



# The Monthly Visitor Catholic Community Of Lawrence County



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## A Message from Deacon Dave

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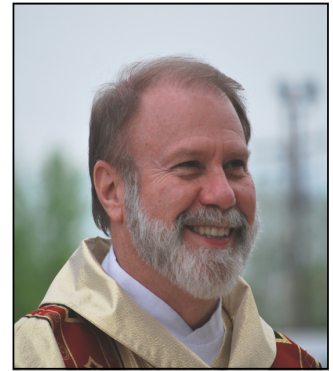
If you know someone who has recently become infirmed or homebound please contact our parish secretary at 275-6539 so that we can add them to our visitation list.

Greetings in the Lord Jesus Christ:

As I write this article, the remnants of Hurricane Helene are moving through Indiana. We have had some strong winds in the 20 MPH range and the rain was certainly not torrential but relatively mild. But in actuality, Helene was a Category 4 hurricane, a terrible storm. The death toll is currently at 162 and more are expected. In Jeter Mountain, North Carolina, they got over 32 inches of rain. The worst storm surge was in Cedar Key, Florida, which

was over 10 feet. The highest winds were 107 MPH in West Tampa, Florida. Now in its aftermath, day after day we see the news clips from this storm and the destruction that it caused. My heart certainly goes out to the many who were so severely affected.

One of the negative aspects of this storm, which will go untold and incalculable is its impact on so many people's mental health. I can say this because I know how a hurricane can affect people. In 1969 I was in the military,



*Deacon Dave Reising*

stationed at Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi Mississippi, when Hurricane Camille took a direct hit on us. Camille was a Category 5 hurricane with a 24-foot storm surge, 175 MPH wind gusts, and a death toll of 259.

I still have vivid memories of the horrors of Camille to this day. I can remember our

### **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.

platoon leaving our wooden barracks in the afternoon just before the hurricane-force winds came ashore. Our sergeant marched us a long way to a storm shelter made from concrete blocks to ride the storm out. The building was only one story high. It certainly looked very sturdy compared to our wooden two-storied barracks. After we got in the building, we were given several large flashlights and told to stay in the corridor because of the potential for tornadoes. It wasn’t long before we lost our power.

As the storm got closer, the steel double doors of the building began to bulge in from the fierce winds. After the doors started bowing in so badly, we had to move everybody out of the corridor into the side rooms because it looked like the doors would be blown away. When all of a sudden, the wind stopped. We were then wrapped in complete silence and complete darkness except for our flashlights. That’s when we realized that we were in the eye of the hurricane. This was a time of intense prayer for me, because I knew that on the other side of the hurricane’s eye there would be the same forceful winds that had previously terrorized us. Then all of a sudden, like someone taking a wrecking ball to the metal doors, the winds returned. Water was starting to come in the building but not at a great rate. No one slept that whole night. As morning came, the storm had moved inland. When our sergeant, came back to the building that morning, he opened the doors and had us walk back to our barracks, not march. Many of the surrounding buildings close to ours were gone. The only thing that remained on some buildings were the plumbing pipes that were sticking out of concrete floors. After we got back to our barracks we were able to get into dry clothes and were fed. Once we got our barracks back into shape, then we were bussed out to the beaches, residential areas, and businesses to help with the gruesome tasks of cleaning up a broken community.

I have many memories of those weeks following Hurricane Camille, but the fondest ones were of the faces of the people whose lives we were helping to put back together. One of the things that I certainly learned from Camille was that God was there from the beginning to the end. He loves and cares for us, whether it is in a disastrous storm or a personal disaster. I think all we need to do is to simply do His holy will in all things, and we will certainly see Him and feel His presence even if it is in tough times.

God Bless,

Dcn Dave

## 27<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Scripture Readings: Genesis 2:18-24, Hebrews 2:9-11, Mark 10:2-16

*God had one son on earth without sin, but never one without suffering.*

—Augustine

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**M**ost of our readers have a lot of life experience. A lot! So you get it when I say that sometimes, life seems to have it in for us. I'm talking about the hard knocks of life; those times when we get hit with a punch that sends us plumb into next week.

