



The Monthly Visitor

Catholic Community

Of Lawrence County



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September 2022

A Message from Deacon Dave

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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.

Greetings in the Lord
Jesus Christ:

One of the things that has really helped me in my spiritual journey is receiving spiritual direction. I have been blessed by having some very good spiritual directors. The best spiritual advisors have a tendency to get me to look upon my relationship with God from God's view and not my own. My last Spiritual Director helped me to clarify an issue which to my surprise I needed to work on: humility. Humility is an extremely important Christian characteristic because it can be said that humility is the foundation of all holiness.

The word humility is from the Latin word humus, meaning "dirt." Humility is the simple acknowledgement of who we are and who the Lord is. Simply stated, He is God and we are not. We who are mankind were formed by God from the dust of the earth. As we are told, God took the dust and breathed His breath into us. The breath of life. Humility is the simple acknowledgment that He is Almighty God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who shines forth in glory. He is the source of all truth, all good, all beauty, and all love. Any good, any truth, any beauty, and any love in our lives is a reflection of God's glory.



Deacon Dave Reising

Humility is not easy for us to come by because we all have been damaged by original sin and influenced by our society. We are infected by sin, which has provided all of us with a tendency toward pride and self-absorption. Pride is one of the seven deadliest of sins as identified in Sacred Scriptures. The Catechism of the Catholic Church describes pride as one of the seven

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

The question is “What do you want to ask God for today?” Most of us don’t need much time to consider that question because we all have needs and/or wants. Scripture tells us that our prayers are very powerful! If you are interested in having someone from our Parish Prayer Ministry to pray for you or with you, just give Deacon Dave a call at 812-278-1795, and he will set up a time to meet with you.

capital sins. It goes further to define pride as undue self-esteem or self-love, which seeks attention and honor and worst of all sets oneself in competition with God. The cure for pride is humility. Humility is not thinking less of yourself, it’s thinking of yourself less. Humility is looking upon others and ourselves as God does. Humility means emptying ourselves of ourselves to make room for others, first for God and then those around us.

Our strength to be humble comes from God Himself and especially in the Blessed Sacrament. There in the Blessed Sacrament we should see the utter humility of God as He makes Himself present to us. He is the one who made Himself poor so that we could be rich. Jesus is the one who took the lowest place that anyone could go when He was raised on the cross and when He descended among the dead. There is no lower place He could have gone.

The Eucharist is the revelation to us of the utter humility of God who willingly debased Himself by becoming human, out of love for us. In fact, humility is the key to the Lord’s own heart. Our nothingness, our littleness, our powerlessness, and our weakness is not something to disdain or to hide, but it is, in actuality, a seedbed for our humility. So, out of the dirt which we were made, the humus of ourselves, can grow the true eternal life of holiness, which is Godlike.

God Bless,
Deacon Dave

An elderly man in Phoenix calls his son in New York and says, "I hate to ruin your day, but I have to tell you that your mother and I are divorcing; forty-five years of misery is enough." "Pop, what are you talking about?" the son screams "We can't stand the sight of each other any longer," the old man says. "We're sick of each other, and I'm sick of talking about this, so you call your sister in Chicago and tell her" and he hangs up.

Frantic, the son calls his sister, who explodes on the phone. "They're not getting divorced if I have anything to do about it," she shouts, "I'll take care of this." She calls Phoenix immediately, and screams at the old man, "You are NOT getting divorced. Don't do a single thing until I get there. I'm calling my brother back, and we'll both be there tomorrow. Until then, don't do a thing, DO YOU HEAR ME?" and hangs up.

The old man turns to his wife and says, "Okay, they're coming for Thanksgiving. Now, what do we tell them for Christmas?"

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Scripture Reading: Wisdom 9:13-18, Philemon 9-17, Luke 14:25-33

The only place where success comes before work is the dictionary.

—Coach Vince Lombardi



Tomorrow, the nation celebrates Labor Day, and since it is a federal holiday, many laborers get the day off — with pay.

My mother — who lived to be 101 — grew up during the Great Depression of the 1930s. She wrote about it in a memoir called *Armchair Memories*. Here is an excerpt about her “laboring” in the spud harvest in southern Idaho:

As soon as we were old enough and strong enough, we would have to help in the harvesting of the potato crop which was usually the first two weeks or so of October. The schools were dismissed so the children could help with this job.

