



The Monthly Visitor

Catholic Community

Of Lawrence County



September

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Parish 275-6539

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

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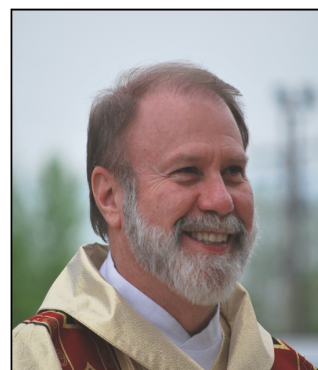
September 2024

A Message from Deacon Dave

Greetings in the Lord Jesus Christ:

I hope you are all doing well and enjoying the nice cool weather we have been blessed with here in early September. I love to watch nature, whether it is a storm moving through or the change in the seasons. We can already see a little color coming onto the edge of the trees with a few leaves falling to the ground. So, nature is warning us that there is a change in the seasons coming and that fall and winter are not far off. It is

interesting when I talk with people about these subtle little changes. Some people are very aware of these little changes in our environment, while others have no idea that anything is going on in nature. Sacred Scriptures are full of passages that reference nature and the signs they provide. These passages are really great to share with other believers. When we share Scriptures with others it helps us to understand the meaning and it gives us insight



Deacon Dave Reising

into how to apply the Scriptures to our own lives. Sharing Scripture with others is one of many techniques that can be used for studying the bible.

In fact, Scripture sharing reminds me of the well-known fact that the Hebrews would all set down together as

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.

a family daily and then orally tell the story of the Old Testament over and over again. This was considered their oral tradition. This oral tradition was their main way of knowing the Scriptures because very few people back then were able to read or write. Their sharing of the stories of the Bible by the word of mouth for many years, decades, and even centuries was done before the Scripture stories were actually written down. It is amazing how their oral tradition was so consistent, exact, and without error. It must have been God’s Spirit that transmitted and overseen their oral tradition that made it so effective.

A big part of their oral tradition must have been their attentive listening to each Bible story. We too as disciples are called to be attentive listeners to the Sacred Scriptures. By that I mean that we cannot allow God’s message to go in one ear and out the other, but we should focus on hearing and absorbing each and every word that God spoke and later had written down as Sacred Scriptures. This attentive listening is an important prerequisite for our learning and our understanding who God truly is. So, what enters an attentive listener’s ears certainly needs to be absorbed by their mind, and then ultimately the attentive listener needs to allow God’s words to give direction to their life.

As disciples of Jesus Christ, we too are called to be attentive listeners just like the Hebrew’s oral tradition of their Old Testament stories. Being attentive listeners to the Sacred Scriptures will provide us direction to our lives which is so desperately needed in today’s society.

God Bless,

Dcn Dave

Sunday, September 1, 2024

Scripture Reading: James 1:17-27

*God is always trying to give good things to us,
but our hands are too full to receive them. —Saint Augustine*

A Farmer's Prayer

Our Loving Heavenly Father, Thou knowest that I am not overly fond of buttermilk. I don't care much for the texture and it smells sour and tastes sour and it seems like it is just a few jiffies from curdlin'.

And Thou knowest this, also, because Thou knowest all things, that I can't abide the taste of lard. Why, only a fool would try to eat that pig grease.

And Thou knowest that I don't care for plain and raw white flour. It's messy, and whenever I git involved with flour, the kitchen ends up a fright. When I ingest it, the roof of my mouth get dry and I can't git the stuff down my throat. It's just plain awful.

But Lord, when my dear Mabel here gits the buttermilk out of the icebox, and when she goes to the larder, and when she reaches into the flour bin and sets those things on the counter, and when she mixes them all together in just the right proportions and then dollops the mixture onto a baking tin and shoves it into the oven, Lord I do love them warm fresh biscuits she pulls out of the oven 15 minutes later—the very biscuits we're fixin' to eat now.

So, I thank Ye, Lord, for my Mabel and this food set before me, and I thank Ye for this reminder that when things come up that I don't like, when life gets hard, when I doesn't understand what Thou is saying to me, I should just relax and wait until Thou art done mixing the buttermilk, lard and flour. All in good time. 'Twill probably be even better than these here biscuits. Amen.

