

At home there was always a dry-erase calendar on the refrigerator, and though I'll admit there was a temptation to overlook it, the function of it still remained. It was a simple way of reminding us about everything that was going to happen. There was very little question about the events, so the need was only to prepare for them!

This week we are moving into one of the central mysteries of our faith, and this Sunday in Advent has a central theme: these things will happen. A virgin shall conceive. She will bear a child. This will be a sign. It is all coming and immanent. It happened. And He will come again.

There is a necessary response though: are you and I going to believe it? Just because prophets and the Gospels record something does not mean we automatically believe. When confronted with such beautiful and joyful news- that is absolutely amazing. Yet, there is still that choice- are we going to believe, and are we going to show we believe these things will happen.

It's much like the wall calendar on the refrigerator- we know these things have happened and will happen in the future. The choice is up to us if we are going to let all of these things change our lives- and to prepare for what is still coming.

On behalf of myself, my staff, and both parishes, please know of my prayers for a blessed and holy Christmas Season for you and your loved ones. May the newborn King bless us with gifts of faith and strength to live that faith in hope as we pursue His heavenly kingdom!

-Fr. Belken

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|--|--|---|
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St. Denis & St. Lawrence

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH



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

SAINT DENIS PARISH

MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS

| | | |
|------|-----------|--------------------------------|
| Tues | 23 | Adoration 7-9pm |
| Wed. | 24-6:15pm | Louis & Anna Glastetter Family |
| Thu. | 25-12am | Parish Family |
| Thu. | 25-10am | Charles Klueppel |
| Fri. | 26- | NO MASS |
| Sun. | 28-7am | Todd Daniel |
| Sun. | 28-10am | Parish Family |

LITURGICAL ROLES

Sunday December 28, 7:00am

| | |
|----------------|--------------------------------|
| Lector: | Linda Urhahn |
| EM: | Linda Urhahn |
| Servers: | Jack Heuring, Brailey Ratledge |
| Servers | Volunteer |
| Greet \ Gifts: | Larry & Linda Urhahn |

Sunday December 28, 10:00am

| | |
|----------------|----------------------------|
| Lector: | Kay Elkins |
| EM: | Kay Elkins |
| Servers: | Tennyson White, Ella Mack, |
| Servers | River Collom |
| Greet \ Gifts: | Chance & Amy White |

Parish Stewardship

The Week of December 14, 2025

| | |
|--------------------|------------|
| Envelopes: | \$4,308.00 |
| Loose: | \$429.00 |
| Total Collection: | \$4,737.00 |
| Weekly Est .Budget | \$5,009.00 |
| Difference: | -272.00 |

COMMITTEES AND MISCELLANEOUS ASSIGNMENTS

ST. DENIS PARISH

Church cleaning for Saturday, December 27:
Shirley Forck, Connie Thorne, Earlene Lowes,
Karen Powers

Decorating Committee December: Sandy Glaser

ST. LAWRENCE PARISH

Church Cleaning for Friday, December 26:
Chairman: Carla Essner -Dustin & Amy Essner,
Carolyn Essner, Jamie & Emily Essner,
Theresa Essner, Tim Essner

SAINT LAWRENCE PARISH

MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS

| | | |
|--------|-----------|-----------------------------|
| Tues. | 23-6pm | Jeanne Essner |
| Wed. | 24-4pm | Paul & Geneva Essner |
| Thurs. | 25-8am | Earl & Henrietta Dirnberger |
| Fri. | 26- | NO MASS |
| Sat. | 27-4pm | Leonard Kluesner |
| Sun. | 28-8:30am | Parish Family |

LITURGICAL ROLES

Saturday December 27, 4:00pm

| | |
|--------------|---|
| Lector \ EM: | Cindy Glueck |
| Musician: | Linda Essner |
| Cantor: | Mary B Glastetter |
| Gifts: | Mr. & Mrs. Danny Joe Glastetter |
| Servers: | Tucker & Saylor Dirnberger, |
| Ushers: | Eli Holman Norman Kluesner, Gary Kluesner, Kyle Koepp, Tim Landewee |

