

Any time there was a saw involved in a project on the farm- the mantra was "measure twice, cut once." The rationale was simple- if you take the careful approach to your work, you'll be doing a lot less of it. I found it to be true too many times with pipes, wires, fences, and yes, even boards, and I'll admit it is still a lesson I must keep in mind at times today. There is no better way than the "careful and diligent" way.

In the Gospel, Thomas asks Jesus this question- "how can we know the way?" Jesus answers in this way: "I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." In other words- if one wants to get to heaven, they have to know Jesus (and His way) first!

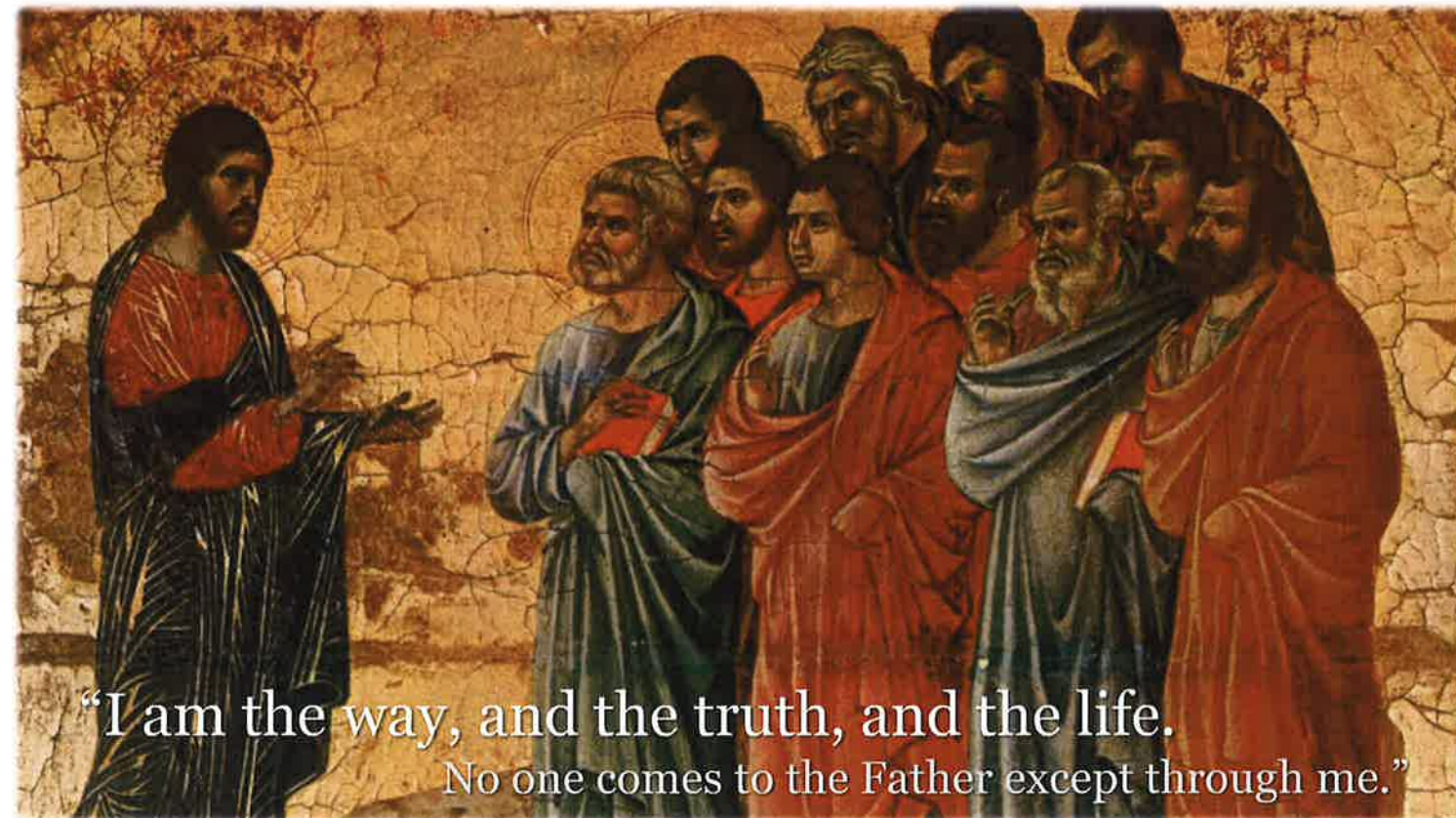
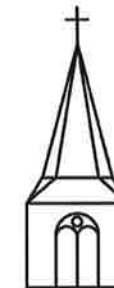
In an age where we are used to thinking that truth is to be determined by each individual, though, it is possible for us to think that we know of other ways or "shortcuts" to salvation. Often we might try to cut out what we think are inconvenient Church teachings or limit how much our faith asks of us (such as how much effort we must expend to make it to Mass on Sunday, or confession). Such a method of operation has been coined as "Cafeteria Catholicism" where one picks and chooses what they would like, and leaves behind what they don't.

