

If a power outage has ever caught you by surprise, you know the feeling of walking around in the dark. It is such a strange feeling, because as you stumble around looking for a flashlight, it seems that things in the house aren't quite where they were in the light. That table in the hallway seems to have moved a few inches. There are toys where there weren't. Things topple as we bounce around trying to find our way- until we finally find a flashlight, or the power comes back on.

The Gospel deals with a man that was blind from birth. This was a physical ailment, and the disciples saw this, and asked "who sinned?" In their minds, an ailment such as this could only be caused by someone's sin. God was punishing them! However, Jesus illumines that this man is not blind because of sin- but that God might shine through in Him. He opens not just the eyes of the blind man, but the disciples' eyes to what He was about and what He was trying to accomplish.

We have a couple of ways that we need our eyes opened as well- or a flashlight in our hands. First, we do need to see that sin does cause "blindness" if left unchecked. If we drift away from the sacraments, or from the Church, or even just taking our faith and the teachings of the Church seriously, it is as if we are walking around spiritually blind. Only Christ can cure that. Second, we need our eyes opened at times to what Christ is doing- especially in the moments we may not understand- when we grieve, or experience loss, or we encounter difficulty. Pray in those moments to see- to have a flashlight of Christ's glory to see the bigger picture.

Even in the moments the power is out- we need not be in the dark. Instead, let Christ illumine your hearts and your mind.

~Fr. Belken



St. Denis & St. Lawrence

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH



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<p>Caleb Seyer Owner 573-887-4345 calebseyer19@gmail.com 1504 County Hwy 423 Oran, MO 63771</p>		<p>GATEWAY SEED It Doesn't start with the seed. It starts with the farmer. 200 Industrial Drive Advance, MO 63730 573-258-0200 www.gatewayseed.com</p>		<p>St. Denis School 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</p>	
<p>Would you like to advertise here?? Call us at 573-545-3864!</p>		<p>Sacraments</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>			

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

SAINT DENIS PARISH

MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS

Tues	17	No Mission or Adoration
Wed.	18-8am	Kevin Bollinger
Thu.	19- 8am	Ervin & Bertha Dumey
Fri.	20-8am	Steve Ross
Sun.	22-7am	Clara LeGrand
Sun.	22-10am	Parish Family

LITURGICAL ROLES

Sunday March 22, 7:00am

Lector: Linda Urhahn
EM: Larry Urhahn
Servers: Daniel King, Nova Wikle

Greet\ Gifts: Larry & Linda Urhahn

Sunday March 22, 10:00am

Lector: Sandy Glaser
EM: Pam Dannenmueller
Servers: Alyssa Dannenmueller, Emmayln Care
Greet\ Gifts: Kevin & Sandy Glaser

Parish Stewardship

March 8, 2026

Envelopes:	\$3,344.00
Loose:	\$95.00
Total Collection:	\$3,439.00
Weekly Est .Budget	\$5,009.00
Difference:	-\$1570.00

SAINT LAWRENCE PARISH

MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS

Tues.	17- 6pm	No Mass
Wed.	18- 7am	Arnold & Christina Dirnberger
Thurs	19- 7am	Andrew Dirnberger
Fri.	20-7am	End to Persecution of Christians and Jews
Sat.	21-4pm	Leonard Kluesner
Sun.	22-8:30am	Parish Family

LITURGICAL ROLES

Saturday March 21, 4:00pm

Lector \ EM: Gary Reischman
Musician: Bernice Kern
Cantor: Kari Bickings
Gifts: Mr. & Mrs. Steve Holman
Servers: Leigha & Tucker Estes, Willow Bickings

Sunday March 22, 8:30am

Lector / EM: Diane Ashcraft
Musician: Bernice Kern
Cantor: Jamie Essner
Gifts: Mr. & Mrs. Derek Irwin
Servers: Drew, Kinsey & Ty Essner

Parish Stewardship

March 8, 2026

Envelopes:	\$2,579.00
Loose:	\$323.00
Online:	\$310.00
Total Collection:	\$3,212.00

ST. DENIS ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you would like to remember someone at Easter, and help decorate church, please put an offering of \$12 in an envelope, write who the flowers are given in memory of, & given by. One name per donation.

Parish Organization Meetings

Ladies' Sodality: Wed. March 18- 6 PM
Confirmation Class: Wed. March 18- 7PM
Men's Sodality: Wed. March 25- 6:30 PM

"Thank you to all the bakers of/for St Denis. We had 108 sweet treats! The winner of the keepsake spoon was the one and only **Patsy Moore** for her carrot cake in remembrance of her sister Dorothy Heuring that went for \$148.00. Thank you so much, Crystal Gosche"

For anyone who questions the value of our church family and friends, their prayers and support, please rethink. It is one of our greatest gifts! Many thanks from **Linda Bollinger & Family**

Signup sheet is in the back of church for working St. Denis Lenten Fish Fry March 27. **Signup sheet** also for Parish Day Time workers needed throughout the year.

The **Deanery 6 Council of Catholic Women** March Retreat is Saturday, March 21, at St. Vincent Catholic Church. **Stations of the Cross** at 8:30am. followed by **registration, breakfast, guest speaker, & meeting**. All ladies of both parishes are invited to join for prayer & fellowship!

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

Please Note: There will be no talk, adoration, or confessions on March 17th due to Bishop Leibrecht's 70th anniversary Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral in Cape Girardeau at 7pm. The last session for this Lent is on March 24: How Lent Restores our Freedom
Optional times of Adoration and Confessions follow until 9pm.

ST. LAWRENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY: OUR LADY OF FATIMA VISITATION
 March 15-Mary F. Glastetter
 March 22-Theresa Essner

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



Friday, March 20 at 7 pm
Stations - "Mary's Way of the Cross" at St. Lawrence. Everyone is invited to attend!

Thank you to all who helped with the Fish Fry & Bake Sale last Friday at the KC Hall. It was a huge success!

Please Remember in Prayer: Mary Beth Evans, Jasmine Lee, Monroe LeGrand, Verneda LeGrand, John Lix, Donna Shelton

ST. DENIS PARISH

Church Cleaning for Saturday, March 21:
 Rhonda Ratledge, Caroa Hopkins, Jenny Pinkston,
 Tori Burger
 Decorating Committee-March: Beth Uelsmann

ST. LAWRENCE PARISH

Church Cleaning for Friday, March 20:
 Chairman: Kerry & Ashley Lasters
 Earlene Menz, Doug Lynn, Steve & Judy Lynn,
 Ethen & Carissa Maddox, Richy & Jennifer Johnson

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY-MARCH 22, 2026

THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT
 1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a
 Ephesians 5:8-14
 John 9:1-41

