

# The Pastor's Corner

## THE LAW OF THE LORD

During his pontificate, Pope Benedict XVI often spoke about the growing threat of *relativism*—the idea that each person determines their own truth, that truth is “relative” to the individual. It’s a sort of “pave your own way” or “punch your own ticket” mentality. And because it’s so subtle, it can creep even into religion and faith. What does that do to faith? It converts it from something we receive and are taught into something we construct for ourselves. In doing so, it erodes the very foundations of our faith—and even attempts to undermine its credibility.

The readings this weekend focus on a clear, challenging theme: **law**. The Law of the Lord. *Follow the law. Do what it commands, and you will live.* Even the Responsorial Psalm leans this way: “Turn to the Lord in your need, and you will live.” All of it points to one central truth: the Law of the Lord is to be trusted—and followed. There’s no way to make it plainer than that.

Yet in our modern day, God's law is often treated as optional—something for those who are “extra pious” or aiming for a spiritual 4.0 GPA. But it’s far more serious than that. The law reveals who truly chooses to love the Lord their God and their neighbor, as Christ commanded—and who does not. As Jesus Himself says in the Gospel, it is the law that will determine who enters the Kingdom of Heaven.

The Law of the Lord is not optional—but it is freeing. In following it, we find the path to eternal life. May we remain faithful to the end—not to our own version of the law, but to God’s. Then, we can have confidence that we are truly on the road to eternal life.

-Fr. Belken



**FR. BELKEN'S INSTALLATION  
AS PASTOR  
& 5TH ANNIVERSARY  
JULY 26, 2025 @ 4PM**

**DINNER AND CELEBRATION TO FOLLOW IN  
THE PARISH CENTER! COME JOIN US!**

### Readings for Next Sunday

**THE 16TH SUNDAY IN  
ORDINARY TIME**

*July 20, 2025*

**Genesis 18:1-10a  
Colossians 1:24-28  
Luke 10:38-42**

THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME · JULY 13, 2025



# Saint Lawrence

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH



1001 State Highway A, New Hamburg, MO — PO Box 247, Benton, Missouri 63736

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St. Lawrence Church – New Hamburg, Missouri  
P.O. Box 247 Benton, Missouri 63736 573-545-3317  
Rev. Daniel Belken, Pastor  
Billy Ray Johnson - Parish Office Manager

15<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time  
July 13-19, 2025  
[www.stlnh.org](http://www.stlnh.org)  
E-Mail address: [BillyRay@stlnh.org](mailto:BillyRay@stlnh.org)

Mass Schedule							
Sat.	Jul	12	4PM	David Dirnberger	Thu.	Jul	17 7AM Patrick Shelton
Sun.	Jul	13	8:30AM	Parish Family	Fri.	Jul	18 7AM Fred Essner
Mon.	Jul	14	No Mass		Sat.	Jul	19 4PM Alex Jr. & Vera Burger
Tue.	Jul	15	6PM	Jeannie Essner	Sun.	Jul	20 8:30AM Parish Family
Wed.	Jul	16	7AM	Elmer Heisserer			

**SUNDAY: OUR LADY OF FATIMA VISITATION. JUL 13** – Norma Seyer, **JUL 20** – Jackie Griffith, **JUL 27** – Pat Moore.

**SUNDAY COLLECTION:**

July 6, 2025: Loose \$184, Envelopes \$3820, Online giving: \$530, Total: \$4534.

**FRIDAY, JULY 18<sup>th</sup>, CHURCH CLEANING. Chairman: Doug & Sue Kern**  
Pat & Jan Kiefer, Jeff & Kara King, Darrell & Libby Klipfel.

**FRIDAY, JULY 18<sup>th</sup>, ADORATION.** St. Lawrence Church 7:30-1030AM.

**SATURDAY, JULY 26<sup>th</sup>, CELEBRATION FOR FATHER BELKEN INSTALLATION.** We will celebrate Fr. Belken’s Installation as Pastor of St. Lawrence and St. Denis at the 4PM Mass at St. Lawrence with Bishop Rice.  
**Celebration of Fr. Belken’s 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and fellowship with a meal to follow in the Parish Center.**

**SATURDAY, JULY 26<sup>th</sup>, 131<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL LEOPOLD PICNIC.** Old fashioned country dinner/self-serve buffet style. Gift shoppe\*Fishpond\*Games\*Homemade ice cream. 8<sup>th</sup> Annual antique tractor ride (leaves KC Hall at 10:30AM). Live music: Savage Groove 2-6PM/Old Cape Road 7:30-11:30PM.