—Timothy Merrill, adapted from various internet sources.

Prayer: O God, our times are in your hands. We cannot be in a better place. Amen.

Daily Bible Readings

Sunday: Acts 15:1–18:11

Monday: 1 Chronicles 20-23

Tuesday: 1 Chronicles 24-26

Wednesday: 1 Chronicles 27-29

Thursday: 2 Chronicles 1-3

Friday: 2 Chronicles 4-6

Saturday: Psalms 97-99

STATE I.D.

You are a detective. Your supervisor needs you to identify some license plates. She gives you a list. Each item in her list below contains **THREE LETTERS**. All the letters are in consecutive order. What states are listed here?

NNE	
AWA	
IAN	
ENT	
RYL	
SAC	
CHI	
EBR	
PSH	

RSE	
AHO	
ODE	
ERM	
RGI	
HIN	
ELA	
SOU	
OLO	

[Use this area for notes]

Change one letter in each word to spell seven words associated with **LAND**:

TREK

BRASS

DART

SHONE

WELD

HALL

DOCK

Solution to STATE I.D.:

NNE=Connecticut, Tennessee
AWA=Hawaii, Delaware
IAN=Indiana
ENT=Kentucky
RYL=Maryland
SAC=Massachusetts
CHI=Michigan
EBR=Nebraska
PSH=New Hampshire
RSE=New Jersey
AHO=Idaho, Oklahoma
ODE=Rhode Island
ERM=Vermont
RGI=Virginia, West Virginia, Georgia
HIN=Washington
ELA=Delaware
SOU=Missouri
SOU=South Carolina
OLO=South Dakota
OLO=Colorado
Solution to LAND: tree, grass, dirt, stone, weed, hill, rock.



Sunday, September 8, 2024

Scripture Reading: James 2:1-10, (11-13), 14-17

If opportunity doesn't knock, build a door. —Milton Berle

William Carey was highly educated and blessed with impressive linguistic skills. He was also a Christian, and while in India, he became passionate about making translations of the Bible in Bengali, Sanskrit and other languages and dialects. The tedium and stress of translation and the creation of dictionaries was enormous. The time required was unthinkable. Years, in fact.

And then something horrible happened. One spring day, whilst he was away from his station, a fire broke out, and all his work and that of his colleagues went up in flames. Everything Carey had accomplished including the manuscripts, grammars, dictionaries, buildings, printing presses and especially the Bibles — all in smoke and ashes. According to one source, “among the losses were many irreplaceable manuscripts, including much of Carey’s translation of Sanskrit literature and a polyglot dictionary of Sanskrit and related languages, which would have been a seminal philological work had it been completed.”

Can you imagine how Carey’s staff must have dreaded Carey’s return? They would need to explain how this had happened — how they had allowed this to happen!

Carey returned, and he was led to the site of the disaster. He knelt amid the smoking pile of rubble and thanked God that he still had strength enough to start over. Without a word of despair or anger, he immediately began to work.

Years later, he had not only replicated his earlier work, but he had also done a better job of it. His dictionaries, grammar books and translations of the Bible far surpassed the first effort.

This tragedy happened in 1812, more than 200 years ago. Thanks to William Carey’s patience and perseverance, he brought the Bible to untold millions of the Indian subcontinent.

Have you ever faced crushing disappointment — the kind of setback that sucks the wind out of your lungs and causes your heart to flutter in despair? One such story is the tale of the ancient patriarch Job who suffered the loss of everything — his children, his friends and all of his material wealth. He even suffered the loss of his health, and he was in danger of losing his faith in God.

This is the danger of adversity: since we usually need someone or something to blame, we often turn our anger on God. Job did. But he recovered to assert that through it all he had learned that his Redeemer lived and that he was learning to trust in God.

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: In my dark nights of the soul, let me still sense your presence. Amen.

