

If you know the difference between an automatic and a manual transmission, you know the difference can be quite radical. For many years, I was commuting to St. Louis in a car with a manual transmission. I liked driving a manual for several reasons, but it was hard to drive in the stop-and-go traffic that comes with being in St. Louis. After a few years, I changed to an automatic. Though some of the fun of driving a manual was gone, much of the aggravation of constantly shifting up and down was gone too. I would say I had found a better way.

The parable for this Sunday is all about workers being called into the vineyard at different points throughout the day. Some are called early in the morning, while others are called much later. Spiritually, we can see in them the different points in our lives when the Lord calls us to follow him more deeply. Some respond early; others respond much later. Yet all of them are welcomed into the vineyard. In the parable, they all receive the same wage—not because they have all worked the same amount, but because of the generosity of the landowner.

For us as well, we should first be conscious of the small ways the Lord offers us a better way. We might struggle with particular sins or weaknesses, and the Lord is still calling us to something better, even when we have to work hard to overcome them. No matter what hour of the day it is, the invitation is still there. The other side of this, though, is that we should welcome new members to the fold, no matter how long the day has been—even if they enter into a life of faith near the end of their lives. The workers who had been there all day struggled with the generosity shown to those who arrived late. We can fall into the same trap when we forget that none of us has earned what God desires to give us. We all receive a wage we are undeserving of—and that truly is a better way.

We don't need to drive a certain transmission or even agree that one is better than the other. But we should be aware that God continually calls us to seek out the better way of the Kingdom of Heaven—no matter what hour we are in of our day.

-Fr. Belken

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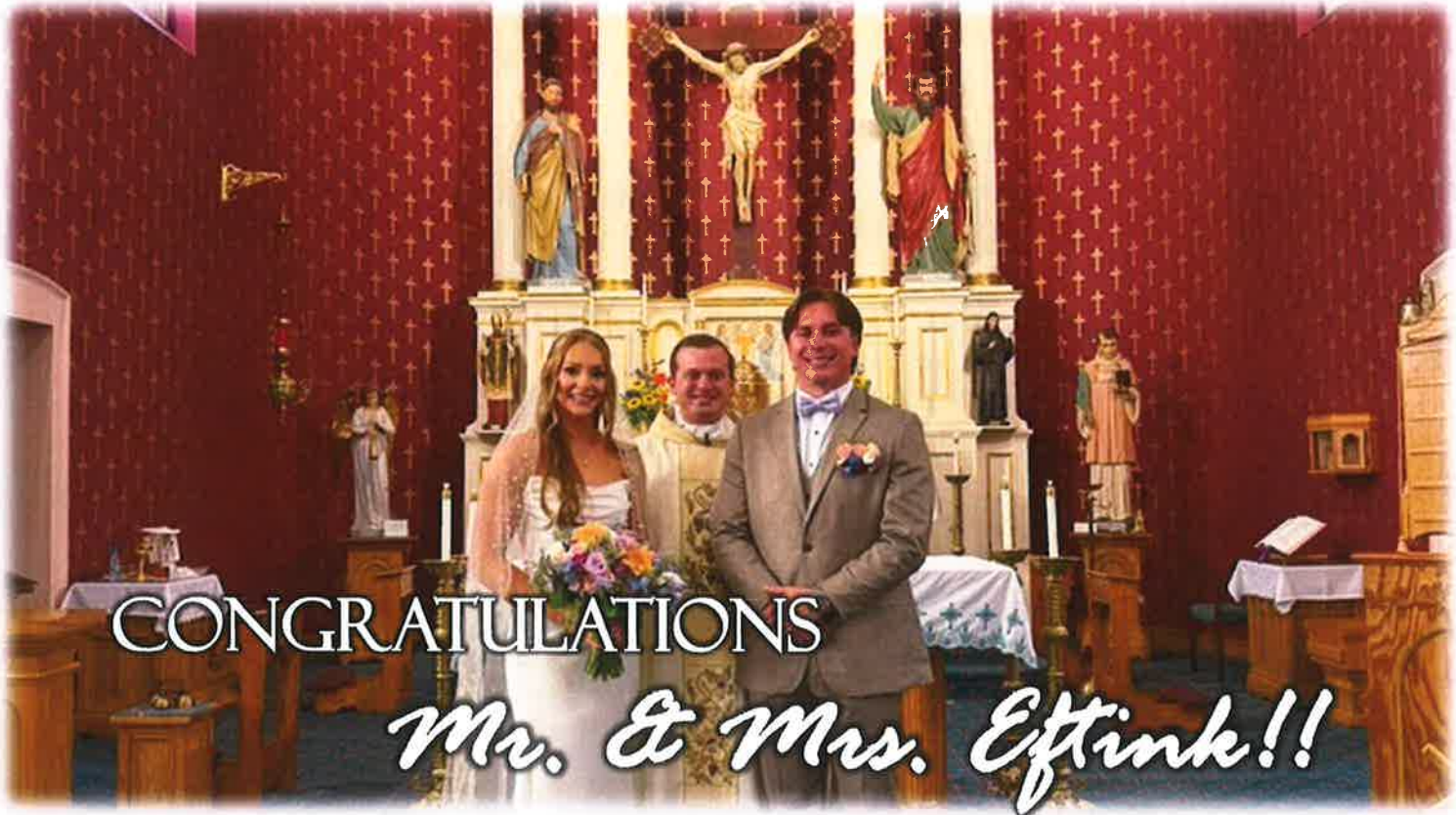
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St. Denis & St. Lawrence

