



The Monthly Visitor

Catholic Community Of Lawrence County



Contact Information

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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
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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July 2025

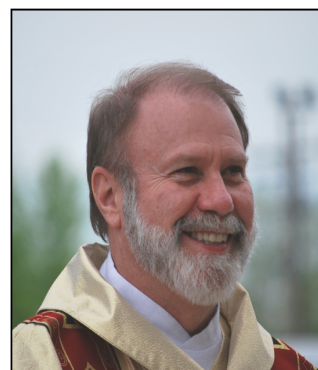
A Message from Deacon Dave

Greetings in the
Lord Jesus Christ:

I've had a wonderful day today. I enjoyed my 17th anniversary of my diaconate ordination, which was the 28th of June, 2008. I have received several congratulations from family, parishioners, and clergy in different forms. It felt so surreal to wake up this morning and think about the past 17 years of my life. Today like almost every day since I have retired, I made a pot of coffee and sat on my couch in our living room. Kathy doesn't get up early in the morning, so I had at least an hour to

pray and to be with my own thoughts. After I said my Liturgy of the Hours, I closed my breviary and just talked to Jesus and Mary. I have a statue of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and a statue of Mary holding baby Jesus about two feet from me at eye level when I am sitting on my couch.

While I reflected, I talked to Jesus about my ordination and how much Kathy's and my lives have changed since that day. My thoughts seemed to focus on the fact that Kathy and I have both been extremely blessed by the Lord our whole lives and especially



Deacon Dave Reising

blessed through our parish and the diaconate. As I talked to Jesus, I heard Him, in my mind, ask me the question: Who do I say that He is?

I immediately thought that Jesus' question was not coincidental today. Seventeen years ago, I was preparing a homily for exactly the same readings for the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul, and the Gospel included Jesus' question. It

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.

is very rare that this solemnity is celebrated as a weekend Mass, but it was again this year as it was 17 years ago. What was so strange was that I gave the homily 17 years ago at my “Thanksgiving Mass” for my ordination, and the homily I gave 17 years ago only briefly mentioned the question that Jesus asked His apostles in Caesarea Philippi: “Who do you say that I am?”

In this year’s homily I will tell the parishioners that I don’t believe we can exaggerate the importance of this question, or our answer to it, because this question is by far the most important question we will ever ask ourselves in this life. How we answer this question reveals who we believe Jesus really is, and our answer to this question not only has implications for us in this life, but its effects will follow us into eternity.

It is important that we ask and confront ourselves with this question regularly. Because confronting ourselves with this question is a means for us to examine our own lives as disciples of Jesus Christ. Is our faith in Jesus merely an intellectual idea, that is, only in our mind, or is our faith something that affects our whole being and our entire life, as it did for Saint Peter and Saint Paul? Because both apostles had a personal, unshakable faith that journeyed to their hearts which made their faith transform their actions and their lives. We too need our faith in Jesus Christ to make the journey into our heart so that it will not only transform our faith into actions but will cause us to live the life Jesus Christ is telling us to live.

God Bless,

Deacon Dave



“I have a statue of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and a statue of Mary holding baby Jesus about two feet from me at eye level when I am sitting on my couch”

Deacon Dave

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 66,10-14, Galatians 6:14-18, Luke 10:1-9

*Sow a thought, and you reap an act.
Sow an act, and you reap a habit.
Sow a habit, and you reap a character.
Sow a character, and you reap a destiny.
—Charles Reade*

My wife and I lived in China for 13 years, and we were fascinated by the forests of bamboo trees we encountered in our travels. They reminded us of the aspen groves of Colorado, even though an aspen is much different. Fun facts: The bamboo tree is not actually a tree; it's a tall grass. And the bamboo "tree" releases 35 percent more oxygen than any tree out there. You can feel the effects when you stand next to a clump of bamboo.

In today's reading, the apostle Paul uses the agricultural metaphor of sowing and reaping to highlight the profound truth that our choices today shape our outcomes tomorrow. The principle is simple: what you plant, you harvest.

