

The Pastor's Corner

THE SIN OF SHACKLES IN EBENEZER SCROOGE

One Christmas movie that is very well known, simply because of the many renditions of it, is A Christmas Carol, penned by Charles Dickens. The story is largely based about a man, Ebenezer Scrooge, and how he is warned by the ghosts of Marley, Christmas past, Christmas present, and Christmas future that he needs to change his ways. The ghost of Jacob Marley is rather striking to Ebenezer, because he had always looked up to the “success” of Jacob Marley as a business partner and modelled his life after Jacobs. However, when Jacob Marley’s ghost appears, it is shackled and chained, and doomed to a life of punishment and frustration from that moment on- and he warns Ebenezer that if he does not change his ways, he will do the same!

The mixture of readings is very strange on the surface level. The first and the second readings are all about “rejoicing” and the third is about John the Baptist’s warnings and instructions of what to do to avoid the coming wrath. Is one or two of these readings to be ignored in favor of the other or the others? The short answer: no. They all blend quite nicely. We should rejoice at the coming of Christ- but we also need to throw aside some certain things as we rejoice. That may seem to conflict with our notion of rejoicing because it feels like we are losing something- but we must realize sometimes, the things we cling so tightly to are actually shackles and chains. John warns against extortion, accusations, and being unsatisfied with wages- because each of those things are very harmful, along with many others. How many times are we taking time from the Lord, that should be his? How many times are we selfish because we don’t have “enough”? How many times do we throw around gossip instead of being bastions of truth?

Ebenezer Scrooge received a warning from Marley so he could receive freedom. May we truly also be free of the things that hold us back in living out the Gospel- and living life to the full!

-Fr. Belken

JOIN US FOR OUR PARISH MISSION!

FEATURING FR. RON HOYE

December 15-17, 2024

7:00pm Each Evening

at St. Denis Church

(Each one only 50 Minutes)

Join us for Engaging Presentations, Life-changing stories, smiles and laughter!



Readings for Next Sunday

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

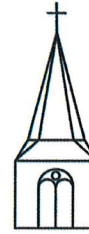
December 22, 2024

Mi 5:1-4a

Heb 10:5-10

Lk 1:39-45

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT · DECEMBER 15, 2024



Saint Lawrence

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH



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

3rd Sunday of Advent
December 15-21, 2024
www.stlnh.org
E-Mail address: Office@stlnh.org

Mass Schedule

Sat. Dec 14 4PM	Jeff Steger	Thu. Dec 19 7AM	Lorena Beussink
Sun. Dec 15 8:30AM	Parish Family	Fri. Dec 20 7AM	Janet Vetter
Mon. Dec 16	No Mass	Sat. Dec 21 4PM	Alex Jr. & Vera Burger
Tue. Dec 17 6PM	Ricky Harper	Sun. Dec 22 8:30AM	Parish Family
Wed. Dec 18 7AM	Richard Bennett		

SUNDAY: OUR LADY OF FATIMA VISITATION. DEC 15-Mary F. Glastetter, **DEC 22**-Theresa Essner, **DEC 29**-Jill Pinkston.

SUNDAY COLLECTION:

December 8, 2024: Loose \$242, Envelopes \$2433, Total: \$2675.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15th, CHURCH DECOATION. “Save the Date” If you would like to help decorate the church, it will be following Mass on December 15th. Any help is greatly appreciated.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20th, CHURCH CLEANING. Chairman: Norman & Dianna Kluesner
William Kluesner, Kyle & Andrea Koepp, Timothy & Kristy Landewee.

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

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20th, CHRISTMAS CHURCH TOUR OF SCOTT COUNTY. 4:30-7:30PM. This is a free self-guided tour. St. Denis and St. Lawrence Church will participate in this tour. St. Lawrence will have both of our churches decorated and open, along with our beautiful grotto, and a live nativity as part of our tour. More information can be found on the flyers that are in the back of the church. **The flyer in the back of church has been updated.**

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22nd, PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION (PSR) CHRISTMAS PROGRAM. The St. Lawrence PSR will present their annual Christmas Program on December 22nd following Mass. All are invited to attend.

2025 ENVELOPES. 2025 collection envelopes are available for pickup in the back of church. Please check and make sure that you pick up the correct envelopes and if not please return them with the rest of the envelopes.

MEN’S CLUB BUTCHERING. Signup sheet is in the foyer of church for sausage and headcheese from St. Joe’s Sodality annual butchering. Men mark your calendars; the sausage & headcheese will be made on January 11th.

SEMO CAMINITO. A small southeast Missouri version of the Camino de Santiago (The way of St. James). 3 days, 10 churches, 40 miles. A walking journey in holiness for an increase in vocations, the sanctity of our

Lector & Communion Distributor:	Sat. Dec 21 4PM	Stephanie Burger
Organist/Cantor:	Sat. Dec 21 4PM	Linda Essner/Jamie Essner
Gift Bearers:	Sat. Dec 21 4PM	Danny, Robin, Jamie, and Russell Burger
Servers:	Sat. Dec 21 4PM	Luke Benson/Drew Benson/Mila Burger
Ushers:	Sat. Dec 21 4PM	Danny Burger/Robin Burger/Jamie Burger/Russell Burger

Lector & Communion Distributor:	Sun. Dec 22 8:30AM	PSR Mass
Organist/Cantor:	Sun. Dec 22 8:30AM	Linda Essner/Kari Bickings
Gift Bearers:	Sun. Dec 22 8:30AM	PSR Mass
Servers:	Sun. Dec 22 8:30AM	PSR Mass
Ushers:	Sun. Dec 22 8:30AM	PSR Mass

priests and the laity in our diocese, and for those who have fallen away from the Church. March 10-12, 20-25. Flyers are in the back of the church.

ST. ANNE’S SODALITY FACEBOOK PAGE. If you do social media and Facebook. Please look up St. Anne’s Ladies Sodality New Hamburg page and become a follower. It’s another great communication tool within the parish for getting correct information about the church and happenings that are going on.

NOTRE DAME MARCH FOR LIFE SPONSORSHIP. Notre Dame has nine students from our Students for Life organization participating in the March for Life in January and are fundraising to help cover the cost of travel and food. Here’s where you come in...for a \$20 sponsorship, you get your name on the back of a student’s t-shirt that they will be wearing while marching in D.C. You’ll be there in spirit showing support for life! Visit www.notredamehighschool.org/march to show your support. You will be able to choose the name of the student you are sponsoring. For more information, contact March for Life coordinator Gail Timpe at gailtimpe@notredamecape.org.

NOTRE DAME PLACEMENT TEST. The Notre Dame Regional High School Placement Test for the class of 2029 is scheduled for Saturday, January 18, 2025. This test is one of several criteria used to assess a student’s current math abilities and assure student success in our mathematics curriculum. All eighth graders interested in enrolling at Notre Dame should report to Notre Dame at 8AM for the test. The event should conclude by 10AM. Please bring two #2 pencils and a calculator. During the test, parents will hear about next steps toward enrollment from Director of Enrollment, Meg Garner, followed by coffee and donuts with the Home & School Board for our Morning Mingle.

PLEASE CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE IF YOU’RE WILLING TO VOLUNTEER FOR LECTOR OR ALTAR SERVERS AT 8AM CHRISTMAS DAY MASS.