Week of September 8, 2024

Daily Bible Readings

Sunday: 1 Thessalonians 1-5

Monday: 2 Chronicles 7-9

Tuesday: 2 Chronicles 10-13

Wednesday: 2 Chronicles 14-16

Thursday: 2 Chronicles 17-19

Friday: 2 Chronicles 20-22

Saturday: Psalms 100-102

Bible Cryptogram

Try to fill in the answer key (alphabet row) with numbers. We have given you one vowel and one consonant. For example, everywhere you see the number 1, you know it is an O and can fill in the squares above all number 1 boxes with an O. Hint: Look for two- and three-letter words. These common words are a good place to start.

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				22							

13	12	7		6	20	16	22	22		26	11	13	12	7	20	22		13	12	7					
2	5	1	26	7	20		2	16	18	7	22		25	15	13		13	12	7						
26	1	20	18		1	2		1	15	20		6	1	18		26	11	5	5						
22	13	16	24	18		2	1	20	7	14	7	20													

ISAIAH 40:8

Verse to Remember

*O sing to the LORD a new song,
for he has done marvelous things.*

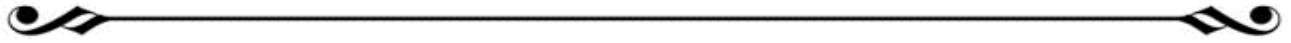
—Psalm 98:1

September 2024						
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					

Sunday, September 15, 2024

Scripture Reading: James 3:1-12

We must be big enough to admit our mistakes, smart enough to profit from them, and strong enough to correct them. —John C. Maxwell (adapted)



Today, the subject is the humble eraser. Yes, that little red, rubbery knob that's affixed to the top of a pencil. Of course, not all erasers are *pencil* erasers. Whereas some erasers are great for removing errant pencil marks, others are made especially for *pen or ink* mistakes.

In life, we need literal erasers to correct errors. But erasers have strong allegorical applications as well, and they remind us of the positive uses of erasers.

For example, an artist in the process of creating something beautiful — a piano concerto, a landscape painting, a drawing, etc. — uses erasers or some other tools, to shape, modify or mold their creations, selectively removing lines, notes, pigments or shades to bring their vision to life. The eraser becomes a tool of precision, enabling these creative souls to achieve intricate details and subtle nuances in their work. An eraser is not just an instrument for undoing or correcting a problem; it is also a medium for creative expression.

But sometimes, erasers serve as *correctors*. They exist to expunge unexpected and unwelcome errors. In today's Bible reading, the apostle James worries about the power of the tongue to injure the feelings of others. The tongue is powerful, and we are prone to saying things we regret, and unfortunately, once the words are out, they are hard to recall!

That's why, when we have misspoken, the best eraser is the remedy of confession and apology. Absent these "erasures," this page of our lives is going to be full of unsightly stains.

So, the eraser is a symbol of *second chances*. In the world of pencils and erasers, every mistake is an opportunity to make it right. The eraser, with its simple yet powerful function, embodies the concept of redemption in the ebb and flow of our everyday lives. It reminds us that errors are not necessarily permanent, but rather, they can be forgiven and erased by the greatest eraser of all time, the work of Christ on the cross.

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: Lord Jesus, thank you for this reminder of the importance of watching how I use my words. Encourage me to take care of the mistakes I make. In your name. Amen.