Once in a while, life hurts, doesn't it? In the first and second chapters of Job, the ancient patriarch is hurting. In one day, he loses all his camels, sheep, donkeys, oxen, servants and even his ten children. And he ain't feelin' so good, either. He looks like a shadow of his former self. Among other health issues, he's stricken with sores that itch so bad he has to scrape them with shards of pottery. He wants to die. His illness makes Covid-19 look like a sneeze or a sniffle.

Job's friends gathered round, as we learn later in the book of Job. They knew every platitude in the book. Perhaps your friends have said to you in your time of despair, "Well, time heals all wounds." No, it doesn't. Or that friend who said when your infant grandchild died, "Guess God needed another little angel in heaven!" No, God didn't need another angel in heaven. Or, "God won't give you more than you can handle." Tell that to Job or all those who died before they could be delivered from danger.

The next logical move is then to ask "Why?" Why did a loved one die? Why is the world so wicked? Why do we live in a world where children suffer? Why are innocent people struck down because of the carelessness and recklessness of others?

In times of suffering, Job learned *to choose faith*. This is what the great heroes of the Bible did. In Hebrews 11:1, we read, "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." The text then identifies some of these heroes and heroines: Abel, Enoch, Abraham, Moses, ... "Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets — who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight" (Hebrews 11:32-34).

They chose faith in their suffering. We can do no less.

—Timothy Merrell

*Prayer: Help me, O God, to choose faith when I face my hour of trial. Amen.*

Daily Gospel Readings

Monday: Luke 1:26-38

Tuesday: Luke 10:38-42

Wednesday: Luke 11:1-4

Thursday: Luke 11:5-13

Friday: Luke 11:15-26

Saturday: Luke 11:27-28

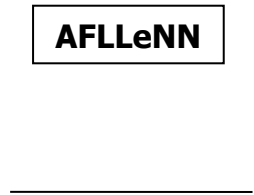
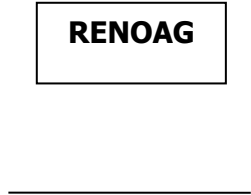
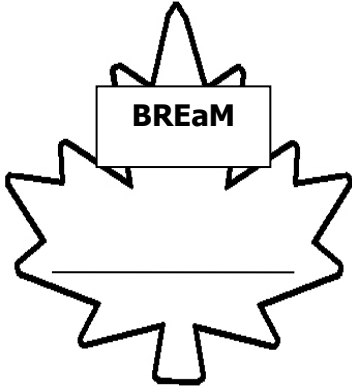
FALL FUN!

Unscramble the letters in each leaf below and write the word on the line provided. Each word is appropriate for the fall season. Notice the lowercase letters in the leaves. Unscramble these eight letters to form two words that reveal an American favorite, and write in the empty leaves below.

BREaM

RENOAG

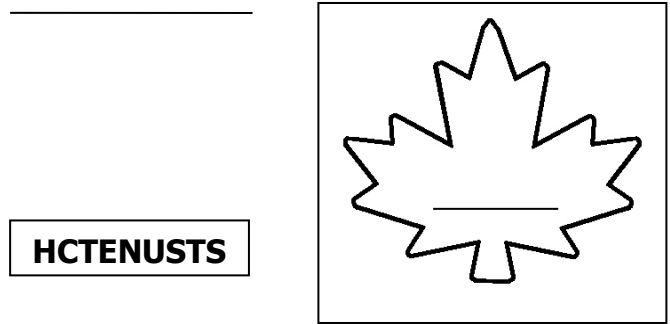
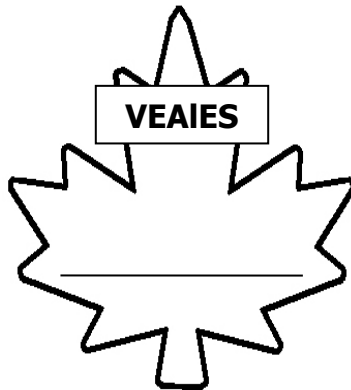
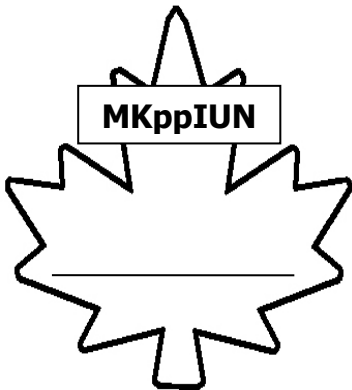
AFLLeNN



