

One of my favorite things to do every spring is to plant a variety of things, from flowers, to tomatoes. There is something rewarding about being able to watch a plant spring up from something very small, whether a seed or a live plant, and become something much bigger and even productive. There is a small catch, though: you cannot guarantee for certain that every plant will thrive. Some plants inexplicably don't do well, even in spite of the best treatment, or even their next door neighbor doing amazingly well. Most may turn out, but some may not, and that is a risk you have to take if you want any fruit or flowers at all!

Today's Gospel is the parable of the sower, and if we were to distill it down into one sentence, it would be this: take risks in sharing your faith. Jesus is aware of a couple of temptations: that we will want to avoid the discomfort of taking a risk, or we will not share our faith if we don't think there will be success. He wants to push us away from this, because we are supposed to help each other out in our lives of faith. Do you see a brother or sister doing something that is leading them away from Christ or harming them or their family- and their souls? Sow some gentle seeds of truth and correction in charity! Do you see someone who needs an encouraging word? Offer it- and don't worry about if you see the yield or not! Do you see someone who might want to know more about our faith? Talk to them and take that risk!

The Gospel shows us something important: not just about taking risks to plant- but about the yield that can come in both other disciples and salvation, if we are faithful, and if we dare take the risk to go out and "sow seed."

~Fr. Belken

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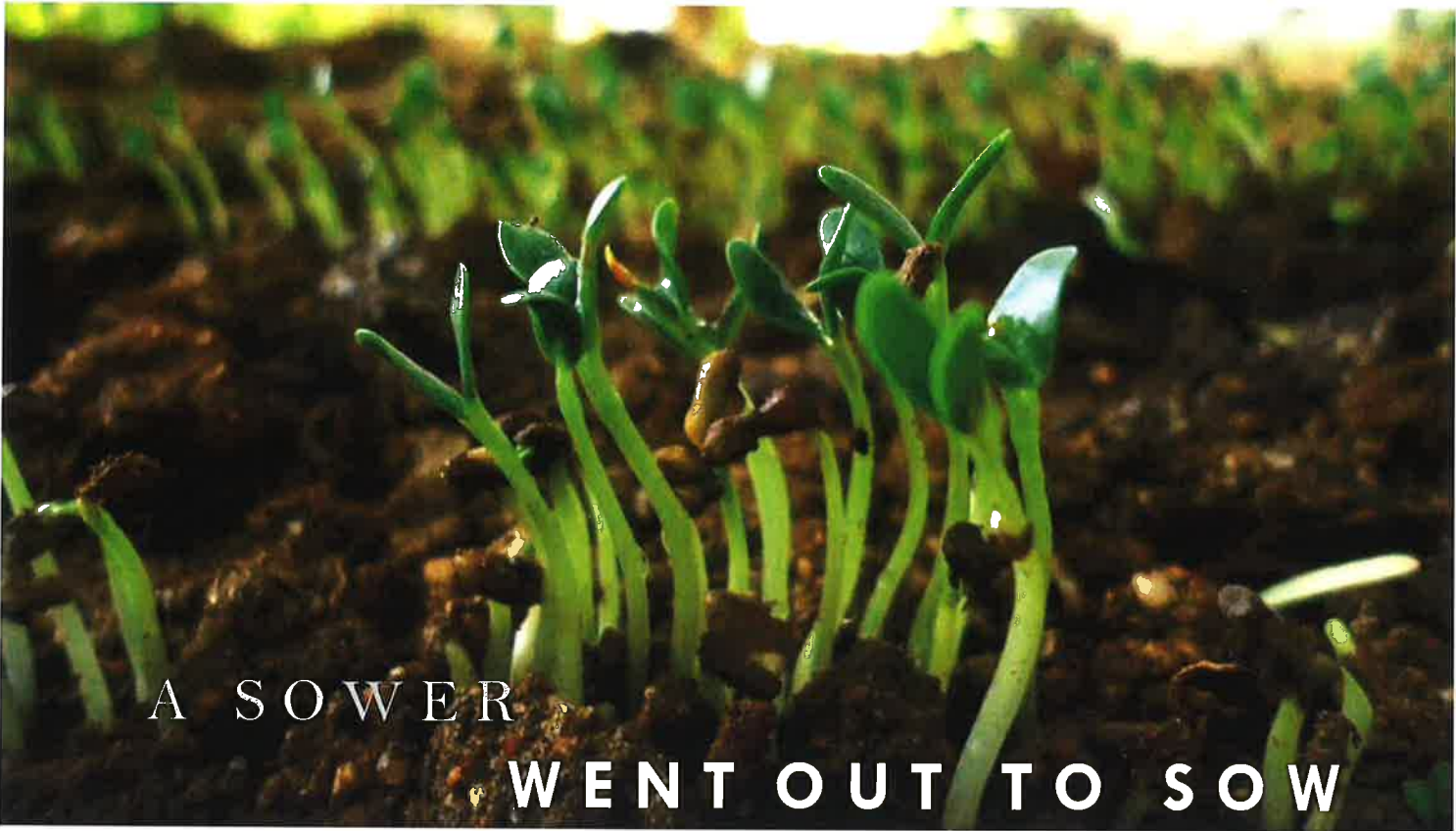
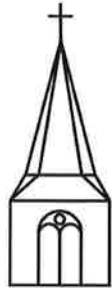
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St. Denis & St. Lawrence

