



# The Monthly Visitor

## Catholic Community

## Of Lawrence County



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If you know  
someone who has  
recently become  
infirm or  
homebound  
please contact our  
parish secretary at  
275-6539 so that  
we can add them  
to our visitation  
list.

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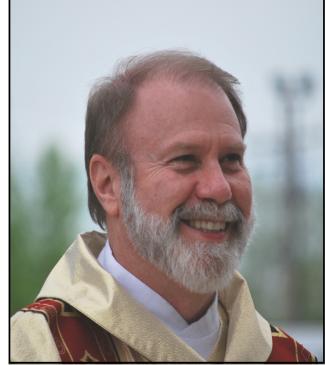
### A Message from Deacon Dave

Greetings in the  
Lord Jesus Christ:

As I mentioned in last month's newsletter, Kathy and I celebrated our 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on the 27<sup>th</sup> of February. Even though we were in a Covid pandemic, we still were able to celebrate. About a year and a half ago our two daughters started quizzing us on what we wanted to do to celebrate our joyful event. April and Amy had identified several different options, and way back then Kathy and I were already getting excited. After some discussion,

Kathy and I decided to let the girls decide how we would celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary since they were proposing so many ideas and options and they would be the ones doing the majority of work. The bottom line for us was that we wanted to renew our vows, and we at least wanted to celebrate with our family and our church community as much as possible. Little did we know that Covid-19 would have a big effect on how we would celebrate.

Once Covid-19 hit, all of the girls'



Deacon Dave Reising

planning was put on hold. At the beginning of February this year, I think Lawrence County had a Covid metric score in the red, which was the highest level it could be. Red meant that Covid was out of control here in Lawrence County, as well as Indiana. So, at that time, it looked like we would be lucky if we would have

### **Anointing of the Sick**

The catechism says,

"The anointing of the sick is not a sacrament for those only who are at the point of death.

Hence, as soon as anyone of the faithful begins to be in danger of death from sickness or old age, the fitting time for him to receive this sacrament has certainly already arrived"

### **Prayer Ministry**

Beginning with the Feast of Pentecost the Catholic Community of Lawrence County Prayer Ministry will be present at all weekend Masses. The Prayer Ministry will be in back of both churches making themselves available to pray for anyone who has a need. If you are interested in having some members of this Prayer Ministry come to where you live, just give Deacon Dave a call at 812-278-1795, and they will set a convenient time with you.

any type of gathering at all.

At the beginning of the month, when Kathy and I considered how we wanted to celebrate our anniversary, we noticed that the 27<sup>th</sup> was on Saturday and on top of that it would fall on my homily weekend. We discussed our options of going away for the weekend or staying in Bedford. As we discussed our options, it became obvious to us that we both wanted to spend our big day with family and our community, if at all possible, since both of them are an integral part of our life. That turned out to be a wonderful decision. The week before our anniversary the Covid metric score dropped from red to blue, and the temperature rose from single digits to the 50s in just a couple days. Our anniversary day was absolutely gorgeous, weather-wise.

The whole family got together for pictures prior to the 5 pm Saturday evening Mass. We even had the opportunity to have some outdoor pictures around St. Vincent's campus. The Mass was beautiful. I finished off my homily by talking about how much our community has meant to both Kathy and me and identified how important it is that we all support family and each other's marriages. As I closed out the homily, I asked Kathy to come up to the altar, and Fr. Jegan celebrated the rite of renewal of vows for Kathy and me. He blessed our rings and our marriage. At the end of Mass, Fr. Jegan called Kathy up again to the altar and presented us with a framed parchment from Pope Francis giving us his Apostolic Blessing.

After Mass, Fr. Jegan joined our family for dinner. After dinner, the girls showed us a video that they had put together of family and friends wishing Kathy and me a happy anniversary with some of their thoughts, good memories, and well wishes. Even though our 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary was limited by the Covid pandemic, we were certainly blessed by God with the presence of family, friends, and community. Kathy and I could not have been any happier with the way things worked out. It was truly a day, as the song says, "that the Lord had made."

