

Parishioner's Resource Directory

*Our Catholic
Community of Faith*



St. Denis Church

23 Manchaug Street
Douglas, Massachusetts 01516
(508) 476-2002 • Fax (508) 476-2022



We welcome you to the faith community of St. Denis Parish. We are a pilgrim people in transition from a small village parish to a suburban town parish. We attempt to incorporate the charm, closeness and familiarity of the small village with the dynamic flow and challenges of an ever expanding suburban community. We are in essence a pilgrim community growing, changing and moving into the future.

We are a Catholic community rooted firmly in the Eucharistic presence of the Lord Jesus and the presence of His word in Sacred Scripture. We attempt to keep our focus always on living the Gospel in our daily lives and ultimately our true destiny, eternal life with our God and brother Jesus Christ.

With all of our human imperfections, we welcome you to join us as we attempt to respond with open hearts and open arms, to the call of Jesus and the challenges of our ever changing environment.

May God bless you on your personal journey as you join the living faith community of St. Denis Parish.

Father Bill Cormier
Pastor

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The Mission of St. Denis Parish

As a growing community of worshippers, we the family of St. Denis seek to be united in faith and prayer, to worship God and to serve all His people.

We desire to be active witnesses to God's presence among us, and we dedicate ourselves to answer Christ's call to love and serve one another in this ever-changing world.

We seek to reach out to all, by inviting them to join in celebration through weekly worship at Mass, and by offering many opportunities for them to share their time, talent and treasure throughout the year.

As a worshipping family, we accept our responsibility to spread the Good News of Jesus, to strengthen our faith for our families, and to extend that faith to the community and those in need.



New Parishioners

St. Denis warmly welcomes all newcomers to our parish! If you have been attending mass regularly, but have not taken the opportunity to register with the church, we invite you to do so at this time. There are many opportunities for you to be more involved in our community that are outlined in this directory. Watch the bulletin for events here at St. Denis and the Diocese or call the Rectory for further information on how you can become more involved.

Parishioners, Family Members & Friends

If you know of someone who is ill at home or hospitalized and is in need of prayer, or who is unable to celebrate the Eucharist with us in the church because of age or illness, please contact the Rectory.

Worship at Mass

The constitution on the sacred liturgy from the Second Vatican Council said that, "The two parts which, in a sense, go to make up the Mass; the liturgy of the word and the eucharistic liturgy are so closely connected with each other that they form but a single act of worship." In the first part of the Mass God speaks to his people through the scriptures and in the homily; in the Liturgy of the Eucharist, God's people respond by giving thanks and praise. The Mass is a united act in which we are nourished by God's life-giving word and His life-giving body.

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Mass is celebrated at St. Denis at a Saturday Vigil and three Sunday services. Weekday liturgies are held daily with the exception of Wednesdays. Monday's liturgy is preceded by Novena Prayers. Morning Masses are preceded by the Rosary. Confessions are heard Saturdays one half hour before Mass or by appointment. Please refer to the insert for Mass times.

Mass Intentions

If you wish to have a Mass said for a living or deceased loved one, please contact the Rectory. The suggested stipend for each Mass is \$10 and Mass cards are available at the Rectory.

Sacramental Services

Special services for sacramental events such as baptisms and weddings are available by appointment. Please turn to page 9 for more information on the Sacraments, or call the Rectory for specific information.

Mass of Christian Burial

St. Denis holds funeral Masses at the convenience of the family. Memorial booklets may be created and distributed at the Funeral Mass upon request, providing that all information is received in adequate time for printing. A special Bereavement Ministry of volunteers assists the Pastor in supporting the family of the deceased (*please turn to page 8 for more information*). Funeral arrangements are usually coordinated through a funeral director.

St. Denis Cemetery

Located on Manchaug Street in Douglas, this beautiful site is the final resting place for many in Douglas' history. For information on how to purchase a new lot please call the Rectory.

Bulletin Announcements

The weekly bulletin is completed by the Monday prior to the weekend. If you have a bulletin announcement, please have it prepared and delivered to the rectory no later than 9:00 a.m. on Monday.

