

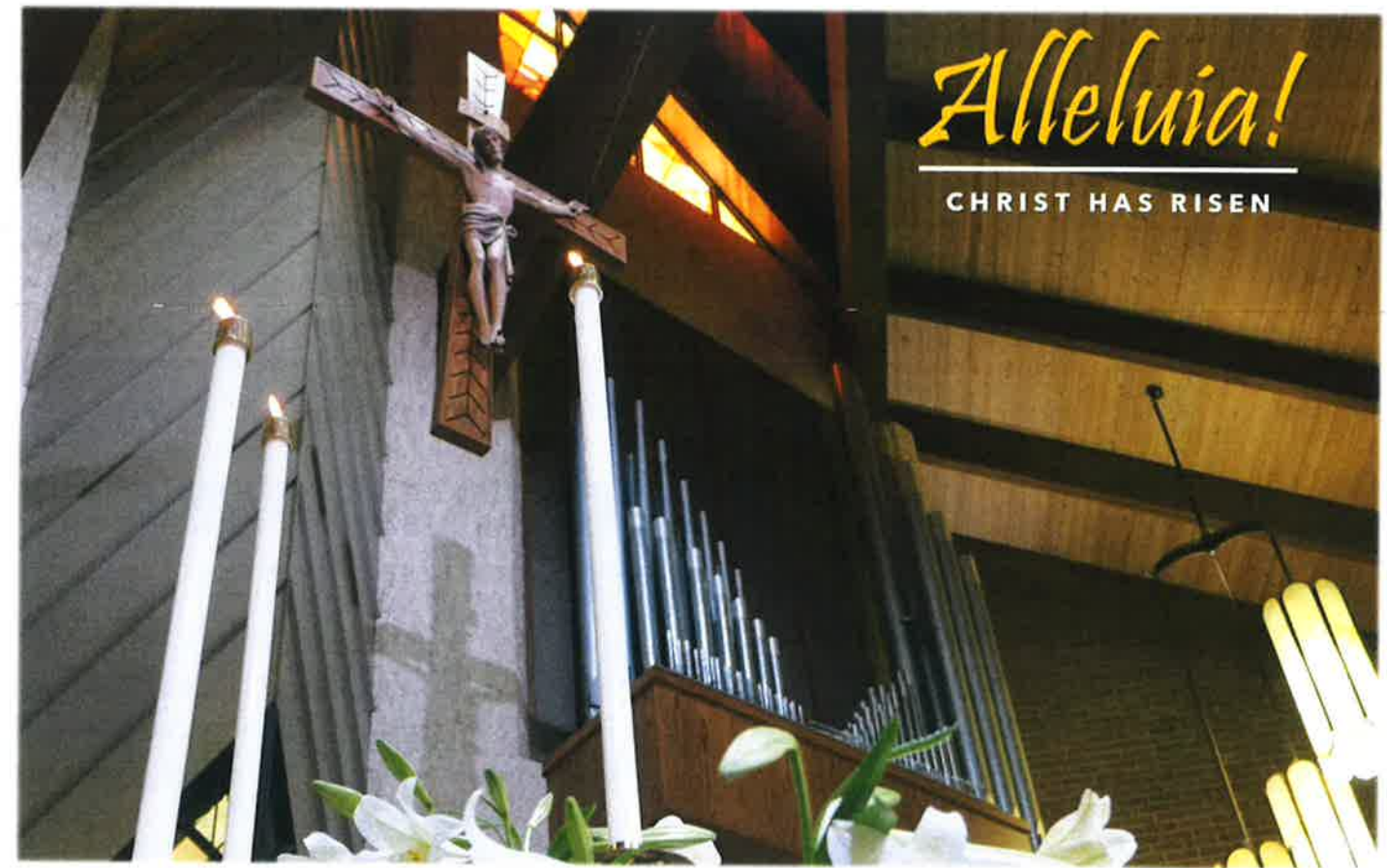
As we enter into this sacred season of Easter, it is supposed to be a season of joy and of triumph for all of us. We have an easier time with this in many respects, whether it is the beautiful way our churches have been decorated, or the familiar hymns, and perhaps even the slight warmth of the smell of incense. Yet, even as this happens for us, the perspective of the disciples is not something we should miss. The Gospel today tells us that they "saw, and they believed" even though they had not yet understood what was to take place. This gives us an idea of what they were feeling- that there was an air of mystery to this moment, as they tried to wrap their heads around what had happened, even as they grappled with great sorrow. That great triumph was met with their sorrows and their difficulties.

It can be tempting for some of us to write off the joy of the Easter season. Perhaps we feel we didn't "do Lent" as best as we could've. Perhaps we are stuck in sorrow from a loss or from the hard life has dealt us. Maybe we just feel that the Resurrection is much ado about nothing, or at least that is the way our heart receives it. The thing about this line from the disciples- they "saw and they believed": it tells you and I something important. The Resurrection came to meet our particular life- and our struggles, and even the things we suffer and feel no one else sees. The power of Christ's Resurrection comes to encounter us in these places- we may see all that is going on in the church during this season, may we receive the grace to also believe it has come to save us in particular.

On behalf of myself, and all my staff: Happy Easter. May you experience the joy of our risen Savior in a new way- and may He truly set you free!

