

If you’ve ever weeded a garden or a flower bed, you know the effort it takes. Often you are bent over or kneeling in a patch for quite some time, and you have to actively differentiate between what is a weed, and what is a flower or plant that you want. This is a process that can take a while, and often has to be repeated many times throughout the growing season. That doesn’t mean the process isn’t worth it- it just means it takes persistence!

In the scheme of things, we can see this play out in a couple of ways spiritually. The most evident one that can surface in the Gospel is the “weeding” that will take place at the end of time. This is where the “produce” or those who have worked towards heaven will be selected, and the refuse or those who have not worked towards heaven will be burned. This can be a frightening proposition, but there is another way to read this that can help us to make sure we are on track.

The second way to read this Gospel, then, is that we should be weeding our own lives now. We always need to be actively discerning what is in our life that is helping us gain heaven, and what is taking us away. Are we allowing ourselves to follow God’s commandments, or have some “weeds” or excuses crept in for us to break a few? Are our relationships that are prioritized in our lives leading us to heaven, or stealing it away with false promises? Are we filling our schedules with things that allow for God to be center of our lives, or is that being choked by the “weeds” of busy-ness? When we consume movies or tv shows, are they filling our hearts with good things, or things that lead us to be worse, or even into sin?

We may know how to weed a garden- let’s be careful to make sure we weed out what doesn’t belong in our lives and our souls as well, to make room for what does belong.

~Fr. Belken

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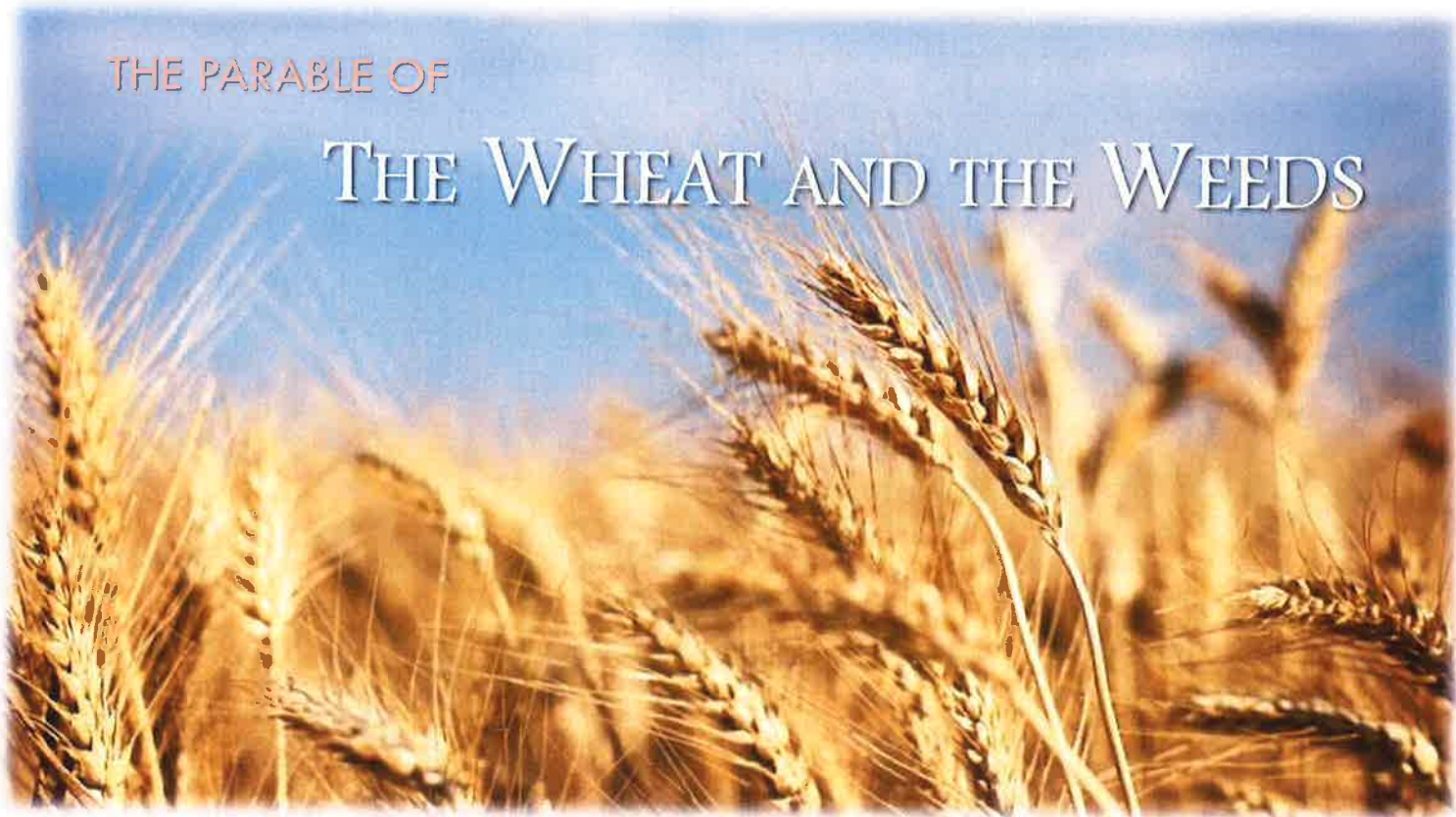
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St. Denis Parish	St. Lawrence Parish
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Pastor: Rev. Daniel Belken	
Office Manager: Mrs. Lisa Spalding, lisa@stdenisbenton.org Bookkeeper: Mrs. Marilyn Burford Parish Council President: Mr. Jeff Diebold	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	21	7pm Adoration & Confession
Wed.	22	No Mass
Thu.	23-8am	Joe Klueppel
Fri.	24-8am	No Mass
Sun.	26-7am	Iona Welter
Sun.	26-10am	Parish Family