Week of September 15, 2024

Daily Bible Readings

Sunday: 2 Thessalonians 1-3

Monday: 2 Chronicles 23-25

Tuesday: 2 Chronicles 26-29

Wednesday: 2 Chronicles 30-32

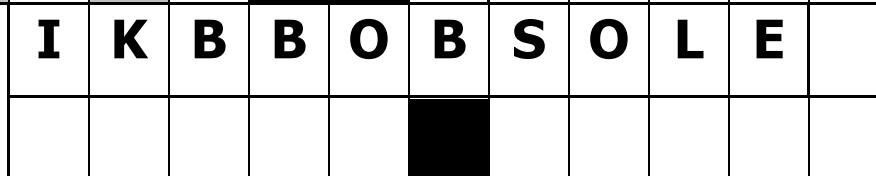
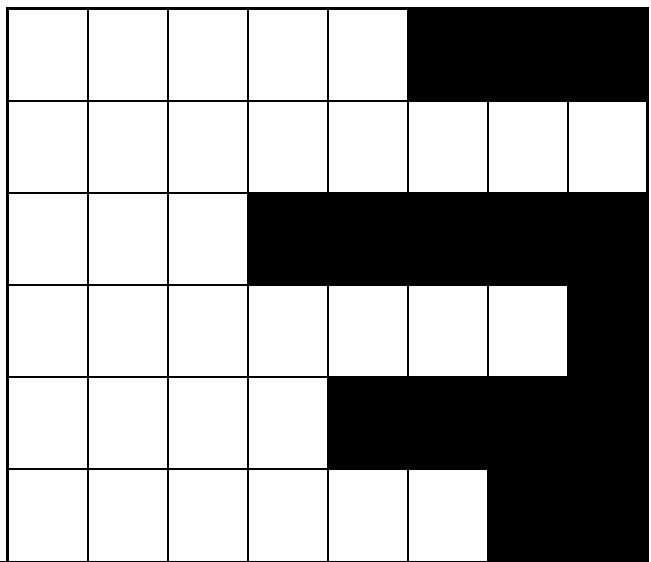
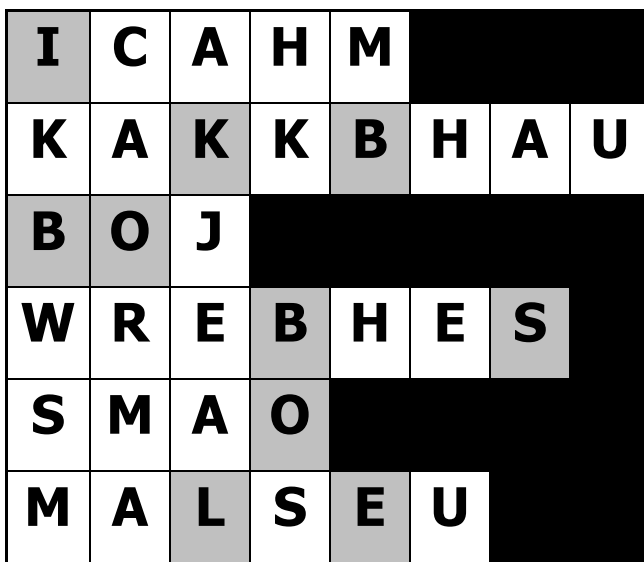
Thursday: 2 Chronicles 33-36

Friday: Ezekiel 1-3

Saturday: Psalms 103-105

JUMBLE!

Directions: Each of the six scrambled words has a connection with each other. That connection is revealed in the two-word solution below that must be unscrambled using the letters in the shaded boxes.

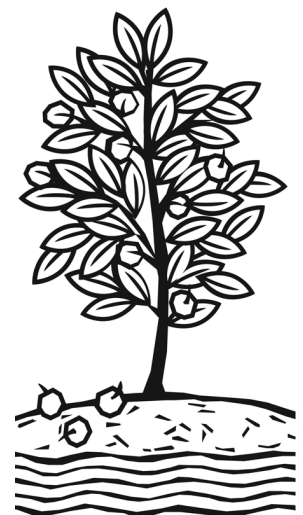


Solution to JUMBLE: Micah, Habakkuk, Job, Hebrews, Amos, Samuel, BIBLE BOOKS. **COMMON WORDS:** 1. last, 2. chicken, 3. picture, 4. paper, 5. green, 6. cherry, 7. house, 8. girl, 9. white, 10. gold, 11. straight, 12. glass, 13. free, 14. yellow.

COMMON WORDS

Directions: Add one word to the beginning of each word in the series to create a phrase. For example, to the words alert, carpet and herring, you could insert the word red to create red alert, red carpet and red herring. Write the word that is common to all in the space provided.

