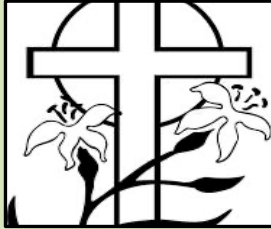




# The Monthly Visitor Catholic Community Of Lawrence County



### **Contact Information**

St. Vincent de Paul  
Parish 275-6539

St. Mary of the  
Assumption Parish  
849-3570

Father Jegan Peter  
275-6539

Deacon Dave  
Reising  
275-6539  
278-1795

Deacon Tom  
276-5062

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.

Volume 2025, Issue 3

March 2025

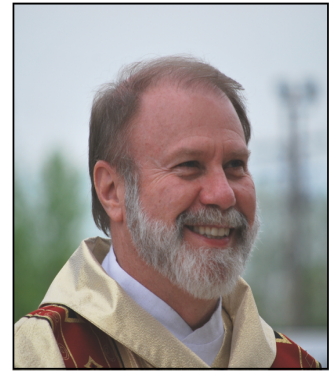
### A Message from Deacon Dave

Greetings in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ:

As almost always, I am running late in writing this newsletter. I've always put a deadline on myself of each first Friday of the month to get this newsletter out. But in this case, I should have been a week ahead of that deadline because Ash Wednesday is on March 5<sup>th</sup> this year. Ash Wednesday is a time when we as Catholics participate in the beautiful tradition of having blessed ashes placed on our foreheads in the shape of the cross, while the minister says, "Remember, you are dust, and to

dust you will return."

As in years past, we will be sending our homebound ministers out on Ash Wednesday to administer these ashes to anyone who is unable to come to Mass. If you are being visited by a homebound minister, you will probably be contacted to set up a time for a visit. If you do not hear from them or if you know someone who is not being visited on a regular basis, please give me (278-1795) or Linda Smith (675-3462) a call before Ash Wednesday. We will ensure that you or they will be visited. I am sorry for you



*Deacon Dave Reising*

who are just reading this on or after Ash Wednesday. I apologize for my tardiness.

Lent is a special season for us to set aside time for prayer, fasting, and almsgiving in preparation for the coming celebration of Easter. Lent is modeled in part on the 40 days that Jesus spent in the desert prior to the beginning of his public ministry.

### **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.

The prayer, fasting, and almsgiving should help us with our ongoing conversion and strengthen our faith in the Lord who shed His own blood to redeem us.

On this first Sunday of Lent, as always, we hear about Jesus spending 40 days and 40 nights fasting in the wilderness. Every time I think about God’s use of the number 40 with His people, I am humbled. Sacred Scripture tells us that God used this number 40 when it rained for 40 days and 40 nights when God wanted to cleanse the world and start over. During the Exodus, Moses was on the Mount Sinai with God twice for 40 days.

When the Israelites first approached the Promise Land, it took the Israelite spies 40 days to search out the Promised Land and bring back fruit. After the Israelites refused to enter the Promised Land God told the Israelites that their children would be shepherds in the desert for 40 years, until the last of the bodies of the adults who refused to enter the Land would lie in the desert. These 40 years referred to one year for each of the 40 days the spies explored the land. The children of Israel ate manna for 40 years, before they entered the Promised Land. Goliath stood against Israel for 40 days before being killed by David. Elijah, strengthened by one angelic meal, traveled 40 days to Mount Horeb where the Lord passed by, and he heard the voice of God. Jonah warned the people of Nineveh they had 40 days until God would overthrow the city for their wickedness. The people repented in those 40 days, and God spared the city. So, it only makes sense that Jesus would fast for 40 days in the wilderness while being tempted by the devil. And of course, Jesus was seen on the earth for 40 days after His crucifixion.

Knowing how God uses the number 40 heightens my awareness of the importance of these 40 days of Lent. It is up to us to use these 40 days of Lent to become more like Christ, purifying our mind, our body and our spirit.

God Bless and have a Blessed Lent,

*Deacon Dave*

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

Scripture Readings: Sirach 27:4-7, 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:54-58, Luke 6:39-45

*When you pray, God listens. When you listen, God talks.  
When you believe, God works. —Anon.*

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Today's Bible reading of the Transfiguration recounts the story of Jesus meeting Elijah and Moses on top of a mountain — possibly the modern-day Mt. Tabor in Galilee — and experiencing a glorious transformation in the process.

It's a curious event, isn't it? We cannot be certain of its meaning, but a number of possibilities exist.

We certainly know that the event *affirms the divinity of Jesus*. When Jesus' appearance is transformed and his clothes become dazzling white, it reveals his glory and confirms that he is the Son of God.

We also realize that the account is included in the gospels as a way of *confirming Jesus as the fulfillment of the Law and the Prophets*, symbolized by the appearance of Moses and Elijah.

