

December 14, 2014, 3rd Sunday in Advent

Saint Denis Parish

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.

Join us today
(December 14) for
Caroling, Sweets and Savories.
OLW Rectory, 3:00 pm.



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Mass Times

St. Denis Church
Saturday: 5:30 pm (Vigil)
Sunday: 7:30 am, 9:30 am, 11:30 am
Monday-Friday: 8:00 am

Our Lady of the Wayside Church
Saturday: 4:30 pm (Vigil)
Sunday: 9:30 am

Confession Times

Saturday: 4:00 pm, Our Lady of the Wayside
Saturday: 5:00 pm, St. Denis

St. Denis Church
2250 Avy Avenue • Menlo Park

St. Denis Office Hours: M-F, 9:00 am - 2:00 pm
(650) 854-5976
www.stdenisparish.org

Our Lady of the Wayside Church
930 Portola Road • Portola Valley

Pastor's Corner

Dear fellow members of St. Denis and Our Lady of the Wayside,

The first line of last Sunday's gospel reading introduced "Jesus Christ the Son of God." Today's reading taken from the prophet Isaiah and the responsorial psalm show him as "Savior". These together were the earliest affirmation of faith in Jesus: "Jesus Christ, Son of God and Savior," in Greek, *Iesous Christos Theou Uios Soter*. The initial letters of these words taken together – ICHTHUS – happen to mean 'fish'. And so the fish became the secret sign of being a Christian in the times of persecution. It can be seen even today, scratched on the walls of the catacombs in Rome. That is a reminder to us of the thousands of men and women who gave up their lives for their belief that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and Savior. The early Christians would spend the entire night praying and singing before they were taken to be killed. They went to their deaths joyfully. It is to this 'Jesus Christ, Son of God and Savior' that John the Baptist bore witness. As we prepare ourselves for the celebration of the birth of Jesus the Son of God, we are all invited to bear witness to Christ and to his message in our lives!

I would like to remind you and invite you to caroling, sweets and savories at OLW on Sunday, December 14, at 3:00 pm and to the organ, piano and guitar recital and Christmas carol sing-along at St Denis on Sunday, December 21 at 4:00 pm. The events will be followed by a reception.

The communal penance service will be on Wednesday, December 17 at St. Denis Church. There will be opportunity to receive the Sacrament of reconciliation individually.

Yours sincerely,
Fr. Jose Shaji, Pastor

Gospel Reading

When the Jews from Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to him to ask him, "Who are you?" He admitted and did not deny it, but admitted, "I am not the Christ." So they asked him, "What are you then? Are you Elijah?" And he said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No." So they said to him, "Who are you, so we can give an answer to those who sent us? What do you have to say for yourself?" He said: "I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, 'make straight the way of the Lord,'" as Isaiah the prophet said." Some Pharisees were also sent. They asked him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ or Elijah or the Prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie." This happened in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

Mass Intentions

	<u>St. Denis</u>	<u>Our Lady of the Wayside</u>
Sat. 12/13	5:30pm Tom Kirkbride† (Mary Ann Robiano & family)	4:30pm Margaret Petersen† (Frank Koch)
Sun. 12/14	7:30am Maria Sa-ing Swang-Ngam† (J. Nitayo) 9:30am Al Yujuico† (Yujuico family) 11:30am Tom Kirkbride† (James Quinn family)	9:30am parishioners of OLW
Mon. 12/15	8:00am parishioners of St. Denis	
Tue. 12/16	8:00am parishioners of St. Denis	
Wed. 12/17	8:00am parishioners of St. Denis	
Thu. 12/18	8:00am Mary Margaret Koch†	
Fri. 12/19	8:00am parishioners of St. Denis	

In your charity, please pray for...

