



The Monthly Visitor

Catholic Community

Of Lawrence County



Volume 2020, Issue 3

March 2020

A Message From Deacon Dave



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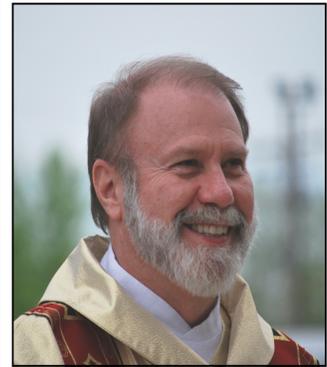
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If you know someone who has recently become infirmed or homebound please contact our parish secretary at 275-6539 so that we can add them to our visitation list.

Greetings in the Lord Jesus Christ:

Once again, it is that time of year that most of us are not fond of. The temperatures are cold, and the sky is normally gloomy. But one of the things that I look forward to at this time of year are the trips Kathy and I take together. Last week we left on Sunday to go to an Indiana State Park with our good friends the Crandalls and the Stanleys. We usually stay for a couple of nights playing cards, hiking, and just enjoying each other's company. This year we went to Brown County State Park. The first evening we were there, the sun was shining and the temperature was near 50 degrees, which was absolutely beautiful outside. So

we took a short hike around the roads looking at the cabins and beautiful scenery. That was the last time that we saw the sun on that trip. It rained the remainder of the trip, but together with our friends we had a great time. We returned home the night before Ash Wednesday. The day after Ash Wednesday we set out again with our daughter Amy, and her family. This was Amy's and her family's annual Mother's Day and Father's Day gift to us. They take us for a couple days to a surprise destination, at least a surprise for me and Kathy. Amy only told us that the trip would be to a destination that was less than four hours from home and she would give us the weather forecast so we would



Deacon Dave Reising

know what to take to our unknown destination. Again, like last year, they were all excited, but they would not give us even a hint or any indication where our destination would be. Amy picked us up at our house and off we went. Several hours later we stopped at a nice steakhouse and celebrated Kathy's and my 49th wedding anniversary. The steaks were great and we enjoyed the rest of the meal and each other. We all jumped back in the

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 your 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.

car and made our final destination which was Nashville, Tennessee. Amy and Jason had a condominium in the Opryland, Hotel, and Mall area. We stayed in accommodations that were big enough for all of us to be together. We hiked, swam, visited different interesting sites, but most importantly we played games and watched movies in the condominium where we were staying. This was truly a family vacation with the focus on the family. One of the things that brought joy to my heart was that every time we started our trip we prayed for our journey and said the rosary on our way. On our return trip we stopped for Mass at St. Joseph’s Catholic Church in Bowling Green, Kentucky.

As always, there are good and bad things on such trips. The bad first: I gained four pounds even with the fasting on Ash Wednesday. The good: All the enjoyment we had just being together. As I considered the importance of these trips in the overall scheme of things, I realized the importance of strengthening our relationship with each and every friend and family member that we traveled with. Every one of these people is a prime person in Kathy’s and my support systems. And in actuality each one of us reading this article is a part of each other’s support systems in some way or another. This is important, since every person’s well being, mental stability, and joy in life depends on our support system. It just so happens that both Kathy and I have a support system of friends and family who are integrally connected to our church, the Body of Christ here on earth, which means we will all continue to be connected for eternity. That fact alone puts hope and joy in my heart.

God Bless,

Dea Dave

Notable Dates in March

March 1, 1954 – Birth of Ron Howard aka *Opie*

March 3, 1847 – Birth of Alexander Graham Bell

March 6, 1836 – The battle of the Alamo took place

March 8 – Begin Daylight Savings Time

March 14 – Pi Day (Happy 3.14159265359)

March 17 – Saint Patrick’s Day

March 19 – First day of spring

March 25 – Annunciation of the Lord

First Sunday in Lent,

Scripture Reading: Genesis 2:7-3:7, Romans 5:12-19, Matthew 4:1-11

Opportunity may knock only once, but temptation leans on the doorbell! — Anon.

My subject for today is *temptation*. It's appropriate because on the First Sunday in Lent the Scripture lesson is about how Jesus handles temptation.

You might think that when you reach a certain age — a particular level of maturity — that temptation is no longer a major problem. We've probably learned how to recognize temptation and resist it.