Lost and Found

Articles found in the church after Masses are held for a short time. Any item not claimed within a reasonable amount of time will be donated to charity. Inquiries may be made at the Rectory.

Join in the Mass

St. Denis offers many ways for you to participate at Mass and beyond.

Ministry of Lectors

Lectors are lay persons called to grow in a warm and loving knowledge of scripture, the living word of God. He or she is invited to more deeply enter a relationship with God, the Word that is creative, powerful and effective. The reader strives for a deeper relationship with the text that comes from within, a level of understanding and feeling that makes this ministry a real embodiment of the Word of God. Please contact the Rectory for more information on becoming a Lector.

Eucharistic Ministers

Eucharistic Ministers are lay persons called to grow in a deep and fierce love of Christ Jesus who is sacramentally present in the Eucharist. He or she is invited to more deeply enter a relationship with Jesus who gave himself on the cross for our salvation and who gives Himself to us as nourishment in the form of bread and wine, the Eucharist. The Eucharistic Minister strives for a deeper relationship with Jesus that is on the one hand exciting and awesome, and on the other tender and familiar; a deep love of the Son of God, the Word made flesh. Please contact the Rectory for more information on becoming a Eucharistic Minister.

Altar Server Ministry

Altar servers are mainly young men and women who assist the priest at the sacrifice of the Mass. They are drawn to be close to the "action" of the Mass where God's word is proclaimed and His Body and Blood are made present for His people. It is required that altar servers are at least at the beginning of the 4th grade in school. Adult altar servers also assist at morning Masses and at funerals. Anyone interested in serving should contact the Rectory.

Collector/Usher Ministry

The collectors and ushers welcome participants to Mass, assist elderly and others needing assistance on the stairs, distribute bulletins and other information, prepare the church for Mass, pass the baskets during collections, bring gifts to the altar if not previously assigned, and bag, secure and deliver the offerings to the Rectory. Contact the Rectory for more information on serving as an usher or collector.

Music Ministry

Traditional Choir – The traditional choir consists of people who enjoy singing traditional sacred music. They meet every Wednesday evening in the choir loft at 6:30 p.m. and are responsible for singing at the 10:15 a.m. Mass every Sunday from

September to June. They also sing at Christmas Eve Mass and at the Holy Week ceremonies that include Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil, and Easter morning. At these special times, it may be necessary to have extra rehearsals at the discretion of the choir director and choir. If one wishes to sing only at a special time of the year such as Christmas or Easter, it is possible to join the choir for that limited period of time. The choir may also be asked to sing at other special occasions which may occur during the church year. Anyone interested in joining the choir should contact the Rectory.

Youth Choir – The youth choir is open to children in Grade 2 and beyond. The only requirement is the desire to sing or share instrumental talents. Any young man or woman interested in joining the choir is invited to a rehearsal to see how much fun the group has and to experience the feeling of being a part of a great team. Anyone interested in participating should contact the Rectory.

Folk Group – The St. Denis Folk Group consists of adult members of the parish community who are dedicated to leading, supporting and enriching the assembly's sung prayer. The group meets every Thursday evening at 7:00pm in the choir loft of the church and is responsible for providing music at the 8:30am Mass on Sunday. Occasionally, the group is asked to

provide music for special liturgies always at the approval of the members. If music is in your heart, what better way to share your talent (voice or instrument) with others for the glory of God. Consider sharing your time and talent as the rewards will be fulfilling. Anyone interested in participating should contact the Rectory.

Liturgical Dancers

Liturgical dancing is a unique form of prayer, expressed through the art of dance. It consists of youngsters in the 4th grade or older with a desire to express their faith in a reverent and meaningful dance. Liturgical dancers are asked to dance for special occasions with practices necessary 1-2 weeks prior to the occasion. No formal dance experience is required. Call the Rectory for more information on becoming a liturgical dancer.

