

No matter where I've been, I've always had family photos nearby. From seminary, to my first assignment, to today- there are always pictures somewhere nearby. These aren't there just for artistic value (even though many are very impressive)- they are there to remind me of someone's presence. They could be living, and they can be someone who has passed away- and these photos still serve a simple purpose- they are there to remind me of their presence, whether from so long ago or even very recently.

As we celebrate the feast of the Ascension of the Lord, there is this one poignant line at the end: "behold I am with you always until the end of the age." This is one of the concluding thoughts He gave the disciples. I am with you always, to the very end. This was important because they were entering into a time that would perhaps feel like He was not very close by, and so they'd be tempted to feel abandoned or like they had been left to their own devices. But it was not so- the Lord remained with them always.

I think too often the temptation is not so much that we think the Lord has abandoned us but that we have forgotten His presence, and we are the ones who have actually abandoned Him. Too often it can be so easy to complain that we don't feel God is looking out for us or is close to us- and we are the ones who have left prayer to the critical moments of life. We let the scriptures pick up dust. Maybe we felt we weren't getting anything out of Mass, and so it tends to not be something we attend regularly.

Yet- these things provide us with something far more valuable than photos: the reminder that Christ is really, truly present with us, now and until the end of the age.

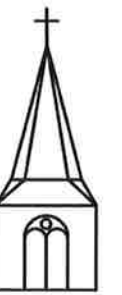
~Fr. Belken

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<p>Caleb Seyer Owner</p> <p>573-887-4395 calebseyer19@gmail.com 1504 County Hwy 413 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 573-258-0200</p> <p>www.gatewayseed.com</p>	<p>AMICK-BURNETT FUNERAL CHAPEL</p> <p>Benton, Chaffee, Oran & Scott City</p>



St. Denis & St. Lawrence

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH



Congratulations to our 2026 Kindergarten Graduates!



"Let the children come to me, and do not prevent them; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

-Matthew 19:14

<p>St. Denis 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>St. Lawrence Parish</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>105 N. Winchester Benton, MO 63736 Phone: 573-545-3017 Web: stdenisbenton.eduk12.net Email: lindsay@stdenisbenton.org</p> <p>Principal: Mrs. Lindsay Wikle Parish & School Maintenance: Mr. Larry Essner School Board President: Mr. Glenn Collom</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>

SAINT DENIS PARISH

MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS

Tues	19	7pm Adoration & Confession
Wed.	20-8am	Louise Seiler
Thu.	21-8am	Ervin & Bertha Dumey
Fri.	22-8am	Clara LeGrand
Sun.	24-7am	Catherine Young
Sun.	24-10am	Parish Family

LITURGICAL ROLES

Sunday, May 24, 7:00am

Lector:	Linda Urhahn
EM:	Larry Urhahn
Servers:	Jonah & Nora Hann
Greet\ Gifts:	Larry & Linda Urhahn

Sunday, May 24, 10:00am

Lector:	Cheryl Essner
EM:	Pam Dannenmueller
Servers:	Jaxon & Ava Welter, Alyssa Dannenmueller
Greet\ Gifts:	Shane & Teresa Ray

Parish Stewardship

Week of May 10th

Envelopes:	\$4,406.00
Loose:	\$195.00
Total Collection:	\$4,601.00
Weekly Est .Budget	\$5,009.00
Difference:	-\$408.00

ST. DENIS PARISH

Church Cleaning for Saturday May 23:
Crystal & Tyson Gosche, Yvonne & Alan Moore
Decorating Committee-May: Angie Grogan

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

SPEND TIME WITH JESUS
Tuesdays, from 7-9pm
(Confessions from 7:00-8:00pm)
Fridays, from 8:30-11:00am



SAINT LAWRENCE PARISH

MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS

Tues.	19-6pm	Gerard Essner
Wed.	20-7am	Earl & Henrietta Dirnberger
Thurs	21-7am	Charles, Lucille & Dennis Heuring
Fri.	22-7am	Liv & Decd Members Tim Essner Family
Sat.	23-4pm	Alex Jr. & Vera Burger
Sun.	24-8:30am	Parish Family

LITURGICAL ROLES

Saturday, May 23, 4:00pm

Lector / EM:	Kynli Duenne, Gary Reischman
Musician:	Bernice Kern
Cantor:	Jamie Essner
Servers:	Tucker & Saylor Dirnberger, Leah & Tucker Estes

Sunday, May 24, 8:30am

Lector / EM:	Diane Ashcraft
Musician:	Bernice Kern
Cantor:	Mary B Glastetter
Servers:	Ty & Callen Glastetter, Paisley & Kabree Bahr

Parish Stewardship

Week of May 10th

Envelopes:	\$4,735.00
Loose:	\$186.00
Online:	\$345.00
Total Collection:	\$5,266.00

ST. LAWRENCE PARISH
Church Cleaning for Friday, May 22:
Chairman: Henry Beussink
David & Pam Beussink, Kenny & Sharon Blue,
Gary & Beverly Brucker

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

May 24, 2026
Pentecost Sunday
Acts 2:1-11
1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13
John 20:19-23

ST. DENIS ANNOUNCEMENTS

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!

We Are HIRING!

Part Time & Full Time

Requirements:

Love Children

Afternoons/Mid Day M-F

Energetic & POSITIVE



Apply Now: lindsay@stdenisbenton.org



PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

**Lorene Backfisch, Darlene Duff,
Betty Ruth**

Please remember to keep a quiet atmosphere inside both church buildings as possible to allow for others to pray. Thank you!

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.dioscgo.org for more information.

Totals will begin to be printed and sent out via email next week. Thank you!

**Diocesan Development Fund
St. Denis-Week 2**

To Date our parish has given **\$5,425** towards our **\$47,544** goal. Thank You! If you have not yet made your pledge, please add your gift, whatever the amount, in unity with those who have already given by returning a pledge card today.

ST. LAWRENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY: OUR LADY OF FATIMA VISITATION
May 17-Jackie Griffith
May 24-Pat Moore

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!

THANK YOU. As we end our Parish School of Religion, we thank God for being with us and showering "His Blessing" upon us this year. We thank Father Belken, our dedicated teachers for the sacrifices they make each Sunday to teach God's young people. We thank our parents and our students. Have a great summer and remember Jesus. Thanks, **-Pat Moore**

THANK YOU! Due to your support of our parish, we have been able to replace the air conditioners on the St. Lawrence parish center gym- which were badly needed. Thank you for your generosity!

**Diocesan Development Fund
St. Lawrence-Week 2**

To Date our parish has given **\$6,815** towards our **\$25,045** goal. Thank You! If you have not yet made your pledge, please add your gift, whatever the amount, in unity with those who have already given by returning a pledge card today.

DIOCESAN EUCCHARISTIC 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. Bus transportation will be provided for \$65.00 per person if you choose not to drive. Reserve a seat on the bus from Guardian Angel parking lot in Oran at 5:30 am and returning approximately at 10:00 pm on Saturday, August 15 for the one-day event. Contact **Doris Eftink 573-380-5119**.