In those days, the 1930s, we had the potato digger which the horses pulled and the steel baskets into which each picker dropped the potatoes as he or she went down the rows. A younger child had probably gone up the row and dropped gunny sacks at reasonable spaces; and since we usually picked with a partner, when our baskets were full, we dumped the potatoes in the gunny sack and set it on the row. It was a backbreaking job, this potato-picking business. Oh, how tired we were at the end of the day! And there surely wasn't much money in it — one cent a half sack or maybe a cent and a half. We children didn't actually get the money for ourselves; we just made it possible for our dad not to have to hire too many pickers. Those were hard times, but the Lord saw us through. We were never hungry, and we were always clothed.

Can you remember the jobs you had before you retired? Some were probably better than others. But, we can thank God for the opportunities we had to be gainfully employed, and pray for those who are out of work, looking for work or perhaps praying for work that pays better.

And let's also remember that the Lord calls us to labor and work in his vineyards, so that we might bear the fruit of good works, and bring glory to his name! The apostle Paul puts it this way: “Therefore, my beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.” (1 Corinthians 15:58).

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: Gracious and loving God, thank you for all who work, and give it all they have. For the truckers, shopkeepers, Walmart greeters, hotel staff, business owners, fast food teens, working moms and working dads, for teachers, musicians and writers. All of them. They are a blessing. Amen.

Daily Gospel Readings

Monday: Luke 6:6-11

Tuesday: Luke 6:12-19

Wednesday: Luke 6:20-26

Thursday: Matthew 1:1-23

Friday: Luke 6:39-42

Saturday: Luke 6:43-49



LABOR DAY AND THE PEOPLE WHO LABOR

To remember with gratitude those who work hard, go through this list and make a check mark beside each occupation, if the description identifies a friend or family member. On the margins, write the names of people you know who work in occupations not listed here. Remember to pray for these people this week and to be grateful for all they do.

- ☐ Accountant
- ☐ Actor/Actress
- ☐ Cashier
- ☐ Computer Programmer
- ☐ Babysitter
- ☐ Baker/Cook
- ☐ Bank Clerk
- ☐ Barber/Hairdresser
- ☐ Bus Driver
- ☐ Business Executive
- ☐ Banker
- ☐ Carpenter
- ☐ Dentist
- ☐ Doctor
- ☐ Electrician
- ☐ Factory Worker
- ☐ Farmer

- ☐ Firefighter
- ☐ Flight Attendant
- ☐ Homemaker
- ☐ Hotel Manager
- ☐ Journalist
- ☐ Judge
- ☐ Landscaper
- ☐ Lawyer
- ☐ Librarian
- ☐ Mechanic
- ☐ Model
- ☐ Nurse
- ☐ Office Worker
- ☐ Photographer
- ☐ Pilot
- ☐ Plumber
- ☐ Police Officer

- ☐ Politician
- ☐ Letter Carrier
- ☐ Professor
- ☐ Psychologist
- ☐ Real Estate Agent
- ☐ Salesperson
- ☐ Secretary
- ☐ Security Guard
- ☐ Social Worker
- ☐ Stockbroker
- ☐ Tailor
- ☐ Teacher
- ☐ Trash Hauler
- ☐ Travel Agent
- ☐ Truck Driver
- ☐ Waiter/Waitress
- ☐ Writer

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Scripture Reading: Exodus 32: 7-14, 1 Timothy 1:12-17, Luke 15:1-32

The most important things in life aren't things. —Anthony J. D'Angelo



A gospel reading in Luke's gospel tells the story of a shepherd who lost a lamb and went looking for it, and a woman who lost a coin and had to clean the whole house before she found it.

Things we lose. There's no point in asking whether you have ever lost something important. Of course you have. We all do. We lose keys, cards, TV remotes, glasses and more.

You can lose things even if you're in an assisting living facility. One resident had the habit of wrapping her rings and valuable brooches in tissue paper and stashing them in a dresser drawer. The problem with this strategy is that her jewelry looked like trash. It eventually disappeared! She either absentmindedly threw it out or the housekeeping staff discarded it while cleaning. It's heartbreaking to lose things we value.

