



The Monthly Visitor

Catholic Community

Of Lawrence County



Contact Information

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Parish 275-6539

St. Mary of the
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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April 2025

A Message from Deacon Dave

Greetings in the Lord Jesus Christ:

I hope you are having a blessed Lent. If not, you still have time to double down on the pillars of Lent which are prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. As good Catholics we should go beyond our normal participation of these three pillars during Lent. As we progress through Lent, we should have either a sense of accomplishment or a sense that we have not applied ourselves as much as we should have to grow closer to God.

This Lent Kathy and I got a boost when we were able to bring the Traveling Vocation Chalice home with us from church. The Vocational Chalice is a chalice which is enshrined in a clear hard plastic box through which you can see the chalice well. The Vocational Chalice at St. Vincent's was the chalice of Monsignor Herbert Winterhalter. Many years ago, Msgr. Winterhalter and his family were parishioners of St. Vincent's. As a child he also attended St. Vincent school.



Deacon Dave Reising

Msgr. Winterhalter was the uncle of Anne Miller, who is Mike Miller's mother. Anne loved to talk about him during my visits with her, so I felt a definite connection with this chalice.

When we got home from church, we put the chalice on the stone hearth of our fireplace in

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

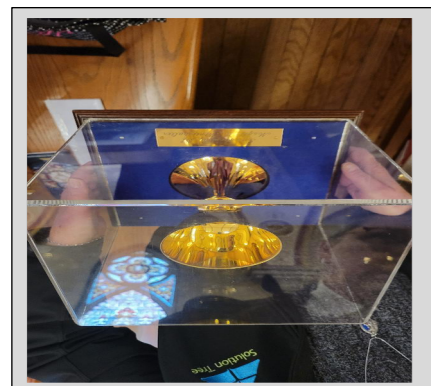
The question is “What do you want to ask God for today?” Most of us don’t need much time to consider that question because we all have needs and/or wants. Scripture tells us that our prayers are very powerful! If you are interested in having someone from our Parish Prayer Ministry to pray for you or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

our family room. On the mantel of our fireplace, we have a large crucifix, several pictures and statues of our Lord and our Blessed Mother, along with several other religious items. They are all highlighted by a strand of soft amber Christmas lights. As I mentioned in an earlier article in a Homebound Newsletter, this is where we say our night prayers and rosary. It was important for us to have the Vocation Chalice placed in a very distinguished and dignified part of our house. One evening before we prayed, I turned on the mantel lights and looked very closely at the Vocation Chalice. As I was looking at it I was overcome by emotion. The chalice represents Jesus' sacrifice for the salvation of humanity. I thought about the fact that the Precious Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ resided so many times in this golden vessel. I questioned: How many people were blessed by the Precious Blood that this one chalice had held? As I reflected how precious this chalice was, I could not help but consider the sacrifices that were associated with this one chalice. I thought about the sacrifices of Msgr. Winterhalter and all priests and religious.

Presently, each weekend at both parishes, a family is picking up a Vocation Chalice and praying for vocations. Along with the Vocation Chalice comes a vocation prayer booklet. After the parish is done praying with this Vocation Chalice, I would be happy to bring the Vocation Chalice to any homebound parishioner who would like to pray for vocations for a week or less. Just give me a call and we can set something up for you. I would like everyone to have a chance to experience praying for vocations because it is extremely important and a blessing to all of us.

God Bless,

Deacon Dave



Fifth Sunday in Lent

Scripture Readings: Isaiah 43: 16-21, Philippians 3:8-14, John 8:1-11

Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness.

—*Archbishop Desmond Tutu*



Are you familiar with your state flag? A number of state flags lack words. Arizona, Alabama, Alaska, Hawaii, Tennessee, Maryland, New Mexico, South Carolina and Texas have no text whatsoever (The C and the O on the state flags of Colorado and Ohio, respectively, count as text.)

Some states have words, but the words simply identify the state: Kansas, Idaho, Wisconsin, Oregon, North Dakota and others.

But most do indeed have words. Take Connecticut, for example. Its flag features the Latin phrase, *Qui transtulit sustinet*, which means, “He who transplanted still sustains” — referring to the early settlers who believed that God guided them to the new land and would continue to sustain them.