- rites, straw, word:
- little, leg, casserole:
- frame, perfect, this:
- weight, tiger, mache:
- thumb, hornet, earth:
- picker, bomb, tomato:
- arrest, plant, fly:
- friend, scout, Friday:
- hat, elephant, knight:
- digger, dust, brick:
- ahead, line, away:
- eye, house, blower:
- association, fall, lance:
- jacket, fever, journalism:



Sunday, September 22, 2024

Scripture Reading: Mark 9:30-37

Pride makes us artificial and humility makes us real. —Thomas Merton

Let's talk about goats. Well, not goats, per se, but GOATS. Think about some of the athletes you think are the Greatest Of All Time, dead or alive, in their respective endeavors. Most such designations are arguable, with the possible exception of the football GOAT: Tom Brady. Do you agree or disagree with the following GOATS?

Basketball: Michael Jordan

Tennis (male): Roger Federer

Tennis (female): Serena Williams

Golf (male): Tiger Woods

Golf (female): Annika Sorenstam

Hockey: Wayne Gretsky

Baseball: Babe Ruth

Boxing: Muhammad Ali

Soccer: Lionel Messi

Swimming (male): Michael Phelps

Swimming (female): Katie Ledecky

Jesus had some ideas about what made a person truly great. What he said to his disciples was so counterintuitive, so shocking, so unwelcome, that they had a hard time believing it.

What did the disciples believe about greatness? They thought, as did all their friends and family, that greatness was associated with power and authority. They believed that people who were great had but to utter a word and underlings would immediately obey. They knew that great personages had a large retinue of servants who waited on them for their every need.

The disciples had definite opinions about this, so much so, that they fell into an argument about it. Jesus noticed. "What were you arguing about on the way?" he asked.

They stood before him in utter silence "for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest."

Of course, Jesus knew. Then he dropped this life-altering bombshell: "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all" (v. 35).

Jesus' words are a game changer. The GOATS among us are the servants among us. Of all the life skills we need to learn, how to be a servant is the most important.

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: Make me a blessing, O Lord, as I live to serve others. In your name. Amen.

Daily Bible Readings

Sunday: Acts 18:12-19:10

Monday: Ezekiel 4-7

Tuesday: Ezekiel 8-11

Wednesday: Ezekiel 12-14

Thursday: Ezekiel 15-18

Friday: Ezekiel 19-21

Saturday: Psalms 106-108

WORD JUMBLE

Directions: Cross out the answer to each definition. Write the remaining words on the lines below to discover this well-known saying of Jesus. One clue is not used.

1. Expression of remorse	A	P	O	L	O	G	Y	T	H	E
2. Terror	L	I	F	E	H	O	R	R	O	R
3. Warrior	A	N	D	S	O	L	D	I	E	R
4. Article of clothing	G	A	R	M	E	N	T	T	H	E
5. Equine	N	O	O	N	E	H	O	R	S	E
6. Holds water	W	A	Y	C	I	S	T	E	R	N
7. Australian animal	K	A	N	G	A	R	O	O	M	E
8. To decide	I	D	E	T	E	R	M	I	N	E
9. Document of an arrest	W	A	R	R	A	N	T	W	A	Y
10. Music genre	E	X	C	E	P	T	J	A	Z	Z
11. Computer screen	M	O	N	I	T	O	R	A	N	D
12. Sarcasm	C	O	M	E	S	I	R	O	N	Y
13. Disciple	A	P	O	S	T	L	E	T	H	E
14. Domestic pet	T	H	R	O	U	G	H	C	A	T
15. Not true	F	A	L	S	E	T	R	U	T	H
16. Abode	T	O	T	H	E	H	O	U	S	E
17. Used to tie things	F	A	T	H	E	R	R	O	P	E
18. Used to open a door	D	O	O	R	K	N	O	B	A	M

8. ____ 18. ____ 1. ____ 9. ____ 3. ____ 4. ____ 15. ____

11. ____ 13. ____ 2. ____ 5. ____ 12. ____ 16. ____

17. ____ 10. ____ 14. ____ 7. ____



Sunday, September 29, 2024

Scripture Reading: Psalm 124

*The pessimist complains about the wind; the optimist expects it to change;
the realist adjusts the sails. —William Arthur Ward*

Very few people, if any, enjoy listening to someone complain. Some people complain about everyone and everything. Something is always going wrong — like the weather, traffic, high prices, the neighbors, the spouse, the children, the ingratitude of others, change, preachers, politicians, noise. These complainers are never satisfied. Life itself is a dreary burden.