Carol Armstrong, Agnes Babcock, Louise Brent, Mike Carragee, Lily Chan, Sandra Dailey, Gertrude DeZelaya, Bob Ellis, Amelia Elsbree, Michael Fil, Susan Fil, Ruben Fuentes, Johnny Gentry, Lauren Goode, Michael Ho, Ryan Johnston, Maurice Kidd, Lisa Kitz, Matthew Lear, Phyllis Lucas, Luke Mars, Ann Martin, Sheri Martin, Dorothy Meyers, Dennis Miller, Rozeh Nikili, Lorraine O'Connor, Lorie Ortega, Angie Real, Jim Rock, Raymond Schaaf Sr, Aileen Schiel, Kathy Schoendorf, Marie Scott, Omid Sharif, Dorothy Skala, Frank Vitale, David Welling, Bev Wheat, Mila Wright, William Yates, Ada Zilli and Jean Zonner.

Please call the parish office if you would like to receive Holy Communion at home.

Religious Education

Religious Ed News

THIS Sunday, Dec. 14th

9:30am—Pre-K through 5th Grade

10:30-11:30am—6th/7th
Grade

10:30-11:30am—Big Kids'
Sacramental Prep Class

12:30pm-1:30pm—TOB
for HS

3:00pm-7:00pm—Maple Street Shelter Dinner by
Year 2 Confirmation



Next Sunday (12/21)

No Classes! Christmas Tree Decorating after the
11:30am Mass.

Upcoming Dates & Events

12/17 (Wed) - TOB for Middle School

12/24 (Wed) - Christmas Eve Family Mass 4pm
(with Children's Choir)

1/18 (Sun) - Altar Server Appreciation Bowling
Party

Classes Resume January 11th

*Merry Christmas, safe travels, and a blessed
start to 2015! Thank you for being a part of the
Religious Ed family at St. Denis Parish.*

Youth Ministry

YOUTH COUNCIL

After the great
success working with
our Youth Leadership
Team and
incorporating
feedback from our
teens, St. Denis is
forming a Parish
Youth Council to be the voice of the teenage
members of our community.



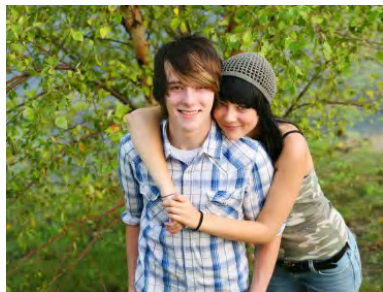
The Youth Council will meet monthly with Fr. Jose
and Lindsey West to advise and help implement
best practices and programs for the enrichment
and empowerment of the youth of our parish and
within our local community.

There is a very brief application for the Youth
Council now available in the back of the church and
on our website on the Youth Ministry Page. **We
invite all high schoolers interested in making a
change and improving our parish to apply.**
Apps due by January 18th, 2015.

Questions? Contact Lindsey West at
lwest@stdenisparish.org.

Youth Ministry

High School Series: Sex, Dating, and Relationships



**6th Session
is THIS
Sunday!**

12:30pm-1:30pm in Room #2 at the Parish Center.



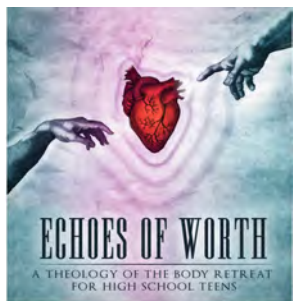
Annual Youth Fundraising Dinner

is Saturday, January 31st at
6:30pm.

Proceeds towards our
fundraising dinner go to support youth enrichment
trips such as the Teen Leadership Conference in
June 2015 and, especially, World Youth Day in
Krakow, Poland in Summer 2016.

**Tickets on sale this Sunday after the
9:30am Mass!**

Youth Ministry



Echoes of Worth is a call to the young of the Bay Area to hear, maybe for the first time, the depth & truth of John Paul II's teachings on Theology of the Body.

Our Guest Hosts for the weekend, **Jackie Francois**

Angel & Bobby Angel, will lead us in understanding the reality of God's love found in our creation and our purpose.

This weekend encounter will take place **February 6 -8, 2015** at Mission Springs in Scotts Valley, CA.

