

The Pastor's Corner

MEA CULPA: THROUGH MY FAULT

Whenever I worked IT in the seminary, there were few people that I appreciated more than the one who brought their computer to me and said "I messed it up" without any sort of excuse. They didn't try to blame anyone else, and they didn't try to minimize the damage. They just owned it and asked me to fix it. To be sure, the end result would have been the same either way, whether they admitted guilt or not (I would usually have a pretty good idea anyways), but it was refreshing for someone to just be straight: I messed it up, can you fix it?

Whenever we break a law or commit an infraction, the temptation is right there: make an excuse. Cast blame elsewhere. If there is an issue, it's not with me. I didn't do it or so and so made me. It doesn't take long to come up with plenty of examples, whether near us or even on a national level. If we are honest, likely each of us struggle with the temptation to do the same. We tell ourselves and others that the fault in these mistakes is not actually with me but with something or someone else. It couldn't have been my doing. Jesus, in today's Gospel, makes it very clear: He wants us to be aware of the interior- and to work on it! He wants us to look at ourselves, and see the way that mistakes and vices work. These things do not enter us from external forces that we are powerless to resist- even though temptation is certainly there. When we fall or choose wrongly- it is in that moment that we are the ones at fault. There is no excuse to be given. No one else to blame. No one else to take accountability.

As often as those around us may excuse themselves or cast blame elsewhere, let's not provide excuses, nor cast blame around on someone who should not receive it. Rather, let us be people that are accountable. Let us follow God's law and as we recognize imperfection, corruption or defilement within, work hard to remove it from within ourselves. Even if it means admitting that we broke the computer: no one or nothing else did!

-Fr. Belken

Readings for Next Sunday

The Twenty-Third
Sunday in Ordinary
Time

September 8, 2024

Is 35:4-7a

Jas 2:1-5

Mk 7:31-37

NEW!!

First Saturday Masses

Fr. Belken will be celebrating the inaugural First Saturday Mass on September 7 (and each first Saturday) at 8:00am at St. Denis. Please join us each first Saturday as we renew our devotions to our Blessed Mother. During these months prior to the election, the intention will be for a pro-life Nation and State.

TO QUOTE A SAINT

"Act in such a way that your humility may not be weakness, nor your authority be severity."

Justice must be accompanied by humility, that humility may render justice lovable."