Here's a story that gives us the chance to ask ourselves if we're wasting time by complaining.

A wise, old gentleman was a resident of an assisted-care facility. He had church people, family and friends who visited him regularly. Most of them spent the time complaining about the same old problems in life. Over and over again, the older man would hear the same complaints. On one occasion, it was too much to bear.

So, instead of trying to offer advice to the three visitors in his room, he decided to tell them a joke or two. "What do you call a bear with no teeth? A gummy bear!" His friends roared with laughter. "What do you call a medieval lamp? A knight light! Get it? K-N-I-G-H-T!" They laughed again — perhaps not as much as the first time. He followed up with a third quip: "What did the envelope say to the stamp? Stick with me and you'll go places!" Laughter ensued, and then the conversation wandered to other matters.

A few minutes later, the wise man said, "Hey, let me tell you some one-liners," and he rolled out *the same three jokes*. His friends chuckled and smiled, and did not want to embarrass the fellow by telling him that he was repeating himself.

Then, he told the same jokes *a third time*, and no one laughed. They coughed nervously and then one spoke up, "You know old boy, you've told these jokes before. It's getting tiresome."

The clever oldster then said, "If you can't laugh at the same jokes, why are you always crying and complaining over the same problems? Aren't you aware that you're repeating yourself? Frankly, it's getting a little tiresome."

Believe it or not, at least a couple of his friends took his message to heart, and began to be thankful for the blessings of life!

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: O God, I have so many blessings for which to be thankful! Why is it easier to complain than it is to give thanks? Help me to modify my habits. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Week of September 29, 2024

Daily Bible Readings

Sunday: 1 Corinthians 1-4

Monday: Ezekiel 22-24

Tuesday: Ezekiel 25-27

Wednesday: Ezekiel 28-30

Thursday: Ezekiel 31-33

Friday: Ezekiel 34-36

Saturday: Psalms 109-111

VERSE TO REMEMBER

*O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
for his steadfast love endures forever. —Psalm 107:1*

SUM RUN

DIRECTIONS: Below you see three boxes, with 12 numbers in each. Each set of numbers is a different puzzle. The object is to look at the numbers and find the **THREE** numbers that add up to your **TARGET NUMBER**. There is only one right answer. **TIME YOURSELF** and record your time on the line provided. Then do the middle puzzle. Same rules apply. Time yourself again. Did your time improve? Finally, do the puzzle on the right and time yourself. Did you get any better?

Target #: 103

24	33	52	76
75	72	36	20
88	47	49	16

MY NUMBERS:

MY TIME: _____

Target #: 109

34	23	62	46
85	72	37	21
87	43	39	14

MY NUMBERS:

MY TIME: _____

Target #: 142

26	44	32	75
71	68	39	22
88	38	41	13

MY NUMBERS:

MY TIME: _____



Starting with the letter S (for September) name a:

S

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. girl's name | 5. body part |
| 2. vegetable | 6. country |
| 3. tree | 7. chemical element |
| 4. animal | 8. occupation |
| 9. make of car | 14. book |
| 10. tool | 15. fish |
| 11. piece of furniture | 16. type of boat |
| 12. planet | 17. sport |
| 13. food | 18. footwear |
| | 19. spice |
| | 20. color |
| | 21. abbreviation |
| | 22. movie title |
| | 23. school subject |

ANSWERS TO SUM RUN:

103: 20, 36, 47

109: 14, 23, 72

142: 22, 32, 88.

SUGGESTED RESPONSES TO

"S" EXERCISE: 1. Sarah, 2. squash, 3. spruce, 4. snake, 5. scapula, 6. Syria, 7. sodium, 8. surgeon, 9. Saab, 10. saw, 11. sofa, 12. Saturn, 13. spaghetti, 14. Sense and Sensibility, 15. salmon, 16. sailboat, 17. soccer, 18. sandal, 19. sage, 20. sapphire, 21. St., 22. Saving Private Ryan, 23. social studies. Your answers may vary.