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH



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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: lindsy@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	22-7pm	Adoration & Confessions
Wed.	23-8am	Deceased Members of Men's Sodality
Thu.	24-8am	Melissa Shively
Fri.	25-8am	Curly Klipfel
Sun.	27-7am	Iona Welter
Sun.	27-10am	Parish Family

LITURGICAL ROLES	
Sunday, September 27, 7:00am	
Lector:	Stacy Marshall
EM:	Stacy Marshall
Servers:	Emmalyn Care, Tyson Gosche, Nova Wikle
Greet\ Gifts:	Paul & Marilyn Burford

Sunday, September 27, 10:00am	
Lector:	Gera LeGrand
EM:	Gera LeGrand
Servers:	Gabriel, Roslen & Vivian Mack, River Collom
Greet\ Gifts:	Shane & Teresa Ray

Parish Stewardship Week of September 13th	
Envelopes:	\$3,981.00
Loose:	\$369.86
Total Collection:	\$4,350.56
Weekly Est .Budget	\$5,009.00
Difference:	\$659.00

ST. DENIS PARISH
Church Cleaning for Saturday September 26 : Crystal Backfisch, LeShae Hann, Michelle (Bruce) Scherer. Church Decorating for September: Lisa Spalding. Flower Bed Committee: September 20: Vic Heisserer, Rick & Cheri Klipfel

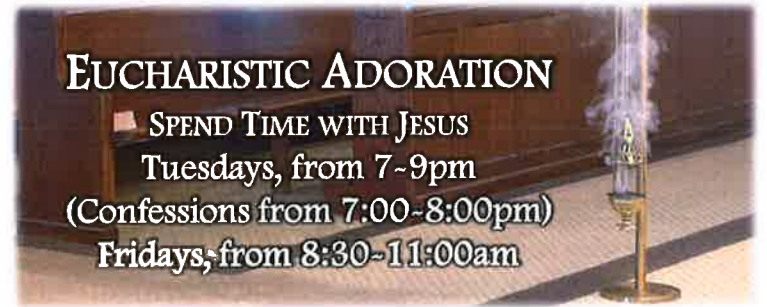
EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

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.	22-6pm	Andrew Essner
Wed.	23-7am	Henrietta Dirnberger
Thurs.	24-7am	No Mass
Fri.	25-7am	No Mass
Sat.	26-4pm	Parish Family
Sun.	27-8:30am	Gerard Essner

LITURGICAL ROLES	
Saturday, September 26, 4:00pm	
Lector / EM:	Diane Ashcraft
Musician:	Krista Kluesner
Cantor:	Krista Kluesner
Servers:	Leigha & Tucker Estes, Berkley Dirnberger

Sunday, September 27, 8:30am	
Lector / EM:	Gary Reischman
Musician:	Krista Kluesner
Cantor:	Krista Kluesner
Servers:	Noah & Caleb Vetter, Vanellope DeShaney, Kaylee Shelton

Parish Stewardship Week of September 13th	
Envelopes:	\$5,512.00
Loose:	\$237.00
Online:	\$150.00
Total Collection:	\$5,899.00

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 27, 2026
The 26th Sunday of Ordinary Time
Ezekiel 18:25-28
Philippians 2:1-11
Matthew 21:28-32

ST. DENIS ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ladies...
SAVE THE DATE!
Saturday, November 7, 2026, St. Denis is bringing back our **Daughters of God** event, "Invite Jesus to your Table." Meet and Greet at 5pm, Dinner at 6pm. Mark Your Calendar! More exciting news to come!

SIDS
St. Denis School Breakfast is Sunday, September 27 from 8-11AM.
SEE YOU THERE!

Mass Intentions- The 2027 Mass Intention calendar is now open! 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!

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!

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER
BRENDA BACKFISCH, BECKAM KOEPP, MICHAEL ZEIGLER

Diocesan Development Fund
St. Denis-Week 18
To Date our parish has given **\$35,490.00** 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 9am. 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!

ST. LAWRENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY: OUR LADY OF FATIMA VISITATION
September 20-Margaret Heuring
September 27-Mary B Glastetter



ON THE COVER
Please congratulate Mr. Brayden and Mrs. Riley Eftink, as they celebrated being joined in the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony this past Saturday, September 12, 2026. Congratulations to you both, and may God Bless 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.

Diocesan Development Fund
St. Lawrence-Week 18
To date our parish has given **\$22,790.00** 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.