

The Pastor's Corner

THE "WHY" IN THE CROSS

I always laugh to myself when I hear a young child ask "why?". I chuckle for two reasons: first, every child has that moment when they begin to ask this very question, not once, but seemingly hundreds of times. Second, I chuckle because that question never fully goes away. Even as an adult and then as a priest, I often find myself asking that simple question: "why?" Why do these prices seem higher than last week? Why do I have to fill out this form? Why is my mail running late? These situations aren't all that serious- and yet the question persists. What's worse is that the question becomes even more prevalent in moments of suffering. Why is my loved one suffering so? Why does God let these things happen to me? Why does my cross seem so heavy? Often, it seems as if there are no answers that satisfy!

Jesus, as if He has heard all of our questions before, gives us encouragement in the Gospel: "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me." Our crosses, as we know them, are not physical instruments of pain per se, but rather the trials and tribulations that come our way. Perhaps they are the things that make us ask the question "Why?". Yet, they are given to us to carry- and Jesus makes it very clear the life of a disciple is to carry a cross. Why? Because we need to for the sake of preserving our life. If we live our life selfishly refusing to carry crosses- the choice is death, for all of eternity. Why? Because we have chosen to leave Christ's own example behind, as well as what His Cross He carried won for us.

That said- if we choose to embrace our crosses: every trial, tribulation and sacrifice that comes our way- we choose life. We may not know exactly "why" on every circumstance, trial or suffering we endure- but if we choose to carry them anyways, we do know that we will be quite handsomely rewarded in God's own time! Perhaps that can help to understand the "why."

-Fr. Belken

Readings for Next Sunday

The Twenty-Fifth
Sunday in Ordinary
Time

September 22, 2024

Wis 2:12, 17-20

Jas 3:16-4:3

Mk 9:30-37

CONFIRMATION CLASS MEETING

Attention 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students
and parents

Please join Fr. Belken at the St. Denis
School Cafeteria on

Wednesday September 18, at 7:00pm.

The meeting will be brief and will discuss
some of the logistics and schedule for
confirmation in April 2026.

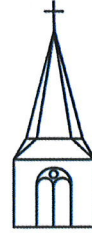


TO QUOTE A SAINT

"We must carry out the will of God rather than our own. This is what we pledge to do in the "Our Father", which we recite every day. What a travesty it would be if, after praying that God's will be done, we should carry out that will halfheartedly and only because we are obliged to do so!"