But wait! A very common temptation is *to pass judgment too quickly* — to come to conclusions before all the facts are in. Consider this example:

Juliet Riley was at Boston Logan airport waiting for her connecting flight to Dublin. She faced several hours before departure, so she bought a book and a bag of cookies and found a place to rest. She started to read her book — a Stephen King mystery.

It was not long after she started to read, that she noticed that the man sitting by her on the bench had grabbed a cookie or two from her bag which she had placed in between them.

She was sort of shocked, but decided to say nothing so as to avoid making a scene.

So Juliet munched on her cookies and watched the clock, as the gutsy cookie thief continued to diminish her stock. Although she was a good Christian lady, she was getting more irritated by the minute, and once she wickedly thought that if she wasn't so nice, she'd slap his hand the next time it hovered over the cookie bag. With each cookie she took, he took one, too.

When only one was left, she wondered what he would do. With a smile on his face, and a nervous laugh, he took the last cookie and broke it in half. He offered her half as he ate the other. She snatched it from him and thought, "Wow! This guy has some nerve and he's also rude. He doesn't even show any gratitude!" It had been a long time since she'd been so upset, and so she was relieved when her flight was called. She gathered her belongings and headed to the gate, refusing to look back at the thieving ingrate.

Juliet boarded the plane and sank in her seat. Then she sought her book, reaching into her luggage. As she did so, she gasped with surprise. There in front of her astonished eyes was *her* bag of cookies. If *mine* are here, she moaned in despair, the others were *his*, and he tried to share. Too late to apologize, she realized with grief that she was the rude one, the ingrate and the thief!

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: Help me, Lord, to be patient and slow to judge the motives of other people. Amen.

Activity Page

Week of March 1, 2020

Daily Gospel Readings

Sunday: Matthew 4:1-11

Monday: Matthew 25:31-46

Tuesday: Matthew 6:7-15

Wednesday: Luke 11:29-32

Thursday: Matthew 7:7-12

Friday: Matthew 5:20-26

Saturday: Matthew 5:43-48

Verse to Remember

*“The LORD is my shepherd;
I shall not want.”*

—Psalm 23:1 (KJV)

Think Spring!

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

This is the time of the year when snow is melting and rain begins to fall. Find the following forms of water in the word search puzzle to the left:

cloud	reservoir
dew	river
fog	sleet
frost	snow
geyser	spring
glacier	steam
hail	vapor
humidity	waterfall
hydrate	ice
iceberg	lake
ocean	perspiration
rain	
artesian well	
mineral waters	



Brain Stumpers:

1. What gets wetter and wetter the more it dries?
2. What can you catch but not throw?
3. What's black and white and red all over?

Brain Stumpers:
1. A towel
2. A cold
3. A newspaper

Second Sunday in Lent,

Scripture Reading: Genesis 12:1-4, 2 Timothy 1:8-10, Matthew 17:1-9

*Honesty is more than not lying. It is truth telling, truth speaking,
truth living and truth loving! —James E. Faust*

Last week, I wrote about temptation and shared a story. Today, the subject is *honesty*. Most of us would agree that “honesty is the best policy.” Sometimes, it is hard to be honest — to be a person of integrity. When we look at others, we might notice that the people who often get ahead are not so noble in their character. Let me assure you, your reputation as an honest person is worth more than gold. Resist the temptation to be anything less than a person known as trustworthy and honest. The following story emphasizes this truth in a humorous way.

During the Great Depression there was a farmer in Iowa who sold a pound of butter to the local baker.

One day, the baker decided to weigh the butter. He was suspicious. He didn't believe he was getting the right amount of butter for what he was paying. So he weighed it. And, his suspicions were confirmed! The farmer was cheating him!

The baker was very angry and took the farmer to small claims court in Osage. The judge asked the farmer if he was using any measure to weigh the butter. The farmer replied, “Your honor, I don't have a big farm, and it's a pretty basic operation. So I don't have a proper measure, but I do use a scale.”

“So how, then, do you weigh the butter which you sell to the baker?” the judge asked.