May God Bless you,

*Deacon Dave*

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent

Scripture Reading: Exodus 20:1-17, 1 Corinthians 1:22-25, John 2:13-25

***Say what you will about the Ten Commandments, you must always come back to the pleasant fact that there are only 10 of them. —H. L. Mencken***

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**D**o you like ice cream? I do. But ice cream, especially the real creamy kind, has lots of calories.

Now there is an ice cream maker that claims to provide the creamy taste with fewer calories. I won't mention the name of this company, but it got started in 2012 when a former attorney decided to create a lower calorie alternative to traditional ice cream. Today, his low calorie ice cream is sold in pints around the world.

One of their advertising campaigns reminds us of all the things we tell ourselves that we should do:

- We "should" work out
- We "should" lose weight
- We "should" eat more salads
- We "should" skip desserts

The ad tells us to "Stop 'shoulding' yourself." (Notice, the ad is telling us what we *should* do!)

But in life, we can't stop "shoulding" ourselves, can we? We should obey municipal, state and federal laws. We should wear seat belts. We should wear masks. We should practice social distancing. We should pay our taxes.

And, then, when we look at the Bible (like today's reading from Exodus, for example), we learn that there are at least 10 commandments that involve things we should and should not do. And the rest of the Bible has more: We should be kind one to another. We should be patient. We should share. We should put others first. We should pray. We should love God. We should love our neighbors as ourselves. We should be compassionate. We should be humble and resist pride. That's a lot of "shoulds"!

So, let's eat ice cream, if our doctors give us permission. But let's also remember that it is okay to remember the "shoulds" and the "ought to's" in our lives. We owe it to our communities, our houses of worship, our neighbors, our friends.

We owe it ourselves.

—Timothy Merrill

*Prayer: God, thank you for giving us boundaries, guidelines and directions. We are happy to do what you ask us to do. Amen.*

# Activity Page

Week of March 7, 2021

## Daily Gospel Readings

- Sunday:** John 2:13-25  
**Monday:** Luke 4:24-30  
**Tuesday:** Matthew 18:21-35  
**Wednesday:** Matthew 5:17-19  
**Thursday:** Luke 11:14-23  
**Friday:** Mark 12:28-34  
**Saturday:** Luke 18:9-14

## VOW TO FIND A VOWEL!

**Directions:** We'll not only give you a vowel, but we'll give you a lot of them. The words in this brain-cruncher have vowels in unusual arrangements. See if you can guess the words from the clues provided. Find the secret message by transferring the circled letters to the appropriate spaces. Remember that the circled letter may be a vowel.

1. Brave:  E O U \_\_\_\_\_
2. A dark profile:  O U E \_\_\_\_\_
3. Circular:  O U \_\_\_\_\_
4. Running away: \_\_\_\_\_ E E 
5. Savage, fierce: \_\_\_\_\_ I O U 
6. Strange, odd: \_\_\_\_\_ U A I \_\_\_\_\_
7. A person from the 50<sup>th</sup> state: \_\_\_\_\_ A  I A \_\_\_\_\_
8. Compress, push together:  U E E \_\_\_\_\_
9. A large tree in California: \_\_\_\_\_ U  I A
10. Paddling in a small, narrow boat: \_\_\_\_\_ O E I \_\_\_\_\_
11. Upright, moral and righteous:  U O U \_\_\_\_\_
12. Lining up in a row: \_\_\_\_\_ U E U 
13. Gorgeous: F A U \_\_\_\_\_ E  U \_\_\_\_\_
14. Precipitation: \_\_\_\_\_ A I \_\_\_\_\_

**Secret Message:**  
Write here in the space provided.

## March 2021

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

## RIDDLE

A family lives in a large tower apartment building, 10 floors high. Every day their son takes the elevator from the family's apartment on the 10<sup>th</sup> floor to the ground floor and goes to school. When he returns in the afternoon, he uses the elevator to get to the fifth floor, and then uses the stairs for the remaining five floors. Why?