-St. Gregory the

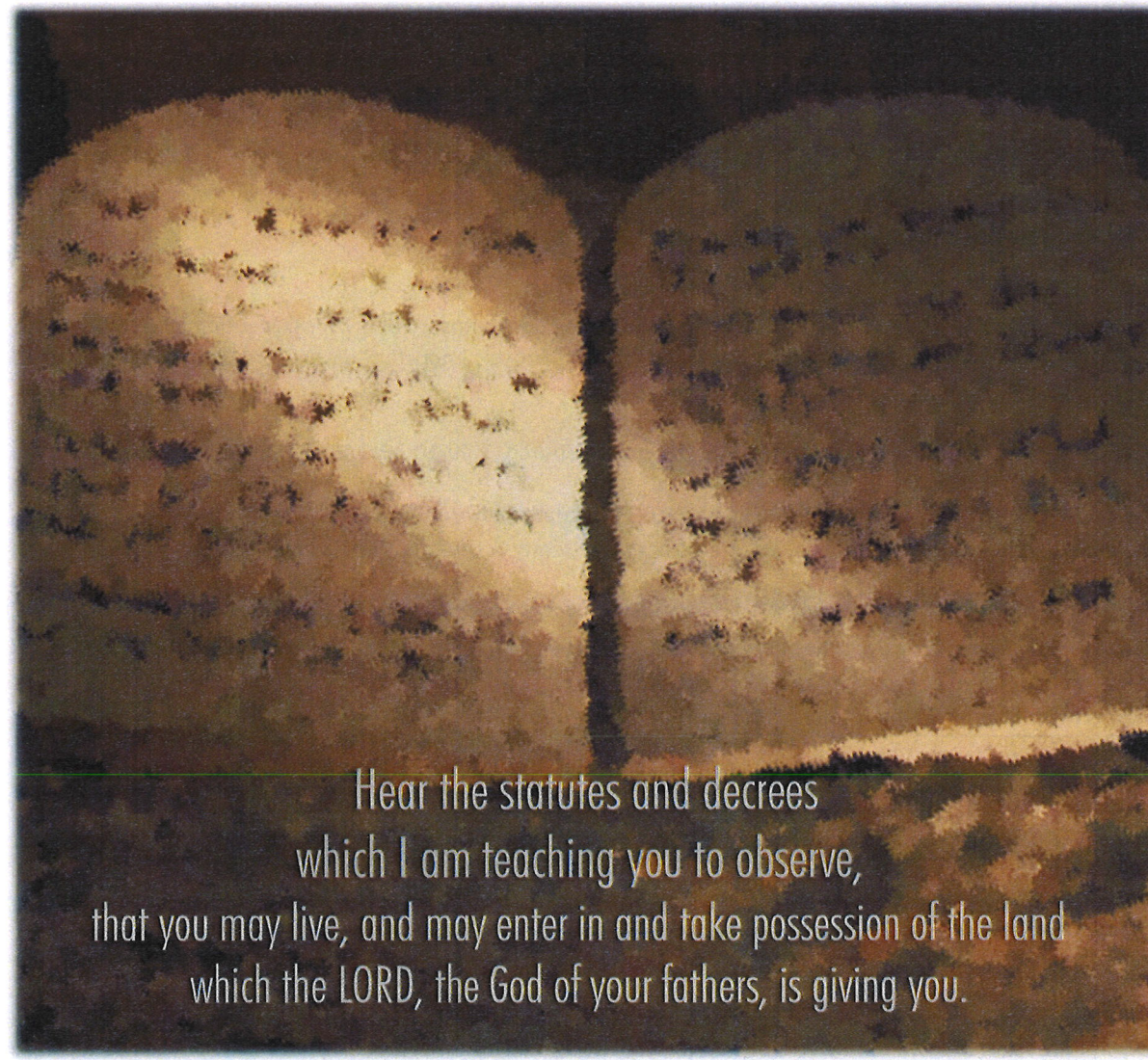


THE TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME · SEPTEMBER 1, 2024



Saint Lawrence

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH



Hear the statutes and decrees
which I am teaching you to observe,
that you may live, and may enter in and take possession of the land
which the LORD, the God of your fathers, is giving you.

1001 State Highway A, New Hamburg, MO — PO Box 247, Benton, Missouri 63736

Phone: 573-545-3317

Website: www.stlnh.org

St. Lawrence Church – New Hamburg, Missouri
P.O. Box 247 Benton, Missouri 63736 573-545-3317
Rev. Daniel Belken, Pastor
Billy Ray Johnson - Parish Office Manager

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
September 1-7, 2024
www.stlnh.org
E-Mail address: Office@stlnh.org

Mass Schedule

Sat.	Aug	31	4PM	Cletus & Norma Gosche	Thu.	Sep	5	7AM	Marvin Westrich
Sun.	Sep	1	8:30AM	Parish Family	Fri.	Sep	6	7AM	Leonard Kluesner
Mon.	Sep	2	No Mass		Sat.	Sep	7	4PM	Dennis Gosche
Tue.	Sep	3	6PM	Eugene Dirnberger	Sun.	Sep	8	8:30AM	Parish Family
Wed.	Sep	4	7AM	Melvin Glastetter					

SUNDAY: OUR LADY OF FÁTIMA VISITATION. SEP 1-Norma Seyer, SEP 8-Jackie Griffith, SEP 15-Pat Moore, SEP 22-Mary F. Glastetter, SEP 29-Theresa Essner.