MKppIUN

VEAIES

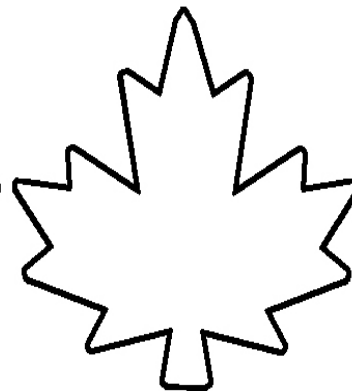
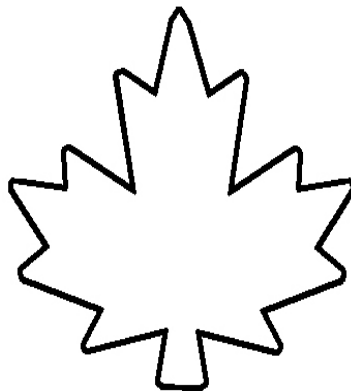
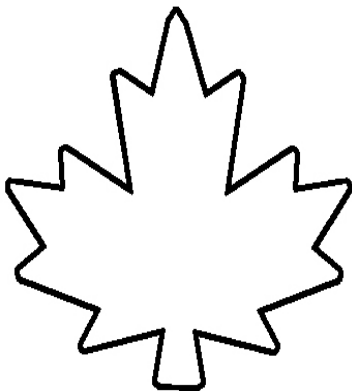
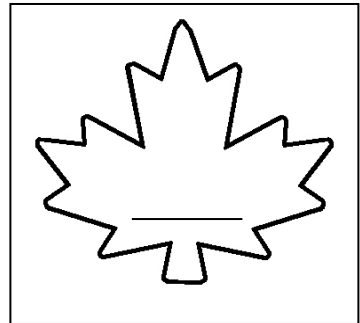
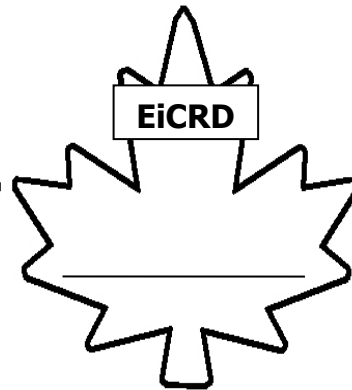
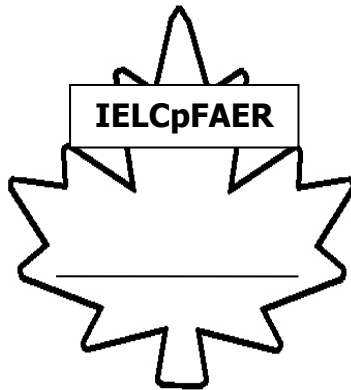
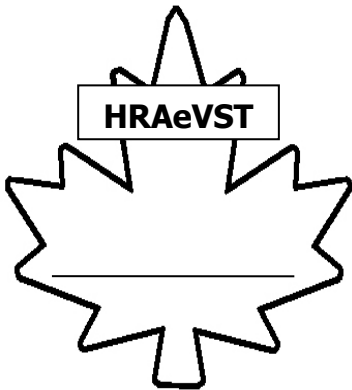
HCTENUSTS



HRAeVST

IELCpFAER

EiCRD



SOLUTION: BREAM=amber;  
RENOAG=orange;  
AFLLeNN=flannel;  
MKppIUN=pumpkin;  
VEALES=leaves;  
HCTENUSTS=chestnuts;  
HRAEVST=harvest;  
IELCPFAER=fireplace;  
EiCRD=cider.  
SECRET WORDS: apple pie.

