

When I was attending seminary in St. Louis, I was often confronted with the question “where did you go to high school?”. The question didn’t seem all that important to me, but there was certainly something in the water up the Mississippi River, that necessitated asking that question quite frequently. Of course, there is nothing malicious in the question- it was simply a way to get to know where you were from, and perhaps begin to figure out who you were.

In the Gospel this weekend, we receive an implicit warning. There is a story about the Canaanite woman, who was viewed as an “outsider” for the religious authorities and community at the time. Yet, she was the one who had the audacity to approach the Lord, because she wanted something- she wanted healing for someone around her, and she wasn’t going to stop until she got it. The Lord’s interaction with her is the lesson- He first responds the way that would have been expected of Him at the time, and then lets the testament of faith from the woman become the point: anyone who expresses belief in the Father and what He can do for them is God’s child.

Why does that matter so much? It matters now because it is so easy to divide ourselves by identity. If you are of this political party or that political party. If you are from this country or that. If you are raised Catholic or a convert. If you go to this parish or that parish. It all can become a way to divide ourselves- and even try to control God’s gracious mercy towards those we might consider outsiders. Or worse, we can blind ourselves by thinking we are “inside” while not actually doing what makes us a disciple or a faithful follower.

We have all went to high school in all sorts of different places. However, perhaps the more important question for us all to consider is “do you believe in God and what He can do for you?” That question can actually form how we act- and who we invite on the way with us.

~Fr. Belken

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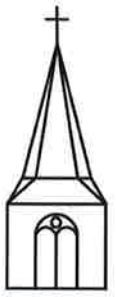
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St. Denis & St. Lawrence

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

SAINT LAWRENCE PARISH

ST. DENIS ANNOUNCEMENTS

ST. LAWRENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS

MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS			MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS		
Tues	18	No Adoration & Confession	Tues.	18-6pm	No Mass
Wed.	19	No Mass	Wed.	19-7am	No Mass
Thu.	20-8am	No Mass	Thurs.	20-7am	Jerry Heuring
Fri.	21-8am	Louis & Anna Glastetter Fam	Fri.	21-7am	Alfred Kluesner
Sun.	23-7am	Robert Glastetter	Sat.	22-4pm	Donna Bucher
Sun.	23-10am	Parish Family	Sun.	23-8:30am	Parish Family

LITURGICAL ROLES		LITURGICAL ROLES	
Sunday, August 23, 7:00am		Saturday, August 22, 4:00pm	
Lector:	Pam Dannenmueller	Lector / EM:	Gary Reischman
EM:	Carla Robert	Musician:	Bernice Kern
Servers:	Alyssa Dannenmueller, Payton & Rylan Simmons	Cantor:	Kari Bickings
Greet\ Gifts:	Bev Riley, Mary Ann Robert	Servers:	Noah & Caleb Vetter, Kaylee Shelton
Sunday, August 23, 10:00am		Sunday, August 23, 8:30am	
Lector:	Tyson Gosche, Ella Mack	Lector / EM:	Diane Ashcraft
EM:	Pat Moore	Musician:	Bernice Kern
Servers:	River Collom, Nora Hann, Eli Eftink, Levi Newton	Cantor:	Jamie Essner
Greet\ Gifts:	William & Jessica O'Guin	Servers:	Drew Kinsey & Ty Essner, Kynlee Dirnberger

Parish Stewardship Week of August 9 th		Parish Stewardship Week of August 9 th	
Envelopes:	\$3,431.00	Envelopes:	\$2,537.00
Loose:	\$71.00	Loose:	\$200.00
Total Collection:	\$3,502.00	Online:	\$385.00
Weekly Est .Budget	\$5,009.00	Total Collection:	\$3,122.00
Difference:	\$1,507.00		

ST. DENIS PARISH
Church Cleaning for Saturday, August 22:
Christy LeGrand, Lindsay Wickle, Donna Zeigler,
Tammy Cowell
Church Decorating for August: Melanie Diebold

ST. LAWRENCE PARISH
Church Cleaning for Friday, August 21st:
Chairman: Frank & Cindy Glueck
Alice Gosche, Steve & Jackie Griffith,
Chris & Sheri Grojean

SDS BACK TO SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE is
Monday, August 17th Beginning SDS
with Rosary in the Church at 6PM and
BBQ and Ice cream to follow!

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!

Flower Bed Committee Schedule :
August 16 & August 23- Ray & Candie Halter

"SOUNDS OF SUNDAY"
Join us each Sunday for few minutes of organ
music before the 10:00 a.m. Mass, played by
Fr. Belken on our new organ (recorded in
advance, not by ghost). Music begins shortly
after the Rosary concludes.

Diocesan Development Fund
St. Denis-Week 13
To Date our parish has given \$32,490.00
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.

SUNDAY: OUR LADY OF FATIMA VISITATION
August 16- Mary F. Glastetter
August 23-Theresa Essner



Thank you to everyone who helped in any
way with our St. Lawrence Feast Day
celebration. Thank you to Brad Kern for the
spectacular fireworks display.

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
BECKAM KOEPP, ADDY THORNE,
LOU WIKLE

Diocesan Development Fund
St. Lawrence-Week 13
To Date our parish has given \$21,190.00
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.

REMINDER: If you have a loved one who is homebound and would like to receive Holy
Communion, please contact the parish office. In keeping with the Church's norms,
Communion visits are coordinated through the parish and entrusted to trained, assigned
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. Only those assigned to this ministry should place
a pyx on the high altars before Mass or take the Eucharist to the homebound. Please also let
Father know if your loved one would like to receive the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick or
celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

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!

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY
August 23rd, 2026
The 21st Sunday of Ordinary Time
Isaiah 22:19-23
Romans 11:33-36
Matthew 16:13-20