

When it comes to experiencing "joy" there are many occasions that cause it. The birth of a new family member. The acquisition of a new "toy" or that new gadget. Perhaps it is the major milestones in someone's life. We all have some understanding of what it means to experience "joy." And yet, we also have moments by the same stroke of those things that we experience sorrow. Sometimes family lets us down. Sometimes we experience that new "toy" breaking down or failing us at some critical moment. While a great many things and people provide us with joy- it can be fleeting and transitory or easily lost. Then, we come to God, and that comes with a question- are you trusting the Lord to provide you with true joy? This may seem an odd question on the back of a bulletin, but it is one worth entertaining! Often we trust Him- but often we don't! Just look at the Gospel- many people are being released from incurable diseases. So many conditions that could not be reversed are reversed by Jesus' own hand. However, we ourselves are not directly witnessing the joy of the blind regaining sight, or the cleansing of lepers, or the dead being raised (as nice as that would be). Yet, Christ wants to provide us JOY- and that is something far more valuable especially in such darkness these days. The greatest joy is the joy of knowing- we will see all of these things happen, and much greater ones, if we are faithful and follow Christ's directions to heaven. What does trust in God providing us with this joy look like? Attending Mass without excuse. Going to confession to experience freedom. Following the commandments. Praying often- and making room in your life for silence. It is in each of these things we exercise our trust in joy that will never be taken away by broken relationships, or even by broken gadgets.

Fr. Belken

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St. Denis & St. Lawrence

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH



<p><b>St. Denis Parish</b></p>	<p><b>St. Lawrence Parish</b></p>
<p>135 N. Winchester, Benton, MO 63736 PO Box 127, Benton, MO 63736 Phone: 573-545-3864 Web: <a href="http://www.stdenisbenton.org">www.stdenisbenton.org</a></p>	<p>1001 State Highway A, New Hamburg, MO PO Box 247, Benton, MO 63736 Phone: 573-545-3317 Web: <a href="http://www.stlnh.org">www.stlnh.org</a></p>
<p><b>Pastor: Rev. Daniel Belken</b></p>	
<p>Office Manager: Lisa Spalding, <a href="mailto:lisa@stdenisbenton.org">lisa@stdenisbenton.org</a> Bookkeeper: Marilyn Burford Parish Council President: Jeff Diebold</p>	<p>Office Manager: Billy Ray Johnson, <a href="mailto:billyray@stlnh.org">billyray@stlnh.org</a> Maintenance: Henry Beussink &amp; Gerard Dirnberger Parish Council President: Gary Reischman</p>
<p><b>St. Denis School</b></p>	<p><b>Sacraments</b></p>
<p>105 N. Winchester Benton, MO 63736 Phone: 573-545-3017 Web: <a href="http://stdenisbenton.eduk12.net">stdenisbenton.eduk12.net</a> Email: <a href="mailto:lindsay@stdenisbenton.org">lindsay@stdenisbenton.org</a></p> <p>Principal: Lindsay Wikle School Board President: Mr. Glenn Collom</p>	<p><b>Saint Denis</b> Mass: Sunday at 7:00am and 10:00am Wednesday-Friday at 8:00am <b>Confessions:</b> Tuesday @ 7:00pm or by appt.</p> <p><b>Saint Lawrence</b> Mass: Saturday at 4:00pm and Sunday at 8:30am Tuesday at 6:00pm and Wednesday at 7:00am <b>Confessions:</b> Saturday @ 3:15pm or by appt.</p>

## SAINT DENIS PARISH

### MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS

Tues	16	Adoration 7-9pm
Wed.	17-8am	Danny Dumey
Thurs.	18-8am	Charles & Delphine Backfisch
Fri.	19-8am	Mike Fodge
Sun.	21-7am	Kaden Robert
Sun.	21-10am	Parish Family

#### LITURGICAL ROLES

##### Sunday December 21, 7:00am

Lector:	Stacy Marshall
EM:	Stacy Marshall
Servers:	Jaxon & Ava Welter
Servers	Eli Eftink
Greet \ Gifts:	George & Natalie Eftink

##### Sunday December 21, 10:00am

Lector:	Cheryl Essner
EM:	Jim Simmons
Servers:	River Collom, Daniel King
Servers	Alyssa Dannenmueller
Greet \ Gifts:	Curtis & Cheryl Essner

### Parish Stewardship

The Week of December 7, 2025

Envelopes:	\$5,042.00
Loose:	\$535.00
Total Collection:	\$5,577.00
Weekly Est .Budget	\$5,009.00
Difference:	+\$568.00