The story also hints at his *upcoming suffering and crucifixion*. It must also *strengthen our faith* just as the disciples were now prepared for the difficult days to come. It could also be construed to be an *invitation to experience God's presence*, since the transfiguration took place on a mountain, a setting often associated with God's presence in Scripture. Finally, the transfiguration gives us a *foretaste of the coming kingdom of God*, where Jesus reigns in glory. It encourages us to live with an eternal perspective, focusing on the hope of Christ's return and the ultimate fulfillment of God's kingdom.

But what I like best about the Transfiguration story is the *encouragement it gives to listen to Jesus*. To listen to Jesus is an explicit instruction that comes to us directly from the mouth of God. God's voice from the cloud instructs the disciples to "listen to him" (v. 35).

This might seem trivial to us. Of course, we should listen to Jesus. Yet, in what way do we listen to Jesus in our daily lives? How would we explain to someone that listening to Jesus is our normal operating procedure?

Perhaps this can be our verse for the coming week. God says, "Listen to him." Let's do it!

—Timothy Merrill

*Prayer: Lord Jesus, you often said, "Let anyone with ears listen!" May I be willing to not only hear your word, but to act upon it. Amen.*

# Activity Page

Week of March 2, 2025

## Daily Gospel Readings

**Monday:** Mark 10:17-27

**Tuesday:** Mark 10:28-31

**Wednesday:** Mark 6:1-18

**Thursday:** Luke 9:22-25

**Friday:** Matthew 9:14-15

**Saturday:** Luke 5:27-32

## VERSE TO REMEMBER

*The earth is the LORD's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it; for he has founded it on the seas, and established it on the rivers.* —Psalm 24:1-2

## VOWEL SCRAMBLE

Replace each of the question marks below with one of the vowels — A, E, I, O or U — and then rearrange the letters to form a common word.

<b>C</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>?</b>

---

<b>A</b>	<b>K</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>?</b>

---

<b>A</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>V</b>	<b>?</b>

---

<b>W</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>V</b>	<b>?</b>

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## SAY WHAT?

Here are five well-known quotations, but they have been rewritten in a more literal sense than the original. Can you identify the original saying?

1. It is pointless to sob about an accident involving a dairy product.
2. Viewing something means being convinced it exists.
3. Everything that rises has to fall.
4. Split and win.
5. Frankness is the wisest course of action.

**ANSWERS TO VOWEL SCRAMBLE:** NIECE, PARKA, HAVOC, VOWEL, SAY WHAT?

1. No use crying over spilt milk.
2. Seeing is believing.
3. What goes up, must come down.
4. Divide and conquer.
5. Honesty is the best policy.

## First Sunday in Lent

Scripture Readings: Deuteronomy 26:4-10, Romans 10:8-13, Luke 4:1-13

*Most people want to be delivered from temptation  
but would like it to keep in touch. —Robert Orben*

In my ministry as a pastor, I've had the opportunity to travel to Israel and visit many biblical sites. One of these is Jericho, behind which rises Mount Quruntul, the traditional site where Jesus began his earthly ministry. Christians know it as The Mount of the Temptation.

As I looked at this mountain, a tower of rock and rubble, I couldn't imagine anyone surviving four days up there, let alone 40! But I started to think again about Jesus' experience alone in this arid environment.

*He was not afraid of the wilderness.* Perhaps he even embraced it. We know that he emerged from these 40 days much stronger than when he started. In a sense, Lent is our spiritual wilderness, a time to strip away the distractions of daily life and focus on our relationship with God. The wilderness is not a place of *abandonment* but a place to encounter God! In the silence and solitude, if we listen carefully, we will hear his voice more clearly and understand his will for our lives.

*He resisted temptation.* His retreat involved some heavy lifting. He had to use his words and the weapon of Scripture to keep the devil at bay. He faced three significant temptations: turning stone to bread, worshiping Satan for worldly power and testing God's protection. Each temptation challenged his identity and mission, yet Jesus responded with the truth of Scripture, affirming his trust in God's provision, worship and protection. When we're tempted, the Bible is our most powerful weapon.

As we begin our journey through Lent, let us embrace this season as a time of spiritual renewal and growth. For Jesus, these 40 days were a type of strength training, as though he had his eye on the Olympics — which for him would be his final week in Jerusalem some three years hence. It began here, in the mountain of temptation.

So, let's take heart from the example of Jesus. We, too, can be strong. We, too, can be equipped for everything that lies ahead of us. With prayer and trusting in God's protection and provision, there's nothing that can stand in our way!

—Timothy Merrill

*Prayer: Heavenly Father, help me to embrace this time of reflection and renewal. Fill me with your Holy Spirit, and equip me with your Word to resist temptation and grow closer to you. Amen.*

# Activity Page

Week of March 9, 2025

## Daily Gospel Reading

**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



## March 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					

HOW MANY WORDS CAN YOU MAKE FROM THIS WORD?

