

September 6, 2020 • Twenty-third Sunday In Ordinary Time

Welcome to

THE COMMUNITY OF

Saint Denis

*Celebrating God's Love
for All People*

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23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

TOGETHER

"For where two or
three are gathered
together in my name,
there am I in the midst
of them." - Mt 18:20

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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

Have you ever been on a really long bridge? I am remembering a journey across the Mackinac Bridge one holiday weekend long ago as I ask the question. That bridge is almost five miles long! I had plenty of time to think as we crossed the windy waters from Mackinaw City to St. Ignace.

It struck me that Jesus Christ was the bridge between God and man, the bridge between this world and heaven, the bridge between despair and hope. Upon my arrival upon the shores of the Upper Peninsula it dawned on me that all of us are meant to be bridges. We follow in His Way when we bridge the gap between God and man, between this world and heaven, and between despair and hope. When we follow Christ we are like the Mackinac Bridge carrying life safely above the waters of death flowing below. Christians should be bridges.

Labor Day is a bridge day. It is the unofficial end of summer and the beginning of autumn. It is the end of vacation time and the beginning of school. On this bridge day, I invite you to consider how you are doing in your Christian calling as a bridge. The Bridge (Jesus Christ) is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

We've had some hot weather recently. I forgot to water a pot of flowers I have outside. When I remembered, I was afraid it was too late! The flowers had all shriveled up. I thought they were dead. Even so, I decided to give them a good soaking.

A few hours later I returned to see how they were doing. They had perked up and were full of life. The watering was enough to repair the damage that could have been done.

The lesson to us who are called to be bridges is...don't give up! You might think it's too late but never give up on the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

May God bless us all,
Fr. Ted



Labor Day

Good and Gracious God,
You created human beings in Your image and likeness
And gave us dominion over creation
to be stewards of the land
and co-creators of Your Kingdom.
Jesus, You became one of us
and labored as a carpenter.
You ask all people --
whatever our state of life --
to follow you faithfully.
Holy Spirit, bless all
workers this Labor Day.
May all our actions be
animated by Your love,
as we do all things for
the glory of God.
Amen. ©LPi



Those who are ill...

Rita Brice, Elida Diaz, Renee Pletsch

Those who serve our country...

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

Those recently baptized...

Camila Escalera
Daughter of Roberto & Veronica

Mass Intentions

Saturday	September 5, 2020 Eileen Demos
Sunday	September 6, 2020 Bill Nelson Patrick Brice
Monday	September 7, 2020 Jill Davis
Tuesday	September 8, 2020 Mark Butler
Wednesday	September 9, 2020 Ann Pritchard
Thursday	September 10, 2020 Mary Anne Ostrowski
Friday	September 11, 2020 World Peace

***Be Sure To Complete Your
September Virtus Bulletin
This Week!***



**Thank you to
Parkview Food and Liquor Store
(a mini mart)
for their kind donation to
St. Denis!**

Next Sunday, September 13th, there will be a collection for **The Holy Land**. Drop your Holy Land envelope into the box along with your regular Sunday envelope. If you previously donated to the Holy Land collection your donation has been recorded. Thank you.

Please note that this collection usually takes place on Good Friday. Due to the COVID 19 Pandemic, the Holy Land collection will take place next Sunday, September 13, 2020.

The staff of St. Denis wishes to thank the parishioner that so thoughtfully knitted us dishcloths, noting that we are all knitted together and staying home and doing a lot of dishes these days!

Also a special thanks to the mask maker!!!



GOSPEL MEDITATION

**September 6, 2020
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It's all about reconciliation and conversion, not punishment. Relationships are not static adventures but wonderful gifts that continue to develop, grow, change, and mature. We are meant to be social beings, so isolating ourselves from others is rarely helpful. But, because human beings are on the one hand tremendously gifted, talented, and blessed creations, they are on the other also flawed, broken, and sinful. We all need to humbly admit that we are works in progress and not only capable of enriching each other's lives but causing deep hurts and wounds as well. Hence, we always need to be reconciled. We are always growing, changing, and expanding our knowledge of who we are and how we are meant to share life together.


Because reconciliation and conversion are always part of the mix of life, honesty is crucial. Without honesty, we can easily find ourselves living a lie and causing more harm than good. Being able to freely share our feelings, especially those involving pain and hurt, is a charism necessary to pursue and an art to learn. When we are wronged or wrong someone else, we do not enjoy the confrontation that can and needs to come. We are taught to keep our feelings to ourselves, especially when they are negative, and we tend to avoid difficult conversations. Hence, we never really learn how to confront another, successfully resolve conflict, find reconciliation, and welcome conversion. When we hurt or wrong someone, it does not mean that we are a bad or sinful person who deserves only punishment and excommunication. Quite the opposite! We are simply a human person who can make poor choices and sin and can be forgiven. We can restore and deepen the relationship that has been affected and find our way home again.

Jesus clearly wants to avoid shame because it has no purpose in achieving reconciliation and conversion. All broken relationships deserve a chance at reconciliation. Every person has room for growth and a need for conversion. We have to learn to be okay with honesty and not be afraid to hear and process what someone needs to say, even if it is difficult for us to hear. Severing a relationship, both personally or with the church community as a whole, ought to definitely be a last resort and only pursued when all else has failed.

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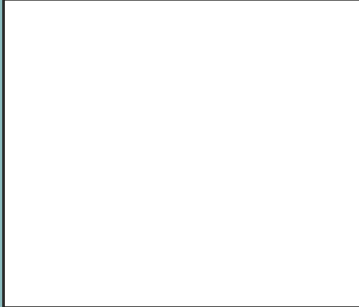
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