

We've all heard the phrase "the devil made me do it!" Now, usually that is said in jest, but there is a spiritual reality to part of this- the devil is always at work trying to make us slip and fall. Now, he can't force us to do anything, but it is true he desires us to fail.

The temptations of Jesus can be a little confusing, because it seems very odd that the devil would have the audacity to tempt Jesus. He does- partially because of his own pride, but also because of his misunderstanding the humanity of Jesus and its interaction with His divinity. He expected Jesus to be easier to tempt. It is still a very odd situation because we would not expect him to be so brazen- but he is the one who thought himself better than God!

For us, as we look at the temptations- we should be aware of two realities: first, that our humanity struggles much more than Jesus, because we struggle with concupiscence (the desire and predisposition to sin). The other factor that we should be aware of is that our set of temptations is unique and particular to each of us. While the devil cannot read our thoughts he can watch us and send us temptations and things to get us away from God, and in ways that we may struggle with more than others. He will watch our weaknesses and will use them against us! We do have something better though- and that is the strength and grace that Jesus gives us.

This Sunday, as we watch Jesus being tempted in the desert, may we be filled with strength and resilience against sin, and the awareness the devil really does want us to do it- even if he cannot force us to "do it!"

~Fr. Belken



St. Denis & St. Lawrence

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH



| | | | | | |
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| <p>One-on-one answers to your Medicare questions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shana Kight 573-450-8066 Doris Breyneyer 573-545-4253 Rhonda Ratledge 573-979-4537 <p>Medicare Supplements Medicare Advantage Plans Part D Plans</p> | | <p>COPE</p> <p>Small Animal Clinic</p> <p>(573)-334-5073</p> | | <p>25 W Tywappity 573-313-9200</p> | |
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| <p>Ronald Schlosser Excavating Co</p> <p>Excavating > Land Clearing > Farm Work</p> <p>Since 1960 > Benton, MO 545-3360</p> | | <p>SCOTT CITY ANIMAL CLINIC</p> <p>Jeff Shively DVM</p> <p>1904 Main Street</p> <p>Scott City, MO</p> <p>573-264-3455</p> | | <p>WADE'S AUTO PLUS</p> <p>For all your transportation needs!</p> <p>545-4402</p> | |
| <p>Benton Pharmacy</p> <p>6468 STATE HWY 77, BENTON, MISSOURI</p> | | <p>Our providers are accepting new patients!</p> <p>MISSOURI DELTA BENTON COMMUNITY CARE CENTER</p> <p>Amber Thorne, FNP-BC Family Nurse Practitioner</p> <p>Juliana Jones, PMHNP-BC Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner</p> | | <p>Pam Dannemueller</p> <p>573-887-1081</p> <p>Edge Realty 573-620-6054</p> | |
| <p>Caleb Seyer</p> <p>Owner</p> <p>573-887-4395</p> <p>calebseyer19@gmail.com</p> <p>1504 County Hwy 415 Oran, MO 63771</p> | | <p>GATEWAY SEED</p> <p>It Doesn't start with the seed. It starts with the farmer.</p> <p>200 Industrial Drive Advance, MO 63730</p> <p>573-258-0290</p> <p>www.gatewayseed.com</p> | | <p>AMICK-BURNETT FUNERAL CHAPEL</p> <p>Benton, Chaffee, Oran & Scott City</p> | |

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

SAINT DENIS PARISH

MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS

| | | |
|------|--------|------------------------------|
| Tues | 3 | Adoration 7:30-9pm |
| Wed. | 4-8am | Catherine Young |
| Thu. | 5- 8am | Bert Essner |
| Fri. | 6-8am | Melissa Shively |
| Sat. | 7-8am | Brian Vetter |
| Sun. | 8-7am | Charles & Delphine Backfisch |
| Sun. | 8-10am | Parish Family |

LITURGICAL ROLES

Sunday March 8, 7:00am

Lector: Betty Essner
EM: Larry Essner
Servers: Jaxon & Ava Welter
 Chloe Welter
Greet \ Gifts: Larry & Betty Essner

Sunday March 8, 10:00am

Lector: Gera LeGrand
EM: Gera LeGrand
Servers: Alexander, Gabriel & Roslen Mack
Greet \ Gifts: Vanessa Koepp, Bryce Morgan

Parish Stewardship

February 22, 2026

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|--------------------|------------|
| Envelopes: | \$5,005.00 |
| Loose: | \$157.00 |
| Total Collection: | \$5,162.00 |
| Weekly Est .Budget | \$5,009.00 |
| Difference: | +\$153.00 |