## 28<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Scripture Readings: Wisdom 7:7-11, Hebrews 4:12-13, Mark 10:17-30

*Dear God, please find an easier way to teach me what I need to learn. —Anon.*

Curious about what our culture and society think are the most important lessons of life, I turned to the internet. I found scores of articles on the subject. One was called, “Five life lessons most people learn too late.” The lessons? Perception is reality; everything is temporary; the importance of being present; do what you love, love what you do; and being happy takes work.

Most authors of these articles had trouble narrowing down the most important life lessons. One writer’s essay was titled, “137 Valuable Life Lessons to Learn TODAY.” Others needed 20, 34, 35, 50 lessons to learn about living life well. Sort of misses the point.

I did run across one list that struck a chord, and so I pass it on to you now. The suggestions make sense, they are helpful and they dovetail with scripture.

### **Six Important Guidelines in Life**

1. When you are alone, mind your thoughts.
2. When you are with friends, mind your tongue.
3. When you are angry, mind your temper.
4. When you are with a group, mind your behavior.
5. When you are in trouble, mind your emotions.
6. When God starts blessing you, mind your ego.

Being able to master these reMINDers will go a long way to making your life a life of peace and joy.

—Timothy Merrill

*Prayer: O God, with your help, I will be MINDful of these ideas, as well as the wisdom of your word. Amen.*

# Activity Page

Week of October 13, 2024

## Daily Gospel Readings

**Monday:** Luke 11:29-32

**Tuesday:** John 15:1-8

**Wednesday:** Luke 11:42-46

**Thursday:** John 12:24-26

**Friday:** Luke 10:1-9

**Saturday:** Matthew 28:16-20

## The Letter "O"

The nine words below are spelled correctly, except they are missing one letter — O. Use these incomplete words to complete the verse below where you will find all the missing O's!

S, NE, ANHER, GD, LVED, UGHT, T, ALS, LVE

Dear friends, since \_\_\_o\_\_\_ \_\_\_o\_\_\_

\_\_\_o\_\_\_ \_\_\_ us, we \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_o\_\_\_

o\_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_o\_\_\_ \_\_\_o\_\_\_

o\_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_o\_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_.

## Verse to Remember

*So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God.*

—1 Corinthians 10:31

## BRAIN TEASERS:

1. There are three houses. One is red, one is blue, and one is white. If the red house is to the left of the house in the middle, and the blue house is to the right of the house in the middle, where is the white house?
2. A farmer has 17 sheep and all but nine die. How many are left?

*“October made the leaves on Main Street fit for a crown. They dripped from the trees in jewel-toned shades: yellow and orange and fiery red. The cool wind sent a confetti-cluster of leaves down around us.”* —Natalie Lloyd

SOLUTION TO BRAIN TEASERS: 1: Washington, D.C. 2: nine. SOLUTION TO THE LETTER "O" PUZZLE: "Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another" —1 John 4:11.

## 29<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Scripture Readings: Isaiah 53:10-11, Hebrews 4:14-16, Mark 10:35-45

*Life is a matter of choices, and every choice you make makes you.*

—John C. Maxwell

**B**ible scholars are not sure when Job lived, but many believe during the biblically blank, 400 year period between the death of Joseph and the birth of Moses. Moses was born around 1400 B.C. so Job probably was alive before then — anytime between roughly 1700 and 1400 B.C.

I mention this to give perspective to the recent discovery in southern Israel of a city gate believed to be more than 5,000 years old! If true, it was operational in the early Bronze Age, about the year 3500 B.C., making it the oldest gate ever discovered in Israel.

According to Emily Bischoff of the Israel Antiquities Authority, “This is the first time that such a large gate dating to the Early Bronze Age has been uncovered. ... This was not achieved by one or a few individuals. The fortification system is evidence of social organization that represents the beginning of urbanization.”