#### COMMITTEES AND MISCELLANEOUS ASSIGNMENTS

##### ST. DENIS PARISH

Church cleaning for Saturday, December 20:  
Sharon Hennemann, Linda Wade, Shirley Forck,  
Margie Stull

Church Decorating Committee for the month of  
December: Sandy Glaser

##### ST. LAWRENCE PARISH

Friday, December 19, Church Cleaning:  
Chairman: James & Lisa Eftink

Terry Eftink, Brian & Rhonda Enderle, Orville &  
Carolyn Enderle, Randy & Glenda Enderle

## SAINT LAWRENCE PARISH

### MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS

Tues.	16-6pm	Jeanne Essner
Wed.	17-7am	Ricky Harper
Thurs.	18-7am	Richard Bennett
Fri.	19-7am	Jeff Steger
Sat.	20-4pm	Joe, Theresa & Karl Westrich
Sun.	21-8:30am	Parish Family

#### LITURGICAL ROLES

##### Saturday December 20, 4:00pm

Lector \ EM:	Stephanie Burger
Musician:	Bernice Kern
Cantor:	Jamie Essner
Gifts:	Mr. & Mrs. Travis Estes
Servers:	Parker, Brooke & Bristol Reeves
Ushers:	Randy Kern, Darrell Klipfel, Floyd Klipfel, Patrick Kiefer

##### Sunday December 21, 8:30am

Lector / EM:	Diane Ashcraft
Musician:	Bernice Kern
Cantor:	Kari Bickings
Gifts:	Mr. & Mrs. Derek Felter
Servers:	Bennett Essner, Ty Glastetter, Callen Glastetter
Ushers:	Jeff King, Richard Kern, Robert Kern, David Kluesner

### Parish Stewardship

The Week of December 7, 2025

Envelopes:	\$5,145.00
Loose:	\$289.00
Online:	\$395.00
Total Collection:	\$5,829.00

#### READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

4th Sunday of Advent

December 21, 2025

Isaiah 7:10-14

Psalms 24-1-6

Romans 1:1-7

## ST. DENIS ANNOUNCEMENTS

“Many thanks for the prayers asked and answered during surgery and for continued healing. Also, appreciation for the many acts of kindness shown in so many ways.” *Linda Bollinger*

Would you like to remember someone at Christmas and help decorate our church? To do so, you may put \$12 in a plain envelope, write who it is given in memory of, and who it is given by. One name or family per donation please.

**GIVE BACK PUMPS AT ACEE'S.** Fuel up at Acee's in Cape (by the Sportsplex) and *St. Denis School* receives a percentage of the profits through December!!

 Please Remember in Prayer:  
*Rose Halter*

“New Hamburg Euchre Tournament will be on January 17, 2026. Cost of admission is a \$15 donation. Doors open at 5pm. Play starts at 6:30pm. There will be free chili and chicken noodle soup. You do not have to play in the tournament to come.” 

Both St. Lawrence & St. Denis will participate in the Scott County Christmas Church Tour this year on December 19, from 4:30-7:30pm. **December 14 St. Lawrence will decorate after 8:30am Mass**  
**St. Denis will decorate after 10am Mass.** All help is greatly appreciated.

**Christmas Eve Mass Schedule: 4 PM St. Lawrence, 6:15 PM St. Denis, Midnight St. Denis**  
**Christmas Day Mass Schedule: 8 AM St. Lawrence, 10 AM St. Denis**

Begging January 2026, St. Denis Parish Office and St. Lawrence Parish Office hours will be as follows: Tues. & Wed. 8:30 am -4pm, Friday 8:30am-Noon.

## ST. LAWRENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY: OUR LADY OF FATIMA VISITATION  
December 14, Norma Seyer  
December 21, Jackie Griffith

St. Anne's Sodality extends its sincere gratitude to everyone who contributed to the success of our Sweets with Santa event on Sunday, December 7th. We especially thank all the volunteers whose time, dedication, and warm spirits helped make this day truly memorable. Your support created a joyful experience for our families and our parish community. Thank you!

Thank you for your generous “Noisy Offering” donation of **\$746.80** for the Jesus In Disguise Food Pantry. Your participation and support is greatly appreciated.

St. Lawrence *Choir Practice* is Wednesday, December 17 at 6:30PM.  
St. Lawrence *PSR Christmas Program* is Sunday, December 21, following Mass in the Parish Center.