

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

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Dede Waters-Masters
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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

*Anyone who gives you a cup of water to drink
because you belong to Christ, amen, I say to you
will surely not lose his reward. Mark 9:41*



September 26th, 2021 26th 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

Today we continue to read from the Gospel of Mark. Recall that last week we heard Jesus chastise his disciples for their argument about who among them was the greatest. Jesus taught them that the greatest among them will be those who serve the least ones. In today's Gospel, the disciple John questions Jesus about an unknown exorcist who was driving out demons in Jesus' name. John's question might have been motivated by jealousy. Previously in Mark's Gospel, Jesus healed a boy whom the disciples had been unable to heal. John's question is further evidence that the disciples have not yet grasped Jesus' words to them. They continue to compare themselves to others who seem to have greater healing powers, and they do not want to share the power of Jesus' name with others.

Today the demon possession described in the Gospels might be seen as a form of mental illness, but the need for healing these syndromes was as real then as it is now. Exorcism was a common practice in first-century Palestine. Some people had the power to heal the symptoms of possession. One of the strategies used was to invoke the name of a person or figure who was believed to have the power to heal.

The disciples observed that the unknown exorcist invoked Jesus' name and was successful in his healing efforts. This unknown healer recognized the power of Jesus' name, yet he was not a follower of Jesus. In his reply to his disciples, Jesus acknowledges that deeds of faith can precede the words of faith. He also teaches that the disciples should not be reluctant to share Jesus' healing powers with others.

Later in this Gospel, Jesus teaches us not to create obstacles for those who are just beginning to have faith but to encourage even the smallest signs of faith. The Greek word used here for sin also connotes "stumbling" or "causing scandal." In vivid terms Jesus teaches his disciples the consequences to those who would put obstacles before people who are on the road to faith.

Loyola Press "Sunday Connections"

We Believe

Today's gospel reminds us that the Kingdom of God is universal, larger than the Church, uniquely touching the lives of a vast variety of people. God's kingdom is not an exclusive club, limited to the like-minded. It is an arrogant presumption that the Holy Spirit's action in this world can be controlled.

Last week we heard about the Apostles arguing about who was the most important among them. This week we hear them questioning the good works of those outside their group. Using the presence of a small child in their midst, Jesus illustrates the attitude of inclusivity he expects from his true followers.

Inclusivity is still an issue and has been made more apparent in the political climate in which we find ourselves. While half of all Americans no longer identify themselves with a particular institutional faith group, the power of God is nevertheless present within the world. As followers of Christ, it is our task to promote grace and goodness both within the boundaries of Church and outside it. Jesus asks us to affirm the results of goodness, not judging or labeling who does them, and sometimes we may have to get out of our own way to do it.

Pope Francis envisions inclusivity when he asks and answers the question, "What does it mean to be the People of God?" He says, "God doesn't belong to any particular people because God is the one who calls us...and this invitation is addressed to all...without distinction."

Dede Waters-Masters

Mass Intentions

St. Denis Church

| | | |
|----------------|----------|---------------------------|
| Sat. Sept. 25 | 5:30pm | Sue Ogata (+) |
| Sun. Sept. 26 | 7:30 am | For all refugees |
| | 9:30 am | Marge Yeats (+) |
| | 11:30 am | Gloria Smith (living) |
| Mon. Sept. 27 | 8:00 am | Phyllis Cognata (+) |
| Tues. Sept. 28 | 8:00 am | Those with mental illness |
| Wed. Sept. 29 | 8:00 am | Military women & men |
| Thu. Sept. 30 | 8:00 am | For librarians |
| Fri. Oct. 24 | 8:00 am | For missionaries |



Our Lady of the Wayside Church

| | | |
|---------------|---------|------------------|
| Sat. Sept. 25 | 4:30 pm | End to Covid-19 |
| Sun. Sept. 26 | 9:30 am | For all refugees |

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 BEGINS THIS SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

PreK thru 4th grade meets at 9:30am

5th and 6th grade meets at 10:30am

Confirmation class (7th and 8th grades) meets at 5:30pm. Bring your blue Handbooks and Bibles.

You can still register by going to our parish website www.stdenisparish.org and click the Faith Formation tab. Contact Lucy Soltau at lsoltau@stdenisparish.org for more information.



Faith Formation

FIRST COMMUNION PARENT MEETING

Sunday, October 3 at 10:30am in the church.

We'll talk about preparing for First Reconciliation (confession) and you'll pick up the family activity folder.

Get your coffee and donut, and join Lucy in the church after Mass.

Knit & Pray

You are invited to join the St. Denis Parish Knit & Pray Group on the 4th Mondays of each month at 5pm outside of the parish hall. If you're a beginner we will help you. All are welcome! Our next gathering is this Monday, September 27th. We hope to see you there!



Bulletin Deadline

Question Of The Week

What is keeping me from God's kingdom?
What do I need to "cut off"?

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 (securely over nose & mouth) 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

Jesuit Retreat Center

Virtual Retreat Visio Divina Praying -With Art

Wednesday, September 29 - October 1, 2021 (7-8 PM) by Fr. Andrew Rodriguez, S.J.

In this three-part series, we will pray with Scriptures using art. Art is therefore sacramental, one that points us to a deeper knowledge and experience of how God acts in our lives. With this we can better understand the connection among God's word, God's actions, and the effect those have in our lives.

jrclostaltos.org/retreats-and-programs or call us at 650 917-4000.



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!

