

We certainly like when things are “fair.” If we are dealing with an umpire, a referee, or a judge, we want the same thing: we want them to be fair. We want them to look at things and, in justice, determine who is the best, who has the most merit, who is number one, or whether a person is guilty or not. All of these hinge upon this idea of “justice”—giving to each one their due. In short, we want things to be “fair.”

When it comes to faith, however, there is a rather shrill warning about arguing that things should be fair, especially in the prophet Ezekiel. He hears God’s people crying out and saying, “The Lord’s way is not fair!” The prophet cautions them against this way of thinking because, as he sees it, human beings are the ones who are not fair when they turn against the Lord—not the other way around. The Lord explains just such a principle when He speaks about “iniquity” and the “preservation of life.” All in all, the Lord is actually showing how merciful He is: even if a person has done something wrong, if they truly repent and return to the Lord, the evil they have done is forgiven, and the person lives because of their repentance.

For us, the encouragement is to be honest about what our faith tells us. Is it fair that a man who was totally innocent died for all of us? Was it “fair” that God’s Son came to us and set us free, even as we were the ones berating and wounding Him as He went up Calvary? We often try to excuse ourselves with this same logic, thinking we have done enough with our one hour on Sunday, or with whatever prayers we happen to remember in the midst of our busyness.

We are bothered when things aren’t fair. Yet the Lord’s way is more than fair: it is merciful. He has given us far more than we could ever claim as our due. May we try to be as fair as we can when we make our return to Him.

-Fr. Belken

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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	29-7pm	Adoration & Confessions
Wed.	30-8am	Melvin Hamm
Thu.	1-8am	Joe Stuckey
Fri.	2-8am	Mary Alice Schweer
Sat.	3-8am	Charles Klueppel
Sun.	4-7am	John Felter
Sun.	4-10am	Parish Family

LITURGICAL ROLES

Sunday, October 4, 7:00am

Lector: Anthony Scherer
EM: Carla Robert
Servers: Payton & Rylan Simmons, Eli Eftink
Greet\ Gifts: Robert & Tutti Gosche

Sunday, October 4, 10:00am

Lector: Stacy Marshall
EM: Stacy Marshall
Servers: Jonah & Nora Hann, Daniel King
Greet\ Gifts: Stacy Marshall, Karen Powers

Parish Stewardship Week of September 20th

Envelopes:	\$5,406.00
Loose:	\$247.00
Total Collection:	\$5,653.00
Weekly Est .Budget	\$5,009.00
Difference:	\$644.00

ST. DENIS PARISH

Church Cleaning ~ Saturday October 3:
Jeannie Fodge, Lyndsey Ham, Sandy Hasenkamp, Karen Scherer.

Church Decorating ~ October: Jenny Pinkston
Flower Bed Committee~ September 27 & October 4:
Jim & Mary Simmons

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

SPEND TIME WITH JESUS
Tuesdays, from 7-9pm
(Confessions from 7:00-8:00pm)
Fridays, from 8:30-11:00am

SAINT LAWRENCE PARISH

MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS

Tues.	29-6pm	Patrick Shelton
Wed.	30-7am	Ralph & Margie Klipfel
Thurs.	1-7am	No Mass
Fri.	2-7am	No Mass
Sat.	3-4pm	Don & Denis Gosche
Sun.	4-8:30am	Parish Family

LITURGICAL ROLES

Saturday, October 3, 4:00pm

Lector / EM: Diane Ashcraft
Musician: Cheryl Kern
Cantor: Jamie Essner
Servers: Bennett Essner, Eli Holman, Ella Drodty

Sunday, October 4, 8:30am

Lector / EM: Dorothy Deason
Musician: Cheryl Kern
Cantor: Mary B Glastetter
Servers: Tucker & Saylor Dirnberger, Owen Asmus, Rocky Burger

Parish Stewardship Week of September 20th

Envelopes:	\$2,290.00
Loose:	\$156.00
Online:	\$240.00
Total Collection:	\$2,686.00

ST. LAWRENCE PARISH

Church Cleaning for Friday, October 4:
Chairman: Doug & Sue Kern
Pat & Jan Kiefer, Jeff & Kara King,
Darrell & Libby Klipfel

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

October 4, 2026
The 27th Sunday of Ordinary Time
Isaiah 5: 1-7
Philippians 4: 6-9
Matthew 21: 33-43

ST. DENIS ANNOUNCEMENTS



St. Denis School Breakfast is Sunday,
September 27 from 8-11:30AM.

SEE YOU THERE!

ON THE COVER

Please congratulate Mr. & Mrs. Shawn Elfrink, as they celebrated being joined in the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony for 35 years. Congratulations to you both, and may God Bless you!

St. Denis Day Dinner is Sunday

October 11. Rita Milam will be contacting parishioners this week for donations and workers. For questions Call Rita Milam at 573-887-1074.

St. Denis Ladies' Sodality will be collecting Birthright donations through the month of October. Baskets are in the church foyer.

Ladies: Saturday, November 7, St. Denis is bringing back our **Daughters of God** event, "Invite Jesus to your Table." Meet and Greet at 5pm, Dinner at 6pm. Ticket Price-\$15. If you are interested in Purchasing a ticket or decorating a table please call the Parish Office- 573-545-3864, Betty Essner- 573-225-0385, or Lisa Spalding-573-576-9090. Join us to experience

"The Magic of Christmas, Seated with Jesus."

GUEST SPEAKER: *Diana Harold* LIMITED SEATING!

Diocesan Development Fund St. Denis-Week 19

To Date our parish has given **\$35,590.00** towards our **\$47,544** goal. Thank You! If you have not yet made your pledge, please add your gift, whatever the amount, by returning a pledge card today.

ST. LAWRENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY: OUR LADY OF FATIMA VISITATION
September 27-Mary B Glastetter
October 4-Terri Stuckey



MASS INTENTIONS: St. Lawrence will be accepting Mass intentions for the upcoming 2027 year on October 15 at 8AM in the church office. All Masses first come, first served basis and limited to 1 per family a month because of the few masses available for the upcoming year.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

LOUISE JANSEN, BECKAM KOEPP, CARLA LYNCH

Reminder: PSR Classes are held Wednesdays from 6:30pm-7:30pm, for grades Kindergarten through High School.

REMINDER: IF THERE IS NOT A SCHEDULED THURSDAY OR FRIDAY MORNING MASS, YOU ARE ALWAYS WELCOME (AND ENCOURAGED) TO ATTEND THE 8:00AM AT ST. DENIS!

Diocesan Development Fund St. Lawrence-Week 19

To date our parish has given **\$23,290.00** towards our **\$25,045** goal. Thank You! If you have not yet made your pledge, please add your gift, whatever the amount, by returning a pledge card today.