## DEREGULATION

**DIRECTIONS:** The words have to be at least THREE letters long. And you can't use any letter twice in the same word, unless the letter appears twice in "DEREGULATION." So, for example, you can't make the word "latte" because there is only one T in "DEREGULATION," but you can make the word "deer" because there are two E's. List all the words in your answer. Use the space below, the back of this page or another sheet for scratch paper. See possible answers below. Ready? Set? Go!

*[scratch space]*

Answers to  
Are you  
getting  
ANT-sy?:  
giant,  
recant  
vagrant  
relevant  
stimulant

**Answers:** There are more than 1,800 possible words of three or more letters to be found in DEREGULATION. Here are some of them: delegation, goaltender, regulation, delegator, denigrate, elongated, engraved, entourage, ideologue, interlude, longitude, outlander, realigned, regulated, unaltered, unrelated, altering, dateline, deleting, deletion, derogate, dialogue, enlarged, entailed, idolater, integral, ligature, lingered, loitered, oriental, aged, arid, auto, dale, dare, darn, dart, date, deal, dear, deli, dial, diet, earl, earn, edge, edit, euro, gain, gait, gale, gate, gear, gene, gent, idea, idle, idol, laid, land, lane, lead, lean, elder, elite, elude, enter, erode, etude, genie, genre, giant, glade, gland, glare, glean, glide, glint, gloat, glued, gored, gourd, grade, grail, grain, grand, grant, grate, great, greed, green, greet, grind, groan, groin, grout, gruel, grunt, guard, guide, guild, guile, guilt, ideal, inert, ingot, inlet, laden and hundreds more!

## Are you getting ANT-sy?

All answers end with ANT. Using the clues provided, fill in the spaces.  
Solution below.

		A	N	T				
			A	N	T			
				A	N	T		
					A	N	T	
						A	N	T

**CLUES** (from top row to bottom row):

- ▶ An 8-foot man would be one
- ▶ To take back one's testimony
- ▶ A bum, often homeless
- ▶ Pertaining to, germane
- ▶ A drug to reduce sluggishness



## Second Sunday in Lent

Scripture Readings: Genesis 15:5-18, Philippians 3:17-4:1, Luke 9:28-36

*This country will not be a good place for any of us to live in unless we make it a good place for all of us to live in. —Theodore Roosevelt*

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Are you planning to travel by air this summer? Perhaps you've been invited to a wedding and your grandson wants his nana to be there. Wonderful! Except ... in less than 60 days, the TSA will expect you to produce your REAL ID card to get through security at the airport. A REAL ID card is an enhanced driver's license and if you don't have one, or if you don't have a passport, you will not get on the airplane! (Some other forms of ID are acceptable.)

Unfortunately, not all elderly people and homebound people have driver's licenses or passports. And as I write this, it is unclear as to the best way for those without either of those IDs to travel. You probably don't give much thought to how important it is for you to be able to prove you are who you say you are!

The apostle Paul addresses this in today's reading from his letter to the Christians living in ancient Philippi. He writes, "Our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ" (v. 20).

There are a little more than 190 countries in the world. We are citizens of one of them. Some people have citizenship in more than one country. I am a citizen of two countries, the USA and Canada. I have two passports.

But the apostle Paul says that it is important to remember that *our true citizenship is linked to another kingdom* — a realm where God reigns supreme and Jesus Christ is Lord of lords, the omnipotent sovereign who was present at the creation of the world (Colossians 1:15-20).

But it is hard to convince our neighbors or friends or even strangers that we are citizens of heaven when we have just treated them in a shabby and deceitful manner. If our mouths are filled with falsehoods, gossiping tongues and slanderous accusations, no one will think we are citizens of heaven, will they?

This is why we must live carefully. Perhaps this is why Paul suggests that if we have trouble knowing how to live righteously, that we simply "join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us" (v. 17).

Godly lives help us to confirm our assertion that we possess the REAL ID as citizens of heaven!

—Timothy Merrill

*Prayer: Almighty God, may I live worthy of my heavenly citizenship. Amen.*

# Activity Page

Week of March 16, 2025

## Daily Gospel Readings

**Monday:** Luke 6:36-38

**Tuesday:** Matthew 23:1-12

**Wednesday:** Luke 2:41-51

**Thursday:** Luke 16:19-31

**Friday:** Matthew 21:33-46

**Saturday:** Luke 15:11-32

## VERSE TO REMEMBER

*Weeping may linger for the night,  
but joy comes with the morning.* —Psalms 30:5b

## Do you HERE or HEAR the DIFFERENCE?

All answers are homonyms — words that sound the same but are spelled differently. Write the homonym of the word in the space provided. Answers below.

