

When we were receiving instruction on how to receive spiritual direction in seminary, I remember one particular point of instruction: whenever you go to direction- find what you'd least like to talk about. Talk about that very thing first. The thought behind that idea was simple- whatever the thing might be was usually the place of worry or anxiety, or we felt was too difficult to deal with. So the advice? Deal with that first, and everything gets easier from there.

Whenever we read the Gospel for this weekend, it reminds us of a person who finds a treasure and a merchant who finds a pearl of great price. Whenever they go off to figure out how to pay for it, we are told they sold "all they had" to get that treasure and that pearl of great price. This is what the kingdom of heaven is supposed to be for all of us- something that we give everything else to get.

But that's often not what we find ourselves thinking about. Let me rework the earlier statement into something we can all use: of all that you own, if the Lord asked you to give up everything to gain heaven, what think would you most struggle to give up? Would it be your plans? That new relationship in your life? Your family? Your finances? Your land? Your job?

Is the Lord asking us to do without these things? No. He is asking us to be detached and free from any thing less than heaven so that we can receive something far greater than anything else. We still have these other things, but our grasp on them should be loose, and should trust in the Lord and His plan for us- to get us to Heaven!

So for you, maybe that reworked question from my days of seminary: what would you like to lose the least to gain that treasure of heaven? Are you ready to let the Lord help you seek the greatest treasure possible instead? ~Fr. Belken



St. Denis & St. Lawrence

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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
St. Denis School	Sacraments
105 N. Winchester Benton, MO 63736 Phone: 573-545-3017 Web: stdenisbenton.edu12.net Email: lindsay@stdenisbenton.org Principal: Mrs. Lindsay Wikle Parish & School Maintenance: Mr. Larry Essner School Board President: Mr. Glenn Collom	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.

SAINT DENIS PARISH

MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS

Tues	28	No Adoration & Confessions
Wed.	29	No Mass
Thu.	30	No Mass
Fri.	31	No Mass
Sat.	1-8am	Paul & Bert Essner
Sun.	2-7am	Brian Vetter
Sun.	2-10am	Parish Family

LITURGICAL ROLES

Sunday, August 2, 7:00am

Lector:	Anthony Scherer
EM:	Elaine Proctor
Servers:	Tyson Gosche, Nova Wickle, Eli Eftink
Greet\ Gifts:	Robert & Tutti Gosche

Sunday, August 2, 10:00am

Lector:	Gera LeGrand
EM:	Gera LeGrand
Servers:	Cash Sparks, Jonah & Nora Hann
Greet\ Gifts:	Bryce Morgan, Vanessa Koepf

Parish Stewardship Week of July 19th

Envelopes:	\$4,262.00
Loose:	\$265.00
Total Collection:	\$4,527.00
Weekly Est .Budget	\$5,009.00
Difference:	\$-482.00

ST. DENIS PARISH

Church Cleaning for Saturday Aug. 1st: Betty & Larry Essner, Christy LeGrand, Tammy Cowell
Decorating Committee-August: Melanie Diebold

MISSION APPEAL THIS WEEKEND~ FR. HRUDAYA RAJU MANDAGIRI (FR. RAJ) will celebrate all weekend Masses on appeal from the DIOCESE OF NELNORE, INDIA, and their missions for the poor and impoverished in their Diocese. Please be generous in your support. Note: Fr. Belken will be away for two Diocesan Events from July 25-30th, but as always please call the emergency line at St. Denis in case of emergent sacramental needs).

SAINT LAWRENCE PARISH

MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS

Tues.	28-6pm	No Mass
Wed.	29-7am	No Mass
Thurs.	30-7am	Eugene Seyer
Fri.	31-7am	Elmer "Cotton" Kern
Sat.	1-4pm	Parish Family
Sun.	2-8:30am	Pam Heuring

LITURGICAL ROLES

Saturday, August 1, 4:00pm

Lector / EM:	Jill Pinkston
Musician:	Krista Kluesner
Cantor:	Krista Kluesner
Servers:	Ella Drodgy, Leelyn & Oliver Walter

Sunday, August 2, 8:30am

Lector / EM:	Dorothy Deason
Musician:	Krista Kluesner
Cantor:	Krista Kluesner
Servers:	Berkley Dirnberger, Betsy Glastetter, Ty & Callen Glastetter

Parish Stewardship Week of July 19th

Envelopes:	\$2,555.00
Loose:	\$215.00
Online:	\$240.00
Total Collection:	\$3,010.00

ST. LAWRENCE PARISH

Church Cleaning for Friday, July 31:
Chairman: Jeff & Gina Essner : Carla Essner,
Dustin & Amy Essner, Carolyn Essner, Jamie &
Emily Essner, Theresa Essner, Tim Essner

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

August 2nd, 2026

The 18th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Is 55:1-3

Rom 8:35, 37-39

Mt 14:13-21

ST. DENIS ANNOUNCEMENTS

SAVE THE DATE SEPTEMBER 18th, 2026!

One of our schools' biggest fundraisers, *The 12th Annual Paul Stuckey Scramble* will be here soon! Get your team ready! Contact Natalie Eftink at 573-887-1317 for questions and to register. Flyers are in the foyer of Church!

SDS is HIRING for our infant room!

Morning and afternoon shifts are available. Contact donna@stdenisbenton.org.



Do you know someone who wants to know more about being Catholic or would like to join the Catholic Faith? Our Introduction Session of OCIA will be Sunday, September 13, at 5:00pm in the SDS cafeteria. Please join us!



PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

VICKI GROMER, BECKAM KOEPP,
MICHELLE SCHERER

Flower Bed Committee Schedule July 26:
Cam & Grace Mirgeaux, Sharon Urhahn

Diocesan Development Fund St. Denis-Week 10

To Date our parish has given **\$30,290.00** 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.

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. Bus transportation due to generous donations will be **free** 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**.

ST. LAWRENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY: OUR LADY OF FATIMA VISITATION

July 25-Norma Seyer
August 2-Jackie Griffith



ST. LAWRENCE DAY CELEBRATION. Sunday, August 9, meet and greet with the Deacons of our Diocese at 5:30PM followed by potluck dinner. The parish will provide fried chicken and ham. Potluck requests A-K bring salad or vegetables, L-Z bring desserts. The Sign-up sheet for name and number attending is in the vestibule of the church. Fireworks will begin at Dark! Please join us in celebrating the past, present, and future of St. Lawrence Parish!
FORTY HOURS OF ADORATION. As we celebrate our Patron Saint, Saint Lawrence, we will be observing Forty Hours Devotion beginning Friday, August 7 at 7PM. Please consider spending some time with the Lord.

THANK YOU. Thanks to all who helped to all who helped in any way with the picnic. Thanks to Chairman Nathan Dirnberger for his leadership and all leadership and all Chairman of the Stands God Bless All for working. Save the DATE for next year, July 16 & 17, 2027.

Diocesan Development Fund St. Lawrence-Week 10

D To Date our parish has given **\$20,060.00** 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.