Bereavement Ministry

The St. Denis Bereavement Ministry has been volunteering to help the families of the deceased since All Saints Day, November 1, 1990. The Ministry volunteers support bereaved families by helping them choose hymns, liturgical readings and readers, gift bearers, eulogy formats, etc. Memorial booklets may be created and distributed at the Funeral Mass upon request, providing that all information is received in adequate time for printing. Assistance is also provided

to the celebrant at the Mass of Christian Burial. Bakers provide pastry for the collation after the family returns from the cemetery. The Ministry hosts the reception by setting up, serving the refreshments, cleaning up and packing all the remaining food for the family.

The members of this ministry are always looking for new bakers to add to their list. Each baker is asked to bake about once every tenth funeral. For more information on joining this ministry, please contact the Rectory.

Religious Education Ministries

The catechists who teach our children about our faith are an important part of our parish community. To learn more about becoming a religious education teacher, assistant teacher, substitute teacher, or about assisting the program in other ways, please turn to page 13 of this directory, or call the Rectory for further information on how to become involved.



**Religious Education
helps to build a
strong foundation**

The Sacraments

Any adult who has not received any or all of the Sacraments should call the Rectory for more information. A program is provided for children who have not received their Sacraments in the normal grade that they are offered.

Baptism

Baptism is our birth as Christians, a second birth into God's family. Baptisms at St. Denis take place on Sundays. Families celebrate this sacrament individually and by appointment only. Please call the Rectory to set up an appointment.

Eucharist

The first Eucharist is celebrated at St. Denis as part of our 2nd Grade Religious Education Program. St. Denis is committed to assisting parents in their efforts to teach children about our faith. Classes begin in September and are held every other week. Children are encouraged to participate in Masses on Sunday at 8:30am and attend a retreat in the spring. Parents are required to attend parent meetings and worship mass weekly with their families. The First Eucharist celebration is usually held in the spring on a Saturday at 11:00am. Anyone who has not received the Sacrament of Eucharist should call the Rectory for more information.

Confirmation

Confirmation is the sacrament that celebrates the presence of God's special strength and gifts in a maturing baptized person in order to become a better disciple. This sacrament strengthens the individual in the life of the Spirit and confers on a person a greater responsibility in Christian life. St. Denis celebrates this sacrament as part of the Religious Education Program. Students begin preparing for this sacrament in the 11th grade, and are confirmed by the Bishop in the fall of their senior year. Anyone who has not yet received the sacrament of Confirmation is invited to call the Rectory for information on how to do so.

Reconciliation

Reconciliation is the sacrament that has the special power to forgive our sins and renew our love for God and people. St. Denis is committed to emphasizing sorrow and repentance along with the positive and joyful aspects of going to confession. Reconciliation is celebrated at St. Denis as part of our 4th Grade Religious Education Program. Children are required to attend classes beginning in September and meet every other week. They are also encouraged to participate in Masses at 8:30am on Sunday. Parents are required to attend parent meetings as well as worship at Mass weekly with their families. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is held during the program. This sacrament is also offered to

all other grades throughout the year as well as to anyone before Mass on Saturday or by appointment. Please call the Rectory if you would like further information.

Matrimony

"A Wedding is a day, Marriage is a lifetime."

Marriage preparation helps people discover whether they are ready to share the qualities of fidelity, commitment, and permanence. St. Denis is committed to assisting in all aspects of marriage preparation. **One year's notice** is required in order to fulfill the requirements of the **Marriage Preparation Policy of the Diocese of Worcester**. Please call the Rectory to make an appointment.

Anointing of the Sick

The Anointing of the Sick is a sacrament that celebrates God's healing power and strength. This sacrament is meant not only for the terminally ill, but for those with serious illness as well. Please call the Rectory.