Georgia’s flag cites the motto not only of the state but of our federal union, “In God We Trust.” Vermont’s flag bears the words, “Freedom and Unity.”

My favorite, however, is the state flag of Rhode Island, which proclaims the word “Hope,” which is also the state motto. The motto has been a part of Rhode Island’s identity since its early colonial days, symbolizing the hope of religious freedom and new opportunities that led to the state’s founding.

Can you imagine what it’s like to live without hope?

Hope is often described as the anchor of the soul, providing stability and direction even in the midst of life’s storms. It is the belief in the possibility of a better future, a brighter tomorrow, and the potential for change. But what happens when this essential human quality is absent?

It is possible that some of you dear readers feel there is no hope. You are burdened by despair, trapped in a cycle of pain, with no possibility of escape. Every challenge, no matter how small, can seem insurmountable. Perhaps you also live in fear, think your life has no purpose, that you are living in a world without color.

Fortunately, we serve a God of hope, and this God wants you to experience hope — abundantly! “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit” (Romans 15:13).

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: O God, like the psalmist David, I sometimes wonder, “Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me?” Then I remember his response: “Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation and my God.” Thank you for being my salvation! Amen!

Activity Page

Week of April 6, 2025

Daily Gospel Readings

Monday: John 8:12-20

Tuesday: John 8:21-30

Wednesday: John 8:31-42

Thursday: John 8:51-59

Friday: John 10:31-42

Saturday: John 11:45-56

Verse to Remember

This book of the law shall not depart out of your mouth; you shall meditate on it day and night. —Joshua 1:8

A Taste of Your Own Medicine

You take a pill every half hour. You have three pills to take. How long will the pills last?



Scramble Fun!

Unscramble the following words and then use the letters in the circles to reveal the hidden word.

ROSSC _ _ _

MTOB _ _ _

GANLE _ _ _

TNEOS _ _ _ _



Answers to A Taste ...: One hour. Take the first at 4 p.m., the second at 4:30 p.m., and the third at 5 p.m. **Answers to Scramble Fun:** cross, tomb, angel, stone. Hidden word: Easter. **Answers to Double Up:** SPARK, ALIKE, SPOIL, OFFER. **Answers to Your Guess ...:** 1. b; 2. c; 3. a.

Your Guess Is as Good as Mine!

- America's first automobile parking meter was installed in Oklahoma City in
a) 1835, b) 1935, c) 1899, d) 1765.
- The world's first postage stamp was issued in the U.K. in
a) 1653, b) 1753, c) 1840, d) 1904.
- The first American policewoman began work in
a) 1908, b) 1760, c) 1955, d) 1980.

DOUBLE UP

This puzzle consists of four five-letter words that use 10 different letters exactly twice. Since there are already two S's, you cannot use another S. But there is only one F. Try to think of a word that has an F in it.

1. S _ _ A _ _ K 2. _ _ L _ _ K _ _

3. S _ _ O _ _ L 4. _ _ F _ _ E _ _

April 13, 2025

Palm Sunday

Scripture Readings: Isaiah 50:4-7, Philippians 2:6-11, Luke 23:1-49

*In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies,
but the silence of our friends. —Martin Luther King Jr.*



If, perchance, a contemporary rock star — let's say Taylor Swift — were to arrive in midtown New York City for an outdoor concert in Times Square or Washington Square, she'd very possibly arrive in a stretch limo, followed by several other vehicles, as well as her personal entourage and staff. Of course, the stage and equipment has already been set up, sound checks are done, everything is ready. She just needs to show up. And when she does, the crowds are there and are going wild — smartphones in the air. People are clamoring for her attention. Everyone wants a piece of her. The crush is incredible.

In Jesus' day, Jerusalem was a big city, but if someone important entered the city, it was likely a military man, or governmental figure of the Roman Empire. He'd likely enter on a large war horse, befitting the powerful man that he was.

But the people didn't care.

