

February 21, 2021 • First Sunday of Lent

Welcome to

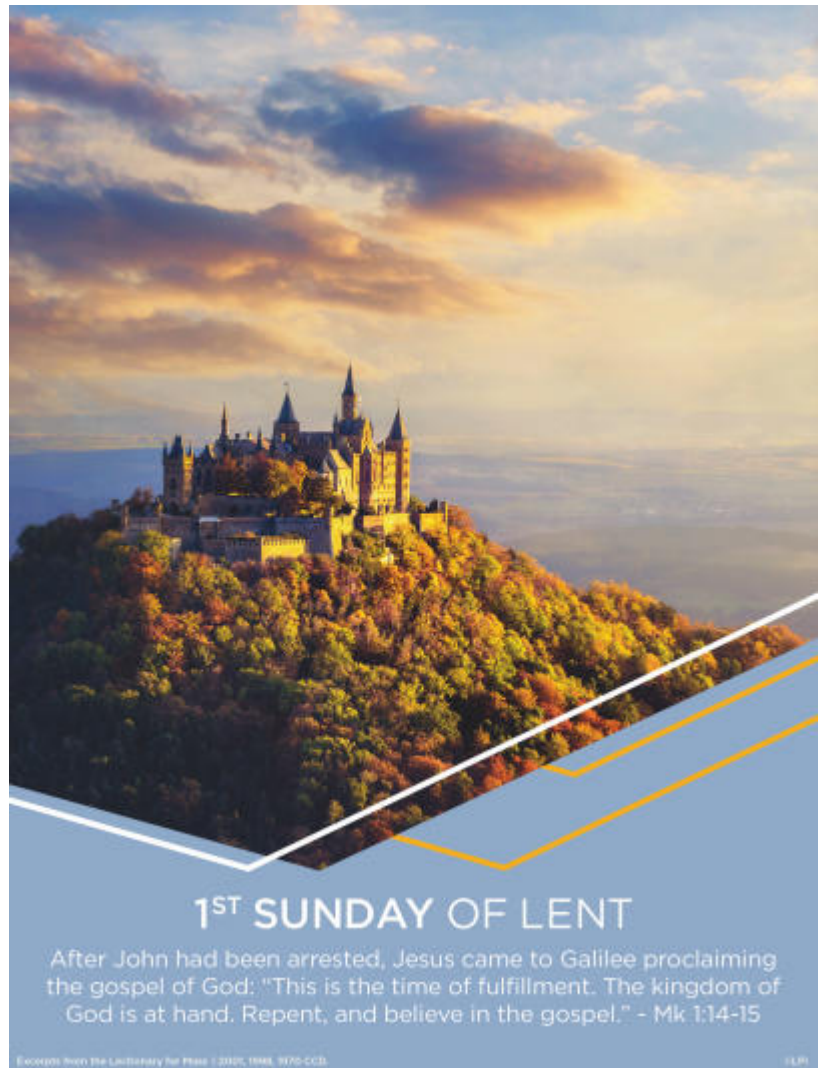
# THE COMMUNITY OF

# *Saint Denis*

*Celebrating God's Love  
for All People*

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## 1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT

After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God: "This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel." - Mk 1:14-15

Excerpt from the Lectionary for Mass © 2010, 1988, 1970-CCB

ULPI

### **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

Once I was part of a group of priests who had dinner and conversation at the home of a well known Chicago political figure. This person's pastor had asked me to join the discussion that evening. We talked about Church issues, not about local government. It was a pleasant evening.

Two or three years later we encountered a problem with some City of Chicago bureaucrats. The parish was due a service but it looked like it was never going to be completed. I wrote a letter to the politician who quickly expedited the whole matter. Out of simple courtesy, I wrote a thank you to him. It was short and to the point.

Within a day or two, I received a lengthy thank you letter from the politician thanking me for thanking him. The basic point of his letter was people always ask for services but no one ever said thank you. He was thanking me because I had said "Thank you" to him.

I was no fan of this very public figure. But I learned a lot from him that day. You can never say thank you enough.