**ANSWERS:** 1. courageous; 2. silhouette; 3. round; 4. fleeing; 5. vicious; 6. quaint; 7. Hawaiian; 8. squeeze; 9. sequoia; 10. canoeing; 11. virtuous; 12. queuing; 13. beauteous; 14. rain. **Secret Message:** CHRIST IS SAVIOR; **Riddle:** Because the little kid cannot reach buttons higher than 5.

## 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent

Scripture Reading: 2 Chronicles 36:14-23, Ephesians 2:4-10, John 3:14-21

*To forgive is to set a prisoner free, and then discover  
that the prisoner was you! —Lewis B. Smedes*



Among the best of children's literature is Kenneth Grahame's *The Wind in the Willows*. In the first chapter, "The River Bank," the Mole meets the Rat and they become fast friends. The Rat takes the Mole for a boat ride. The Rat rows. But the Mole is eager to row, too. But the Rat won't let him, saying that the Mole does not have the experience yet to row a boat.

Angry, the Mole suddenly seizes the oars — with disastrous results. Soon the boat has overturned, and their lunch box is momentarily lost, and of course the two of them were plunged into the water.

A chastened Mole then offers a wonderful example of a good apology. He says: *Ratty, my generous friend! I am very sorry indeed for my foolish and ungrateful conduct. My heart quite fails me when I think how I might have lost that beautiful luncheon-basket. Indeed, I have been a complete [fool], and I know it. Will you overlook it this once and forgive me, and let things go on as before?*

The Mole expresses repentance, he identifies his wrongdoing, he acknowledges the harm caused to the other person, and he specifically asks for forgiveness and a restoration of goodwill.

Pretty good apology, don't you think?

It is appropriate during Lent to think about how we make amends. Many people believe that simply saying "sorry" is enough. But it is not enough, as the psalmist David well understood when he wrote Psalm 51: *My sin is ever before me. Against you, you alone, have I sinned ... Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. ... Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation* (vv. 3-4, 7, 10-12).

During your prayer time today, ask God to show you if there is anyone from whom you need to seek forgiveness. Then come clean with God, and God will restore to you "the joy of your salvation."

—Timothy Merrill

*Prayer: Thank you, loving God, for your infinite mercy and grace. Amen.*

# Activity Page

Week of March 14, 2021

## Daily Gospel Readings

**Sunday:** John 3:14-21  
**Monday:** John 4:43-54  
**Tuesday:** John 5:1-16  
**Wednesday:** John 5:17-30  
**Thursday:** John 5:31-47  
**Friday:** Luke 2:41-51  
**Saturday:** John 7:40-53



## QUIK QUIZ!

- \_\_\_ Joseph
- \_\_\_ Noah
- \_\_\_ Abraham
- 1 Adam
- \_\_\_ Joshua
- \_\_\_ Moses
- \_\_\_ Pharaoh
- \_\_\_ Cain
- \_\_\_ Rachel
- \_\_\_ Ishmael

## THE COMPLETE ALPHABET

Use **all** 26 letters of the alphabet to complete the following 11 words, but use each letter only once. Keep track of the letters you use by crossing off the letters in the alphabet below:

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N  
O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

1. \_\_\_ a \_\_\_ z
2. \_\_\_ u i \_\_\_
3. \_\_\_ u \_\_\_ c a
4. e \_\_\_ m p l e
5. \_\_\_ i o \_\_\_ n
6. \_\_\_ a \_\_\_ f u l
7. \_\_\_ r o \_\_\_
8. \_\_\_ e \_\_\_ a t
9. \_\_\_ a l a
10. \_\_\_ o l a \_
11. \_\_\_ o r c \_ p i n e

## Try to Figure This OUT!

All answers end with OUT. Using the clues provided, fill in the spaces. Solution below.

		O	U	T				
		O	U	T				
			O	U	T			
				O	U	T		
					O	U	T	

CLUES (from top row to bottom row):

- Water can opening
- Arrangement
- Rescue from financial ruin
- Brief fainting spell
- Reversal

**ANSWERS: Quik Quiz** — 7,3,4,1,10,9,8,2,6,5; **The Complete Alphabet** — 1. jazz, 2. quit, 3. yucca, 4. example, 5. violin, 6. bashful, 7. grown, 8. defeat, 9. koala, 10. molar, 11. Porcupine. **Try to Figure This OUT!** — spout, layout, bailout, blackout, turnabout.

