

If you are driving down I-55 and see a Dodge Challenger or Charger, perhaps even a Ford Explorer, you may know of some sudden panic: am I doing something wrong? Am I speeding? Am I driving straight enough?? We start to ask these questions because we don't want the inconvenience of being pulled over, or the embarrassment of being corrected. But what would happen if we didn't have those moments? We would likely grow complacent in the way we drive, and could become more reckless, and eventually would start to cause more accidents than we want to admit. What would seem to permit greater freedom or allow us to be more relaxed when we drive would actually become a pitfall and would hurt us and others. The presence of officers and their cars remind us of the external standard that applies to us and everyone else on the road!

This weekend's readings and Gospel all center around the same idea: correction. We see Ezekiel challenging the people of the house of Israel to dissuade the wicked from their ways. Jesus also gives a way to correct others, and steps to follow to do just such a thing. It seems that our Lord isn't just wanting us to correct ourselves when we fail or do something wrong- but He wants us to help each other. We are to serve as His hands and feet- even in the moments when we gently encourage someone to live according to God's will and not their own.

We simply need to make sure we do it in the right ways: in all humility, which acknowledges we make mistakes too, but with firmness and conviction that the law of the Lord is for our good- and thus should be followed. We do so kindly- and we expect others to correct us when we need directed back to the straight and narrow too!

We may not see Dodge Chargers or any police vehicle sitting around- and that is by design. We are the ones meant to help gently encourage (and correct) those around us as we try to help each other on the way to heaven.

-Fr. Belken

One-on-one answers to your Medicare questions.

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- Doris Breyer 573-545-4253
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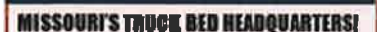
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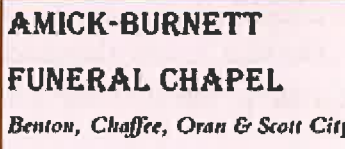
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THE TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME • SEPTEMBER 6, 2026

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	8-7pm	Adoration & Confessions
Wed.	9-8am	Lois Spalding
Thu.	10-8am	Vince Hulshof
Fri.	11-8am	Kenny Ross
Sun.	13-7am	Diane Halter
Sun.	13-10am	Parish Family

LITURGICAL ROLES	
Sunday, September 13, 7:00am	
Lector:	Betty Essner
EM:	Larry Essner
Servers:	Brooklyn LeGrand, Ethan & Emma Diebold
Greet\ Gifts:	Larry & Betty Essner
Sunday, September 13, 10:00am	
Lector:	Sandy Glaser
EM:	Pam Dannenmueller
Servers:	Alyssa Dannenmueller, Ella Mack, Levi & Cheyenne Newton
Greet\ Gifts:	Kevin & Sandy Glaser

Parish Stewardship Week of August 30th	
Envelopes:	\$4,482.00
Loose:	\$122.00
Total Collection:	\$4,604.00
Weekly Est .Budget	\$5,009.00
Difference:	\$405.00

ST. DENIS PARISH
Church Cleaning for Saturday, September 12:
Gina Elfrink, Teresa Utterback, Kay Gant
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!

On the Cover: "In Our Midst" by Josef August Untersberger (1864-1933) (Pseudonym Giovanni)

SAINT LAWRENCE PARISH

MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS		
Tues.	8-6pm	Cletus & Dorothy Menz
Wed.	9-7am	Paul W & Geneva Essner
Thurs.	10-7am	No Mass
Fri.	11-7am	No Mass
Sat.	12-4pm	Loretta Kolozy
Sun.	13-8:30am	Parish Family

LITURGICAL ROLES	
Saturday, September 12, 4:00pm	
Lector / EM:	Gwen Essner
Musician:	Bernice Kern
Cantor:	Kari Bickings
Servers:	Leeland Duenne, Willow Bickings, Emley Burger
Sunday, September 13, 8:30am	
Lector / EM:	Sally O'Brien
Musician:	Bernice Kern
Cantor:	Jamie Kern
Servers:	Ty & Callen Glastetter, Tyler Morgan, Ella Droddy

Parish Stewardship Week of August 30th	
Envelopes:	\$2,470.00
Loose:	\$245.00
Online:	\$495.00
Total Collection:	\$3,210.00

ST. LAWRENCE PARISH
Church Cleaning for Friday, Sept.11:
Chairman: Steve & Denitra Holman
Jamie Belville, Derrick & rosemary Irwin, Brian and Emily James

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY
September 13th, 2026
The 24th Sunday of Ordinary Time
Sirach 27: 30-27 :7
Romans 14: 7-9
Matthew 18: 21-35

ST. DENIS ANNOUNCEMENTS

Parish Meetings September 10
****Correction from last week's bulletin****
School Board-5:30pm
Parish Pastoral Council-6:30pm
Parish Finance Council-7:30pm

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!

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!

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!

Diocesan Development Fund
St. Denis-Week 16

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.

THEOLOGY OF THE BODY Conference WEEKEND September 12-13 at Campus Ministry, SEMO, Cape. Rediscover the Human Person through the teachings of St. John Paul II. SEMO Students are free!
Please scan the QR Code to register. →

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

ST. LAWRENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY: OUR LADY OF FATIMA VISITATION
September 6-Carol Klipfel
September 13-Dorothy Deason

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.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER
STACY HOPE, BECKAM KOEPP

Diocesan Development Fund
St. Lawrence-Week 16

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.