“Well, that's the thing, your honor. Curious, you know? Years ago, I began buying a pound loaf of bread from the baker. Then he mentioned he wanted a pound of butter. I didn't have no measure, but this was easy. I just used his pound loaf on the scale to measure the pound of butter I give him. So, if there's a problem, it's because his pound loaf is not a pound loaf!”

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: O God, to be dishonest is to reveal a lack of faith in you. And you have given me no reason not to trust you. Thank you for your help, strength and grace each day. Amen.

Activity Page

Week of March 8, 2020

Daily Gospel Readings

Sunday: Matthew 17:1-9

Monday: Luke 6:36-38

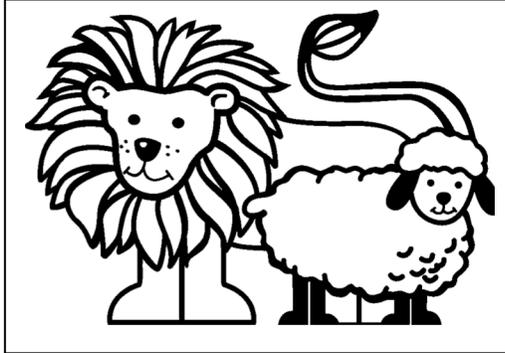
Tuesday: Matthew 23:1-12

Wednesday: Matthew 20:17-28

Thursday: Luke 16:19-31

Friday: Matthew 21:33-46

Saturday: Luke 15:1-32



PROBLEMS AT THE ZOO!

A rookie zookeeper one day is preparing to place new signs on all the animal exhibits, but he trips over something and spills all the letters on the ground. Now he has to unscramble the letters so that he correctly identifies the animals in the zoo. Can you help him?

NLOI	_____	RAFEGIF	_____
RLUTTE	_____	GPEUNINS	_____
KAESNS	_____	LAORP ERAB	_____
LOW	_____	CURPOENIP	_____
EHCTEHA	_____	HISF	_____
GREIT	_____	BIGBON	_____
KOMEYN	_____	RREENID	_____
RABE	_____	BZREA	_____
EESTPNALH	_____	KSSRAH	_____
PDALEOR	_____	SINCTSE	_____
RROTPA	_____	GORSF	_____
LKAAO	_____	LMAEC	_____

SOLUTION: left column — lion, turtle, snakes, owl, cheetah, tiger, monkey, bear, elephants, leopard, parrot, koala; Right column — giraffe, penguins, polar bear, porcupine, fish, gibbon, reindeer, zebra, sharks, insects, frogs, camel.

Third Sunday in Lent,

Scripture Reading: Exodus 17:3-7, Romans 5:1-8, John 4:5-42

We humans spend too much time thinking about the past, complaining about the present and fearing the future! —Antoine Rivarol

It is the season of Lent, and I have been writing about character traits. Today, the focus is on the problem of *complaining*.

Wise men and philosophers throughout the ages have disagreed on many things, but many are in unanimous agreement on one point: “We become what we think about,” Ralph Waldo Emerson said. “You are what you think about all day long.” The Roman emperor Marcus Aurelius put it this way: “Your life is what your thoughts make of it.” In the Bible we find, “As a man thinks in his heart, so is he” (Proverbs 23:7).

One Sunday afternoon, a cranky grandfather was visiting his family. As he lay down to take a nap, his grandson decided to have a little fun by putting Limburger cheese on grandfather’s mustache.

Soon, grandpa awoke with a snort and charged out of the bedroom saying, “This room stinks.” Through the house he went, finding every room smelling the same. Desperately he made his way outside only to find that “The whole world stinks!”

This is a silly story, but it sort of illustrates what happens when we fill our minds with negativism. Everything we experience and everybody we encounter will carry the scent we hold in our mind.

I remember a conversation when my wife and I first visited the beautiful Oregon coast. We were talking with a man who lived in a certain neighborhood not far from Newport. My wife mentioned that it must be wonderful to live so close to the ocean and the beach.

“I never go to the beach,” he said.

“You’re kidding,” I said. “This stretch of coastline is amazing!”

“I used to,” he said, “But you get tired of seeing it every day and soon it’s no big deal.”

I think that’s the way we sometimes treat the blessings that God sends our way. Someone once wrote,

When we see the same blessings every day, we eventually stop noticing them.

When we stop noticing, we quit appreciating

When we quit appreciating, we stop thanking.

