

December 16th, 2018 | Third Sunday of Advent | (791)

Saint Denis Parish

85 Main Street / Ashburnham, Massachusetts 01430

3RD Sunday
of
ADVENT

Rejoice



© LPI

www.SaintDenisAshburnham.com

Join Flock Notes: Text "StDenis85" to 84576

Join Formed <https://formed.org> Use Code 6DF8JG



Flocknotes for Parish Communication
Bulletins, Religious Education,
Ministry, Events, and more



Formed – Free Christian Resources
Videos, Audio, Books, and more
See **Scott Hann** on Advent

LORD'S DAY MASSES

Saturday – 4:30pm
Sunday – 8:00 & 10:30am

DAILY MASSES

Monday – Wednesday 9:00am

RECONCILIATION

Saturday 3:30 – 4:00pm
or by appointment

ADMINISTRATOR

Fr. Guillermo "Memo" Ochoa
Fatherochoa@gmail.com

DEACON

Deacon Richard DesJardins
978-343-6367

COORDINATOR OF REL. ED.

Kimberly Brown

SECRETARY/OFFICE

Andrew W. Gage
StDenis@comcast.net
978-827-5806

OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Thursday
10:00 - 3:00pm.

RECTORY

978-827-5806

RELIGIOUS ED. OFFICE

978-827-4892
StDenisRE@comcast.net

SAINT VINCENT de PAUL

978-790-1923

BAPTISMS

Deacon Richard DesJardins
978-343-6367

NOTIFY THE RECTORY

Visitation of the sick & elderly
Weddings, Pastoral Care



Sat	12/15	4:30pm	Evalda & Roland Babineau <i>By Deacon Rich DesJardins</i>
Sun	12/16	8:00am	Linda M. Meehan <i>By Bob & Helene</i>
		10:30am	Jeannette & Ted Pitkiewicz <i>By Family</i>
Mon	12/17	9:00am	Emererciana & Marcal Yandoc <i>By Family</i>
Tues	12/18	9:00am	
Wed	12/19	9:00am	Canonization of Audrey Santo <i>By Heather Barber</i>
Sat	12/22	4:30pm	Alice Leblanc <i>By Edith & Roland Leblanc</i>
Sun	12/23	8:00am	David M Chapman <i>By Glen Chapman</i>
		10:30am	

St. Francis of Assisi created the first Nativity Scene in 1223 with people and animals. Of all the Christmas decorations we so lovingly place around our homes, the one that is indispensable as it is central to the meaning of Christmas is the Crèche or Nativity Scene. The crib should be a cherished part of the Christmas celebration in every family. It was, and still is, the custom in many places in the world to pray in a family the Christmas Novena around the Nativity Scene.

St. Boniface (680-754) is well known as a great bishop and evangelizer to the Germans. The legend, based on actual historical events, also holds that Boniface is the founder of the use of a Christmas tree to celebrate the birth of the Christ Child. From his missionary travels, Boniface knew that in winter the inhabitants of the village of Geismar gathered around a huge old oak tree dedicated to the god Thor. This annual event of worship centered on sacrificing a human, usually a small child, to the pagan god. St Boniface was able to convert the village by destroying the Thunder Oak. It is so fascinating and much to read but I just quote: "This little tree, a young child of the forest, shall be your holy tree tonight. It is the wood of peace... It is the sign of an endless life, for its leaves are evergreen. See how it points upward to heaven. Let this be called the tree of the Christ-child; gather about it, not in the wildwood, but in your own homes; there it will shelter no deeds of blood, but loving gifts and rites of kindness."

The unicorn in the Nativity scene has been used since ancient times to signify purity, incarnation, annunciation, cross, and monotheism. There was once a poor Mexican girl called Pepita who had no present to give to baby Jesus at the Christmas Eve Services. As Pepita walked to the chapel, sadly, her cousin Pedro tried to cheer her up. 'Pepita', he said, 'I'm sure that even the smallest gift, given by someone who loves him will make Jesus Happy.' Pepita didn't know what she could give, so she picked a small handful of weeds from the roadside and made them into a small bouquet. She felt embarrassed because she could only give this small present to Jesus. As she walked through the chapel to the altar, she remembered what Pedro had said. She began to feel better, knelt down and put the bouquet at the bottom of the nativity scene. Suddenly, the bouquet of weeds burst into bright red flowers, and everyone who saw them was sure they had seen a miracle. From that day on, the bright red flowers were known as the 'Flores de Noche Buena', or 'Flowers of the Holy Night'.

The true story of Santa Claus begins with Nicholas, who was born during the third century in the village of Patara. (Now on the southern coast of Turkey) He dedicated his life to serving God and was made Bishop of Myra while still a young man. Bishop Nicholas became well known for his generosity to those in need, his love for children, and his concern for sailors and ships.

