

August 23, 2020 • Twenty-first Sunday In Ordinary Time

Welcome to

THE COMMUNITY OF

Saint Denis

*Celebrating God's Love
for All People*

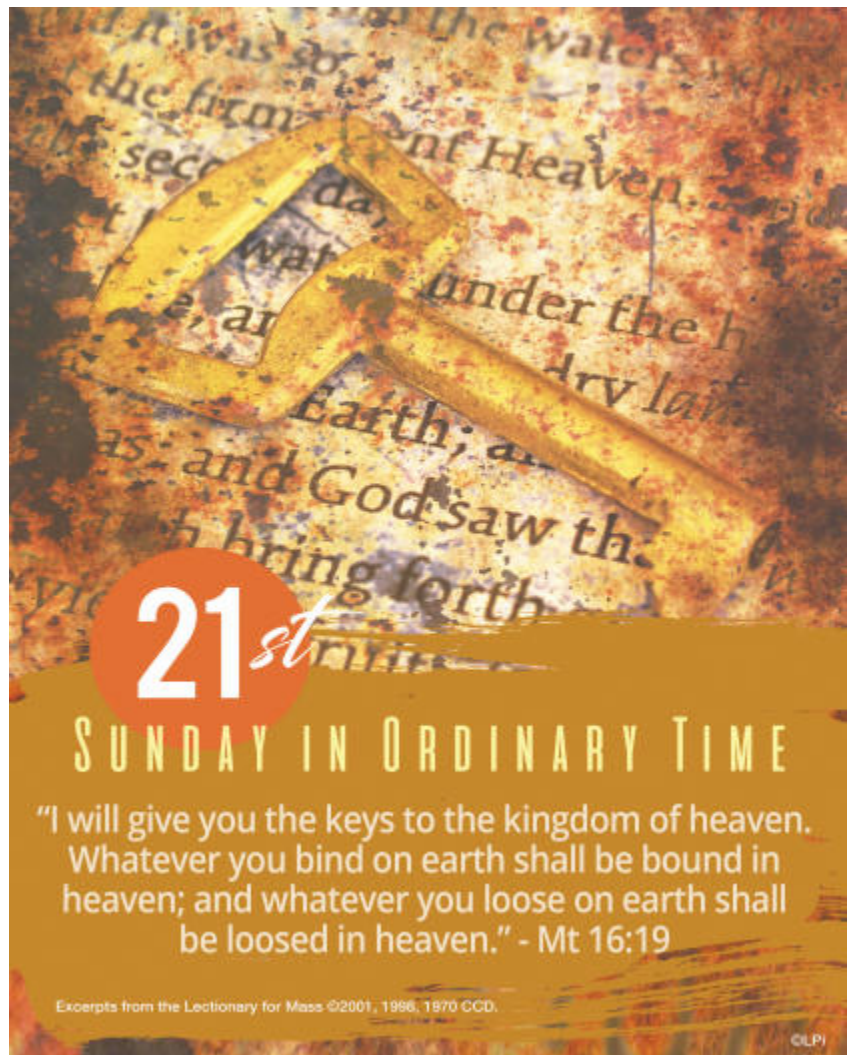
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Our St. Denis Mission Statement

We, the Catholic Christian Community of St. Denis, as followers of Jesus Christ, call ourselves: to create a prayerful environment; to provide for spiritual, educational and social growth; to promote hospitality; to ensure the evangelization of our faith; and to minister to the people of our parish, our Ashburn community and our world.

Declaración de Misión de San Denis

Nosotros, la Comunidad Católica Cristiana de San Denis, como seguidores de Jesucristo, nos llamamos a: Crear un ambiente de oración; prever el crecimiento espiritual, educacional y social; promover la hospitalidad; asegurar la evangelización de nuestra fe; y atender a las personas de nuestra parroquia, de nuestra comunidad de Ashburn, y de nuestro mundo.

THIS AND THAT

The Old Testament tells us of how the Israelites were set free from captivity in Egypt. They were going to a promised land of ‘milk and honey’. Milk and honey tells us that this unknown land would offer them a comfortable life far from the drudgery of slavery. The promised land would be a place of freedom and liberty.

But to get there they had to cross the Red Sea. Picture the whole Israelite nation with their leader Moses stopped at the shore of the Red Sea. They are glancing back over their shoulders because the Egyptian army is closing in on them. The Egyptian soldiers have orders to kill. The faith of the Israelites begins to waver. Maybe they would be better off surrendering to the Egyptians. They can’t cross the wide sea.

Moses raises his arms in and voice in prayer for God to lead his people to safety. He gestures with his staff over the waters, but nothing happens! Nothing happens until the first person steps into the water and shows, through that simple act, that he has faith in God’s promise of salvation. When that first courageous step is taken, the sea parts, and the people began to cross over into freedom and liberation.

