

You really don't have to look far in this world to discover how much darkness there really is. The divide between political parties, the complete devaluing of life, at any moment, the removal of Gospel values from public life. We see sin being celebrated and even enshrined in various ways, and it seems like hatred and selfishness are the creeds that we see presented online and even in person to some extent. Amongst many, many social issues, amongst great hopelessness, and amongst great evil and tragedies in our time- and we stand in the midst of them.

I always go back to a line in the Lord of the Rings, in the midst of such times. Frodo, in speaking to Gandolf- his wizardly mentor- expresses great sorrow that he had been given such a great task and lived in such times. Gandolf gently reminded him that it was not up to him to choose the time nor the task- but simply to choose what was able to be done with the time and task given him.

I fear that at times it can be too easy for us to lose hope or even lose sight of what we are to do in the midst of our times. Maybe we feel our culture is too far gone. Maybe evil too rampant. Perhaps we should just wish for the second coming.

Or... we can do as the Gospel reminds us. We are meant to be light- even in the midst of such great darkness. Perhaps by being light- by being holy, and by being people formed in virtue and intentional in our relationship with God- we will find ourselves turning the tide against such dark times.

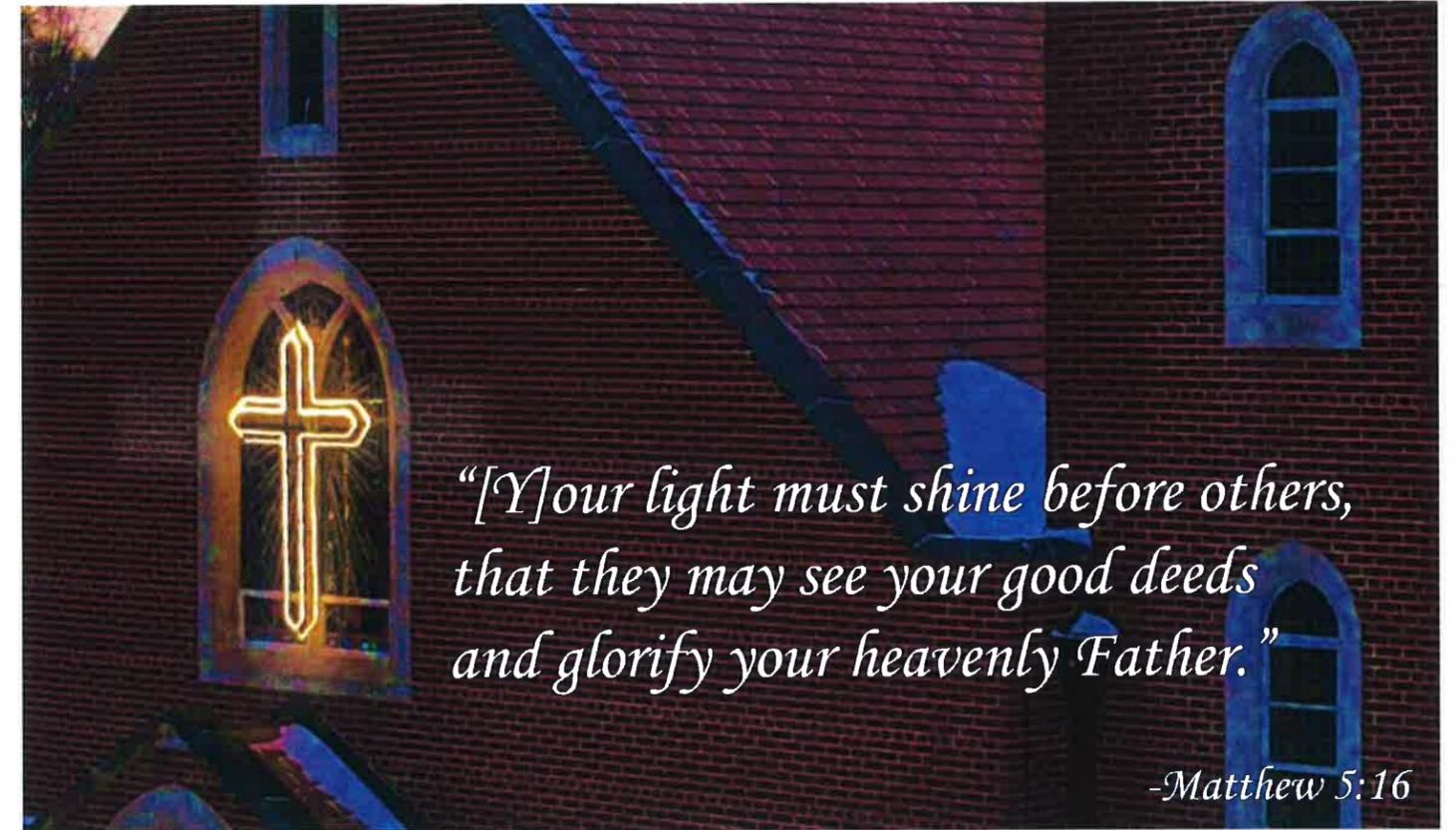
Fr. Belken

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St. Denis & St. Lawrence

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH



*"[Y]our light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father."*

-Matthew 5:16

<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: Mrs. Lisa Spalding, <a href="mailto:lisa@stdenisbenton.org">lisa@stdenisbenton.org</a> Bookkeeper: Mrs. Marilyn Burford Parish Council President: Mr. Jeff Diebold</p>	<p>Office Manager: Mr. Billy Ray Johnson, <a href="mailto:billyray@stlnh.org">billyray@stlnh.org</a> Maintenance: Mr. Henry Beussink &amp; Mr. Gerard Dirnberger Parish Council President: Mr. 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> Principal: Mrs. Lindsay Wikle Parish &amp; School Maintenance: Mr. Larry Essner 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**