The bamboo tree is a remarkable example of this, especially since so much patience is required! For years after planting the seed, nothing visible happens. But in the fifth year, it shoots up over 80 feet in just weeks. What was happening during those quiet years? Its roots were spreading deep and wide to support its rapid growth.

Our spiritual lives often mirror this pattern. Acts of kindness, prayer and faithfulness may seem unnoticed at first, but they are setting the foundation for a significant harvest. We reap what we sow.

Paul's encouragement to "not grow weary in doing good" is timely for those moments when spiritual fatigue sets in. The slow process of spiritual growth can feel frustrating. But remember, even a tiny mustard seed of faith grows into a tree (Matthew 13:31-32).

Paul's admonition to "do good to all people" reminds us that our faith *isn't just personal* — *it's communal*. Small acts of generosity can have a ripple effect. Mother Teresa once said, "Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love."

What seeds are you planting today? Are they seeds of selfishness or of service? Reflect on your daily actions and consider how they align with God's will. Trust in God's promise that perseverance in doing good will yield a harvest of eternal blessings.

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you for the reminder that our choices matter. Help us sow seeds of love, kindness and faithfulness. Strengthen us when we grow weary. May we always look for opportunities to do good and reflect your grace to those around us. Amen.

Activity Page

Week of July 6, 2025

Daily Gospel Readings

Sunday: Luke 10:1-9

Monday: Matt 9:18-26

Tuesday: Matt 9:32-38

Wednesday: Matt 10:1-7

Thursday: Matt 10:7-15

Friday: Matt 19:27-29

Saturday: Matt 10:24-33

Verse to Remember

*In you, O Lord, I take refuge; let
me never be put to shame.*

—Psalm 71:1

July 2025

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		

“I before E except after C”

This is a spelling rule we learned when we were children. Yet, there are many exceptions to this rule. Unscramble the words below to reveal words that are exceptions to the “I before E except after C” rule.

1. In the following words, the I is before the E even though it follows a C. Unscramble the words to reveal the exceptions to the rule.

nseecci _____ ffeitecn _____ octsyie _____

lrcaige _____ fniedtice _____ cfiutsefn _____

nictnea _____ ionccencs _____

2. In these examples, the I is NOT before the E, but there’s no C involved whatsoever! Unscramble the words to reveal these exceptions to the rule.

ehibnorg _____ wighe _____ iydte _____

tetsiha _____ gieeb _____ roifeng _____

tighwe _____ szrieau _____ fecenfai _____

rehite _____ geithh _____ ienr _____

ANSWERS: 1. nseecci=science;
ffeitecn=efficient;
octsyie=society; lrcaige=glacier;
fniedtice=deficient;
cfiutsefn=sufficient;
nictnea=ancient;
ionccencs=conscience.
2. ehibnorg=neighbor;
wighe=weigh; iydte=deity;
tetsiha=atheist; gieeb=beige;
roifeng=foreign; tighwe=weight;
szrieau=seizure;
fecenfai=caffeine; rehite=either;
geithh=height; ienr=rein.

Six activities seniors can do to improve memory

1. Get better organized.
2. Make a special effort to pay attention, concentrate.
3. Eat well. Make certain you have a balanced diet.
4. Exercise the body.
5. Exercise the memory.
6. Get plenty of sleep.

—Adapted from “Six things seniors can do to improve memory,” by William Klemm, Ph.D., a senior professor of neuroscience at Texas A&M University. (*Psychology Today*, November 26, 2010).



15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Scripture Reading: Deuteronomy 30:10-14, Colossians 1:15-20, Luke 10:25-37

The first question the priest and Levite asked was, “If I stop to help this man, what will happen to me?” But the good Samaritan reversed the question: “If I do not stop to help this man, what will happen to him?” —Martin Luther King Jr.