Between the current pandemic and the fears of an unknown future, we are caught like the Israelites between a rock and a hard place. The last several months have been stressful for all of us. The future? The future is murky. After all that we have been through since March, we want the certainty that better days, “milk and honey” days are ahead.

Someone has to take the first step into the waters of the future. Perhaps, that person is

you. When that first courageous step is taken, the sea will part, and we will begin to cross over into freedom and liberation.

May God bless us all,
Fr. Ted



Next Sunday, August 30th, there will be a collection for **CATHOLIC CHARITIES**. Drop your Catholic Charities envelope into the box along with your regular Sunday envelop. If you donated to the Catholic Charities collection in the month of May, your donation has been recorded. Thank you.

Please note that this collection usually takes place in the month of May. Due to the COVID 19 Pandemic, the Catholic Charities collection will take place next Sunday, August 30, 2020.

Mass Intentions

Saturday	August 22, 2020 Faye DeVereaux
Sunday	August 23, 2020 Bernadette McAleenan
Monday	August 24, 2020 Andrea Aguina
Tuesday	August 25, 2020 Edward Heimberg
Wednesday	August 26, 2020 Natalie Wittmacher
Friday	August 28, 2020 Patrick Butler



Those who are ill...

Rita Brice, Eileen Demos, Elida Diaz

Those who serve our country...

Patrick Brice, Ryan Danielian,
Patrick Leamy, Antonio Worthy Jr.

The Archdiocese of Chicago Domestic Violence Outreach (ACDVO) mission is expressed in three words:

Awareness–Services–Prevention

For help call the National Domestic Violence 24-Hour Hotline at 800.799.7233 or 800.787.3224 TTY. Visit www.ndvh.org for more information. Please call if you are a victim, a relative, friend, parish staff or a domestic violence ministry member seeking information.

Prayer During A Health Crisis

Compassionate and Loving Father,
In the face of confusion and concern
impart to us the calm of your presence.
In You allow us to find hope and healing.
Be with those who serve the sick and
give them Your caring hands.
Be with those who lead and
give them Your Spirit of wisdom.
Be with those who have fallen ill and
give them Your comforting heart.
Wrap your arms around our world and
hold us in your love.
Allow us at this time of trial to then
serve as instruments of that love to all we meet.
We ask this in Your Name.
Amen.

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GOSPEL MEDITATION

August 23, 2020

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

The only way to know God is to love God. Our minds will never fully grasp the mystery of God, but our hearts and souls can learn to love the mystery. Years ago, when life had a more innocent quality to it, we believed what we were told or witnessed, unless there was direct evidence otherwise. This was especially true if the information came from someone in authority. In a sense, we were a bit more gullible on one hand but also more trusting on the other. The latter is an admirable quality that sadly can be eroded when we realize we have been duped. With education and

technological advances, we find ourselves more skeptical and less likely to too quickly accept and believe what we see and hear.

For all of the good that social media can do, it can also easily distort reality and truth. Photoshop and a myriad other technological truths can add to, fabricate, and make even the non-existent seem real. It is amazing. How far do we allow this obviously justifiable skepticism to take us? Questioning and doubting are healthy elements of any good relationship as long as we don't allow them to turn us away from a deeper experience of love and encounter. If we cannot get our minds around something or empirically justify or prove it, we tend to declare it a hoax, untrue, or unauthentic and walk away. The very same trust that can quickly be eroded is exactly what is essential for all of our relationships, especially our relationship with God. With all things and people that make a profound claim on us, we have to trust in the absence of knowledge. Full self-investment involves plunging completely into the unknown!


Simon Peter said to Jesus, "You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God." Peter came to this knowledge, which is not "head knowledge" because of the relationship he shared with Jesus and what God was able to reveal in and through that relationship. Peter simply "knew" because of love that this is who Jesus really is. The silent exchange of love between friends, and not an intellectual exercise of the mind, brought Peter to this place. When we stop and think about it, there are many things in life that we simply know but do not completely understand. When someone sacrifices their own well-being for another, it may not make intellectual sense when examined. But it makes a world of sense when it is carried out. The vastness of reality and an encounter with incomprehensible mystery all lead us to profound silence where we simply know something to be true. Have you trusted enough to allow your relationship with God to bring you to this place or are you still too skeptical?

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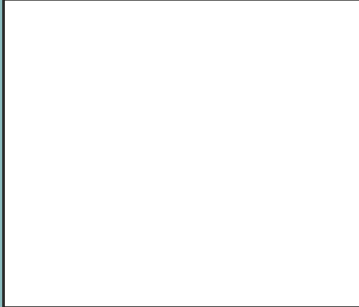
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