelt intentions are and to make our actions match them to the best of our ability.

Our choices can take three basic forms. First, we can choose to avoid the problems of our world and basically withdraw. By adhering to the basic outward expectations of our faith, attending weekly Mass and contributing to our parish, we can delude ourselves into believing we have done what is required.

The next option available to us is submission and passive acceptance. We can make a deal with ourselves to avoid all topics concerning politics and religion. We can focus on happy news and feed our sense of entitlement by insuring our own personal rights and privileges.

The third choice is to take on our sacred baptismal roles as prophets. In this choice we refuse to accept the status quo. We take on a life-giving responsibility as true believers, working for justice and compassion for all, here at home and globally.

How will we respond?

Dede Waters-Masters

Mass Intentions

St. Denis Church

Sat. Aug. 28 5:30pm Carlos Palafox (living)
Sun. Aug. 29 7:30 am Sue Preminger-Madrigal (+)
9:30 am Ray Bolleri (+)
11:30 am Marie McAreavey (+)
Mon. Aug. 30 8:00 am Pope Francis
Tue. Aug. 31 8:00 am For our parishioners
Wed. Sept. 1 8:00 am Those affected by Covid-19
Thu. Sept. 2 8:00 am Joseph Merkert (+)
Fri. Sept. 3 8:00 am For musicians



Our Lady of the Wayside Church

Sat. Aug. 28 4:30 pm Bill Kerwin (+)
Sun. Aug. 29 9:30 am Fire & flood victims

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 Kohan, John Cummins, Sandy McGinley Names will be removed monthly unless you let the office know. Thank you.

Faith Formation News

FAITH FORMATION SCHEDULE FOR 2021-2022

The Faith Formation schedule for the next school year, and updated registration form are now on the parish website at www.stdenisparish.org. We are planning for in-person classes on Sunday mornings beginning September 26. However, if you would like to teach your children at home, we can provide materials and parent guides for you. Either way, please register now! Contact Lucy Soltau at lsoltau@stdenisparish.org for more information.

CATECHETICAL SUNDAY

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

FAITH FORMATION INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

YES! ALL AT THE SAME TIME ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

Meet the catechists, get important information about our programs this year, and eat pancakes! What could be better than that! Join us in the garden after the 9:30am Mass.

We have some wonderful volunteers, ready to share the faith, and we could always use a few more. Contact Lucy at lsoltau@stdenisparish.org for more info!

CONFIRMATION PARENT/TEEN GATHERING

Sunday, September 12 at 5:30pm at St. Denis.

For parents and teens in 7th grade or older who would like to prepare to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation are invited to join us for Mass at 5:30pm, dinner at 6:15pm and an information meeting at 7:00pm. Come for the whole evening or just part.

For more information, contact Lucy Soltau at lsoltau@stdenisparish.org

Outreach Committee

All are welcome to join the Outreach Committee to discuss up coming events for the fall. Our meeting is September 18th, at 9:30am in the St. Denis garden next to the hall.



Question Of The Week

How big a hypocrite am I?

Do I really follow Jesus, and all he asks of me, or am I just fooling myself?

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

2021-22 estimated goal TBA

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.

Covid Update As of August 3rd, 2021

In response to California's lifting of most Covid-19 restrictions, San Mateo County & the S.F. Archdiocese has announced mandated updates to safety protocols. Many safety precautions will remain in place. Including parishioners, guests, & musicians to wear a mask when indoors, including Mass indoors. If you are seated outside you do not need to wear a mask. Social distancing is reduced to three feet between households. Doors and windows will remain open for ventilation. Hand sanitizers are available. The Sign of Peace is to be exchanged by waving or bowing to those near them. If you are sick we ask that you stay home. Sunday 9:30am mass & weekday masses will continue to be livestreamed, & then on our website. We thank you as we continue to keep each other safe.



A Message From The Pope

Getting vaccinated is a simple yet profound way to care for one another, especially the most vulnerable.

I pray to God that each of us can make his or her own small gesture of love – Pope Francis

Mercy Center Retreats

Mercy Center is open and offers spiritual direction formation, retreats, and personal development programs. Please visit the website below to view in-person and online programs and retreats. The retreat center offerings will help you to make meaning of life and deepen your spiritual experiences with meditation, art, music, and prayer. <https://mercy-center.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 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!