But on the day we call Palm Sunday, they care. Enormous crowds were on hand to greet Jesus as befitting the ("Rock of Ages") rock ("Morning") star he was. He entered Jerusalem riding on a colt, fulfilling the prophecy from Zechariah 9:9 that the King would come in humility. The mob shouted and hollered: Hosanna! Hosanna! They gave him the red cloak treatment, casting off their outer garments to create a carpet of cloth as the tiny beast clopped by. The crowds sang like a song might swell in a football stadium, waving palm branches like rally towels, "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!" (Luke 19:38).

Yet, as we know, only days later, thanks to some machinations of his political enemies and a lot of fake news, Jesus would be jeered and ridiculed by a crowd demanding his crucifixion. This stark contrast challenges us to examine the sincerity of our own faith. Following Jesus means more than moments of celebration; it requires a life of commitment, even when the path becomes difficult.

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: Lord Jesus, as we remember your entry into Jerusalem, we welcome you into our hearts as our Lord and Savior. Help us to follow your example of humility and servanthood. And may our commitment to you remain steadfast, not just in moments of celebration but in every season of life. Amen.

Activity Page

Week of April 13, 2025

Daily Gospel Readings

Monday: John 12: 1-11

Tuesday: John 13:21-33

Wednesday: Matt 26:14-25

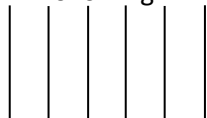
Thursday: John 13:1-15

Friday: John 18:1-19:42

Saturday: Luke 24:1-12

BRAIN DRAIN

You are given the
following:



Add five line segments to
make 9. See answer
below.

PALM



SUNDAY

ANSWERS to Test

Your Bible IQ: 1E, 2C,
3C, 4C, 5D, 6C, 7E, 8A,
9A, 10D

ANSWER to BRAIN

DRAIN: NINE (Add a
slanting segment
twice, and three
horizontal segments
to get NINE.)

TEST YOUR BIBLE IQ!

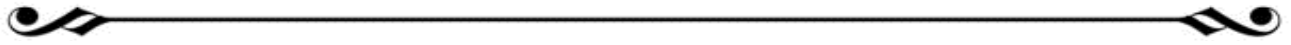
Knowledge is acquired in many ways. One approach is to review what has already been mastered. See if you remember the correct responses to the questions below. These questions review and connect with many well-known stories in the Bible. Answers below.

1. All of these are part of the story of Noah except: A. a dove, B. a rainbow, C. an olive branch, D. a raven, E. an apple. (Genesis 6-9)
2. Hagar was the handmaid to this matriarch: A. Bathsheba, B. Ruth, C. Sarai, D. Rebekah, E. Rachel. (Genesis 16)
3. King David succeeded: A. Solomon, B. Samson, C. Saul, D. Isaiah, E. Jeremiah. (1 Samuel 18)
4. Which person is mismatched? A. Gideon/trumpet, B. Moses /burning bush, C. Joseph/slingshot, D. Daniel/lions. (1 Samuel 17)
5. Which biblical figure's faith was tested by many trials? A. Adam, B. Moses, C. Noah, D. Job, E. Solomon.
6. Jacob saw angels going up and down a: A. highway, B. bridge, C. ladder or stairway, D. mountain, E. tree. (Genesis 28)
7. Elisha healed the waters of Jericho by putting this into the spring: A. blood, B. an olive, C. wine, D. sand, E. salt. (2 Kings 2:19-22)
8. In the Old Testament, Zion refers to: A. a city, B. heaven, C. a prophet, D. a name for God. (Psalm 48:1-2)
9. The Bible says that all but which river flowed through the Garden of Eden? A. Jordan, B. Tigris, C. Gihon, D. Pishon, E. Euphrates. (Genesis 2:10-14)
10. Nebuchadnezzar was responsible for the destruction of: A. the hanging gardens, B. the wall of Jericho, C. the city of Sodom, D. the temple at Jerusalem. (2 Kings 25:8-12)

Easter Sunday

Scripture Readings: Acts 20:34-43, 1 Corinthians 5:6-8, John 20:1-9

*Our old history ends with the cross; our new history begins
with the resurrection. —Watchman Nee*



It's Easter Sunday when we are reminded that the resurrection of Jesus Christ is the very heart of our faith. More than that, Easter triumphantly proclaims that God is always at work, bringing life amid death, hope amid despair.