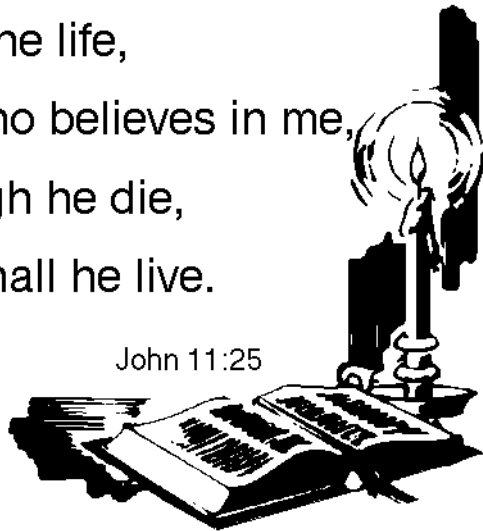


Holy Orders

The sacrament of Holy Orders is a powerful sign through which a man shares in Jesus Christ's priesthood as an ordained deacon, priest or bishop. Holy Orders is a Sacrament of Service. Please call the Rectory for more information on becoming a priest or deacon.

"I am the Resurrection
and the life,
he who believes in me,
though he die,
yet shall he live.

John 11:25



Religious Education

Teach them to carry out everything I have commanded you. And know that I am with you always. — Matthew 28:20

Religious Education Ministry

A **Religious Education Teacher** is a responsible, sensitive person who understands and enjoys the age level of the students they choose to teach. One must have good listening and communication skills. A teacher must have the ability to provide a welcoming, secure learning environment while upholding rules and regulations. He or she must also be a positive adult role model. Support is available to help the teacher achieve these goals. Optional workshops for Catechists are available throughout the year.

An **Assistant Teacher** provides the assistance needed to help the teacher achieve their goals.

A **Substitute Teacher** also meets the requirements of a teacher, but has the flexibility to step in and pick up the lesson where the teacher left off, and is willing to be called in at the last minute.

A **Volunteer** has a variety of tasks including special projects, field trips, phone calls, copying, setting up for events, cleaning up after events, assisting with program opening, baking, help with registration, etc. *(See page 21 for more volunteer opportunities.)*

For more information on how to become involved with our religious education programs, please contact the Rectory.

Religious Education Program

The Second Vatican Council states that *"Parents are the first and primary teachers of their children."* The program at St. Denis is designed to assist parents to pass our faith on to their children and to nurture mature faith in each family. All religious education classes are conducted at times that allow parents to worship at Mass with their families.

Ages 3-6: This is a time to foster an enthusiasm and openness for God and God's creation. Classes are held Sept. to May (approx. 22 classes) on Sundays from 8:20-9:20 a.m. These classes are held during the 8:30 a.m. Mass to afford the parents an opportunity to worship at Mass.

Grades 1-3: Children learn about God and Church through lessons and worship at Mass. Students will also prepare for and receive the sacrament of **First Eucharist**. These classes are held Sept. to May (approx. 14 classes) on Sundays between 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.

Grades 4-5: Students experience belonging to, contributing to, and being part of a parish community. Children will also prepare for and receive the sacrament of **Reconciliation**. Classes are held Sept. to May (approx. 14 classes) on Sundays between 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.

Grades 6-8: This is a time of transition for students. They develop a more adequate understanding of themselves and what they

know and believe. Classes are held Sept. to May (approx. 14 meetings), usually on Sundays or Mondays 6:00-8:00 p.m. Times and meeting places may vary.

Grades 9-10: Young adults develop an understanding of God and the meaning of life and faith for themselves. Classes are held Oct. to May (approx. 14 meetings), usually on Sundays or Mondays 6:00-8:00 p.m. Times and meeting places may vary.

Grades 11-12: Students will prepare for and receive the Sacrament of **Confirmation**. Classes are held Oct. to May (approx. 12 meetings), usually on Sundays or Mondays 6:00-8:00 p.m. Times and meeting places may vary. The program peaks with a weekend retreat in the fall of their senior year.

Registration

Registration for Religious Education Classes is held in the spring prior to the upcoming school year. Students are also accepted during the year. Please call the Rectory for more information.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

The RCIA is the process by which individuals interested in becoming part of the Catholic Community are prepared for reception into the church. This process is for those who are not Catholic and are interested in learning about the church and for Catholics who have not yet received one or more Sacraments. Call the Rectory for further information about the RCIA.