When we stop thanking, we start complaining.

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: O God, help me to see the wonders of your blessings in a new way. Amen.

Activity Page

Week of March 15, 2020

Daily Gospel Readings

Sunday: John 4:5-42

Monday: Luke 4:24-30

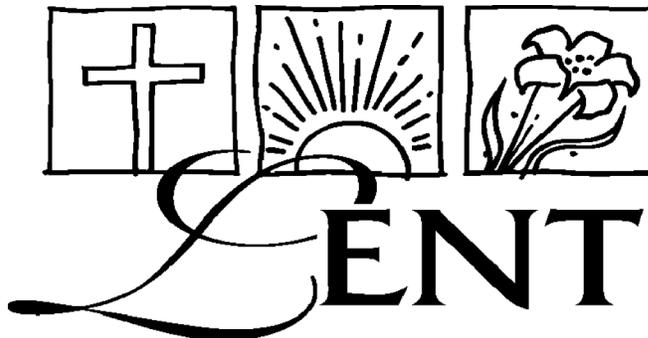
Tuesday: Matthew 18:21-35

Wednesday: Matthew 5:17-19

Thursday: Matthew 1:16-24

Friday: Matthew 12:28-34

Saturday: Luke 18:9-14



WORD SEARCH

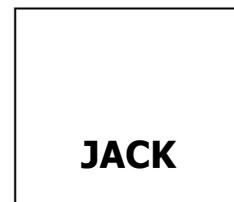
Today is the Third Sunday of Lent. Find the words below that are all associated with the Lenten journey toward the cross.

crown	donkey	hosanna	penance	Pilate	sins
colt	crucifixion	forsaken	kiss	prayer	suffer
confess	death	Gethsemane	lots	repent	thorns
cross	denial	Golgotha	palms	silver	vigil

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

Word Picture

What expression comes to mind when you study this drawing?
Write your answer below.



Word Picture: Jack in the box.

Fourth Sunday in Lent,

Scripture Reading: 1 Samuel 16:1-13, Ephesians 5:8-14, John 9:1-41

The shepherd always tries to persuade the sheep that their interests and his own are the same. —Stendhal



Of all creatures of God's green earth that could have been chosen to represent humans in relation to their creator, God chose sheep.

Sheep are unique in some respects. Unlike some animals that are cunning and clever, sheep are not. Think of cats. What if the dominant animal metaphor for us humans in the Bible was the cat. Yet the cat is nowhere even mentioned in the Bible. It's sheep. Sheep are not known for their cleverness. They lack cognitive acuity. If their leader leads them off a cliff, they will follow to their deaths until the flock is destroyed. This has happened.

Unfortunately, humans often seem as dumb as sheep.

Sheep also don't seem to be able get from point A to point B on purpose. They may wander accidentally into point B, but they haven't a clue as to how they got there. In other words, they lack a sense of direction.

We humans are like that, too, aren't we? Often, we're just going through the motions. We know we're going somewhere, and often, we are going there pretty fast. But it's just not the destination we really should choose. Like sheep, too often we're directionless.

Finally, sheep don't know how to defend themselves. Most animals have some sort of defense mechanism. Not sheep. They just stand there — easy pickings for the big, bad wolf.

We, too, are often defenseless against the things that can destroy us.

I bring this up, because the reading at the top of this page is Psalm 23, one of the most beloved passages of Scripture in the Bible. This psalm reminds us that we have a Good Shepherd who will lead us, and this Shepherd is as smart and wise as any shepherd ever. The psalm also reminds us that this Shepherd will lead us safely to green pastures and still waters, through the valley of the shadow of death and on to the joy of our eternal rest.

Finally, we know that the Good Shepherd will defend us. In fact, the Good Shepherd has given his life for us and defeated all our enemies, like sin, death and the devil. What a Shepherd! He is the Good Shepherd. He is the Great Shepherd.

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: Lord Jesus, thank you for being a good shepherd throughout my life. Amen.