To that end, let's think of a metaphor. In a peaceful meadow, there was a caterpillar who lived a simple and content life. She was unaware that a great transformation awaited her.

One day, she entered a deep sleep, all while weaving an intricate cocoon around herself. She remained there for many days, hidden away and quiet. The other creatures of the meadow wondered if she had died, and some even grieved their loss.

But after some time, the cocoon began to move, and shortly thereafter, a monarch butterfly emerged. The transformation had not been easy, and the butterfly's gossamer wings were weak and fragile at first. She struggled to fly, and for a time, she remained on the branch to which the now-discarded cocoon was still attached.

Then, slowly, the butterfly's wings grew stronger. With the sun shining down on her and the wind encouraging her, she spread her wings and took to the sky. The other creatures of the meadow marveled at how death had been transformed into life; how the earthly had been transfigured into something beautiful; how what had been old had miraculously become new — dazzlingly new!

There are parallels to what is going on at Easter. *Theologically*, like the butterfly's cocoon, the tomb seemed like a place of death and loss. But in the resurrection of Jesus, what seemed like an end became the ultimate beginning — a new life for all believers. Just as the butterfly was transformed, we, too, are transformed by the power of the resurrection, given new hope and life.

But *experientially*, the message of Easter is that even in the darkest moments, when all seems lost, there is always the promise of renewal and resurrection, just as the butterfly emerges from its cocoon to soar into the sky.

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: Loving God, we thank you for the victory of life over death, hope over despair, and love over fear. Through Jesus, you have given us the promise of eternal life, and the assurance that no darkness is too great for your light to overcome. We thank you for the new beginnings you offer us, for the power of your redeeming grace. May we live in the joy and freedom of your resurrection, sharing your love and hope with a world in need. Amen.

Activity Page

Week of April 20, 2025

Daily Gospel Readings

Monday: Matthew 28:8-15

Tuesday: John 20:11-18

Wednesday: Luke 24:13-35

Thursday: Luke 24:35-48

Friday: John 21:1-14

Saturday: Mark 16:9-15

EASTER WORD HUNT

Directions: Look for ten (10) words related to the Easter season. Words can be read forwards or backwards or either direction vertically. Answers below.

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

ANSWERS to NAME

THE STATE:

ASK=Nebraska, or
Alaska

SIP=Mississippi

ORE=Oregon

EGO=Oregon

WAS=Washington

ASH=Washington

TON=Washington

GIN=Virginia

CUT=Connecticut

SEE=Tennessee

INN=Minnesota

USE=Massachusetts

SET=Massachusetts

ANSWER TO

ARITHMOGRAM:

Clockwise from the
top circle —
4, 5, 1

Answers to Easter

Word Hunt: lily,

parade, chick,

bunny, candy, hunt,

dye, basket, egg,

bonnet

NAME THE STATE

In the space provided, write the names of the states in which the following three-letter words are found:

EXAMPLE: OUT/ SOUTH
DAKOTA

ASK:

SIP:

ORE:

EGO:

WAS:

ASH:

TON:

GIN:

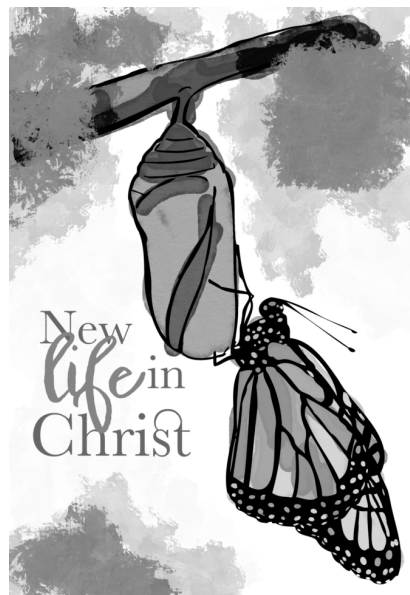
CUT:

SEE:

INN:

USE:

SET:



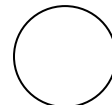
ARITHMOGRAM

Place a number in each of the circles on either side of the squares so that the sum of the numbers in the adjoining circles equals the number in the square.