LITURGICAL ROLES

Sunday, July 26, 7:00am

Lector:	Linda Urhahn
EM:	Larry Urhahn
Servers:	Jonah & Nora Hann, Brooklyn LeGrand
Greet\ Gifts:	Bev Riley, Mary Ann Robert

Sunday, July 26, 10:00am

Lector:	Bryce Morgan
EM:	Jamie Burger
Servers:	Alyssa Dannenmueller, River Collom, Brailey Ratledge
Greet\ Gifts:	David & Rhonda Ratledge

Parish Stewardship

Week of July 12th

Envelopes:	\$4,887.00
Loose:	\$171.00
Total Collection:	\$5,058.00
Weekly Est .Budget	\$5,009.00
Difference:	+\$49.00

ST. DENIS PARISH

Church Cleaning for Saturday July 25:
Pam Landeros, Madison Ross,
Jenny & Molly Shively
Decorating Committee-July: Pam Dannenmueller

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!

SAINT LAWRENCE PARISH

MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS

Tues.	21-6pm	Alex Jr. & Vera Burger
Wed.	22-7am	Andrew Essner
Thurs.	23-7am	Fr. John Harth
Fri.	24-7am	Mary Lou Welter
Sat.	25-4pm	Pam Heuring
Sun.	26-8:30am	Parish Family

LITURGICAL ROLES

Saturday, July 25, 4:00pm

Lector / EM:	Gary Reischman
Musician:	Bernice Kern
Cantor:	Mary B Glastetter
Servers:	Saylor & Tucker Dirnberger, Owen Asmus

Sunday, July 26, 8:30am

Lector / EM:	Diane Ashcraft
Musician:	Bernice Kern
Cantor:	Jamie Essner
Servers:	Noah & Caleb Vetter, Paisley & Kaybree Bahr

Parish Stewardship

Week of July 12th

Envelopes:	\$2,795.00
Loose:	\$133.00
Online:	\$385.00
Total Collection:	\$3,313.00

ST. LAWRENCE PARISH

Church Cleaning for Friday, July 24:
Chairman: James & Lisa Eftink
Brian & Rhonda Enderle, Orville & Carolyn
Enderle, Randy & Glenda Enderle

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

July 26th, 2026
The 17th Sunday of Ordinary Time
1 Kgs 3:5,7-12
Rom 8:28-30
Mt 13:44-52

ST. DENIS ANNOUNCEMENTS

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!

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

HENRY DIRNBERGER



Flower Bed Committee Schedule

July 19 & July 26: Cam & Grace Mirgeaux,
Sharon Urhahn

MISSION APPEAL NEXT WEEKEND~ Next weekend (July 25-26) FR. HRUDAYA RAJU MANDAGIRI (FR. RAJ) will be celebrating 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. (Please also note that 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).

Diocesan Development Fund St. Denis-Week 9

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 19-Terri Stuckey
July 25-Norma Seyer



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.

Diocesan Development Fund St. Lawrence-Week 9

To Date our parish has given **\$19,760.00** 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.

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**.