So, I want to thank you. Thanks to our dedicated volunteers who enable us to celebrate Mass together. Thanks to our parish staff for your love of our St. Denis family. Thanks to all who are able to join us for prayer at Eucharist on Sunday and Wednesday. Thanks to all who continue to support St. Denis through your Sunday contributions. Thanks to our Grouping Team and Parish Pastoral Council members. Thanks to our catechists and liturgical ministers.

Thanks to all who pray for our parish as we await our Renew My Church decision. Thank you all.

May God bless us with health, peace, and joy,  
Fr. Ted

## Mass Intentions

Saturday	February 20, 2021 Josephine Solorio
Sunday	February 21, 2021 Casimir & Robert Skocz
Monday	February 22, 2021 Romuald S. Stankiewicz
Tuesday	February 23, 2021 Bill Rutz
Wednesday	February 24, 2021 Ken Allen
Thursday	February 25, 2021 Luis Hernandez

There are a limited number of *Little Black Books* available in English and Spanish. If you would like one of these Lenten books contact the rectory office. 773-434-3313



### *Those who are ill...*

Elida Diaz, Al Dilger, Karen Evans,  
Renee Pletsch

### *Those who serve our country...*

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

*A Prayer for “Renew My Church”*

*Lord Jesus, you speak to us today, as you spoke to holy men and women who have gone before us. In every age and in our own time, you call to us and say: Renew My Church. Pour out the gift of your Holy Spirit upon us, and so enable us to hear you clearly, to listen to each other attentively, to imagine our future boldly, to discern your direction wisely, to persevere in your holy will courageously, to stay together in charity, to surrender our own plans readily, to embrace the greater good, to hand on your gifts to future generations.*

*May we remain in the holy company of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the apostles and all the saints. May their example and presence inspire us with patient confidence in the work of your grace. We ask this of you who live and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.  
Amen.*

Office for Religious  
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January 15, 2021

Dear St. Denis Church Parish Administrator:

Greetings to you as we begin the New Year, full of hope and blessings.

I am writing to thank you for your donation of \$955.00 to the Retirement Funds for Religious. All of the religious are appreciative of this recognition of our needs.

Sincerely,  
Mary Ann Penner IHM  
Retirement Fund for Religious  
Coordinator

**Welcome to CRS Rice Bowl 2021! We are so happy you’re joining us on this Lenten journey to three countries, where we’ll learn how to help others through CRS Rice Bowl. When you donate to CRS Rice Bowl, you share your life and your abundance with our global family in need. Your generosity puts nutritious food on their tables and helps them lead healthy lives and reach their God-given potential!**

**Lord, when did we see you? —Matthew 25:38**

Matthew’s Gospel invites us to remember that we are responsible for helping all our sisters and brothers, even those who are strangers to us. When we do this, we care for Christ.

The season of Lent gives us a wonderful opportunity to reflect and make room in our hearts to welcome the stranger. Through our **prayer**, we encounter Jesus, who is present in the face of every member of our human family. When we **fast**, we encounter the obstacles that stop us from fully loving God and our neighbor. When we **give alms**, we share what we have with others.

This Lent CRS Rice Bowl takes us to three countries—Madagascar, El Salvador and Timor-Leste. Hunger and malnutrition, which happens when we don’t get the right amount of nutrients, are challenges that too many families face each day. One out of every 10 people worldwide don’t have enough to eat. Sometimes this is caused by natural disasters like floods and droughts. Other times, families don’t have enough money to buy the food they need, or the food they can get doesn’t have all the vitamins and minerals they need to stay healthy.

CRS helps communities find solutions to each of these problems. Farming families learn new skills and grow stronger, healthier harvests. Communities train health care workers so children can get regular check-ups and parents can learn new nutritious recipes to make sure their families get a balanced diet. People in vulnerable areas prepare for unpredictable weather that could destroy crops.

Jesus calls us to help those in need. Our Lenten prayers, fasting and sacrificial gifts help us answer this call.



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