Thomas Merton (1915–1968) was an American Trappist monk, writer, theologian, mystic, poet, social activist and scholar of comparative religion. And a prolific writer. He has an interesting take on the Good Samaritan. Here’s what he writes: “Let us remember that while to us all Samaritans are Good Samaritans, it was not so to those who first heard the parable. In their eyes all Samaritans were, by the very fact, bad. Indeed, that was why a Samaritan had to be the subject of the parable: since it was necessary for the hearers to realize that at least one Samaritan could be a good one.”

The parable of the Good Samaritan can be found in today’s reading. There are many lessons that can be drawn from Jesus’ parable, but Merton points us to one that is often overlooked. The kindness, generosity and compassion found in this story came from a person who was commonly thought to be devoid of these positive qualities.

The Good Samaritan was not one of “us.” He was one of “them”! Shocking!

This leads us all to reflect on who might be one of “them” from our point of view. Someone beyond our religious, political, ethnic and cultural experience (think music, tattoos, piercings, for example)?

Get this point? One of the lessons of this parable is about our prejudices we don’t even realize we have. The Good Samaritan is a story about how one of “them” helped one of “us.”

Ask yourself about persons, ethnicities, political perspectives with which and with whom you have trouble. We all have these negativities.

But the fabulous nature of the gospel is that the people who inhabit our negativities are, according to Jesus, our neighbors! And Jesus is on record as saying we should love our neighbors as ourselves!

It’s a tall order, isn’t it? I know it is for me. But God is faithful and will give me and all of us the courage to realign and redefine who is our neighbor. And when that happens, we have a huge opportunity to put a little love on them, and make their day! Thanks be to God!

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: O God, thank you for the Good Samaritans of the world! Amen.

Activity Page

Week of July 13, 2025

Daily Gospel Readings

Sunday: Luke 10:25-37

Monday: Matt 10:34-11:1

Tuesday: Matt 23:8-12

Wednesday: Matt 11:25-27

Thursday: Matt 11:28-30

Friday: Matt 12:1-8

Saturday: Matt 12:14-21

Verse to Remember

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned ... for I am the LORD, your God. —Isaiah 43:2-3a

CAN YOU SORT IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER?

1. The American Civil War begins.
2. The Berlin Wall comes down.
3. Archduke Ferdinand is assassinated.
4. Don Larsen pitches a perfect game in the World Series for the Yankees.
5. Alexander Graham Bell makes the first phone call.
6. Queen Victoria begins her reign.
7. John Glenn orbits the Earth three times.
8. Charlotte Brontë publishes *Jane Eyre* under the name Currer Bell.
9. The Hindenburg blimp catches fire and crashes.
10. Quarterback Joe Namath predicts a victory in Super Bowl III.
11. U.S. President Nixon resigns.
12. Charles Lindbergh flies solo across the Atlantic.
13. Princess Diana dies in car crash.
14. Napoleon is exiled on Elba.
15. Composer Beethoven dies at the age of 56.

[Use this white space for figuring]

Directions:

Write the number of the events here in chronological order. The first one is provided for you.


14. 1814

ANSWERS: 14. 1814; 15. March 26, 1827; 6. June 20, 1837; 8. October 19, 1847; 1. April 12, 1861; 5. March 10, 1876; 3. June 28, 1914; 12. May 21, 1927; 9. May 6, 1937; 4. October 8, 1956; 7. February 20, 1962; 10. January 9, 1969; 11. August 8, 1974; 2. November 9, 1989; 13. August 31, 1997.

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Scripture Reading: Genesis 18:1-10, Colossians 1:24-28, Luke 10:38-42

Every child should be taught that useful work is worship and that intelligent labor is the highest form of prayer. —Robert G. Ingersoll



The story of Mary and Martha is a familiar one, and for good reason — it holds timeless lessons about priorities, distractions and the importance of worship. As Jesus visits their home, Martha busies herself with preparations, while Mary sits and listens to Jesus. When Martha complains that Mary isn't helping, Jesus responds with a gentle reminder. So, what can we learn from this?

The lesson concerns the *danger of distraction*. Martha was doing good and necessary work. Absolutely no question. She was serving Jesus and the disciples, making sure they were fed and comfortable. But she lost her focus. She forgot the “why” of her service.