However, if we start to make our "own way" to salvation, we will quickly find ourselves distanced from Christ, and from His Church. Our faith is not what we make of it- it is a surefire path designed to keep us careful and diligent in practicing our faith, and not doing the bare minimum (and making life longer and harder).

Remember the right way (and the easier one)- measure twice, cut once!

~Fr. Belken

<p>One-on-one answers to your Medicare questions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shana Kight 573-450-8066 Doris Breyer 573-545-4253 Rhonda Ratledge 573-979-4537 <p>Medicare Supplements Medicare Advantage Plans Part D Plans</p>	<p>COPE Small Animal Clinic (573)-334-5073</p>	<p>25 W Tywappity 573-313-9200</p> <p>Jeanne's</p>
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"I am the way, and the truth, and the life.
No one comes to the Father except through me."

St. Denis Parish	St. Lawrence Parish
<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 Reichman</p>
St. Denis School	Sacraments
<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.</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	5	7pm Adoration & Confession
Wed.	6-8am	Dick & Thedora Taylor
Thu.	7-8am	Herman & Carole Enderle
Fri.	8-8am	Jim & Pat Hunott
Sun.	10-7am	Iona Welter
Sun.	10-10am	Parish Family

LITURGICAL ROLES

Sunday, May 10, 7:00am

Lector:	Tim LeGrand
EM:	Rita Milam
Servers:	Tyson Gosche, Ella Mack
Greet\ Gifts:	Brad & Rita Milam

Sunday, May 10, 10:00am

Lector:	Alyssa Dannenmueller
EM:	Jim Simmons
Servers:	Payton & Rylan Simmons, Brailey Ratledge
Greet\ Gifts:	David & Rhonda Ratledge


Parish Stewardship

Week of April 26

Envelopes:	\$3,604.00
Loose:	\$132.00
Total Collection:	\$3,736.00
Weekly Est .Budget	\$5,009.00
Difference:	-\$1273.00

ST. DENIS PARISH
Church Cleaning for Saturday May 9:
Denise & Greg Menz, Marilyn & Paul Burford,
Janis Burford
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.	5-6pm	Andrew Essner
Wed.	6-7am	Herb & Virginia Essner
Thurs	7-7am	Alex Jr. & Vera Burger
Fri.	8-7am	Barney & Sylvia Steimle
Sat.	9-4pm	Donna Bucher
Sun.	10-8:30am	Parish Family

LITURGICAL ROLES

Saturday, May 9, 4:00pm

Lector / EM:	Jill Pinkston
Musician:	Linda Essner
Cantor:	Kari Bickings
Servers:	Willow Bickings, Owen Asmus, Isabel Crook, Wyatt Farrow

Sunday, May 10, 8:30am

Lector / EM:	Sally O'Brien
Musician:	Linda Essner
Cantor:	Mary B. Glastetter
Servers:	Parker, Brooke & Bristol Reeves, Colin Felter

Parish Stewardship


Week of April 26

Envelopes:	\$2,588.00
Loose:	\$132.00
Online:	\$250.00
Total Collection:	\$2,970.00

ST. LAWRENCE PARISH
Church Cleaning for Friday, May 8:
Chairman: David & Laura Westrich
Catherine Wilder, James & Kari Wilhelm,
Kyle & Nicole Wilson

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY
May 10, 2026
The **Sixth Sunday of Easter**
Acts 8:5-8, 14-17
1 Peter 3:15-18
John 14:15-21

ST. DENIS ANNOUNCEMENTS


Sunday May 3rd at 6:30 PM
Our St. Denis students will present
The Living Rosary. 

RUMMAGE SALE



Please join us for our 2nd annual Rummage Sale! We are accepting donations, so clean out your closets!
Email lindsay@stdenisbenton.org for donation info!

May 9th, 2026 from 9am-4pm
Drop off your donations now!

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  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.

Please don't forget! After Masses we will continue to pray the St. Michael Prayer. Please also continue to wait to converse outside the Church for any who wish to stay in thanksgiving after Mass. 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 3-Terri Stuckey
May 10-Norma Seyer

Sunday May 3rd at 8:30 AM Mass we will celebrate May Crowning, Honor 8th Grade Graduates and have the closing for PSR.

St. Anne's Sodality Breakfast for the members will be May 3rd right after Mass.

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.