**SAINT LAWRENCE PARISH**

**ST. DENIS ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**ST. LAWRENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS**

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Tues	10	Adoration 7-9pm
Wed.	11-8am	Mike Fodge
Thu.	12- 8am	Charlie & Rose Ann Scherer
Fri.	13-8am	Lois Spalding
Sun.	15-7am	Marvin & Mary Margrabe
Sun.	15-10am	Parish Family

Tues.	10- 6pm	Alex Jr. & Vera Burger
Wed.	11- 7am	Don & Dennis Gosche
Thurs	12- 7am	Alex Jr. & Vera Burger
Fri.	13-7am	Liv & Decd Tim Essner Family
Sat.	14-4pm	Donna Bucher
Sun.	15-8:30am	Parish Family

**LITURGICAL ROLES**

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**Sunday February 15, 7:00am**

**Lector:** Tim LeGrand  
**EM:** Elaine Proctor  
**Servers:** Gabriel & Alexander Mack  
**Greet \ Gifts:** Robert & Tutti Gosche

**Saturday February 14, 4:00pm**

**Lector \ EM:** Cindy Glueck  
**Musician:** Bernice Kern  
**Cantor:** Mary B Glastetter  
**Gifts:** Mr. & Mrs. Randal Grojean  
**Servers:** Leeland & Oliver Walter, Tyler Jackson

**Sunday February 15, 10:00am**

**Lector:** Stacy Marshall  
**EM:** Jim Simmons  
**Servers:** Payton & Rylan Simmons, Tate Shively  
**Greet \ Gifts:** Jeff & Jenny Shively

**Sunday February 15, 8:30am**

**Lector / EM:** Jill Pinkston  
**Musician:** Bernice Kern  
**Cantor:** Jamie Essner  
**Gifts:** Mr. & Mrs. Chris Grojean  
**Servers:** Tyler Morgan, Brady James, Owen Asmus, Oliver Beck

**Parish Stewardship**

February 1, 2026

Envelopes:	\$8,635.00
Loose:	\$345.62.00
Total Collection:	\$8,980.62
Weekly Est .Budget	\$5,009.00
Difference:	+\$3,971.62

**Parish Stewardship**

February 1, 2026

Envelopes:	\$4,752.00
Loose:	\$109.00
Online:	\$420.00
Total Collection:	\$5,281.00

**St Denis Men's Breakfast**

Sunday February 8, 7:30-11:30 AM

**All you can EAT**

**Good Will Donation**

Homemade Pork Sausage, Ham, Eggs, Biscuits & Gravy & Fruit Salad



**MO-Scholars applications close on April 2nd, visit [brightfuturesfund.org/springfield-cape-girardeau](http://brightfuturesfund.org/springfield-cape-girardeau) to apply for a scholarship to St. Denis Catholic School! Call or email Mrs. Wikle with any questions!**

**Please Remember in Prayer:**  
**Doug Ressel, Virginia Ross,**  
**Family of Janice Beardslee,**  
**Family of Eric Stover**



**SUNDAY: OUR LADY OF FATIMA VISITATION**

February 8-Margaret Heuring

February 15-Terri Stuckey

**St. Lawrence Brown Bag Fundraiser**

Sunday, March 1st.

**Pre-order by Feb. 15th.** Pick up is March 1st, **10:30am to Noon.** Price is **\$15.00.** Pay at time of pick up. Cash or check accepted only! 12 oz. Chicken & Dumplings, Slaw, Green Beans, Roll & Cookie. Email: [karaking43@hotmail.com](mailto:karaking43@hotmail.com) Respond on St. Anne's Sodality Facebook page, drop off form at Parish Office or give to parishioner to order!

The family of Dennis Heuring would like to thank all for their kind words and compassion during our days of mourning. Thank you to Father Belken and Msgr. Varone for officiating a beautiful Mass, to Bernice Kern and Mary Glastetter for the heartfelt music, and to the servers who made our family so proud. St. Anne's Sodality, thank you for another delicious meal, and to all who sent food, cards, flowers, and kind words. A special thank you to Jason Grojean and all who helped with clearing snow and ice around the Parish Center and cemetery. Most importantly, we want to thank all who over the years showed Dennis so much love and kindness.

**The Dennis Heuring Family**

**Please bring in any old palms to be burned by Fr. Belken to use for Ash Wednesday. Baskets will be in the foyer at St. Denis and St. Lawrence.**

**ST. DENIS PARISH**

Church Cleaning for Saturday, February 14:  
 June Worth, Stephanie Yamitz, Gera LeGrand  
 Decorating Committee for January:  
 Lisa Neumeyer

**ST. LAWRENCE PARISH**

Church Cleaning for Friday, February 13:  
 Chairman: Chris & Beth Kern  
 Dustin & Nancy Kluesner, David & Dolly Kluesner, David & Robin Kern

**READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY-FEBRUARY 15, 2026**

**THE 6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

Isaiah 58:7-10  
 1 Corinthians 2: I-5  
 Matthew 5:13-16

**This Lenten season**, the SEMO Knights of Columbus will be hosting a **Hygiene Kit Supplies Drive, February 15 to March 19th.** Supplies will be assembled into kits and donated to the homeless in our community. You can support the homeless by donating: **-A bar of soap-A Washcloth-Stick Deodorant-Shampoo (Travel Size) -An unopened toothbrush-Toothpaste-Tampons or pads-A comb.** The more items we can collect, the more people we can serve! Thank you for your generosity. **All donations can be brought to the St. John Henry Newman Center between 10:00am and 5:00pm, or before or after Holy Mass at 9:30am and 6:00pm.**