5

9

6



Devine Mercy Sunday

Scripture Readings: Acts 5:12-16, Revelation 1:9-19, John 20:19-31

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



The Parable of the Two Brothers

Once upon a time, there were two brothers: James, the older; and John, the younger. They lived on neighboring farms. They had always lived in harmony. One day, however, a conflict arose. It began with a small misunderstanding and soon snowballed into a major dispute. Words were exchanged, and they stopped speaking to one another. Years went by.

One day, there was a knock on James' door. It was a carpenter looking for work. "What's your name?" James asked.

"Manuel," said the carpenter.

"Well, Manuel," James said, "I want you to build a fence on my property. Build it so high that I won't have to see my brother John again."

Manuel nodded and went to work. But instead of building a fence, he built a bridge that spanned the stream between the two farms. When John saw the bridge, his heart was touched. He realized that his brother James still wanted to reconcile, despite their differences. James, for his part, was astonished. When John walked across the bridge, James was there to meet him, and they embraced in a tearful, joyous reconciliation.

"Thank you, Manuel," said the brothers in unison.

"My pleasure," said the Carpenter. "Some people call me Immanuel, but I also go by Jesús."

The Carpenter gathered his tools to leave. "Stay, stay!" the brothers cried in unison. "We have more work for you!"

But the Carpenter smiled and said, "I have many more bridges to build elsewhere," and went on his way.

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: Loving God, thank you for the gift of reconciliation. Through your grace, you restore broken relationships, and heal wounded hearts. Thank you for the peace that comes from forgiveness and for the unity found in your love. Help me to be an instrument of reconciliation in the world. Amen.

Activity Page

Week of April 27, 2025

Daily Gospel Readings

Monday: John 3:1-8

Tuesday: Matthew 11:25-30

Wednesday: John 3:16-21

Thursday: Matthew 13:54-58

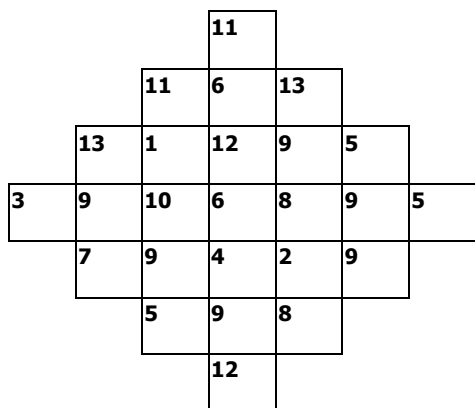
Friday: Matthew 1:22-25

Saturday: John 14:6-14

NAME GAME

Some words that we use, such as these described below, come from the names of people. Identify the words and transfer the circled letters to the corresponding spaces in the diagram below to form a set of words in both directions.

1. A candy bar named after President Cleveland's daughter: B _ _ _ _ _
2. A type of button-up sweater named after an English earl: C _ _ _ _ _
3. A tight-fitting garment with long sleeves and a high neck that is worn by a dancer — named after a French trapeze artist: L _ _ _ _ _
4. A Christmas flower named after a botanist: P _ _ _ _ _
5. A type of engine named after its German inventor. Many pickup trucks use fuel with this same name: D _ _ _ _ _
6. A method for sterilizing milk named after a French chemist: P _ _ _ _ _
7. A beef dish containing sour cream named after a Russian count: S _ _ _ _ _
8. A unit of electrical power named after a Scottish inventor: W _ _ _ _
9. A device found in amusement parks that consists of a huge wheel with seats on it is named after what American inventor? E _ _ _ _ _
10. Denim trousers named after a German immigrant who participated in the California gold rush: L _ _ _ _
11. A hoisting device used on oil wells named after an English hangman: D _ _ _ _ _
12. A type of thin, crisp toast named after an Australian opera star: M _ _ _ _ _
13. A kind of driver used on a four-slotted screw named after its inventor: P _ _ _ _ _



Verse to Remember

*I waited
patiently for the
LORD; he turned
to me and heard
my cry.*

—Psalm 40:1



ANSWERS:

1. Baby Ruth
2. Cardigan
3. Leotard
4. Poinsettia
5. Diesel
6. Pasteurization
7. Stroganoff
8. Watt
9. Ferris
10. Levi's
11. Derrick
12. Melba
13. Phillips