

I still remember it well—I was a seminarian, arguing theology online. We were going back and forth about a particular issue until the other person finally said, “Well, I don’t agree with the Church on everything.” I knew the argument was over—not because I had won, but because we had reached something more fundamental to our Catholic faith: **what authority do we believe Christ has given to His Church?**

We find that question in the Gospel this weekend. Jesus tells Peter that whatever he binds on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever he looses on earth will be loosed in heaven. Jesus entrusts Peter with real authority—an authority that continues in the Church. Her teaching isn’t simply one opinion among many from which Catholics can choose. This isn’t meant to be a power trip. Christ gives His Church authority because He desires our good and our salvation. Her teaching therefore has a real claim upon those of us who bear the name “Catholic.”

Perhaps that leaves us with a question: **When Church teaching becomes difficult for me, do I trust that the Church is still seeking my good?** We may struggle with a teaching. We may not immediately understand or even find it easy to believe. But Christ entrusted His Church with the responsibility of teaching and guiding us. Perhaps we can trust her, then, even when that trust is difficult. ~Fr. Belken

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THE TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME • AUGUST 23, 2026

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

BAPTIZED IN CHRIST
Congratulations, Tripp!

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	25-7pm	Adoration & Confessions
Wed.	26-8am	Mary Alice Schweer
Thu.	27-8am	Chales & Evangeline Wade
Fri.	28-8am	Paul & Bert Essner
Sun.	30-7am	Charles & Delphine Backfisch
Sun.	30-10am	Parish Family

LITURGICAL ROLES

Sunday, August 30, 7:00am

Lector:	Anthony Scherer
EM:	Rita Milam
Servers:	Brailey Ratledge, Jack Heuring Tate Shively
Greet\ Gifts:	Brad & Rita Milam

Sunday, August 30, 10:00am

Lector:	Leonard Weber
EM:	Leonard Weber
Servers:	Ethan & Emma Diebold , Chloe Welter, Tori Neumeyer
Greet\ Gifts:	Jim & Linda Wade

Parish Stewardship Week of August 16th

Envelopes:	\$4,935.00
Loose:	\$134.00
Total Collection:	\$5,069.00
Weekly Est .Budget	\$5,009.00
Difference:	\$60.00

ST. DENIS PARISH

Church Cleaning for Friday, August 28: Sandy Glaser, Donna Zeigler, Amber Thorne, Betty Essner
Church Decorating for August: Melanie Diebold

Please note: The Wednesday 8am Mass is back!

ON THE COVER

Please congratulate Jacob and Macy Manier on the baptism of their son, Tripp, this past Sunday! May God Bless you, Tripp, on your faith journey, and welcome to our Church!

SAINT LAWRENCE PARISH

MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS

Tues.	25-6pm	Paul Stuckey
Wed.	26-7am	Irene & Alphonse Stoverink
Thurs.	27-7am	No Mass
Fri.	28-7am	No Mass
Sat.	29-4pm	Earl & Henrietta Dirnberger
Sun.	30-8:30am	Parish Family

LITURGICAL ROLES

Saturday, August 29, 4:00pm

Lector / EM:	Frank Glueck
Musician:	Cheryl Kern
Cantor:	Jamie Essner
Servers:	Bennett Essner, Kinley Lasters, Vanellope DeShaney

Sunday, August 30, 8:30am

Lector / EM:	Stephanie Burger
Musician:	Cheryl Kern
Cantor:	Mary B Glastetter
Servers:	Mila & Merci Burger, Paisley & Kaybree Bahr

Parish Stewardship Week of August 16th

Envelopes:	\$2296.00
Loose:	\$106.00
Online:	\$240.00
Total Collection:	\$2642.00

ST. LAWRENCE PARISH

Church Cleaning for Friday, August 28th:
Chairman: Patty Halter
Kenny & JoAnn Heisserer, Ralph & Debbie Heisserer, Richard & Lana Green

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

August 30th, 2026
The 21st Sunday of Ordinary Time

Isaiah 22: 19-23
Romans 11: 33-36
Matthew 16: 13-20

ST. DENIS ANNOUNCEMENTS

 AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26TH - 2-6PM
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APPOINTMENT TO GIVE THE GIFT OF LIFE!

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 to register. Flyers are in the foyer of Church!

ST. DENIS SCHOOL Needs Your Help!

St. Denis School is in need of donations of ground beef, due to a breakdown of the walk-in freezer.
SDS needs workers for the Neighbor Day "I Got It Stand." Please contact Mrs. Wikle.

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

Diocesan Development Fund St. Denis-Week 14

To Date our parish has given **\$33,590.00** 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.

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!

REMINDER: If you have a loved one who is homebound and would like to receive Holy Communion, please contact the parish office as soon as possible.

THANK YOU TO ALL OF THOSE WHO MADE TIME FOR THE DIOCESAN EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS IN WEST PLAINS AND TRAVELLED TO BE THERE. MAY GOD REWARD YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY AND FAITHFULNESS!
ALSO, THANK YOU TO OUR LADIES' SODALITIES FOR THEIR GENEROUS DONATION TOWARD THE BUS!

ST. LAWRENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY: OUR LADY OF FATIMA VISITATION
August 23-Theresa Essner
August 30-Jill Pinkston
ST. ANNE'S SODALITY MEETING
Thursday, September 24 at 6PM in the Parish Center meeting room.



KINDERGARTEN RELIGION SIGN-UPS

Sign-Up sheet Is in the back of church for kindergarten religion class this coming year. If your child will be in kindergarten and will attend religion classes, please sign them up. Thank You.

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
LEE HELTON, BECKAM KOEPP,
JASON MONTGOMERY, KAREN POWERS

Diocesan Development Fund St. Lawrence-Week 14

To Date our parish has given **\$21,315.00** 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.