

One of my favorite musical pieces is Thomas Tallis's "If Ye Love Me", which is built upon the opening line of the Gospel for this week. It is a beautiful piece of polyphony, and its message is remarkably simple: "If you love me, keep my commandments." Then, if one loves enough to do so, one receives the gift of the "Spirit of Truth." As far as musical works go, it is striking in its simplicity because it really makes only one point. There are no complicated stories, dramatic twists, or drawn-out reflections on relationships. There is simply this: "If you love me, keep my commandments."

Is God "testing" our obedience here? Is He merely seeing whether we have what it takes? No.

When we discover the true desire of the human heart — which should ultimately be God Himself — we begin to enter into a relationship marked by trust. We come to believe that His love for us is profound, faithful, and enduring. His love is not superficial, and His commandments are not given to harm us or make life needlessly burdensome. Rather, He gives them to guide us.

The commandments are an expression of His love for us, and our keeping of them becomes an expression of our love for Him. Like a loving Father, He directs us away from what harms us and toward what leads to life. That is what makes this Gospel so powerful: to love God is also to trust Him — to trust in His wisdom, His care, and His desire for our good.

"If ye love me, keep my commandments." Trust in the Lord and in His design for you.

~Fr. Belken

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

SAINT DENIS PARISH

MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS		
Tues	12	7pm Adoration & Confession
Wed.	13-8am	Charles & Delphine Backfisch
Thu.	14-8am	Melissa Shively
Fri.	15-8am	Cletus & Norma Gosche
Sun.	17-7am	Lois Spalding
Sun.	17-10am	Parish Family

LITURGICAL ROLES

Sunday, May 17, 7:00am

Lector: Kay Elkins
EM: Carla Robert
Servers: Levi & Cheyenne Newton, Eli Eftink
Greet\ Gifts: Tim & Christy LeGrand

Sunday, May 17, 10:00am

Lector: Alyssa Dannenmueller
EM: Gera LeGrand
Servers: Ethan Diebold, Tennyson White, Emmalyn Care
Greet\ Gifts: Chance & Amy White

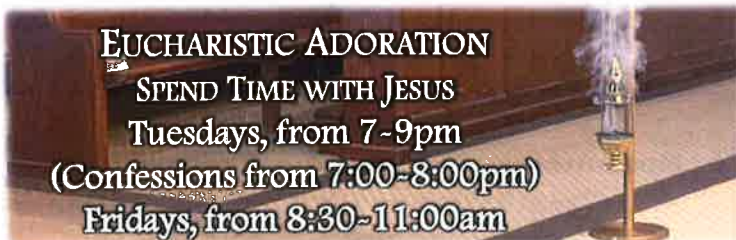
Parish Stewardship

Week of May 3rd

Envelopes: \$5,106.00
Loose: \$296.00
Total Collection: \$5,402.00
Weekly Est .Budget \$5,009.00
Difference: +\$393.00

ST. DENIS PARISH

Church Cleaning for Saturday May 16:
 Vera & Alan Hennemann, Amy & Chance White,
 Tracy Dumey
 Decorating Committee-May: Angie Grogan



SAINT LAWRENCE PARISH

MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS		
Tues.	12-6pm	Coonie Essner
Wed.	13-7am	Herman Dirnberger Family
Thurs	14-7am	Ralph & Margie Klipfel
Fri.	15-7am	Jeannie Essner
Sat.	16-4pm	Parish Family
Sun.	10-8:30am	Leonard Kluessner

LITURGICAL ROLES

Saturday, May 16, 4:00pm

Lector / EM: Stephanie Burger
Musician: Cheryl Kern
Cantor: Jamie Essner
Servers: Leeland & Kynli Duenne, Leelyn & Oliver Walter

Sunday, May 17, 8:30am

Lector / EM: Dorothy Deason
Musician: Cheryl Essner
Cantor: Kari Bickings
Servers: Drew, Kinsey & Ty Essner, Berkley Dirnberger

Parish Stewardship

Week of May 3rd

Envelopes: \$2,688.00
Loose: \$165.00
Online: \$800.00
Total Collection: \$3,653.00

ST. LAWRENCE PARISH

Church Cleaning for Friday, May 15:
 Chairman: Brent & Diane Ashcraft
 David & Stephanei Asmus, Dustin & Heather Benson, Kari Bickings

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

May 17, 2026
 The Seventh Sunday of Easter
 Acts 1:12-14
 1 Peter 4:13-16
 John 17:1-11a

ST. DENIS ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please congratulate Camren & Grace Mirgeaux (Urhafrin) who were united in Holy Matrimony on May 2, 2026. God Bless you both!

Thank you from Monroe and Germaine LeGrand for your past prayers for Monroe. Please continue to pray as his medical tests continue and we seek answers.



Parish Committee Meetings
 May 13th, 2026

School Board-5:30 PM
 Parish Pastoral Council-6 PM
 Finance Council-7 PM

We Are HIRING!

Part Time & Full Time



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Afternoons/Mid Day M-F
 Energetic & POSITIVE

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SAINT DENIS SCHOOL is now enrolling for the 2026-2027 Academic Year! See what a difference Saint Denis can make for your child! Please contact **Mrs. Lindsay Wikle** at **573-545-3017** for more information!



DIOCESAN EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS

Please plan to join us at the Diocesan Eucharistic Congress in West Plains, MO on August 15th, as we celebrate Eucharistic Renewal as a diocese. For more information, please see the flyers and posters that are in the back of both of our parishes.

It is time for the Diocesan Development Fund! Please see the materials provided in the back of church (and mailed out) or see the Diocesan Website at www.diosecg.org for more information. Totals will begin to be printed and sent out via email next week. Thank you!

A QUICK PASTOR'S NOTE:

I'm always grateful and edified by the care people show for our parish—even in the small details. It means you're paying attention to what we are doing, and that matters. At the same time, we all know how easy it is to get caught up in little issues and minor details. I would simply ask your help (for me and for our staff) in keeping our time and energy focused where it is most needed by first asking a question when an issue arises: *is this truly important, or is it a minor detail, or even simply personal preference?* I do want to remain open to what people share, but I also must be mindful not to spread myself—or our staff—too thin, especially when many small requests begin to add up, and can be difficult to handle. That perspective helps keep all of us focused on what matters most—our life of faith together. Thank you for your help, and God Bless! -Fr. Belken

ST. LAWRENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY: OUR LADY OF FATIMA VISITATION
 May 10-Norma Seyer
 May 17-Jackie Griffith

TOTUS TUUS- Save the date for Totus Tuus! The missionaries will be here from June 21-26. Please see Pat Moore for sign-up information!

The workers of an organization called "Ugly Quilts" would like to invite you or anyone in our surrounding areas to come over to the Old School Building to help or observe the makings of sleeping bags for the homeless between the hours of 8:30-11:30 any Wednesday morning. We would like to thank Fr. Belken and St. Lawrence Parish for allowing us the use of the hall while our former building is being renovated.

Congratulations to all of our Eighth-grade graduates that we celebrated last week!



PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Darlene Duff
 Family of Joseph Patrick Cawley