Sunday December 28, 8:30am

| | |
|--------------|---|
| Lector / EM: | Sally O'Brien |
| Musician: | Linda Essner |
| Cantor: | Jamie Essner |
| Gifts: | Mr. & Mrs. David Glastetter |
| Servers: | Noah & Caleb Vetter, Colin Felter, Berkley Dirnberger |
| Ushers: | Dustin Kluesner, Gary Kluesner Jr., Wiliam Kluesner, John Kluesner |

Parish Stewardship

The Week of December 14, 2025

| | |
|-------------------|------------|
| Envelopes: | \$2,672.00 |
| Loose: | \$137.00 |
| Online: | \$100.00 |
| Total Collection: | \$2,909.00 |

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

The Holy Family of Jesus
December 28, 2025
Sir 3:2-6, 12-14
Col 3:12-21
Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

ST. DENIS ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

Thank you to all who attended and helped at the "Winter Wonderland of Treasures" Sale. The day was a huge success with the Home & School Association receiving **\$6,816.11**.

Gift card tree winner-Christy LeGrand

General Raffle Winners:

Beckham Koepp-Swing

Vicki LeGrand-\$100 Gas Card

Carla Essner-\$100 Wal-Mart Card

Yard Decor-Carolyn Hency

Christmas Decor-Tera Kelley

50/50 recipient-Dan Williams

Thank you to our Donors

| | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|
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| MKay Supply | Yvonne's |
| Boomland | Berghoff's |
| David Glueck | Las Brisas |
| Food Giant(Chaffee & Sikeston) | Port Cape |
| Sam's Club | Royal Crown |
| Schnuck's | Rosati's |
| Suzi's Bake Shop | Krispy Kreme |
| Lindsay Wikle | Pizza Inn (Sikeston) |
| JoAnn Easter | China Buffet |
| Golden Corral | |

ST. LAWRENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY: OUR LADY OF FATIMA VISITATION
December 21, Jackie Griffith
December 28, Pat Moore

St. Lawrence *PSR* Christmas Program is Sunday, December 21, following Mass in the Parish Center.

Annual St. Lawrence Sausage and Pancake Breakfast is Sunday, January 11, 8-11:30am in the Parish Center. \$10 adults, \$5 for kids ages 6-12, Five and under-FREE
Homemade sausage, eggs, pancakes and more! All are welcome!
Hosted by the St. Joseph Men's Sodality.
Butchering volunteers are needed Saturday, Jan. 10. Contact Jarret Moore for more info.

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.

Please Remember in Prayer:

Gary Garner, Lee Pattengill Jr., Charles Schwepker, Eugene Seyer,
Family of Gary Galwith

CHRISTMAS EVE MASS SCHEDULE: 4 PM St. Lawrence - 6:15 PM St. Denis
CHRISTMAS DAY MASS SCHEDULE: Midnight St. Denis - 8 AM St. Lawrence - 10 AM St. Denis

ST. DENIS CHRISTMAS LITURGY SCHEDULE: December 24, 6:15pm: Lector/EM: Gera LeGrand, Servers: Brooklyn LeGrand, Levi & Cheyenne Newton, Eli Eftink Greeters/Gifts: Curtis & Cheryl Essner
December 25, 12am: Lector: Larry Essner EM: Betty Essner, Servers: Tyson Gosche, River Collom, Jonah & Nora Hann Greeters/Gifts: Larry & Betty Essner
December 25, 10am: Lector: Bryce Morgan, EM: Jamie Burger, Servers: Ethan Diebold, Daniel King

ST. LAWRENCE CHRISTMAS LITURGY SCHEDULE: December 24, 4pm: Lector: Kynli Duenne
EM: Gary Reischman, Musician/Cantor: Choir, Gifts: Volunteers, Servers: Ty Glastetter, Callen Glastetter, Parker Reeves, Leeland Duenne
December 25, 8am: Lector/EM: Diane Ashcraft Musician/Cantor: Choir Gifts: Volunteers Servers: Drew & Luke Benson