Registration IS OPEN. Go to EchoesofWorth.COM to reserve your space.



MANY CATHOLIC MEN HAVE ASKED THEMSELVES: SHOULD I CONSIDER THE PRIESTHOOD?

"The vocation to ordained ministry is truly a treasure that God places, from the beginning, in the hearts of some men; those whom He has chosen and called to follow Him in this special state of life." - Pope Francis



ST. PATRICK'S SEMINARY & UNIVERSITY DISCERNMENT RETREAT WEEKEND JANUARY 16 - 18, 2015

What happens during the Discernment Retreat Weekend?

- Conferences led by Most Rev. Thomas A. Daly, Auxiliary Bishop of San Jose
- Learn about different aspects of Seminarian and Priestly Life
- Interact with Priests and Seminarians
- Attend Daily Mass
- Participate in the Liturgy of the Hours
- Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
- Sacrament of Reconciliation
- Take part in Panel Discussions with current Seminarians and with Priests
- Time for private prayer
- Tours of the grounds of the Seminary
- Use of the recreational facilities

WHEN

From Friday, January 16 at 12:00 noon until Sunday, January 18 at 1:00 PM
All meals and lodging are provided

WHERE

St. Patrick's Seminary & University
320 Middlefield Road
Menlo Park, California 94025

REGISTRATION

Must be a single male, 21 years or older and sponsored by a priest
To register, contact Fr. David Schunk
Archdiocese of San Francisco Vocation Director
vocations@sfarchdiocese.org
(415) 614-5683

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Email the Discernment Retreat Office at discernment.retreat@stpsu.org

ATTENDANCE DOES NOT IMPLY FURTHER COMMITMENT OR OBLIGATION. THERE IS NO COST TO ATTEND.

XLT Mid-Peninsula:

Does Faith Matter After High School?

High School and Middle School students are invited for XLT Mid-Peninsula II on Wednesday, January 28th.



St. Denis, St. Raymond, and Church of the Nativity are teaming up again to host an hour and half of praise & worship, and inspiring talk by a Stanford student, and

Eucharistic Adoration.

Tickets are \$5. XLT is 7pm-8:30pm, with hospitality 6:30pm-6:55pm. Tickets are available through



Eventbrite. Questions? Contact Lindsey at lwest@stdenisparish.org.

For Parents

Parents of Toddlers

We are so happy you and your family are here at Mass at St. Denis. We know Mass with little ones can be a challenge, so we have a couple of newer resources to help you out. In the Chapel at St. Denis Church, we have a small organizer with religious and biblical coloring pages and supplies.

We've also just added a Toddler Board Book Library. We invite to check out the **books and coloring pages**, if you'd like, **for your little ones.**



Please take home pictures with you, but please leave the books in the chapel for others to use. Questions or ideas? Contact Lindsey West—
lwest@stdenisparish.org or 650-854-1081.

Gaudete Sunday

Intr. 1. **G** Audé- te * in Dómino sem-per : í-terum díco,

The third Sunday of Advent, is called Gaudete Sunday from the first word of the Introit at Mass (*Gaudete*, i.e. Rejoice). The season of Advent originated as a fast of forty days in preparation for Christmas, commencing on the day after the feast of St. Martin (12 November), whence it was often called "St. Martin's Lent"-- a name by which it was known as early as the fifth century. The introduction of the Advent fast cannot be placed much earlier, because there is no evidence of Christmas being kept on 25th December before the end of the fourth century and the preparation for the feast could not have been of earlier date than the feast itself. In the ninth century, the duration of Advent was reduced to four weeks and it preserved the characteristics of a penitential season which made it a kind of counterpart to Lent, the middle (or third) Sunday corresponding with Laetare or Mid-Lent Sunday. Gaudete Sunday, therefore, makes a breaker like Laetare Sunday, about midway through a season which is otherwise of a penitential character, and signifies the nearness of the Lord's coming. Gaudete Sunday is further marked by a new Invitatory, "The Lord who is now nigh and close at hand". The spirit of the Liturgy all through Advent is one of expectation and preparation for the Christmas feast as well as for the second coming of Christ, and the penitential exercises suitable to that spirit are thus on Gaudete Sunday suspended, as were, for a while in order to symbolize that joy and gladness in the Promised Redemption which should never be absent from the heart of the faithful.