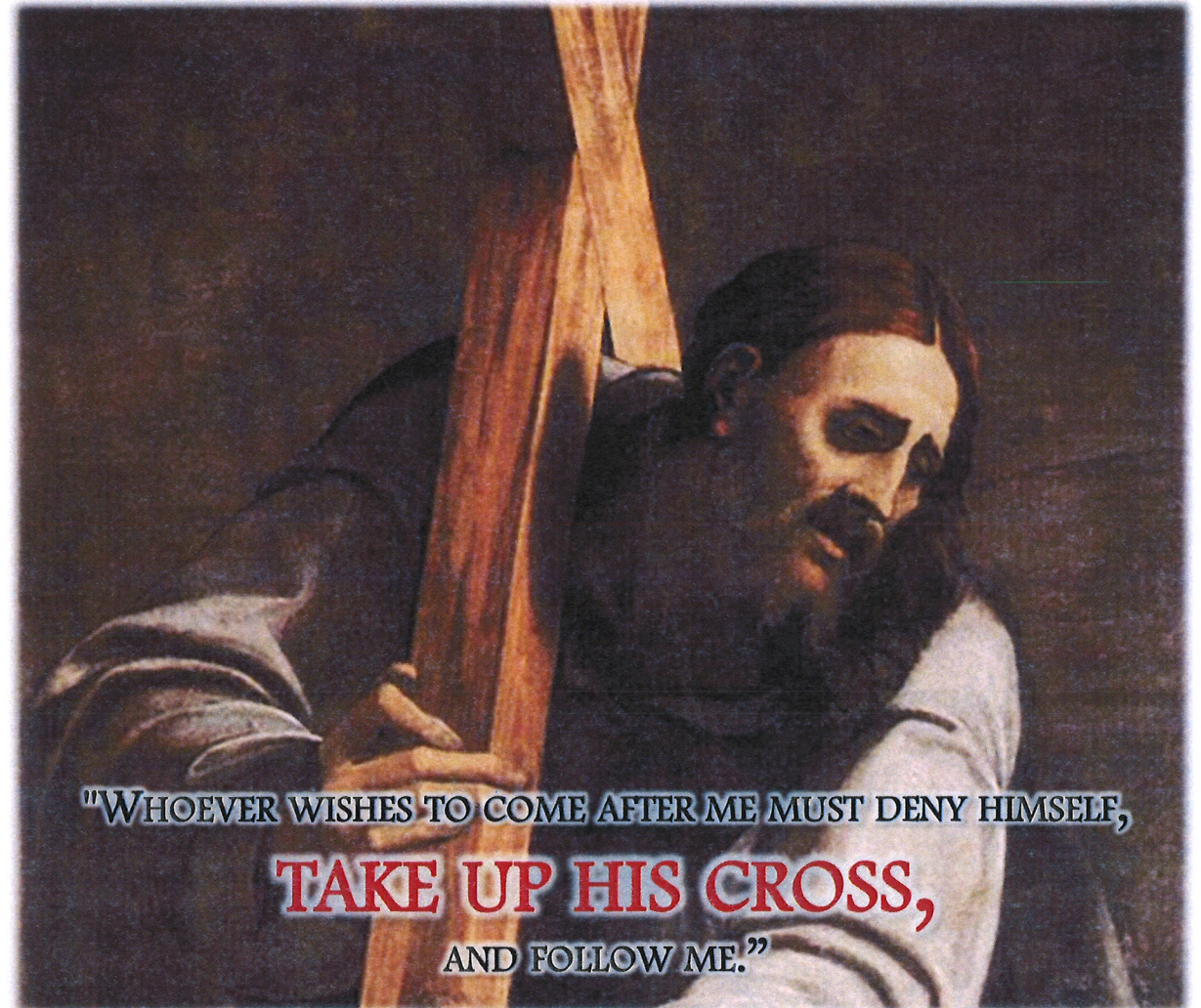
-St. Cyprian

THE TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME · SEPTEMBER 15, 2024



Saint Lawrence

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH



"WHOEVER WISHES TO COME AFTER ME MUST DENY HIMSELF,
TAKE UP HIS CROSS,
AND FOLLOW ME."

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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

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time
September 15-21, 2024
www.stlnh.org
E-Mail address: Office@stlnh.org

Mass Schedule

Sat. Sep 14 4PM	Parish Family	Thu. Sep 19 7AM	Leonard Kluesner
Sun. Sep 15 8:30AM	Barney & Sylvia Steimle	Fri. Sep 20 7AM	Vicky Hagar
Mon. Sep 16 No Mass		Sat. Sep 21 4PM	Andrew Essner
Tue. Sep 17 6PM	Mike Ward	Sun. Sep 22 8:30AM	Parish Family
Wed. Sep 18 7AM	Lefty & Ida Seyer		

SUNDAY: OUR LADY OF FATIMA VISITATION. SEP 15-Pat Moore, **SEP 22**-Mary F. Glastetter, **SEP 29**-Theresa Essner.

SUNDAY COLLECTION:

September 8, 2024: Loose \$172, Envelopes \$3525, Total: \$3697.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17th, DEANERY 6 COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN QUARTLY MEETING. At St. Vincent DePaul Church in Cape Girardeau. Rosary in church at 5:15PM, prayer service to follow. After Mass, transition to the school cafeteria for registration, refreshments, and meeting.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18th, CONFIRMATION CLASS MEETING. Please join Father Belken at the St. Denis cafeteria at 7PM. The meeting will be brief and will discuss some of the logistics and schedule for confirmation in April 2026.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19th. PASTORAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING. 6PM in the Parish Center.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20th, ADORATION. St. Lawrence Church, 7:30-10:30AM.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20th, CHURCH CLEANING. Chairman: Scott & Caroline Drodgy
Alex & Casey Duncan, Jaems & Marilyn Duncan, Harold & Joyce Eftink.

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.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23rd, COVENANT NETWORK RADIOTHON. Claudette Hency will be on air for the Catholic Radio Fall Radiathon from 2-3PM. Flyers are in the back of church to support Catholic Radio.

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>.

Lector & Communion Distributor:	Sat. Sep 21 4PM	Frank Glueck
Organist/Cantor:	Sat. Sep 21 4PM	Krista Kluesner
Gift Bearers:	Sat. Sep 21 4PM	Mr./Mrs Dennis Kern
Servers:	Sat. Sep 21 4PM	Tucker Dirnberger/Saylor Dirnberger/Eli Holman
Ushers:	Sat. Sep 21 4PM	Eric Seyer/Don Seyer/Joseph Spurgeon/Ryan Steimle

Lector & Communion Distributor:	Sun. Sep 22 8:30AM	Gary Reischman
Organist/Cantor:	Sun. Sep 22 8:30AM	Krista Kluesner
Gift Bearers:	Sun. Sep 22 8:30AM	Mr./Mrs. Donnie Kern
Servers:	Sun. Sep 22 8:30AM	Oliver Beck/Paxton Beck/Leeland Duenne/ Kynli Duenne
Ushers:	Sun. Sep 22 8:30AM	Marvin Seyer/Andy Silman/Danny Simpher/ Marty Steimle

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6th, HIGH SCHOOL RELIGION. Classes will begin with a candlelight Rosary Procession to the Grotto, weather permitting. We invite parents, grandparents, and parishioners to pray the rosary with us and pray for a successful year.

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. **THANK YOU TO ASHLEY MAYBURY AND KELLY FELTER FOR VOLUNTEERING TO TEACH 3rd GRADE RELIGION THIS YEAR.**

CHURCH DIRECTORY UPDATE. If your contact information has changed, please notify the church office so we can update the church's directory and our information is correct. Thanks in advance.

NEW FIRST SATURDAY MASSES. Fr. Belken will be celebrating the inaugural First Saturday Mass on September 7 (and each first Saturday) at 8AM 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.

SECOND COLLECTION. This week for the Retirement fund for religious.