A Community of Faith

St. Denis is home to a variety of organizations that provide parishioners a chance to gather together and share their faith and their friendship while giving of themselves to the community.

Catholic Women's Council

The Catholic Women's Council (CWC) consists of Catholic women of the parish who meet every second Thursday evening in Keresey Hall. Monthly meetings usually start at 7:00pm and are held from September to December and March to June. The meetings begin with prayer, are conducted by the President of the Council, and consist of a business part and a social part. The Council offers guest speakers, nights of reflection, a Christmas party, retreats, and many opportunities to assist in parish activities. Each November, the CWC holds a Holiday Fair in Keresey Hall to raise money for church and community needs. Other CWC sponsored events include the Seder Supper and Mother's Love Project. The Council also hosts Confirmation, First Eucharist, and Reconciliation receptions in the hall following those services. Members of the Council are occasionally called upon by the Pastor to assist with certain parish activities. The Council welcomes new members to join in sharing the faith and talent that God has gifted them with. For information on becoming a member please contact the Rectory.

St. Anne's Society

St. Anne's Society consists of married women of the parish dedicated to increasing spiritual security through prayer to St. Anne in an effort to become better Christians. Established at St. Denis in 1888, members annually observe a triduum of devotion to St. Anne. In addition, the Society pays tribute to deceased members at their funeral Mass. For more information on becoming a member, contact the Rectory.

Slovak Catholic Sokol

The Slovak Catholic Sokol is a fraternal benefit society, recognized as "America's Greatest Slovak Gymnastics and Athletic Fraternity." *A Sound Mind in a Sound Body* is the slogan, which is fostered through physical fitness programs for every member of the family. Anyone with Slovak or Slav origin (such as Bielo, Russian, Bulgarian, Croatian, Czech, Moravian, Polish, Ruthenian, Serbian, Slovenian, or Ukranian descent) and who is a practicing Catholic, is eligible to inquire about being accepted as an insured member. With the motto "For God and Nation," this financially secure organization has provided support to help members perform educational, religious, patriotic, and benevolent activities that benefit individuals and institutions in the local communities and states. For more information, call the Rectory.

Environment Committee

The Environment Committee is a group of parishioners who wish to contribute some

time to prepare the church for the special seasons and holy days (Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter, and any special occasions). They are not a formal committee, but come together during these special times to beautify the church by planning and implementing a theme that includes colors, flowers, ornaments, etc. The Committee is always looking for interested parishioners who would like to get involved. Anyone with an appreciation for decorating should contact the Rectory.

Men's Retreat

All men of the parish, young and old, are welcome to attend a weekend retreat at the Calvary Retreat Center in Shrewsbury. The weekend usually falls sometime in February. Don't miss out on the spiritual and physical renewal that benefits every man who makes a retreat. Those who are interested in attending the Retreat should contact the Rectory.

Moms' and Tots' Social Group

Moms' and Tots' Social Group is a group of mothers with young children and infants who meet every week year-round in Keresey Hall. Activities include arts and crafts, parachute play, music/band, story time, games and snack time. During the summer months more outdoor activities are planned such as visiting zoos, parks, beaches, etc. This is a great opportunity for mom's to get together to share their experiences, concerns and to network. Anyone interested in joining the group should contact the Rectory for details.

The Gift Of Giving

St. Denis offers parishioners many different opportunities to share their blessings with the parish community and with those who are in need.

Parish Support

All parishioners should be registered as a part of our parish census. Your support by your weekly worship at Mass and your financial contribution is needed and appreciated. Printed envelopes with a personal identification number are available. Using printed envelopes enables us to keep an accurate record of your donations for tax purposes. If you have not registered or do not receive envelopes, please call the Rectory.

