

If you've gone through the process of getting a passport, or even a driver's license, you know how cumbersome it can be. You have to bring all sorts of documents, and the majority of them are intended to do one thing: to prove that you are who you say you are. Our government doesn't simply take it on blind faith—they want certainty. So they ask you to produce these documents, and we gladly comply if we want a license or passport! They are paying close attention!

While we could speak about Jesus proving who He is (which He certainly does), there is another important step in this Gospel that I think is worth acknowledging.

The important step Peter takes is that he is attentive enough to notice the figure walking on the water and ask, "Lord, if it is You..." That is important because it is the beginning of discovery and discernment, helping us distinguish the voice of God from the many other voices that compete for our attention. Are we attentive enough in our own spiritual lives, like Peter, to notice the One who comes to us across the water? We are often so busy and surrounded by so many distractions that we may not even pause to ask who is speaking to us, much less ask for the courage to do something great like Peter did. Sometimes we feel that God is absent, or we struggle to recognize His voice. Often it is not because He has stopped speaking, but because our lives have become so crowded that we have left little room to notice Him. We must create spaces of openness where we can hear our Lord's voice and have the confidence to ask great things of Him.

The government pays close attention to your identity, asking for document after document before issuing a license or passport. But are we paying even a fraction of that attention to the identity of the One who comes to us? Do we notice the Lord when He walks toward us in the midst of life's storms, or have we become so distracted that we never even ask, "Lord, is it You?"

~Fr. Belken

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“O you of little faith,
why did you doubt?”

-Matthew 14:41

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	11	7pm Adoration & Confession
Wed.	12	No Mass
Thu.	13-8am	Steve Ross
Fri.	14-8am	No Mass or Adoration
Sun.	16-7am	Mary Lou Welter
Sun.	16-10am	Parish Family
Sun.	16-5pm	John Felter

LITURGICAL ROLES

Sunday, August 16, 7:00am

Lector: Kay Elkins
 EM: Kay Elkins
 Servers: Daniel King, River Collom, Jaxon & Ava Welter
 Greet\ Gifts: Paul & Marilyn Burford

Sunday, August 16, 10:00am

Lector: Tim LeGrand
 EM: Susan Care
 Servers: Emmalyn Care, Brooklyn LeGrand
 Greet\ Gifts: Tim & Christy LeGrand

Sunday, August 16, 5:00pm

Lector: Larry Essner
 EM: Betty Essner
 Servers: Ethan & Emma Diebold, Nova Wikle
 Greet\ Gifts: Larry & Betty Essner

Parish Stewardship Week of August 2nd

Envelopes: \$5,131.00
 Loose: \$156.00
 Total Collection: \$5,287.00
 Weekly Est .Budget \$5,009.00
 Difference: \$278.00

ST. DENIS PARISH

Church Cleaning for Friday, August 14th:
 Theresa & Carlee Ray, Sonnie Bollinger,
 Larry & Betty Essner
 Church Decorating for August: Melanie Diebold

SAINT LAWRENCE PARISH

MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS		
Tues.	11-6pm	Cletus & Dorothy Menz
Wed.	12-7am	Larry Fuller
Thurs.	13-7am	No Mass
Fri.	14-7am	No Mass
Sat.	15	NO CONFESSIONS OR MASS
Sun.	16-8:30am	Gerard Essner

LITURGICAL ROLES

Saturday, August 15, 4:00pm

Lector / EM: **REMINDER**
 Musician: **NO EVENING MASS**
 Cantor: **ON AUGUST 15TH DUE TO**
 Servers: **THE EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS**

Sunday, August 16, 8:30am

Lector / EM: Shanon Schumer
 Musician: Linda Essner
 Cantor: Mary B. Glastetter
 Servers: Isabell Crook, Carli Eftink, Tyler Morgan, Brady James

Parish Stewardship Week of August 2nd

Envelopes: \$2,015.00
 Loose: \$203.00
 Online: \$840.00
 Total Collection: \$3,058.00

ST. LAWRENCE PARISH

Church Cleaning for Friday, August 14th: Jos & Sonya Glastetter, Randal Grojean, Allan & Theresa Green
 Chairman: Jason & Elizabeth Glastetter

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

August 16th, 2026
 The 19th Sunday of Ordinary Time
 Isaiah 56:1, 6-7
 Romans 11:13-15, 29-32
 Matthew 15:21-28

ST. DENIS ANNOUNCEMENTS

SDS BACK TO SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE is
 Monday, August 17th at 6pm. 

THANK YOU to all those who helped plan and prepare the Farm Bureau appreciation meal. A special "thank you" to the lady's club, chair ladies, Jolene, Jeanie, Michelle, and Elaine!

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 9-Linda Wade, Tera Kelley



PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER
 BECKAM KOEPP

"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.

PLEASE SAY A PRAYER THIS WEEK FOR ALL WHO ARE GOING ON THE DIOCESAN EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS SATURDAY!

Diocesan Development Fund St. Denis-Week 12

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.

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.

ST. LAWRENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY: OUR LADY OF FATIMA VISITATION
 August 9-Pat Moore
 August 16- Mary F. Glastetter



Please note there will be **NO Saturday evening Confessions or Mass at any local parish next Saturday, August 15 due to the Eucharistic Congress.** There will be an added evening Mass on Sunday, August 16, at 5:00pm at St. Denis for those who wish to attend.

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!

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!

Diocesan Development Fund St. Lawrence-Week 12

To Date our parish has given **\$21,865.00** 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.