

As a priest, some of my favorite moments in parish life are the moments of baptism. It is often such a beautiful sacrament, and as a baby is opened to the possibility of eternal life- and the hope as that child lives and grows in their faith.

Baptism, though, as we experience it, must never be mistaken as the 100% guarantee that one who is baptized will inherit eternal life. There is a rather pervasive error that is presenting itself these days- which is the belief that everyone gets into heaven, regardless of standing or morality. In some forms, it even seems to purport that one even need not be baptized to be "saved." Both of these thoughts are errant in that it dismisses the very serious result of baptism- that we are held to a new standard of living and a better way of life.

When we are baptized- or our children are baptized- it is all the more imperative that we take seriously the fact that we can either mar the appearance of sanctifying grace, or altogether obliterate it through serious sin. We can in fact lose our inheritance in heaven if we do not follow closely the teachings of the Church and the commandments. That is why reconciliation becomes so necessary- baptism has a moral standard that it upholds for us- and we should be dedicated to following it and renewing ourselves in following it as closely as we can.

Baptism begins the life of faith within our hearts, but it does not automatically assure us of heaven, regardless of what we do. Only a life lived with baptism and in communion with what it requires can allow us to enter into our promised heavenly homeland.

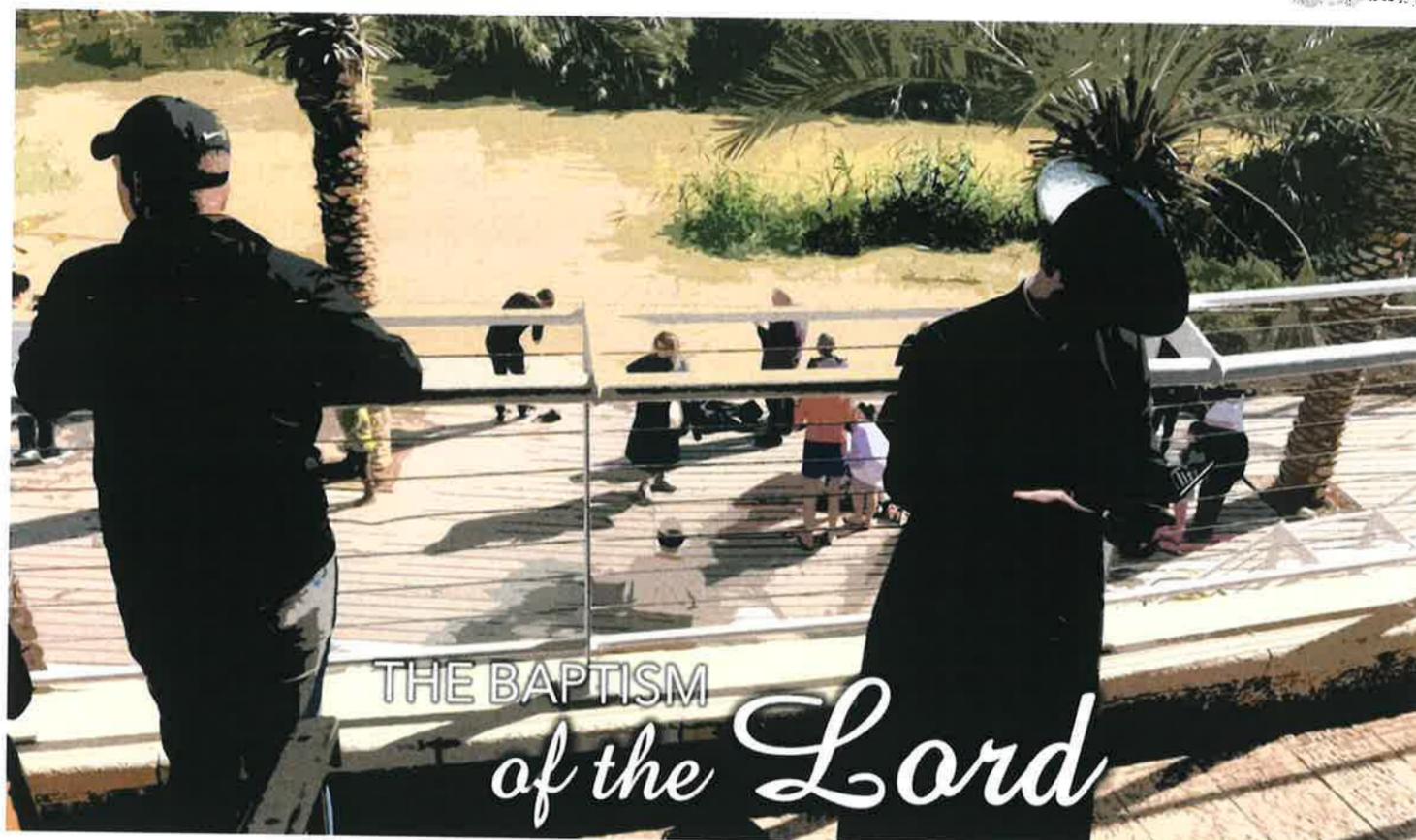
Fr. Belken

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St. Denis & St. Lawrence

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH



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

SAINT DENIS PARISH

SAINT LAWRENCE PARISH

ST. DENIS ANNOUNCEMENTS

ST. LAWRENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS

MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS

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Tues	13	Adoration 7-9pm
Wed.	14-8am	Bert Essner
Thu.	15- 8am	Joe Stuckey
Fri.	16-8am	Marvin & Mary Margrabe
Sun.	18- 7am	Robert & Emma Gaines
Sun.	18- 10am	Parish Family