Weekly Stewardship Report

December 6/7, 2014		December 7/8, 2013	
	<u>Sunday Collection</u>	<u>E-Giving</u>	
St. Denis	\$3,711.00	\$2,667.25	St. Denis
OLW	\$1,784.00	\$545.41	OLW
Total: \$8,707.66		Total: \$12,663.38	
Monthly Total, November 2014		Monthly Total, November 2013	
	<u>Sunday Collection</u>	<u>E-Giving</u>	
St. Denis	\$19,503.00	\$11,589.66	St. Denis
OLW	\$6,339.00	\$1,984.16	OLW
Total: \$39,415.82		Total: \$42,737.00	

Second Collection

Today the annual collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious is being taken. The women and men Religious of the Archdiocese are appreciative of any help you can give and count on your assistance as they face retirement with limited resources. More importantly, though, please remember in your prayers the more than 630 women and men religious living and serving in the Archdiocese of San Francisco.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

There will be a communal penance service at St. Denis Church on Wednesday, December 17, at 7:00 pm. There will be an opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation individually.

Wine and the Word

The next Wine and the Word will be on Monday, January 26, 7:00 pm in the rectory.

Men's Group

The St. Denis Men's Group will meet on Tuesday, January 27, at 7:00 pm.

Christmas Giving Tree

The Christmas Giving Trees will be in both churches beginning Saturday, Nov. 29. Gift tags may be removed and attached to gifts that should be returned to the church **no later than Sunday, Dec. 14 (today)**. Please securely attach the tags to your gifts paying special attention to whether gift wrapping is required which will be noted on the back of each tag. Gifts will be delivered to St. Francis Center, Catholic Worker House, Maple Street Homeless Shelter and Hoover Pre-School. If you cannot take a tag but would prefer to contribute there will be a box in the back of each church for donations. Any amount is appreciated. Questions should be directed to **Marlene Hunter, (650) 325-4058**.

Vallombrosa Operations Director

Vallombrosa Conference & Retreat Center in Menlo Park, which is owned by Archdiocese of San Francisco, is looking to hire an Operations Director. The position involves assisting the Director with policies, procedures, organization, decisions, supervision and administration involved with the daily operations of the Center. Send resume to apply@vallombrosa.org.

Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve

Wednesday, December 24

St. Denis Church
4:00 pm & 6:00 pm

Our Lady of the Wayside Church
4:00 pm & 9:00 pm

Christmas Day

Thursday, December 25

St. Denis Church
7:30 am, 9:30 am & 11:30 am

Our Lady of the Wayside Church
9:30 am

Musicians' Recital

Please join us on Sunday, **December 21**, 4:00 pm at St. Denis Church for an organ, piano and guitar recital and Christmas Carol Sing featuring our parish musicians: Kelly Lim, Ethan Williams, Bryan Lorentz and Jeffery Abbott.

Ministry Schedule

St. Denis

December 20/21

5:30pm **Lector:** Jerry Griffin

E.M.: Brigitte Mornand, Tina Morris, Anne Marie Jewell

7:30am **Lectors:** Paul Kirincich, James Tornes

E.M.: Jackie Tornes, Sandy Rock

9:30am **Lectors:** Scott Stanley, Jill Stanley

E.M.: Susanna Tang, Catherine Coluzzi, Josephine Dorval, Marlene Hunter*, Barbara Mason, Heather Scholl

11:30am **Lector:** R. Draeger

E.M.: R. Lombardi, P. Dewes, L. Lombardi

Our Lady of the Wayside

4:30pm **Lector:** Mingram

E.M.: DeStaebler, Sullivan

9:30am **Lector:** Aymerich

E.M.: Aymerich, Healey, Anderson