

The Pastor's Corner

THE "FILTER" THAT IS JESUS

This Sunday we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord- and if you know even your basic-level Catholic theology, you'll know something seems amiss from even the title of the liturgical celebration. Why did the Lord need baptized? We are taught that the Lord was sinless- and had no need of repentance! He is God, and is therefore perfect and all good! Baptism is for the sinful! Baptism is for those who need conversion and repentance. What gives, then?

What happened that day in the Jordan was far different than we might have expected- Jesus came not to be purified by the waters of baptism, but to purify them for us. He was the filter, of sorts, that was preparing to take the baptism they experienced and give it a new life and a new dignity. Jesus makes it so powerful, in fact, that we hold to one baptism- even in another Christian denomination (provided the baptism is done in the name of the Father, Son, and Spirit), even if we sin, and even if we sin repeatedly. The grace of baptism is truly that pervasive in our souls that there is nothing we can do to fully remove the purification that Jesus has given to the waters with which we were baptized.

Now, that does not mean we can't do a number on marring the appearance of that mark. In all reality, we often succumb to things that make us need purification again- not necessarily by baptism, but by Reconciliation, and by the Eucharist. We need the "filtering" that Jesus provides to remove from us sin, and to purify us and make us clean quite often- and praise God for that grace.

As we celebrate this feast today, do not be afraid to ask Christ to continue to filter out all of the sins and impurities within- so that you and I can be made clean and pure! He has been baptized- so that we all may be cleansed.

-Fr. Belken

THANK YOU!

Dear St. Lawrence Parishioners,
I want to take a moment to thank all of you who took a moment out of your busy preparations for Christmas to send me a card, or even a generous gift as well. I am so humbled by your kindness to me, as your pastor, even though I do not feel truly worthy to hold this position. Know of my prayers of gratitude!

-Fr. Belken

Readings for Next Sunday

**THE SECOND SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME**

January 19, 2024

Isaiah 62:1-5

1 Corinthians 12:4-11

John 2:1-11

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD · JANUARY 12, 2025



Saint Lawrence

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH



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Rev. Daniel Belken, Pastor
Billy Ray Johnson - Parish Office Manager

The Baptism of the Lord
January 12-18, 2025
www.stlnh.org
E-Mail address: Office@stlnh.org

Mass Schedule

Sat.	Jan	11	4PM	Parish Family	Thu.	Jan	16	7AM	Cletus & Norma Gosche
Sun.	Jan	12	8:30AM	Patricia Schott	Fri.	Jan	17	7AM	Ricky Duncan
Mon.	Jan	13	No Mass		Sat.	Jan	18	4PM	David Dirnberger
Tue.	Jan	14	No Mass		Sun.	Jan	19	8:30AM	Parish Family
Wed.	Jan	15	No Mass						

SUNDAY: OUR LADY OF FATIMA VISITATION. JAN 12-Dorothy Deason, **JAN 19-**Margaret Heuring, **JAN 26-**Coonie Essner.

SUNDAY COLLECTION:

January 5, 2025: Loose \$206, Envelopes \$4105, Total: \$4311.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 12th, ST. JOSEPH'S MEN'S CLUB ANNUAL BREAKFAST. In the Parish Center from 8-11:30AM. Homemade sausage, pancakes, eggs and more. Adults: \$10, Children (6-12): \$5, under 5 eat free. All are welcome!

FRIDAY, JANUARY 17th, CHURCH CLEANING. Chairman: Jim & Jill Pinkston
Evan & Jordan Reischman, Gary & Debbie Reischman, Richard & Andrea Reeves.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 17th, 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 5PM. Play begins at 6:30PM, \$15 donation. Free chili & chicken noodle soup. For more information, contact the church office at 573-545-3317.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 19th, PROLIFEROSARY PROCESSION. January is Respect Life Month. The St. Lawrence High School Religion students will sponsor this procession after 8:30AM Mass to pray for Pro Life and an end to abortion. Meet in the Parish Center. All parishioners are invited to attend. Senator Jamie Burger will be present to share Pro Life beliefs in Missouri.

New Security. As you are about the campus, you will likely notice the addition of several security cameras in a few key places. These are being added to help us to proactively keep our facilities safe and secure. Thank you to all those whose generosity makes these much-needed improvements possible!

SPECIAL BLESSING. If you are a mother who is expecting, please know that the Church has a special blessing, reserved for mothers who are anticipating the birth of a child, so that she may receive protection, aid, and support during the days and months leading up to the child's arrival. This is available at any time- please feel free to contact Father Belken to receive it. Please also note that you do not have to wait until after birth to

Lector & Communion Distributor:	Sat. Jan 18 4PM	Cindy Glueck
Organist/Cantor:	Sat. Jan 18 4PM	Linda Essner/Mary B. Glastetter
Gift Bearers:	Sat. Jan 18 4PM	Mr/Mrs. Greg Morgan
Servers:	Sat. Jan 18 4PM	Caleb Vetter/Noah Vetter/Rocky Burger
Ushers:	Sat. Jan 18 4PM	Billy Johnson/Zakery Johnson/Steve Holman/ Aloysius Kern

Lector & Communion Distributor:	Sun. Jan 19 8:30AM	Gary Reischman
Organist/Cantor:	Sun. Jan 19 8:30AM	Linda Essner/Jamie Essner
Gift Bearers:	Sun. Jan 19 8:30AM	Mr/Mrs. Justin Modglin
Servers:	Sun. Jan 19 8:30AM	Ty Glastetter/Callen Glastetter/Colin Felter/ Brady James
Ushers:	Sun. Jan 19 8:30AM	Jared Holloway/Derrick Irwin/Brian James/ Doug Johnson

meet to schedule and arrange a baptism, that can be done at any time prior as well! God Bless you, and keep you, as you carry the gift of life!

THANK YOU. The family of Paul W. Essner would like to express our sincere thanks and gratitude during our time of loss. We are grateful for your support and comfort from our parish community. We thank Father Belken and Monsignor Varone for celebrating the life of our dad with all our friends and family with such a special mass. The mass music was beautiful. A special thank you to the parish for setting up the bereavement dinner and the Ladies Sodality for the delicious meal. Everyone's kindness will always be remembered. Sincerely, The Paul W. Essner Family

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOUL OF PAUL WILLIAM ESSNER AND FOR HIS FAMILY DURING THIS TIME OF LOSS AND SORROW.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOUL OF HENRIETTA DIRNBERGER AND FOR HER FAMILY DURING THIS TIME OF LOSS AND SORROW.

Student Priest in Residence. Fr. Maurice Chukwukere, who is a priest who has been ministering in our Diocese, will be transitioning to being a full-time student at SEMO. Since he had need of a place to stay, Bishop has asked that he be in residence at our parish rectory. He will only be in residence at our parish (meaning that he is not serving our or any parish in a formal capacity). However, he will be helping area priests on a part-time basis (including Fr. Belken!) by filling in for Mass and Confessions as needed. If you see him, please make him feel to be welcome here. Please also maintain and respect the privacy of the back quarters of the rectory to help him feel at home.