ST. DENIS PARISH

Church Cleaning for Saturday, March 7:
 Carole Messmer, Ann Bond, Julie Burger,
 Rebecca Burger
 Decorating Committee-March: Beth Uelsmann

SAINT LAWRENCE PARISH

MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS

| | | |
|-------|----------|-------------------------------|
| Tues. | 3- 6pm | Bernice Reinagel |
| Wed. | 4- 7am | Coonie Essner |
| Thurs | 5- 7am | Herman Dirnberger Family |
| Fri. | 6-7am | Arnold & Christina Dirnberger |
| Sat. | 7-4pm | Liv/Dec Mbrs Al & Rose Kern |
| Sun. | 8-8:30am | Parish Family |

LITURGICAL ROLES

Saturday March 7, 4:00pm

Lector \ EM: Gary Reischman
Musician: Krista Kluesner
Cantor: Krista Kluesner
Gifts: Mr. & Mrs. Norman Joe Heuring
Servers: Owen Asmus, Colin Felter,
 Mila Burger

Sunday March 8, 8:30am

Lector / EM: Shannon Schumer
Musician: Krista Kluesner
Cantor: Krista Kluesner
Gifts: Mr. & Mrs. Jared Holloway
Servers: Leelyn & Oliver Walter,
 Vanellope DeShaney

Parish Stewardship

February 22, 2026

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|-------------------|------------|
| Envelopes: | \$2,215.00 |
| Loose: | \$123.00 |
| Online: | \$195.00 |
| Total Collection: | \$2,533.00 |

ST. LAWRENCE PARISH

Church Cleaning for Friday, March 6:
 Chairman: Floyd & Carol Klipfel
 Zac & Amanda Johnson, Billy & Stacy Johnson,
 Dale Kern, Neal Kern

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY-MARCH 8, 2026

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

Exodus 17:3-7
 Romans 5:1-2, 5-8
 John 4:5-42



ST. DENIS ANNOUNCEMENTS

St. Denis Dinner Auction News:

Limited Tickets Available!

Date: March 7th

To Purchase Tickets

Contact Natalie Eftink at 573-887-1317

"Sweet Treats"

may be dropped off at school in the
 7th & 8th grade classroom Friday,
 March 6, 2 PM- 6 PM or Saturday,
 March 7, 10 AM-Noon.

St. Denis Kindergarten & PreSchool

LET YOUR CHILD EXPLORE, CREATE, AND SHINE WITH US!

Limited seats available for next year!

- 5 Openings in Kindergarten
- 8 Openings in 4s
- 6 Openings in 3s
- 2s and Infants -waitlist
- Upper Grades Open for Tours and Enrollment!

Call or email to set up a personal tour of our revitalized campus!
573.545.3017

lindsay@stdenisbenton.org
donna@stdenisbenton.org

"Thank you to all the parishioners in Circle 4 for all your help in keeping the church clean. You are greatly appreciated." JoAnn

Please Remember in Prayer: Mary Beth Evans, Roger Glueck, John Lix



STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Fridays of Lent, 1pm at St. Denis (with school), 7pm at St. Lawrence
 Confessions will follow immediately after the Stations at each parish.

LENTEN MISSION - "FULLY ALIVE"

Tuesdays of Lent at 7pm in St. Denis Church

Come join us during this Lent for very short sessions (<30 mins each) to receive encouragement on how to become more fully alive this Lent!
 Optional times of Adoration and Confessions follow until 9pm.

Reminder: All Fridays of Lent are days of Abstinence- meaning that they are meatless. This is binding from all Catholics over the age of 14 years old!

ST. LAWRENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY: OUR LADY OF FATIMA VISITATION

March 1-Jackie Griffith

March 8-Pat Moore

Signup sheet is in the back of church for working the Church's Lenten Fish Fry on March 6th.

Rabies Vaccination Clinic- Saturday,

April 18- { \$15 shots} 11 AM-Noon
 -New Hamburg ballpark pavilion behind old school
 -Dr. Brian Heuring and Cape Small Animal Clinic will administer the discounted pet vaccines. Debit/credit cards accepted as WiFi allows, cash, or checks please.

St. Lawrence Daddy Daughter Dance

Saturday, March 28, 5:30 PM – 8:30 PM

St. Lawrence Parish Center

Theme: Denim & Diamonds

Deadline: March 21-Cost: \$20 per person

Late Registration (after March 21):

\$25 per person

For questions please contact

Ashley Lasters: 573-887-1383

Ashley Dirnberger: 573-837-7763