SUNDAY COLLECTION:

August 25, 2024: Loose \$174, Envelopes \$2431, Total: \$2605.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5th, ST. ANNE'S SODALITY MEETING. Rosary at 6:15PM. Meeting at 6:30PM in the Parish Center. New leadership is needed. Please join us for this important discussion about the future of St. Anne's Sodality.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6th, ADORATION. St. Lawrence Church, 7:30-10:30AM.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6th, CHURCH CLEANING. Chairman: Henry & Pam Dirnberger
Herbie & Cindy Dirnberger, Joe & Valerie Dirnberger, Kenny & Laverne Dirnberger.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8th, ANNUAL FALL DINNER, ST. JOSEPH CHURCH. St. Joseph Catholic Church Annual Fall Dinner from 10:30AM-1PM in the School Gym. The menu is kettle beef, chicken & dumplings, chicken & dressing, mashed potatoes, green beans, slaw, dessert, tea and coffee. Buffet style. Adults \$15, Children 6-12 \$7 and Children 5 & Under Free. Carry-outs available. We will also have our country store and bakery shop.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20th, ST. DENIS 10th ANNUAL PAUL STUCKEY GOLF SCRAMBLE. At Bent Creek golf course. Lunch served at 11:30AM with a shotgun start at 12:30PM.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28th, ST. AMBROSE DINNER AUCTION. St. Ambrose dinner auction presents Viva Las Vegas, doors open at 5PM at the VFW Chaffee. Tickets are \$40 per person. Highlights are raffles, silent auctions, live auction and all you can drink & eat. Buy your tickets online at <http://www.charityauction.bid/STAVivaLasVegas>.

PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION (PSR). PSR will begin Sunday, September 15th, for grades kindergarten through 5th grade from 9:30-10:30AM. Grades 6th through 8th will begin confirmation preparation. More details later. No snacks will be served this year. Commissioning of Religion teachers will be on Sunday, September 15th at 8:30AM Mass. **Still in need of a 3rd grade teacher, if willing to help please call Pat Moore at 573-545-3458.**

Lector & Communion Distributor:	Sat.	Sep	7	4PM	Sally O'Brien
Organist/Cantor:	Sat.	Sep	7	4PM	Linda Essner/Jamie Essner
Gift Bearers:	Sat.	Sep	7	4PM	Mr./Mrs Zakery Johnson
Servers:	Sat.	Sep	7	4PM	Isabell Crook/Wyatt Farrow/Bennett Essner
Ushers:	Sat.	Sep	7	4PM	Pat O'Brien/Michael Pennington/Jim Pinkston/Greg Morgan

Lector & Communion Distributor:	Sun.	Sep	8	8:30AM	Diane Ashcraft
Organist/Cantor:	Sun.	Sep	8	8:30AM	Linda Essner/Mary B. Glastetter
Gift Bearers:	Sun.	Sep	8	8:30AM	Mr./Mrs. Aloysius Kern
Servers:	Sun.	Sep	8	8:30AM	Vanellope DeShaney/Charleigh DeShaney/Tyler Jackson/Tyler Morgan
Ushers:	Sun.	Sep	8	8:30AM	Richard Paul/Scott Peterson/Evan Reischman/Gary Reischman

MASS INTENTIONS. Whenever the church has a Mass that is skipped because of a circumstance, then that intention is moved to the next available day on the Mass calendar. Mass intentions for the upcoming year will be taken starting October 15, on a first come first served basis. If you have any questions, please contact the church office.

CODE OF CONDUCTS. Code of Conducts are available online or in the Parish Office to be signed for volunteers, workers, and PSR staff/teachers for the upcoming year. Please come by to sign as soon as possible. **This year another form needs to be signed. The "Fair Credit Reporting Act" background check form also needs to be signed along with the CoC form.** Both are available online and in the Parish Office.

PASTORAL NOTE: INTRODUCTION OF ALTERNATE PENITENTIAL RITE - Starting in a few weeks, Father would like to introduce an alternate penitential rite from the Roman Missal (occurs at the very beginning of Mass, before the Gloria or opening Collect). The dialogue will go as follows, with congregation saying the bolded parts:

Presider: Have mercy on us O Lord.

R. For we have sinned against you.

Presider: Show us, O Lord, your mercy.

R. And Grant us your salvation.

Presider: May almighty God have mercy on us...

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