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH



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.eduk12.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	14	7pm Adoration & Confession
Wed.	15	No Mass
Thu.	16-8am	Collin Crockett
Fri.	17-8am	Felix Enderle
Sun.	19-7am	Paul & Bert Essner
Sun.	19-10am	Parish Family

LITURGICAL ROLES

Sunday, July 19, 7:00am

Lector:	John Welter
EM:	Rita Milam
Servers:	Jaxon & Ava Welter, Ella Mack
Greet\ Gifts:	Brad & Rita Milam

Sunday, July 19, 10:00am

Lector:	Kay Elkins
EM:	Kay Elkins
Servers:	Ethan & Emma Diebold, Gabriel & Roslen Mack
Greet\ Gifts:	Kevin & Sandy Glaser

Parish Stewardship

Week of July 5th

Envelopes:	\$6,902.00
Loose:	\$75.00
Total Collection:	\$6977.00
Weekly Est .Budget	\$5,009.00
Difference:	\$+1,968.00

ST. DENIS PARISH

Church Cleaning for Saturday July 18 :
Trish LeGrand, Shannon LeGrand,
Jenny & Molly Shively
Decorating Committee-July: Pam Dannenmueller

SAINT LAWRENCE PARISH

MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS

Tues.	14-6pm	Gerard Essner
Wed.	15-7am	Larry Fuller
Thurs.	16-7am	Alex & Vera Burger
Fri.	17-7am	Eugene Seyer
Sat.	18-4pm	Parish Family
Sun.	19-8:30am	Fred Essner

LITURGICAL ROLES

Saturday, July 18, 4:00pm

Lector / EM:	Stephanie Burger
Musician:	Krista Kluesner
Cantor:	Krista Kluesner
Servers:	Luke & Drew Benson, Tyler Jackson

Sunday, July 19, 8:30am

Lector / EM:	Shannon Schumer
Musician:	Krista Kluesner
Cantor:	Krista Kluesner
Servers:	Drew, Kinsey & Ty Essner, Vanellope DeShaney

Parish Stewardship

Week of July 5th

Envelopes:	\$2,492.00
Loose:	\$210.00
Online:	\$535.00
Total Collection:	\$3,237.00

ST. LAWRENCE PARISH

Church Cleaning for Friday, July 17:
Chairman: Scott & Caroline Drodgy
Alex & Casey Duncan, James & Marilyn
Duncan, Harold & Joyce Eftink

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

July 19th, 2026

The 16th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Wis 12:13, 16-19

Rom 8:26-27

Mt 13:24-43

ST. DENIS ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHURCH ORGAN UPGRADE

Due to a generous benefactor, we now have a new Rodgers digital organ installed in our choir loft! Thank you to all who support us here at St. Denis!

SAVE THE DATE SEPTEMBER 18th, 2025!

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.



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!

Thank you to the members of Circle 8 for your time cleaning our church in the month of June.

Flower Bed Committee Schedule

July 12: Gary & Susie Bohannon,
Joe Felter

Diocesan Development Fund

St. Denis-Week 8

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.

ST. LAWRENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY: OUR LADY OF FATIMA VISITATION

July 12-Mary B Glastetter
July 19-Terri Stuckey



St. Lawrence Parish Picnic is fast approaching July 17/18. Donations for raffle & attendance prizes are greatly appreciated, and can be dropped off at the parish office on Tues, Wed, or Fri. 8am-3pm. Arrangements can be made by calling Richard Reeves 573-450-2883 or Andrea Reeves 573-576-6240 for donation pickups/ drop-offs. **Chairman** please turn in your worker's list to the parish office. Volunteers are needed in the "I Got It Stand" for Sat. 5.30-7;30pm & 9-close. Contact Liz Glastetter @ 573-579-7513.

Contestants wanted for the Little Mr. & Miss New Hamburg contest! Any St. Lawrence parishioner ages 3 -5 or grandchildren of a St. Lawrence member are eligible. Patriotic casual dress. Registration at 6:30 Contest at 7 Friday, July 17. Questions? Contact Lauren Heuring.

Help Needed to set up the tent for the "Petting Zoo" on Sunday, July 12th @1pm.

Diocesan Development Fund

St. Lawrence-Week 8

To Date our parish has given **\$19,310.00** 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.

BLESSING FOR PREGNANT MOTHERS

Are you or someone you know pregnant? Please be sure to let Fr. Belken know, as there is a special blessing for mother, and for the infant and his or her safe delivery!

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**.