

The Pastor's Corner

WHAT CHRISTMAS IS ALL ABOUT

If you've ever seen A Charlie Brown Christmas, you can likely identify this simple question: "Isn't there anyone who knows what Christmas is all about?!" Charlie Brown, as he is undergoing all of the toils of trying to direct a Christmas play for the cast of Peanuts characters, comes to this moment where he is beside himself, feeling lost in the midst of the "racket" of what Christmas has become. It is Linus who has a very simple answer, and steps forward. He says "Lights please!" and then tells a tale we are all familiar with: born today in the city of David is Christ the Lord! After giving the very short synopsis, Linus turns to Charlie Brown: "That's what Christmas is all about, Charlie Brown!"

Certainly, this season offers quite a lot to evoke joy! However, we can all get that feeling Charlie Brown had from time to time. Amid the hustle and bustle preceding Christmas, it can feel like a lot, or that we've lost focus on what matters. Or, maybe we feel worse. Maybe when Charlie Brown says "Christmas is coming, but I'm not happy. I don't feel the way I'm supposed to feel" that resonates more than we feel it should. And all of the usual things that make Christmas feel like Christmas aren't working. Not the lights. Not the cookies. Not the tree, or any of the usual festivities.

Whatever feeling is on your heart this year, don't forget what this is all about, and the one who gives this season purpose and meaning- and even joy! We too easily get caught up in the rat race of trying to be first to put up our lights- but we need the Light of the World. We seek to open our homes to family: but we celebrate a Babe had no place to rest His sweet Head. We give great gifts- but we cannot forget God's Greatest gift in His Son.

That's what Christmas is all about!

On behalf of myself, my staff, and all of our parish communities, may you and yours have a most Blessed Christmas Season as we celebrate "what Christmas is all about". Know of my prayers for you and yours, now and always!

-Fr. Belken

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

- 4:00PM CHRISTMAS EVE AT ST. LAWRENCE
- 6:15PM CHRISTMAS EVE AT ST. DENIS
- 12:00AM MIDNIGHT MASS AT ST. DENIS
- 8:00AM CHRISTMAS DAY AT ST. LAWRENCE
- 10:00AM CHRISTMAS DAY AT ST. DENIS

May You and Yours Have a Blessed Christmas!

Readings for Next Sunday

THE FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

December 29, 2024

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14

Col 3:12-21

Lk 2:41-52

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT · DECEMBER 22, 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

4th Sunday of Advent
December 22-28, 2024
www.stlnh.org
E-Mail address: Office@stlnh.org

<u>Mass Schedule</u>								
Sat.	Dec	21	4PM	Alex Jr. & Vera Burger	Thu.	Dec	26	No Mass
Sun.	Dec	22	8:30AM	Parish Family	Fri.	Dec	27	7AM Charles & Lucille Heuring
Mon.	Dec	23	No Mass		Sat.	Dec	28	4PM Parish Family
Tue.	Dec	24	4PM	Barney & Sylvia Steimle	Sun.	Dec	29	8:30AM Paul Stuckey
Wed.	Dec	25	8AM	Lefty & Ida Seyer				

SUNDAY: OUR LADY OF FATIMA VISITATION. DEC 22-Theresa Essner, DEC 29-Jill Pinkston.

SUNDAY COLLECTION:

December 15, 2024: Loose \$153, Envelopes \$4010, Total: \$4163.

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.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27th, CHURCH CLEANING. Chairman: Kerry & Ashley Lasters

Earlene Lowes, Doug Lynn, Steve & Judy Lynn, Ethen & Carissa Maddox, Jennifer & Richy Johnson

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27th, ADORATION. St. Lawrence Church, 7:30-10:30AM

SATURDAY, JANUARY 18th, St. LAWRENCE MEN’S SODALITY EUCHRE TOURNAMENT. In the Parish Center, doors open at 5:30PM. Play begins at 7PM, \$10 donation. Free chili & chicken noodle soup. For more information, contact the church office at 573-545-3317.

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.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS. Would you like to remember someone at Christmas and help decorate the church? To do so, you may put \$10 in a plain envelope or your collection envelope, write who it is given in memory of, and who it is given by. One name per family, per donation please.

THANK YOU. Thank you to all the parishioners who helped decorate the church, old church and grotto. It was amazing the turnout of parishioners who were willing to help and make St. Lawrence a beautiful church.

Lector & Communion Distributor:	Tue. Dec 24 4PM	Jill Pinkston
Organist/Cantor:	Tue. Dec 24 4PM	Volunteers
Gift Bearers:	Tue. Dec 24 4PM	Volunteers
Servers:	Tue. Dec 24 4PM	Ty Glastetter/Callen Glastetter/Eli Holman/Caleb Vetter
Ushers:	Tue. Dec 24 4PM	Volunteers

Lector & Communion Distributor:	Wed. Dec 25 8AM	Patty Halter
Organist/Cantor:	Wed. Dec 25 8AM	Volunteers
Gift Bearers:	Wed. Dec 25 8AM	Volunteers
Servers:	Wed. Dec 25 8AM	Luke Benson/Drew Benson/Volunteers
Ushers:	Wed. Dec 25 8AM	Volunteers

Lector & Communion Distributor:	Sat. Dec 28 4PM	Jill Pinkston
Organist/Cantor:	Sat. Dec 28 4PM	Cheryl Kern/Mary B. Glastetter
Gift Bearers:	Sat. Dec 28 4PM	Mr/Mrs. Steven Loveless
Servers:	Sat. Dec 28 4PM	Drew Essner/Ty Essner/Kinsey Essner
Ushers:	Sat. Dec 28 4PM	Danny Glastetter/Jacob Glastetter/Jason Glastetter/Joshua Glastetter

Lector & Communion Distributor:	Sun. Dec 29 8:30AM	Shannon Schumer
Organist/Cantor:	Sun. Dec 29 8:30AM	Cheryl Kern/Jamie Essner
Gift Bearers:	Sun. Dec 29 8:30AM	Mr/Mrs. Steve Lynn
Servers:	Sun. Dec 29 8:30AM	Bennett Essner/Charleigh DeShaney/Vanellope DeShaney/Berkley Dirnberger
Ushers:	Sun. Dec 29 8:30AM	Michael Glastetter/Michael Glastetter II/Ronald Glastetter/Frank Glueck

PARISH OFFICE HOLIDAY HOURS. The rectory parish office will be open on Tuesday the 24th during normal working hours but closed on Wednesday the 25th. Office hours are still 8AM-3PM.

THANK YOU. The Heisserer family would like to extend their appreciation and gratitude for all the prayers and support we have received. Especially those who put in the hard work for the wonderful meal. It’s comforting to belong to a Church family that shows their love and support through such a difficult time. Thank you doesn’t feel sufficient for the love that all of you have shown. -Elmer Heisserer Family

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