Things we should lose. Yet, there are some things we should lose. Good riddance! I refer to a chronic grumpiness, a bitter spirit, the use of unkind words, a judgmental and critical attitude or unreasonable impatience. The list could go on. We call them vices. These are habits and flaws we should lose, and the sooner the better.

Things we should not lose. The Bible, however, says that we should fervently hang onto the important virtues that identify one as a person of faith and character — things like gentleness, goodness, joy, peace, patience, kindness and more. See Galatians 5:22-23. These strengths and assets are like precious gems. You want to hold on to them at all costs.

And you should not lose *yourself* in the midst of the worries and cares of life. You should not *lose touch with others*, like friends and family. And you should not lose your *sense of direction*, that is, your purpose in life — that God has work for you that only you can do.

The upside to losing something, however, is the joy upon finding it. The lost lamb and the coin in the gospel reading symbolize us. When God finds us, the angels rejoice in heaven. There is great joy.

Do not play hide-and-seek with God. Let God find you. Step into the open. Both you and God will rejoice.

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: Loving God, who searches for lost sheep until they are found, thank you for finding me and welcoming me back into the fold. Help me to lose the things I should lose, and hold on to the things that are important, and grant me the wisdom to know the difference. Amen.

Activity Page

Week of September 11, 2022

Daily Gospel Readings

Monday: Luke 7:1-10

Tuesday: Luke 7:11-17

Wednesday: John 3:13-17

Thursday: Luke 2:33-35

Friday: John 17:11-19

Saturday: Luke 8:4-15



Global Awareness

Directions: This is a rearrangement or unscrambling exercise. Each set of letters when rearranged will spell out the name of a country. Answers below.



1. A D E K M R N

2. G R B A A I L U

3. H P E I T I A O

4. D A U R O H N S

5. O A N M A R I

6. G L E D A N N

7. S H I N I N E C L T E E T

8. H F N N A A S T G A I

9. Y N G A R M E

10. S A T N K P I A

BRAIN TEASERS

Forrest left home running. He ran a ways and then turned left, ran the same distance and turned left again, ran the same distance and turned left again. When he got home, there were two masked men. Who were they?

A man stands on one side of a river, his dog on the other. The man calls his dog, who immediately crosses the river without getting wet and without using a bridge or a boat. How did the dog do it?

ANSWERS to Global Awareness:

1. Denmark, 2. Bulgaria, 3. Ethiopia, 4. Honduras, 5. Romania, 6. England, 7. Liechtenstein, 8. Afghanistan, 9. Germany, 10. Pakistan. **BRAIN TEASER:** The catcher and the umpire. The river was frozen.

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Scripture Reading: Amos 8:4-7, 1 Timothy 2:1-8, Luke 16:1-13

Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower. —Albert Camus



If you're like more than one-third of Americans (in some surveys, the number is higher), you are looking forward to Thursday. Why? Because September 22, 2022, marks the beginning of autumn, or the fall season.

Of course, this is an arbitrary date. It is the beginning of the *astronomical* season of fall. The *meteorological* start of fall is September 1, and the season consists of September, October and November. This latter designation makes more sense to me, so I have been in a fall mood for three weeks already!

But why do people like this season more than the others? First, think about your own response to that question. You might find your reasons in the following list.

Watching the leaves change color / The chill in the air / Drinking hot chocolate / Making homemade soup / Beginning to cook holiday foods / Watching Halloween movies / Wearing big sweaters / Listening to the sound of rain on my roof / Lighting seasonal candles / Baking pies / Having cinnamon apple food/drinks / Making pumpkin pie / Having pumpkin spice food/drinks / Drinking hot apple cider / Carving pumpkins / Wearing chunky socks and boots / Stepping on crunchy leaves / Wearing plaid/flannels / Baking pumpkin bread / Going "leaf peeping" / Having a backyard campfire with friends / Seeing my breath when walking outside / Roasting marshmallows / Eating candy apples / Taking fall-themed photos / Seeing frost on the grass / Going pumpkin picking / Eating pumpkin seeds / Wearing scarves / Getting ready for the holidays ¹

Many of these reasons resonate with me. How about you?