The Bible has much to say about gates. Gates were seats of authority (Ruth 4:11). Wisdom speaks at the gates (Proverbs 1:21). Councils of state were held at the gates (2 Chronicles 18:9).

We also read about the “gates of righteousness” (Psalm 118:19). The gates of the temple are mentioned in Psalm 24:9 and 100:4, among other places. And then there are prison gates (Acts 12:10, for example) and the “gates of hell” (Matthew 16:18 KJV, ESV).

Perhaps the most famous gate in the Bible is the “narrow gate.” “Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the road is easy that leads to destruction, and there are many who take it. For the gate is narrow and the road is hard that leads to life, and there are few who find it” (Matthew 7:13-14).

Here, Jesus says that often we face two gates, or two paths, two doors. One is a tight and narrow; the other is wide. The broad gate is wide, easy, well-traveled and is bad news. The narrow gate, however, is hard, less popular but leads to life.

This discussion reminds us that life is often about choices. Perhaps you will have a choice today. Which gate will you choose?

—Timothy Merrill

*Prayer: Gracious God, I know that it is not always easy to do the right thing. May my decisions today be guided by the principles of your word. Amen.*

# Activity Page

Week of October 20, 2024

## Daily Gospel Readings

**Monday:** Luke 12:13-21

**Tuesday:** Luke 12:35-38

**Wednesday:** Luke 12:39-48

**Thursday:** Luke 12:49-53

**Friday:** Luke 12:54-59

**Saturday:** Luke 13:1-9

*Verse to Remember*  
*Your word is a lamp to my feet*  
*and a light to my path.* —Psalm 119:105



## WATER GLASS PROBLEM

Take three (3) empty water glasses and put them in a row. Turn the first and third glasses upside down, but leave the middle glass right side up. *Your task is to get all the glasses right side up, but you must follow these rules:*

1. You have only three moves.
2. For each move, you must turn over two glasses at a time — never one at a time.

### SOLUTION TO CUP PROBLEM:

**First move:** Turn over the first and second glasses

**Second move:** Turn over the first and third glasses

**Third move:** Turn over the first and second glasses. At this point they should be all right side up.



### Answers to

### ROMAN

### NUMERALS:

1. Tacoma
2. Denver
3. Dallas
4. Miami
5. Phoenix
6. Atlanta
7. Boise
8. Cheyenne
9. Helena
10. Provo

## ROMAN NUMERALS

**Directions:** Add a Roman numeral to the scrambled word, and then unscramble to come up with a city in the United States.

### Example:

iphsem + 1,000 = *Memphis*

1. moata + 100 = \_\_\_\_\_

2. eendr + 5 = \_\_\_\_\_

3. Isaad + 50 = \_\_\_\_\_

4. amii + 1,000 = \_\_\_\_\_

5. onepih + 10 = \_\_\_\_\_

6. natata + 50 = \_\_\_\_\_

7. sobe + 1 = \_\_\_\_\_

8. yeehnne + 100 = \_\_\_\_\_

9. eeahan + 50 = \_\_\_\_\_

10. ropo + 5 = \_\_\_\_\_



## 30<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Scripture Readings: Jeremiah 31:7-9, Hebrews 5:1-6, Mark 10:46-52

*Faith sees the invisible, believes the unbelievable and receives the impossible.*  
—Corrie ten Boom, in *Jesus Is Victor*

The story of blind Bartimaeus is one of the most well-known of Jesus' miracles. Perhaps it was because there was one sense in which Bartimaeus could see — *really see*. He “saw” that Jesus was able to perform the impossible when all else had failed.

So when Jesus asked him what he wanted, he was quick to reply, “Let me see again” (v. 51).

In response to Bartimaeus' plea, Jesus declares, “Go; your faith has made you well” (v. 52). Wonder of wonders! Bartimaeus receives his sight and “followed Jesus on the way.” His physical sight is restored, but more importantly, his spiritual sight is awakened. And this was due, according to Jesus, to what his heart — without the use of his eyes — could see. This ability to see without the use of our senses is called *faith*.