How often do we let the busyness of life crowd out time with God? Our to-do lists grow longer, our schedules fill up, and even our service can distract us from what matters most: being in God's presence. Imagine a host so focused on preparing a meal that they miss enjoying their guests. Jesus essentially tells Martha, “I didn't come for the food — I came for you.”

There's another lesson: the *importance of worship*. Mary chose to sit at Jesus' feet and listen. What can be more important than to worship and study the teachings of Jesus?

This doesn't mean that work is unimportant. But it's a reminder that worship fuels our work. When we spend time with God first, our hearts are aligned with God's will, and our work becomes more meaningful.

But there's a final and deeper lesson: the *value of peace*. Martha was anxious and overwhelmed. Jesus says, “You are worried and upset about many things.” When we focus solely on our tasks or worries, we place the burden of success entirely on ourselves. Sitting with Jesus reminds us that Someone Else is in control.

Martha and Mary each have something to teach us. From Martha, we learn the importance of serving; from Mary, we learn the necessity of worship. The challenge is to balance work and worship, thus ensuring that our service flows from a heart rooted in worship.

Why not start your day by dedicating your time and tasks to God. Ask God to help you prioritize and trust him with the results. Even five minutes of prayer can shift your perspective.

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: Lord, help us cultivate a Mary heart in a Martha world. Give us an undivided heart that we may live in awe of your name. You are the one thing worth being concerned about that will never be taken from us. Amen. —Taken from the website of the De La Salle Medical and Health Sciences Institute.

Activity Page

Week of July 20, 2025

Daily Gospel Readings

Sunday: Luke 10:38-42
Monday: Matt 12:38-42
Tuesday: John 20:1-18
Wednesday: Matt 13:1-9
Thursday: Matt 13:10-17
Friday: Matt 20:20-28
Saturday: Matt 13:16-17

Verse to Remember

*"Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters;
... come, buy and eat!" —Isaiah 55:1*

SPELLING ALERT: Vowels Missing from Bible Verse!

Please look at the Scripture verses below and replace the missing vowels to reveal the verses.

Th_r_f_r_, _s G_d's ch_s_n p_ _pl_, h_ly _nd d_ _rly
l_v_d, cl_th_ y_ _rs_lv_s w_th c_mp_ss_ _n, k_ndn_ss,
h_m_l_ty, g_ntl_n_ss _nd p_t_ _nc_. —C_l_ss_ _ns 3:12

F_r by gr_c_ y_ _ h_v_ b__n s_v_d thr_ _gh f_ _th, _nd
th_s _s n_t y_ _r _wn d_ _ng; _t _s th_ g_ft _f G_d
— n_t th_ r_s_lt _f w_rks, s_ th_t n_ _n_m_y b_ _st.
—_ph_s_ _ns 2:8-9

FAMOUS FEMALES: Which of these women were born in the U.S. and which were born in the U.K.?

Missing Vowels: Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. — Colossians 3:12; For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God — not the result of works, so that no one may boast. — Ephesians 2:8-9. **Famous Females:** 1. UK, 2. US, 3. US, 4. UK, 5. UK, 6. US, 7. UK, 8. UK, 9. US, 10. UK, 11. US, 12. UK, 13. UK, 14. US, 15. UK, 16. US.

NAME	U.S. or U.K.?	NAME	U.S. or U.K.?
1. Agatha Christie		2. Geraldine Ferraro	
3. Chris Evert		4. J.K. Rowling	
5. Theresa May		6. Harriet Tubman	
7. Julie Andrews		8. Elizabeth Taylor	
9. Joan Didion		10. Jane Austen	
11. Sally Ride		12. Beatrix Potter	
13. Kate Winslet		14. Rosa Parks	
15. Diana Spencer		16. Wallis Simpson	

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Scripture Reading: Genesis 18:20-32, Colossians 2:12-14, Luke 11:1-13

*Dear Lord, so far I've done all right. I haven't gossiped,
haven't lost my temper, haven't been greedy, grumpy, nasty, selfish,
or overindulgent. I'm really glad about that.
But in a few minutes, God, I'm going to get out of bed.
And from then on, I'm going to need a lot more help. —Anon.*

In today's Bible reading, Jesus teaches his disciples how to pray and encourages them to approach God with persistence and trust. The chapter opens with a simple yet profound request: "Lord, teach us to pray." Although prayer is essentially just having a conversation with God, Jesus offers a model of simplicity and depth — a prayer that focuses on reverence for God, submission to the will of God and reliance on divine and daily provision. The prayer urges us to forgive as we have been forgiven.

