

If you've ever really listened to the song "Amazing Grace," you can quickly discover that the first verse is a little uncomfortable. We sing about the grace that "saved a wretch like me."

While wretch is a word we could easily gloss over, there is a long Christian tradition of this kind of language. The Apostles, Church Fathers, and saints often used such language not to refer to others, but to themselves! What about us: are we actually wretches?

The Gospel gives us another parable this weekend. Jesus speaks about tenants who mistreat, abuse, and even kill the messengers the owner of the vineyard sends to them. At the end, Jesus asks: What will the owner do to those tenants when he comes? They answer, "He will put those wretched men to a wretched death!" They can see the wretches quite clearly. But Jesus turns their answer back upon them: "The kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that will produce its fruit." His answer? You are the wretch! He says this not simply to belittle them, but in the hope that they recognize themselves in the parable and turn back from their ways.

If we soften our language or immediately become defensive and say, "I'm no wretch," we risk falling into the delusion of saying, "I've done nothing wrong." The reality may be much worse—we simply do not want to face it. There is freedom in facing our own wretchedness, because then we can bring it before the Lord and receive His amazing grace as we work to become who God wants us to be instead. Otherwise, we can become lost in the false notion that we are fine, that we need no help, forgiveness, or even grace.

There is remarkable freedom and healing in realizing that I am indeed the wretch the song refers to. Because until I recognize that I am the wretch, I may never realize just how amazing the grace that saves me really can be.

-Fr. Belken

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ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH



Ever-living God, you give life and desire a future for all your children. Take hold of our nation, state, and community and awaken in every heart awe for the gift of life. Send your Spirit to strengthen us with wisdom and fortitude as we defend mothers and children in Missouri from laws that disregard their health and safety.

Mary and Joseph trusted in you and welcomed Jesus into our broken world. God Almighty, we ask their intercession to protect the preborn and their mothers, and to guide all parents in raising their children. May they help us build a civilization of love by upholding the sacredness of life and accompanying pregnant women in need.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Our Lady, Mother of the Family, pray for us!

St. Joseph, protector of the unborn, pray for us!

Paid for by the Missouri Catholic Conference,
Jamie Morris, Executive Director and General Counsel,
P.O. Box 1022, Jefferson City, MO 65102

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	6-7pm	Adoration & Confessions
Wed.	7-8am	Charles Klueppel
Thu.	8-8am	Paul & Bert Essner
Fri.	9-8am	Mary Lou Welter
Sun.	11-7am	John Felter
Sun.	11-10am	Parish Family

LITURGICAL ROLES	
Sunday, October 11, 7:00am	
Lector:	Kay Elkins
EM:	Kay Elkins
Servers:	Alyssa Dannenmueller, Brooklyn LeGrand, Nova Wikle
Greet\ Gifts:	Bev Riley, Mary Ann Robert
Sunday, October 11, 10:00am	
Lector:	Cheryl Essner
EM:	Leonard Weber
Servers:	Tori Neumeyer, Chloe Welter, Levi & Cheyenne Newton
Greet\ Gifts:	Curtis & Cheryl Essner

Parish Stewardship Week of September 27th	
Envelopes:	\$5,231.00
Loose:	\$147.00
Total Collection:	\$5,378.00
Weekly Est .Budget	\$5,009.00
Difference:	\$369.00

ST. DENIS PARISH	
Church Cleaning - Saturday October 10: Janet Felter, Shari Felter, Casey Irwin, Stacy Marshall	
Church Decorating - October: Jenny Finkston	
Flower Bed Committee- October 4: Jim & Mary Simmons	

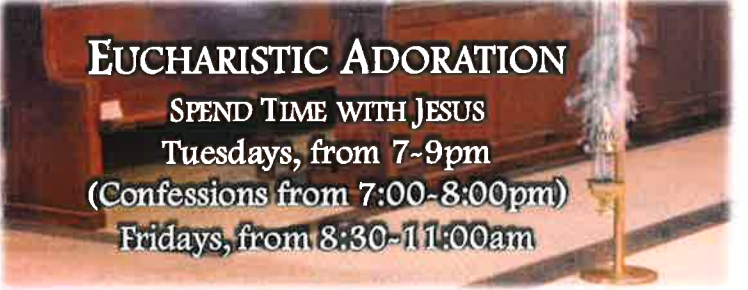
EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

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.	6-6pm	Gerard Essner
Wed.	7-7am	Ralph & Margie Klipfel
Thurs.	8	8am Mass at St. Denis
Fri.	9	8am Mass at St. Denis
Sat.	10-4pm	Donna Bucher
Sun.	11-8:30am	Parish Family

LITURGICAL ROLES	
Saturday, October 10, 4:00pm	
Lector / EM:	Gwen Essner
Musician:	Bernice Kern
Cantor:	Kari Bickings
Servers:	Oliver & Leelyn Walter, Willow Bickings
Sunday, October 11, 8:30am	
Lector / EM:	Sally O'Brien
Musician:	Bernice Kern
Cantor:	Mary B Glastetter
Servers:	Ty & Callen Glastetter, Luke & Drew Benson

Parish Stewardship Week of September 27th	
Envelopes:	\$2,887.00
Loose:	\$284.00
Online:	\$590.00
Total Collection:	\$3,761.00

ST. LAWRENCE PARISH	
Church Cleaning for Friday, October 4:	
Chairman: Floyd & Carol Klipfel	
Billy & Stacey Johnson, Zak & Amanda Johnson, Dale Kern, Neal Kern	

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

October 11, 2026

The 28th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Isaiah 25: 6-10a

Philippians 4: 12-14, 19-20

Matthew 22: 1-14



ST. DENIS ANNOUNCEMENTS

St. Denis Day Dinner is Sunday October 11. There is a sign-up sheet in the back of church for monetary donations and for waitresses needed.

For questions please 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.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER
BILL HALTER, BECKAM KOEFF

Mass Intentions- The 2027 Mass Intention calendar is open to schedule Masses. Currently, we are able to accept up to six Masses for any one intention.

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 20

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
October 4 -Terri Stuckey
Norma Seyer



A GENTLE REMINDER ABOUT THE END OF MASS
Please do not leave Mass before the closing procession and prayers. Remaining together until the procession is finished is a simple sign of reverence, respect for one another, and our unity as a parish community.
Thank you for helping us foster a spirit of prayer, reverence, and community at Mass!

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.

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 20

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.