"Weeping may stay for the night,  
but rejoicing comes in the morning."

—Psalm 30:5 NIV

March 21, 2021

## 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent

Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34, Hebrews 5:7-9, John 12:20-33

*A word of encouragement during a failure is worth more than an hour of praise after success. —Anon.*



**A** couple of years ago, I visited an elderly woman in an assisted-care home in Denver, Colorado. Although she suffered from a variety of ailments that had taken away some of her independence, she was in relatively good health.

Ethel had been a church secretary for much of her life. Her late husband had been a United Methodist pastor, mostly in Iowa, throughout his career. She was accustomed to a life in which people relied on both her and her husband.

The staff at the home confided to me that she had been depressed for some time. Her adult daughter, a grandmother herself, indicated the same.

“I don’t know,” Ethel said when I asked her what was the matter. But the truth came out. She felt adrift aimlessly, as she sailed for her eternal home. Life had lost its meaning; she had no purpose.

I shared with her what I had read that very morning in the Bible: “Encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching” (Hebrews 10:25). I knew that Ethel could have a powerful ministry of encouragement if she could just catch the vision. To be an encourager is to allow ourselves to be tools of growth in the lives of others.

The Bible also says, “Death and life are in the power of the tongue” (Proverbs 18:21), and “To make an apt answer is a joy to anyone, and a word in season, how good it is!” (Proverbs 15:23). When we speak words of encouragement, it’s like walking alongside of someone, or standing with them in their time of need.

Perhaps the Lord is calling you to be a minister — a Minister of Encouragement (M.E.).

Ethel decided that this is exactly what she’d do, with God’s help. One of the things she did every day was to write an “encouragement card” to someone on her wing, or in the entire home, or to someone she knew back home. Her daughter printed up the cards for her. At the top were the words: “Encouragement Card” and below this in smaller type were the words, “Encouraging one another ...” (Hebrews 10:25).

Well, the Lord blessed her and her ministry touched many lives. She was an important help to many people.

—Timothy Merrill

*Prayer: Lord Jesus, help me to encourage one person today. Amen.*

# Activity Page

Week of March 21, 2021

Daily Gospel Readings — **Sunday:** John 12:20-33; **Monday:** John 8:1-11; **Tuesday:** John 8:21-30; **Wednesday:** John 8:31-42; **Thursday:** Luke 1:26-38; **Friday:** John 10:31-42; **Saturday:** John 11:45-56

## SAME ... BUT DIFFERENT

According to some definitions, a *homophone* is a word with the *same pronunciation* as, but *different meaning* than, another word. Thus, homophones come in pairs (at least). However, some remarkable homophones come in triples. Identify the first homophone using the clue provided. Then write two more homophones. We have done No. 1 for you.

DEFINITION OR CLUE	ANSWER (First Homophone)	Second Homophone	Third Homophone
1. Receptacle for cremains	URN	ERNE	EARN
2. In 1918, a strain of this disease killed 18 million.			
3. The number of corners near Shiprock, NM			
4. A medieval craftsmen organization			
5. Beef is a form of this.			
6. Sacred			
7. Two of something			
8. A contraction of he will			
9. A painter's paints are on it.			
10. Destitute			
11. A smaller version of a highway			
12. A cord stretched tight.			
13. Also			
14. Not here, but ...			
15. 2 <sup>nd</sup> person possessive pronoun			
16. This duct carries blood back to the heart.			
17. He walked his daughter down this.			
18. First person personal pronoun			
19. Wild, tusked porcine beast			
20. A penny is one of these.			
21. You do this to bread dough.			
22. Precipitation			
23. She regretted, or did this, the day she married him.			
24. Short for, say, the tenor version of this			
25. The Spanish word for donkey			