-Fr Memo

Lessons and Carols

Join us on Sunday, December 16th at 3:00 PM for "Lessons and Carols" at St Denis parish. It is an **ecumenical event** for all the local churches of Ashburnham. Reserve that Date!



Sunday, Dec 23rd we will be having a Christmas Pageant after the 10:30 Mass, all are welcome. Children from the Parish will be in the nativity play and we will be serving refreshments after in the hall.

Did you know?

The term Christmas comes from the shortened form of "Christ's mass". The term "Christ" comes from the Greek word *Khristos*, a translation of the Hebrew word *Messiah*, which means "anointed". The second part of Christmas - *maesse* - is a version of the Latin word *missa*, the celebration of the Eucharistic Christian-Catholic tradition, the Holy Communion, the Mass.



The Advent wreath, four candles on a wreath of evergreen, is shaped in a perfect circle to symbolize the eternity of God. Purple is a penitential color of fasting while pink (rose) is the color of joy. The 3rd Sunday in Advent is Gaudete Sunday (from the Latin meaning "rejoice").



The St. Denis St. Vincent de

Paul has had more requests for Christmas assistance this year than in previous years.

We are working with the local schools to seek those who are in need of help, families who might have been overlooked, but whose confidentiality we will always continue to respect. After much prayer, thought, and discussion, we feel the best way to assist these many families to be able to celebrate Christmas is to provide them with the means to purchase their own gifts and food.

Providing grocery-store gift cards will free up funds to allow people to purchase gifts for their families. We have changed our requests from gift-specific tags to envelopes requesting gift cards for either grocery stores or stores where merchandise may be purchased. In this way, we will be able to assist more families, and their dignity will be respected and preserved.

Thank you in advance for your assistance. We will need to have these envelopes returned to us by December 16. Envelopes can be dropped in the offertory basket or returned to the rectory.



Marriage Matters: We are the first example of God to our children. As you are their father so is God our Father! Faith and family co-exist. We meet: 3rd Friday of month 7:00 PM



Liam Howard
Peggy Brennan
Mark Cerasuolo
Michael Chaves Jr.
Therese Colman
Jack Considine
Jason DesJardins
Ellen Duffy
Liz Farrell

Danielle Fischer
David Foor
Leah Hamm
Becky Harris
Ralph Jones
Dewey McConlogue
Carol McCreavy
Barbara Mintz
Jean Norman
Sandy Normandin
Raymond Perry
Mike Pontier
Ronnie Rabideau
Ottmar Rau
Ruby

Mary Ruth
Lorraine Bette Skaife
Frances Smith
Jennifer Smith
Katy Textor
Mrs. Topper
Daniel Torres
Jules Vaillancourt
Kerry Volke
Joel Rivera
Lucy Langelier

For Our Sick ...

December

Sun	12/16	3:00pm	Ecumenical festival of Lessons and Carols
Tues	12/18	7:00pm	K of C (St Edwards)
Wed	12/19	9:30am	Ladies Spiritual Enrichment Group
Thur	12/20	6:30pm	Kerygma Prayer/Bible Study
Fri	12/21	7:00pm	Marriage Matters
Sun	12/23	10:30am	Christmas Pageant (After Mass)
Mon	12/24	4:00pm	Christmas Eve Mass
		6:00pm	Christmas Eve Mass
		10:00pm	Midnight Mass
Tues	12/25	10:00am	Christmas Day Mass
Wed	12/26	9:30am	Ladies Spiritual Enrichment Group
Thur	12/27	6:30pm	Kerygma Prayer/Bible Study



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Sun	12/16	6:00pm	Grade 9 Classes
Mon	12/17	3:00pm	CCD Grades 3-5
		6:30pm	CCD Grades 6-8
Tues	12/18	10:00am	CGS Classes
		3:00pm	CCD Grades 1 & 2
Wed	12/19	3:15pm	CGS Classes
Mon	12/24	3:00pm	NO CCD Grades 3-5
		6:30pm	NO CCD Grades 6-8
Tues	12/25	10:00am	NO CGS Classes
		3:00pm	No CCD Grades 1 & 2
Wed	12/26	3:15pm	CGS Classes

We wish to thank all who worked so hard to make the Breakfast w/ Santa a success. Especially the Knights of Columbus and Families who sponsored the event. The people who came and donated their time treasure and resources.

We raised \$965.00 for the Altar Servers Ministry from donations received for the event.



Let us honor God with our first fruits rather than the leftovers.

12/9/18	Sunday Offertory:	\$ 2,276.63
	Parish Needs:	\$ 135.00
	Christmas Flowers	\$ 350.00
	Religious Retire.	\$ 350.00
12/9/18	Online Donations:	\$ 135.00



Thank you for your generous support of the parish. Your weekly financial support enables Saint Denis to provide for the needs of our parish.