Activity Page

Week of March 22, 2020

Daily Gospel Readings

Sunday: John 9:1-41

Monday: John 4:43-54

Tuesday: John 5:1-16

Wednesday: Luke 1:26-38

Thursday: John 5:31-47

Friday: John 7:1-30

Saturday: John 7:40-53

Verse to Remember

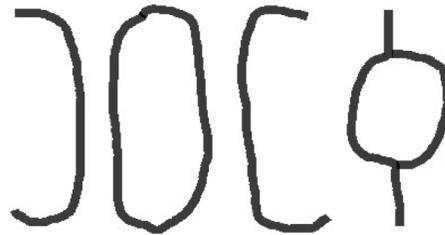
"Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered."

—Psalm 32:1

Exercise Your Cranium!

1. Say the days of the week backwards, then in alphabetical order.
2. Find the sum of your date of birth, mm/dd/yyyy. Want more exercise? Do the same with friends' and relatives' dates of birth.
3. Name two objects for every letter in your complete name. Work up to five objects, trying to use different items each time.
4. Wherever you are, look around and within two minutes, try to find five red things that will fit in your pocket, and five blue objects that are too big to fit.

WHAT MONTH OF THE YEAR DOES THIS SECRET CODE SUGGEST?



THOUGHT-PROVOKING QUESTIONS

1. In a year there are 12 months. Seven months have 31 days. How many months have 28 days?
2. A plane crashes on the border of the U.S. and Canada. Where do they bury the survivors?
3. You are in a dark room with a candle, a wood stove and a gas lamp. You only have one match. What do you light first?
4. How far can a dog run into the woods?

ANSWERS: What month? Place your hand or a piece of paper horizontally across the top of the four symbols and the month JULY is revealed.

JULY

Thought-provoking questions: 1. Every month has 28 days; 2. You don't bury survivors!; 3. The match; 4. Half-way. As soon as the dog goes more than half-way, the dog is running OUT of the woods.

Fifth Sunday in Lent,

Scripture Reading: Ezekiel, 37:12-14, Romans 8:8-11, John 11:1-45

*The future is like heaven — everyone exalts it, but no one wants to go there now.
—James Baldwin*

The passage in Ezekiel for today's reading is about bones. Ezekiel has a vision and he sees a valley of dry bones. God prophesies and says that someday these bones will come to life.

This is the text that gave birth sometime about 100 years ago to the spiritual "Dem Bones." written by African-American composer James Weldon Johnson. Here are the words. What line in this song is your favorite? I will tell you mine.

*Ezekiel connected dem dry bones, Ezekiel connected dem dry bones
Ezekiel in the Valley of Dry Bones, Now hear the word of the Lord.*

*Toe bone connected to the foot bone; foot bone connected to the heel bone,
Heel bone connected to the ankle bone; ankle bone connected to the shin bone,
Shin bone connected to the knee bone; knee bone connected to the thigh bone,
Thigh bone connected to the hip bone; hip bone connected to the back bone,
Back bone connected to the shoulder bone; shoulder bone connected to the neck bone,
Neck bone connected to the head bone;
Now hear the word of the Lord.*

*Dem bone, dem bones gonna walk around.
Dem bone, dem bones gonna walk around.
Dem bone, dem bones gonna walk around.
Now hear the word of the Lord.*

My favorite lines are the last four. *Dem bones, dem bones gonna walk around.* This spiritual is about new life that is going to come to our old weary bones. Although we are dust and to dust we will return, there is coming a resurrection morning when we will be fitted with a glorious new body — new body, new bones.

And this, my friends, is good news!

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: Loving God, thank you for the gift of eternal life. This world is not our home. We're just passing through. Thank you for the promise of an eternal home with you! In Jesus' name. Amen.

Activity Page

Week of March 29, 2020

Daily Gospel Readings

Sunday: John 11:1-45

Monday: John 8:1-11

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

“The LORD watches over the way of the righteous.”

—Psalm 1:6



Answer: Beethoven

BIBLE CRYPTO - FUN!

Clues: R=I, M=T

MUSIC MYSTERY!

Directions: Fill in the blank boxes below by choosing the correct letter from the two clues provided to spell a famous composer's name. Answer below.

4C 1E 3A 3C 2D 3E 1C 1E 5E

				H				
--	--	--	--	---	--	--	--	--

1A 3D 4E 1B 5A 5A 4D 5E 3B

	A	B	C	D	E
1	W	T	E	D	E
2	F	C	R	H	P
3	E	U	A	I	U
4	K	M	B	V	S
5	O	L	J	G	N