**ANSWERS:** 2. Flu, flue, flew; 3. Four, fore, for; 4. Guild, gilled, gild; 5. Meat, mete, meet; 6. Holy, holey, wholly; 7. Pair, pear, pare; 8. He'll, heel, heal; 9. Palette, palate, pallet; 10. Poor, pore, pour; 11. Road, rode, rowed; 12. Taut, taught, tot; 13. Too, to, two; 14. There, their, they're; 15. Your, you're, yore; 16. Vein, vain, vane; 17. Aisle, I'll, isle; 18. I, eye, aye; 19. Boar, bore, boor; 20. Cent, scent, sent; 21. Knead, need, kneed; 22. Rain, rein, reign; 23. Rued, rude, rood; 24. Sax, sacs, sacks; 25. burro, borough, burrow.

## Palm Sunday

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 50:4-7, Philippians 2:6-11, Mark 15:1-39

*Instead of fighting the darkness, you bring the light. —Eckhart Tolle*

One summer night in Alaska, a plane circled over a village almost 300 miles from Anchorage. The village was remote, but it had a small airport or at least a runway, so that planes could land, bringing provisions and products. The runway lights were always off, but pilots have a little gizmo they can use to turn the lights on.

Only, on this particular night, the gizmo didn't work, and people on the ground could not manually turn on the lights either.

This was a huge problem because the plane was a Medevac plane and at stake was a little girl's life.

So the villagers in the tribal community improvised. They got their SUVs, 4x4's, all-terrain vehicles to the rural airport, and they drove them into such positions that when they turned on their headlights, the runway was completely illuminated. At least 20 vehicles were involved.

The pilot of the LifeMed plane landed and later took off with the child onboard. They flew to an Anchorage hospital where the little girl recovered.

A light shining in darkness. That's how the Bible describes Jesus Christ: "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. ... The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world" (John 1:5, 9).

The people who cheered when Jesus came into Jerusalem on the back of a donkey were welcoming the Light. The prophet Isaiah had foretold the coming of this Light, when he wrote that "the people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned" (Isaiah 9:2 NIV). The gospel according to Matthew mentions this very text: "The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned" (4:6).

Jesus is the light that illuminates the paths and runways of our lives. His word provides guidance and understanding. His insight and truth show us the way.

And there's more: this same light now resides within us, so that we can channel it to others. We, too, can cast the true Light of the World upon those who wander in darkness. Rather than walking with others in their darkness, we can show them the way.

Let us be the light, be the Light of Christ for others.

—Timothy Merrill

*Light of the World, fill my heart with light and love and give me the grace to share both with others. Amen.*

# Activity Page

Week of March 28, 2021

## Daily Gospel Readings

**Sunday:** Mark 15:1-39

**Monday:** John 12:1-11

**Tuesday:** John 13:21-38

**Wednesday:** Matthew 26:14-25

**Thursday:** John 13:1-15

**Friday:** John 18:1-19:42

**Saturday:** Mark 16:1-7

## MISSING LETTER!

**Directions:** Find the letter that's in the first word, but missing from the second word in CAPS in each set below. Write it on the line. Then, reading from the top down, find the word the letters spell and write it on the line below. Clue: This word describes how we should respond to God's Word.

## HIDDEN WORDS

**Directions:** Here are 10 words that can be rearranged to form another word. We've done the first one for you.

1. DECAL (laced)

2. WRONG

3. LIVED

4. LEMON

5. BURNT

6. THORN

7. LANCE

8. WASTE

9. MARCH

10. LEAST

In BROAD not DRAB \_\_\_\_\_

In BOOST not SOOT \_\_\_\_\_

In STEAM not MAST \_\_\_\_\_

In DRINK not RINK \_\_\_\_\_

In DAIRY not YARD \_\_\_\_\_

In EARTH not HART \_\_\_\_\_

In NEVER not EVER \_\_\_\_\_

In CROWD not WORD \_\_\_\_\_

In HEARD not HARD \_\_\_\_\_

Answers to Hidden Words  
(spelled backwards):

2. nworg, 3. lived,
4. nolem, 5. tnurb,
6. htron, 7. naelc,
8. taews, 9. mrahc,
10. laets