This teaching is then followed by a parable about a man who persistently knocks on his friend's door at midnight seeking bread. The friend eventually rises to help, not because of friendship, but because of the man's shameless persistence.

But oddly, this parable is not about encouraging us to be persistent in prayer to the point of being annoying — like the man in this story, or the persistent widow in another parable (see Luke 18:1-8).

Instead, Jesus seems to be explaining that God is not deaf. We don't need to yell at God, or beg or plea or wake him up in the middle of the night. Instead, we need simply to ask. "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you." Wow! This takes away all the pressure. We need only to ask, seek and knock!

For support, Jesus probably points to a nearby parent, and then he says, "Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead?" The answer is obvious. Even flawed human parents desire the best for their children, so how much more will our perfect heavenly Father give good gifts to those who ask of him?

Prayer, however, is not just about asking for things; it's about deepening our relationship with God. It's a conversation that aligns our hearts with his will, teaches us trust, and reassures us of his love.

— Timothy Merrill

Prayer: Heavenly Father, help me to approach you with the boldness of a child and the faith of an adult, knowing that you always hear and answer with perfect wisdom. Amen.

Activity Page

Week of July 27, 2025

Daily Gospel Readings

Sunday: Luke 11:1-13
Monday: Matt 13:31-35
Tuesday: Luke 10:38-42
Wednesday: Matt 13:44-46
Thursday: Matt 13:47-53
Friday: Matt 5:13-19
Saturday: Matt 14:1-12

Verse to Remember

*Look at the proud!
Their spirit is not right in them,
but the righteous live by their faith.*
—Habakkuk 2:4

WAR and HATE

The words *hate* and *war* have been removed from the following list of words. The letters of each word, when inserted in the same order, *but not always consecutively*, will give you a new word. Study the examples provided and then write the word in the space provided.

- | | | | |
|----------|---------------|--------------|-------|
| 1. sm | <u>swarm</u> | 11. anniil | _____ |
| 2. sn | <u>hasten</u> | 12. ind | _____ |
| 3. eer | _____ | 13. aspyxi | _____ |
| 4. cpr | _____ | 14. reabilit | _____ |
| 5. homed | _____ | 15. wver | _____ |
| 6. posph | _____ | 16. cs | _____ |
| 7. cod | _____ | 17. ern | _____ |
| 8. encnd | _____ | 18. exusd | _____ |
| 9. den | _____ | 19. se | _____ |
| 10. rior | _____ | 20. sete | _____ |

ANSWERS:

3. wearer,
4. chapter,
5. homeward,
6. phosphate,
7. coward,
8. enchanted,
9. warden,
10. warrior,
11. annihilate,
12. inward,
13. asphyxiate,
14. rehabilitate,
15. whatever,
16. chaste,
17. hearten,
18. exhausted,
19. swear,
20. sweater.

BIBLE BOOKS: The answer to each clue is a book of the Bible. (You might find this easier if you have a table of contents for the Bible in front of you.)

1. The play "Romeo and Juliet" has five of these.
2. Professions of Judith Sheindlin, Neil Gorsuch and Joe Brown
3. Residents of Italy's capital
4. Before the Euro, Germans had the Deutsche ...
5. He had a "cool hand."
6. His 714 home run record was broken by Hank Aaron.
7. The most famous bullfrog ever.

Answers to Bible Books:

1. Acts
2. Judges
3. Romans
4. Mark
5. Luke
6. Ruth
7. Jeremiah