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 10<sup>th</sup>, ST. LAWRENCE DAY CELEBRATION.** Meet and greet with the Deacons of our Diocese at 6PM followed by Potluck dinner. The parish will provide fried chicken and ham. Potluck requests A-K bring salad or vegetables, L-Z bring desserts. The Sign-up sheet for name and number attending is in the vestibule of the church. Fireworks will begin at Dark! Please join us in celebrating the past, present, and future of St. Lawrence Parish!

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6<sup>th</sup>, KERN CANCER BENEFIT.** Dinner and Trivia Night will be held in the St. Lawrence Parish Center for Brittany Mock (Kern) and Julie Kern. Any and all donations are appreciated! Trivia with

<b>Lector &amp; Communion Distributor:</b>	Sat. Jul 19 4PM	Frank Glueck
<b>Organist/Cantor:</b>	Sat. Jul 19 4PM	Bernice Kern/Mary B. Glastetter
<b>Gift Bearers:</b>	Sat. Jul 19 4PM	Mr./Mrs. Matthew Burger
<b>Servers:</b>	Sat. Jul 19 4PM	Luke Benson/Drew Benson/Rocky Burger
<b>Ushers:</b>	Sat. Jul 19 4PM	Darrell Klipfel/Floyd Klipfel/David Kluesner/Dustin Kluesner

<b>Lector &amp; Communion Distributor:</b>	Sun. Jul 20 8:30AM	Jill Pinkston
<b>Organist/Cantor:</b>	Sun. Jul 20 8:30AM	Bernice Kern/Jamie Essner
<b>Gift Bearers:</b>	Sun. Jul 20 8:30AM	Mr./Mrs. Robin Burger
<b>Servers:</b>	Sun. Jul 20 8:30AM	Brady James/Tyler Morgan/Bennett Essner/ Colin Felter
<b>Ushers:</b>	Sun. Jul 20 8:30AM	Gary Kluesner/Gary Kluesner Jr./John Kluesner/Norman Kluesner

dinner, dinner only, or carry-out tickets are available for purchase. Trivia with dinner = \$200 for 8 people, dinner only and carry-out by the quart = \$15 each or 2 for \$25. Raffle tickets will be pre-sale as well as sold the night of the event. Raffle basket tickets will only be sold on the night of the event. Doors open at 5PM and trivia begins at 7PM. Contact Jamie Kern at 573-318-4245 or Theresa Kern at 573-587-2258 to secure your entry, make donations, and /or for general questions. We hope to see you there.

**Diocesan Development Fund (DDF) REPORT.** To date our parish has given \$22,795 toward our \$24,075 goal. **We are \$1,280 from reaching the goal.** Thank You to the 89 families that have already responded! If you have not yet made your pledge, please add your gift, whatever the amount, in unity with those who have already given by returning a pledge card. The goal is to have this completed by next weekend. Thank you all again for your generous donations.

**ST LAWRENCE CELEBRATION.** We are now taking donations for fireworks for our St. Lawrence day celebration on **August 10<sup>th</sup>**. Please put in an envelope marked “Fireworks” and either drop in the collection plate or the rectory. Thanks in advance.

**CODE OF CONDUCTS.** Code of Conduct is available online or in the Parish Office to be signed for volunteers, workers, and PSR staff/teachers for the upcoming year. Please come by to sign or drop off as soon as possible. **This year again another form needs to be signed. The “Fair Credit Reporting Act” background check form also needs to be signed along with the CoC form.** Both are available online and in the Parish Office.

**FOOD PANTRY.** Summertime can be difficult for food pantries. Please consider a donation. You can put your envelope in the collection marked: Jesus in Disguise Food Pantry. Thank you.