The changing of the seasons is another sign of the profound depth of the Creator's mind. When I discern through my sense of smell the autumnal changes in the air, or catch a whiff of my wife's pumpkin pie cooling on a rack, I praise God, and lift my thanksgiving to the heavens. In Psalm 104, we read, "You have made the moon to mark the seasons; the sun knows its time for setting" (v. 19; see Daily Bible Readings on today's Activity page). Yes, God made the seasons, and so, like the psalmist, you and I can praise God: "I will sing to the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being. May my meditation be pleasing to him, for I rejoice in the LORD" (vv. 33-34).

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: Creator God, thank you for the wonderful signs that accompany the change in seasons. These are always a reminder that you take care of all that you have made. Amen.

Activity Page

Week of September 18, 2022

Daily Gospel Readings

Monday: Luke 8:16-18

Tuesday: Luke 9:23-26

Wednesday: Matthew 9:9-13

Thursday: Luke 9:7-9

Friday: Matthew 16:24-27

Saturday: Luke 9:43-45



ACROSS

2. _____ and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven.

5. Blessed are the _____, for they will see God.

6. Blessed are those who _____ after righteousness.

7. Blessed are the _____, for they will receive mercy.

8. Blessed are the _____, for they will inherit the earth.

9. Blessed are those who _____, for they will be filled.

BEATITUDES

Fill in the blanks below to complete the crossword. Answers are based on Matthew 5:1-13, New International Version.

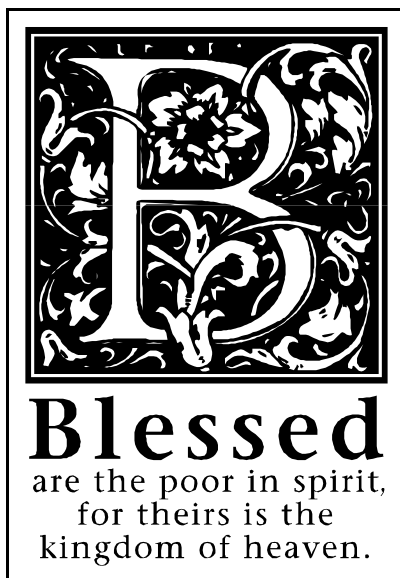
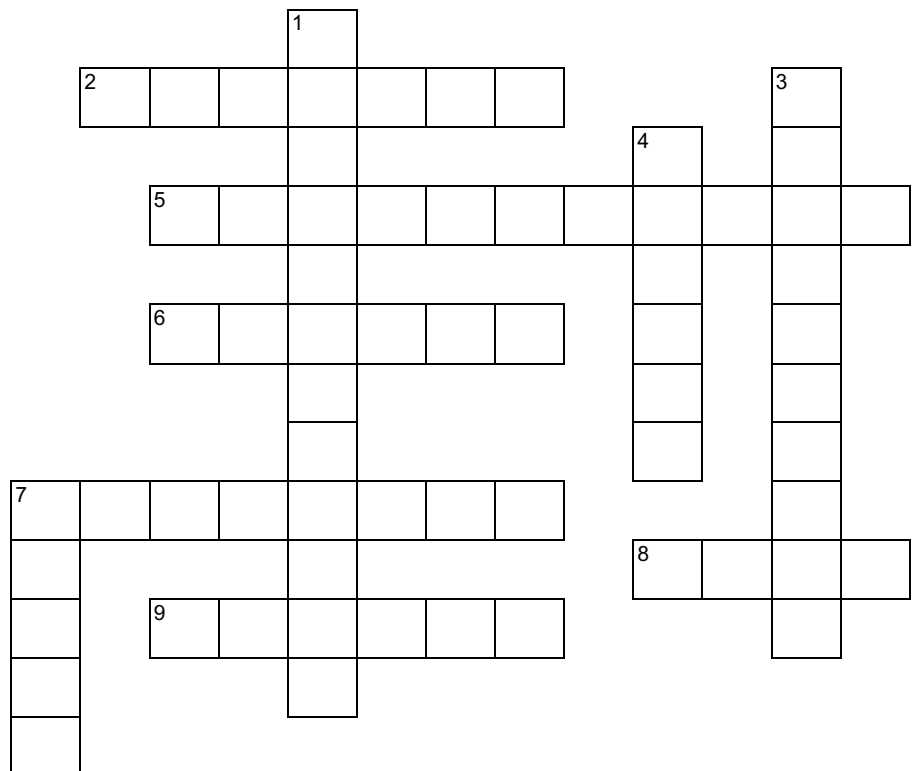
DOWN

