

The Pastor's Pen

LEARNING FORGIVENESS

Anyone can enjoy a sporting event, a concert, or a play. Have you noticed, though, that there are some people who appreciate these things in a particular way? An athlete watches a sporting event and notices things others might miss. A musician or singer hears a concert differently. An actor or actress watches a play with an appreciation that comes from having been on the stage before.

There is something similar when it comes to forgiveness. Those who have truly experienced forgiveness ought to understand its value—and ought to be ready to offer it to others. That is what makes the parable in the Gospel so striking. One servant owes an enormous debt, and that debt is forgiven. Yet when he encounters someone who owes him a much smaller amount, he refuses to show the same mercy. And something about that immediately strikes us as wrong. If someone has been forgiven so much, shouldn't that experience have changed the way he treats the debts of others?

There is a lesson here beyond simply telling us, "You need to forgive." To truly become forgiving people, we first have to learn how to receive forgiveness well. If we struggle to forgive others, perhaps one of the first places we should look is at how we receive the Lord's forgiveness ourselves. Do we recognize how much mercy He has shown us? Do we really believe that He desires to forgive us? Do we allow His mercy to change us?

Receiving forgiveness is an often-overlooked part of learning how to give it. The more deeply we recognize the mercy that has been shown to us, the more readily we can extend that mercy to someone else. So let that be the challenge for all of us as we hear this parable: may we learn to receive the Lord's forgiveness deeply, so that, knowing its value ourselves, we can freely offer forgiveness to those around us.

-Fr. Belken

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THE TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME • SEPTEMBER 13, 2026

St. Denis & St. Lawrence

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH



The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant

ST. DENIS PARISH

135 N. Winchester, Benton, MO 63736
PO Box 127, Benton, MO 63736
Phone: 573-545-3864
Web: www.stdenisbenton.org

ST. LAWRENCE PARISH

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

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

SACRAMENTS

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	15-7pm	Adoration & Confessions
Wed.	16-8am	Collin Crockett
Thu.	17-8am	Joe Klueppel
Fri.	18-8am	Paul & Bert Essner
Sun.	20-7am	Ervin & Bertha Dumey
Sun.	20-10am	Parish Family

LITURGICAL ROLES	
Sunday, September 20, 7:00am	
Lector:	Linda Urhahn
EM:	Larry Urhahn
Servers:	Chloe Welter, Tori Neumeyer, Jaxon & Ava Welter
Greet\ Gifts:	Larry & Linda Urhahn

Sunday, September 13, 10:00am	
Lector:	Bryce Morgan
EM:	Jamie Burger
Servers:	Max Beardslee, Cash Sparks, Tate Shively, Jack Heuring
Greet\ Gifts:	Bryce Morgan, Vanessa Koepp

Parish Stewardship Week of September 6th	
Envelopes:	\$5,420.00
Loose:	\$269.00
Total Collection:	\$5,689.00
Weekly Est .Budget	\$5,009.00
Difference:	\$680.00

ST. DENIS PARISH	
Church Cleaning for Friday September 18 : Rita Milam, Julie Riley, Janelle Price	
Church Decorating for September: Lisa Spalding	
Flower Bed Committee: September 6: Greg & Denise Menz	

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 mom and baby & safe delivery!	

SAINT LAWRENCE PARISH

MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS		
Tues.	15-6pm	Herb & Virginia Essner
Wed.	16-7am	Herman Dirnberger Family
Thurs.	17-7am	No Mass
Fri.	18-7am	No Mass
Sat.	19-4pm	Coonie Essner
Sun.	20-8:30am	Parish Family

LITURGICAL ROLES	
Saturday, September 19, 4:00pm	
Lector / EM:	Frank Glueck
Musician:	Cheryl Kern
Cantor:	Jamie Essner
Servers:	Paisley & Kaybree Bahr, Kinley Lasters

Sunday, September 20, 8:30am	
Lector / EM:	Shannon Schumer
Musician:	Cheryl Kern
Cantor:	Mary B Glastetter
Servers:	Brady James, Carli Eftink, Colin & Avery Felter

Parish Stewardship Week of September 6th	
Envelopes:	\$2,247.00
Loose:	\$194.00
Online:	\$565.00
Total Collection:	\$3,006.00

ST. LAWRENCE PARISH	
Church Cleaning for Friday, September 18: Chairman: Chris & Beth Kern	
Dustin & Nancy Kluesner, David & Dolly Kluesner, David & Robin Kern	

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY	
September 20th, 2026	
The 2th Sunday of Ordinary Time	
Isaiah 55: 6-9	
Philippians 1: 20c-24, 27a	
Matthew 20: 1-16a	

ST. DENIS ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mass Intentions- Beginning Tuesday, September 15, we will begin scheduling Mass intentions at St. Denis for October, November, and December 2026, as well as for the entire year of 2027. To help give everyone an equal opportunity when the calendar opens, Mass intentions will be scheduled in person or by phone through the parish office. We will not be able to accept requests by email. At this time, we will accept up to six Masses for any one intention. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation as we try to make Mass intentions available as fairly as possible for all!

St. Denis Parish Meetings
Wednesday, September 16, 6pm-
Ladies' Sodality
Thursday, September 23, 6:30pm-
Men's Sodality

THE PAUL STUCKEY SCRAMBLE
This is one of our schools' biggest fundraisers, *The 12th Annual Paul Stuckey Scramble* will be here September 18! Get your team ready! Contact Natalie Eftink at 573-887-1317 to register. Flyers are in the foyer of Church!

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER
BECKAM KOEFF

Diocesan Development Fund
St. Denis-Week 17
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, by returning a pledge card today.

Parish Office Note: Both parish offices will be in a staff meeting every week on Wednesday at 9:00am. Calls and emails will be responded to before and after the meeting, but if you need to stop in either office, please try to do so outside of that time. Thank you for helping us serve you better!

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 **this Sunday**, September 13, at 5:00pm in the SDS cafeteria. Please join us!

ST. LAWRENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY: OUR LADY OF FATIMA VISITATION
September 13-Dorothy Deason
September 20-Margaret Heuring

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.

ST. LAWRENCE PARISH MEETINGS
PSR Teachers- The Commissioning of Teachers: Sunday, September 20 at 8:30am Mass. PSR classes for all grades (including High school) begin Wednesday, September 23, 6:30-7:30pm.
St. Anne's Sodality Meeting: Thursday, September 24, at 6pm, in the Parish Center meeting room.

THANK YOU: A huge Thank You goes out to all the parishioners who helped with the St. Lawrence fish stand at Benton Neighbor Day. It was a huge event, and the temperature didn't give us any relief. It's because parishioners like you, that make this parish such a success.

Diocesan Development Fund
St. Lawrence-Week 17
To Date our parish has given **\$21,990.00** 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.