Bishop's Fund

Every year each parishioner in every parish of our diocese is asked to contribute to the Bishop's Fund. This fund provides direct assistance to many agencies throughout our diocese that help to support the hungry, the homeless, the frail, and the sick. Your help goes beyond that. ***Every parishioner, at some point, has benefited from the Bishop's Fund.*** Every Catholic School and Parish Religious Education program benefits from part of your gift. Marriage preparation programs, clergy, and deacon education as well as many other human service, spiritual, and educational activities exists to provide service through your goodness to this vital campaign. Every

parish has a financial goal to be met. Let us be Christ for others by sharing our God-given gifts with others through a pledge to the Bishop's Fund.

Ecumenical Food Pantry

The Food Pantry for the town of Douglas is located in the basement of the St. Denis Rectory. It is open to any resident of Douglas who is in need of assistance. Donations to the Food Pantry may be left inside the entrance to the Church. Anyone in need of assistance may call the Rectory for an appointment to use the Pantry.

Mother's Love Program

St. Denis' Mother's Love Program is sponsored by the Catholic Women's Council in association with Catholic Charities to provide assistance to single mothers or mothers at risk. The program benefits children of all ages as well as those in foster care.

During the month of May parishioners may choose a tag from the front of the church. Each tag lists a specific item needed. Unwrapped gifts are collected at the end of May for distribution. The program is designed so as not to disclose the identities of the participating families, children or parish members. Please contact the Rectory for more information.

The Christmas Giving Tree

Over the centuries, a significant number of customs and traditional observances have emerged to make the extended Christmas season one of the most colorful and festive times of the year. The most universal, the exchange of gifts, remains a central feature of this holiday season throughout the world.

Unfortunately, there are families within our own parish whose resources either hinder or limit their participation. St. Denis is able to assist these families through its sponsorship of a child through this Christmas program. Members of our parish can sponsor a specific child (gender and age) by choosing a tag from the Christmas Giving Tree. Each tag lists either an article of clothing or a toy desired by that child. In early December, the wrapped and tagged gifts are placed beneath the Giving Tree, ready for distribution to the family. The program is designed so as not to disclose the identities of the participating families, children, parish members, or program directors. Please contact the Rectory for more information.

Ongoing Needs of the Parish

St. Denis parish will always need the help of its members in a multitude of ways. Some have been listed below, many have been described in this directory, and many are waiting to be discovered. If you would like to become active in your parish community, please call the Rectory to volunteer for the following activities:

- Hospitality Volunteers
- Public Relations
- Driving Volunteers
- Photographers/Videographers
- Religious Education (*see page 13*)
- Youth Ministry
- Bakers
- Decorators
- any other service or assistance you can provide!

**Waiting for something
to turn up?
Begin with your sleeves!**

Parish Resources

St. Denis parishioners belong to a community of faith that strives to provide spiritual and social support to its members. A variety of resources are available to those individuals or organizations who need assistance or a place to meet.

Keresey Hall

Keresey Hall is used for Religious Education and many ministries within the parish. The Hall may be used by parishioners with the permission of the pastor. Please call the Rectory to make arrangements.

Bulletin Announcements

Please turn to page 3 for more information on placing announcements in our weekly bulletin.

Ecumenical Food Pantry

Please turn to page 20 for more information on St. Denis' Ecumenical Food Pantry.

Ride to Mass

St. Denis calls upon a network of volunteers to provide rides to Mass to those who may need help with transportation. Please call the Rectory if you would like assistance in getting to and from Mass.

Home Visitations

If you are shut in due to illness or age, or if you are hospitalized and cannot come to Mass, please call the Rectory for information on receiving the sacrament of Eucharist.

Notes

Prayer for Spiritual Renewal

Lord, we are your people,
the sheep of your flock.

Heal the sheep who are wounded,
Touch the sheep who are in pain,
Clean the sheep who are soiled,
Warm the lambs who are cold.

Help us to know the Father's love
through Jesus the shepherd
and through the spirit.

Help us to lift up that love,
and show it all over this land.

Help us to build love on justice
and justice on love.

Help us to believe mightily;
hope joyfully;
love divinely.

Renew us that we may help renew
the face of the earth. Amen.