~Fr. Belken

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

MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS

Tues	7	No Adoration \ Confessions
Wed.	8	No Mass
Thu.	9-8am	Melissa Shively
Fri.	10-8am	Charles & Delphine Backfisch
Sun.	12-7am	Collin Crocket
Sun.	12-10am	Parish Family

LITURGICAL ROLES

2nd Sunday of Easter, April 12, 7:00am

Lector: John Felter
 EM: John Felter
 Servers: Tennyson White, Tate Shively

 Greet \ Gifts: Greg & Denise Menz

2nd Sunday of Easter April 12, 10:00am

Lector: First Communicants
 EM: Pat Moore
 Servers: Payton & Rylan Simmons, Ella Mack
 Greet \ Gifts: Karen Powers, Stacy Marshall

Parish Stewardship

March 29, 2026

Envelopes:	\$4,273.00
Loose:	\$198.00
Total Collection:	\$4,471.00
Weekly Est .Budget	\$5,009.00
Difference:	-\$538.00

ST. DENIS PARISH

Church Cleaning for the Month of April:
 Circle 6: Chairlady-Linda Bollinger
 Decorating Committee-April: Mary Young

A special welcome to all visitors with us today. Please know you are always welcome to call our parishes home. Happy Easter- He is Risen, as He promised! May the joy of His Resurrection fill your hearts!

SAINT LAWRENCE PARISH

MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS

Tues.	7	No Mass
Wed.	8	No Mass
Thurs	9- 7am	Coonie Essner
Fri.	10-7am	Barbara Dirnberger
Sat.	11-4pm	Donna Bucher
Sun.	12-8:30am	Parish Family

LITURGICAL ROLES

Saturday, April 11, 4:00pm

Lector / EM: First Communicants
 Musician: Bernice Kern
 Cantor: Mary B Glastetter
 Servers: Mila Burger, Owen Asmus, Colin Felter, Paisley Bahr

2nd Sunday of Easter, April 12, 8:30am

Lector / EM: Sally O'Brien
 Musician: Bernice Kern
 Cantor: Kari Bickings
 Servers: Luke & Drew Benson, Tyler Morgan, Brady James

Parish Stewardship

March 29, 2026

Envelopes:	\$2,629.00
Loose:	\$163.00
Online:	\$650.00
Total Collection:	\$3,442.00

ST. LAWRENCE PARISH

Church Cleaning for Friday, April 10:
 Chairman: Greg & Rhonda Riley
 Steve Riley, Marilyn Schlosser, Shannon & Crystal Schumer, Mike & Linda Senciboy, Andy and Michelle Silman

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY-APRIL 12, 2026

THE 2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER (DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY)

Acts 2:42-47
 1 Peter 1:3-9
 John 20:19-31

ST. DENIS ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please Note: The St. Denis Parish Office will be closed this week for Easter.

Thank you Father Belken and everyone who helped in any way to make the funeral Mass for Paul Essner so special. We appreciate all who attended the visitation and funeral. Thanks also to the ladies of the parish for the delicious meal. We are truly blessed to belong to such a wonderful, loving and caring community. *The Paul Essner Family*

A special thank you to our catechists, Cheri Vetter and Gera LeGrand, for your work with our OCIA Candidates, who entered the Church Saturday. Congratulations to all who have joined our parishes!



*A Blessed Easter to All!
 He is Risen- He is Risen Indeed!*



**“St. Denis Easter Egg Hunt” is Easter Sunday after 10 AM Mass.
 “St. Lawrence Easter Egg Hunt” is Easter Sunday after 8:30 AM Mass.**



**Please Remember in Prayer,
 Jasmine Lee
 The family of Mary Alice Schweer**



If you would like to remember someone at Easter at St. Denis or St. Lawrence Parish, 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.



FIRST COMMUNION NOTES

Please keep our first communicants in prayer as they prepare for the sacrament!
 Celebrations of First Communion:

April 11 at 4pm for St. Lawrence Parishioners | April 12 at 10am for St. Denis Parishioners

CONFIRMATION NOTES

Next Class is on April 15, 2026, at 7:00pm at St. Denis.
 Retreat is on April 18, 2026 at St. Lawrence Parish Center- starting at 8:00am. It is absolutely required!
 Confirmation with Bishop Rice- April 18 at St. Lawrence (4pm) and April 19 at St. Denis (10am)

CEMETERY NOTE for both parishes. The cemetery will be cleared of all grave decorations placed on the ground around the graves for the April through October mowing season to allow for access for mowing and trimming. Decorations attached to the top or the sides of gravestones off the ground and not in the way of mowing or trimming may remain.

ST. LAWRENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS

**SUNDAY: OUR LADY OF FATIMA VISITATION
 April 5-Carol Klipfel
 April 12-Dorothy Deason**

**St. Anne’s meeting April 9, 2026-6:00pm
 Refreshments Chairperson: Valarie Dirnberger
 Cindy Dirnberger, Kara Dirnberger, LaVerne Dirnberger, Cara Dirnberger
 If interested in becoming an officer, make sure you attend this meeting.**

DCCW Spring Assembly April 10 & 11 at Drury Conference Hotel Cape Girardeau. If interested in going contact Ashley Lasters (573)887-1383