Tues.	13- 6pm	Bernice Reinagel
Wed.	14- 7am	Arnold & Christina Dirnberger
Thurs.	15- 7am	Claude Rebecca Dirnberger
Fri.	16-7am	NO MASS
Sat.	17-4pm	Claude & Rebecca Dirnberger
Sun.	18-8:30am	Parish Family

LITURGICAL ROLES

LITURGICAL ROLES

Sunday January 18, 7:00am

Lector: Larry Essner
 EM: Betty Essner
 Servers: Chloe Welter, Tori Neumeyer, Tyson Gosche
 Greet \ Gifts: Larry & Betty Essner

Saturday January 17, 4:00pm

Lector \ EM: Frank Glueck
 Musician: Linda Essner
 Cantor: Mary B Glastetter
 Gifts: Mr. & Mrs. Michael Glastetter
 Servers: Clara Drake, Leelynn and Oliver Walter
 Ushers: Volunteers

Sunday January 18, 10:00am

Lector: Kay Elkins
 EM: Kay Elkins
 Servers: Alyssa Dannenmueller, Ella Mack, Jack Heuring
 Greet \ Gifts: Jim & Linda Wade

Sunday January 18, 8:30am

Lector / EM: Diane Ashcraft
 Musician: Linda Essner
 Cantor: Jamie Essner
 Gifts: Mr. & Mrs. Michael Glastetter II
 Servers: Tyson Morgan, Brady James, Paisley and Kaybree Bahr
 Ushers: Volunteers

Parish Stewardship

The Week of January 4, 2026

Envelopes:	\$9,922.00
Loose:	\$329.00
Total Collection:	\$10,215.00
Weekly Est .Budget	\$5,009.00
Difference:	+\$5,242.00

Parish Stewardship

The Week of January 4, 2026

Envelopes:	\$4,877.00
Loose:	\$211.00
Online:	\$215.00
Total Collection:	\$5,303.00

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

January 18, 2026

Is 49:3, 5-6

1 Cor 1:1-3

Jn 1:29-34

“Thank you to all the members of circles 3 & 4 who helped in any way with the Curly Klipfel funeral meal. A special thank you to the “extra” help we had. It would have been impossible without you.”
 Bev, Diane, Joann, Mary



Catholic Schools Week Breakfast will be Sunday January 25th from 7-11:30am by donation.
MO-Scholars applications are open, visit brightfuturesfund.org/springfield-cape-girardeau to apply for a scholarship to St. Denis Catholic School! Call or email Mrs. Wikle with any questions!

Ladies' Meeting Wednesday January 21, at 6pm
Men's Meeting Thursday January 22, at 6:30pm

Please Remember in Prayer: Esther Ramis, Carolyn Ward
Family of Curly Klipfel, Family of Patty Verslues

ALTAR SERVERS: If you are unable to fill your role at Mass, please find a substitute prior to Mass. Thank you for your help-Fr. Belken

Please Note: All announcements and inserts must be submitted in full to the parish office by 8am on Wednesday morning. Any submissions after this time will be considered for the next weekend.

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.



BUILDING A NEW HOUSE, OR MOVING INTO A NEW ONE? Have you ever had your house blessed, even if you've lived in it for a while? If no to any of those questions, contact Fr. Belken to have him come and bless your home! It is a great practice, especially as we celebrate Epiphany, and we welcome the Magi into the Lord's home- and the Lord into ours!

THANK YOU. We thank Father Belken for the beautiful funeral service for my husband, dad, and grandpa. We thank Bernice and Mary B. For the beautiful music and singing. We thank Dorothy and all the cooks for the delicious meal they prepared. Also, thanks to all who attended the visitation and funeral and all who sent cards, messages, flowers, food, and phone calls. Thank you all for the prayers and support during this difficult time. We are so blessed to belong to such a loving and caring community. - Eugene Seyer Family

SUNDAY: OUR LADY OF FATIMA VISITATION
January 11-Theresa Essner
January 18-Jill Pinkston

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.



COMMITTEES AND MISCELLANEOUS ASSIGNMENTS
ST. DENIS PARISH
 Church Cleaning for Saturday, January 17:
 LaDonna Gregory, Rick & Cheri Klipfel, Garrett & Amy Stricker
 Decorating Committee for January:
 Maryiln Schlosser

ST. LAWRENCE PARISH
 Church Cleaning for Friday, January 16:
 Chairman: Frank & Cindy Glueck
 Alice Gosche, Steve & Jackie Griffith, Chris & Sherri Grojean