What happened?

Faith is like a lens, and although Bartimaeus' *physical* lens was in some way defective, his *spiritual* lens was as clear as a spring day. The lens of faith is critical for our spiritual health. We need faith for salvation; in order to receive anything from the Lord, we must ask in faith; and we know that without faith we can't please God.

In fact, whatever is good and necessary for Christian living comes from God through faith.

Bartimaeus was in possession of that special lens — the lens described in Hebrews 11: “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”

This faith-lens of desperate hope and the conviction of the reality of unseen things empowered Bartimaeus to cast off his robes — anything that hindered him — and rush toward Jesus. Likewise, this same faith-lens helps us to see clearly and to grab the opportunities that come to us from God through Jesus Christ.

So, Jesus commends Bartimaeus for his faith, emphasizing the connection between faith and restoration and illustrating that true faith has the power to restore our spiritual sight, allowing us to see Christ for who he truly is — the Son of God and the source of mercy and salvation.

To sum up, perhaps Bartimaeus models for us the way we might deepen our relationship with God. This unfortunate beggar, blind for so many years, challenges us to examine our own hearts. Are we willing to recognize our spiritual blindness, approach Jesus with a desperate cry for mercy, persist in faith despite obstacles, and trust in his power to restore our sight?

— Timothy Merrill

*Prayer: Lord Jesus, open the eyes of my heart that I may see. Amen.*

# Activity Page

Week of October 27, 2024

## Daily Gospel Readings

**Monday:** Luke 6:12-16

**Tuesday:** Luke 13:18-21

**Wednesday:** Luke 13:22-30

**Thursday:** Luke 13:31-35

**Friday:** Matthew 5:1-12a

**Saturday:** John 6:37-40

## Verse to Remember

*I lift up my eyes to the hills—  
from where will my help come?  
My help comes from the LORD,  
who made heaven and earth.*

—Psalm 121:1-2



## “C” IF YOU CAN COMPLETE THIS BIBLE TRIVIA QUIZ!

All correct answers begin with the letter C. Circle the correct answer.

1. What was Nehemiah’s occupation? centurion, cook, carpenter, cupbearer
2. Who was the Bible’s first murderer? Caleb, Cain, Caiaphas, Cush
3. Where did Jesus perform his first miracle? Caesarea, Capernaum, Cana
4. Which of these books contains the great chapter about love? 2 Chronicles, 1 Corinthians, Colossians, 2 Corinthians
5. A man named Simon was forced to carry the cross to Golgotha for Jesus. Where was he from? Cyrene, Caesarea, Cush, Chicago
6. Which of these “C” words has nothing to do with the crucifixion of Jesus? crown, cross, Calvary, cypress

## ON THE RECORD!

Who made the following statements as read in the Bible? Circle the correct answer.

1. “Am I my brother’s keeper?” Samuel, John, Cain, Andrew
2. “Silver and gold have I none, but such as I have I give unto you.” Peter, James, John, Paul
3. “What is truth?” Herod, Pilate, Simon Magus, Cornelius
4. “Choose you this day whom you will serve, but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD!” Abraham, Jacob, Moses, Joshua
5. “You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God.” Nathaniel, John, Peter, Paul
6. “Almost you persuade me to become a Christian.” Herod Agrippa, Pilate, Caiaphas, Annas
7. “Entreat me not to leave you for your people will be my people. Where you lodge, I will lodge.” Rebekah, Rachel, Ruth, Rahab

ANSWERS TO “C” IF YOU CAN COMPLETE THIS BIBLE TRIVIA QUIZ!": 1. cupbearer; 2. Cain; 3. Cana; 4. 1 Corinthians; 5. Cyrene; 6. cypress.

ANSWERS TO “ON THE RECORD!": 1. Cain; 2. Peter; 3. Pilate; 4. Joshua; 5. Peter; 6. Herod Agrippa; 7. Ruth; 8. Paul.