1. Blessed are the _____, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

3. Blessed are those who are _____ for righteousness' sake.

4. Great is your _____ in heaven.

7. Blessed are those who _____, for they will be comforted.



26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Scripture Reading: Amos 6:1-7, 1Timothy 6:11-16, Luke 16:19-31

Make your lives a masterpiece; you only get one canvas. —E.A. Bucchianeri

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You may know Francesco Stephen Castelluccio better as Frankie Valli, whose popularity as a singer reached its peak in the 1960s and 1970s. He was the lead singer for The Four Seasons, and his rendition of “Can’t Take My Eyes Off You” reached number two in the charts in 1967. The song begins, “You’re just too good to be true / Can’t take my eyes offa you ...”

Sometimes, people or things which seem too good to be true live up to their billing.

Most of the time, however, experience tells us that the old adage is spot on: *If it seems too good to be true, it is.*

The phrase is the title of numerous books detailing the crimes, passions, addictions, abuse and shortcomings of those who were too good to be true.

*Too Good to Be True* is the title of the 1988 made-for-TV movie starring Loni Anderson, Patrick Duffy, Neil Patrick Harris and Julie Harris.

Father Ryan M. Adorjan addresses this theme in a blog post about the Italian writer, Alessandro Manzoni, “who did for the Italian language what Shakespeare did for English, and whose most famous book is called *I Promessi Sponsi*, or *The Betrothed*.”

Adorjan explains: “There’s a scene in it near the very end where Cardinal Borromeo says to a ... priest who has really failed a young couple in his parish, and sent them into a world of hurt. The cardinal says to the priest, ‘Don’t you realize? Christ has no one but you to manifest himself, and if you are not *too good to be true*, no one will know that Christ Jesus is still here’” (emphasis added).

Yes, it is our highest calling to be *too good to be true*.

But what does a “too-good-to-be-true” Christian look like? The apostle Paul put it this way: You are someone willing to “lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace” (Ephesians 4:1-3).

A person who lives like that, who expresses these qualities, is, well ... *too good to be true*.

Why, such a person seems to be like Jesus Christ himself!

Exactly!

— Timothy Merrill

*Prayer: O God, help me to be more like Christ, who still is trying to call the world to himself. May I be someone who lifts up the spirit of Christ so that others may see your glory. Amen.*

# Activity Page

Week of September 25, 2022

## Daily Gospel Readings

**Monday:** Luke 9:46-50

**Tuesday:** Matthew 9:35-38

**Wednesday:** Luke 9:57-62

**Thursday:** John 1:47-51

**Friday:** Luke 10:13-16

**Saturday:** Luke 10:17-24

## TRUE OR FALSE?

The questions below are based on the gospel of Matthew. Answer each statement **True** or **False**. Circle the letter in the correct answer column. (For example, the first statement is false, so draw a circle around the **N** in the **False** column.) Then write each circled letter on the appropriately numbered line below to discover the secret word that tells why Jesus died.

|                                                                                                    | TRUE | FALSE    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|----------|
| 1. Jesus healed Peter's wife (Matthew 8:14).                                                       | E    | <b>N</b> |
| 2. Jesus fed the 5,000 with 2 loaves and 5 fish (14:17).                                           | R    | A        |
| 3. Peter saw Jonah and Elijah talking with Jesus when he was transfigured (17:3).                  | M    | S        |
| 4. The rich, young ruler decided not to follow Jesus (19:22).                                      | T    | C        |
| 5. Jesus thought the temple had been turned into a house of robbers (21:13).                       | I    | G        |
| 6. Famines and earthquakes are some of the signs of the end of the age, according to Jesus (24:7). | V    | D        |
| 7. Jesus tells a story of the six wise and six foolish virgins (25:1-13).                          | F    | A        |
| 8. Judas betrayed Jesus with a secret handshake (26:48).                                           | P    | L        |
| 9. The Roman governor of Judea who interrogated Jesus was Polonius (27:11-14).                     | W    | O        |

3 2 8 6 7 4 5 9 **N**  
**1**