1. TOO \_\_\_\_\_
2. FOUR \_\_\_\_\_
3. KNEW \_\_\_\_\_
4. WHOLE \_\_\_\_\_
5. HOARSE \_\_\_\_\_
6. MIGHT \_\_\_\_\_
7. COURSE \_\_\_\_\_
8. RIGHT \_\_\_\_\_
9. SOW \_\_\_\_\_
10. MALE \_\_\_\_\_

Answers to Do you  
HERE or HEAR the  
Difference?

1. two, to
2. fore, for
3. new
4. hole
5. horse
6. mite
7. coarse
8. wright, write
9. so, sew
10. mail

### CRYPTOQUOTE

To climb steep hills  
requires a slow pace  
at first.

## Cryptoquote

H S Z P V H K V Z I V  
S H A K E S P E A R E



In this puzzle, one letter stands for another. Here, Z is used for two A's; V is used for three E's; and H is used for two S's. Single letters, the length and formation of the words, and the fact that A=Z, V=E and H=S are all hints. See if you can decipher this quotation from William Shakespeare.

g l x o r n y h g v v k s r o o h

i v j f r i v h z h o l d k z x v z g

u r i h g .

[Use this area for scratch writing.]



## Third Sunday of Lent

Scripture Readings: Exodus 3:1-15, 1 Corinthians 10:1-12, Luke 13:1-9

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

Our reading for this Sunday has many wonderful verses worth some serious meditation. But today, I want to lift up one verse: “Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near” (v. 6). The idea is well-known:

- “A bird in hand is better than two in the bush.”
- “Strike while the iron is hot.”
- “Window of opportunity.”
- “Carpe diem.”
- “Make hay while the sun is shining.”

We get the point: a wise person will take action at the most opportune time, lest the opportunity disappear.

What is striking is that the Bible often suggests that opportunities for spiritual growth or even salvation *are not always available!*

You'd think that it would not matter *when* we seek the Lord. Why? Because God is *always* available, isn't he? Like an ER doctor, or insurance people. The idea that we might seek the Lord and not be able to find him is absurd! Right?

Verse 6 suggests otherwise: “... While he may be found ... while he is near.” These phrases imply that certain *moments in our lives are particularly ripe for seeking God*. These are often times when our hearts are more attuned to spiritual matters — moments of crisis, transition or deep reflection. During such times, we are more likely to sense God's presence and respond to his call. This doesn't mean that God is unavailable at other times, but rather that there are seasons in life when we are more receptive to the divine presence.

Even the apostle Paul made reference to the most propitious time to respond to God's call to repentance: “See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation!” (2 Corinthians 6:2).

You might want to call on God now, because *our human hearts can grow hard* or indifferent. Moreover, there is great *danger when we delay*. Spiritual opportunities can pass us by if we're not attentive.

Let's not let this opportunity to call upon the Lord to slip by us.

—Timothy Merrill

*Prayer: Gracious God, may I respond to the call to seek you earnestly, consistently, and with an open heart, ensuring that I will not miss divine opportunities to draw closer to you. Amen.*

# Activity Page

Week of March 23, 2025

## Daily Gospel Readings

**Monday:** Luke 4:24-30

**Tuesday:** Luke 1:26-38

**Wednesday:** Matthew 5:17-19

**Thursday:** Luke 11:14-23

**Friday:** Mark 12:28-34

**Saturday:** Luke 18:9-14

## VERSE TO REMEMBER

*Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven,  
whose sin is covered.*

—Psalm 32:1

## FIND THE MESSAGE

**Directions:** The readings in Numbers this week describe some of the events the children of Israel experienced while on their long sojourn in the wilderness. Below, using the clues provided, write the words in the spaces to the right of the clues. **The first letter of each word**, when read from top to bottom, should reveal a hidden message that relates to the wilderness experience. Write the message on the line below.

- |   |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| 1. To rip into shreds   | — — — —         |
| 2. To track wild game   | — — — —         |
| 3. Home to Adam and Eve                                       | — — — —         |
| 4. Middle Eastern tree  | — — — —         |
| 5. A form of precipitation                                    | — — — —         |
| 6. Columbus is its capital                                    | — — — —         |
| 7. Another word meaning "Christ"                              | — — — — — — —   |
| 8. Old Testament book with 66 chapters                        | — — — — — — —   |
| 9. The first king of Israel                                   | — — — —         |
| 10. Also known as "wapiti"                                    | — — — —         |
| 11. This river forms part of the western border of New Jersey | — — — — — — — — |
| 12. Smaller than an ocean or sea                              | — — — — —       |
| 13. Noah put animals into this                                | — — — —         |
| 14. First name of astronaut Armstrong                         | — — — —         |
| 15. The capital of Colorado                                   | — — — — —       |

**Hidden Message:**

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**Answers:**

- 1. tear
  - 2. hunt
  - 3. Eden
  - 4. palm
  - 5. rain
  - 6. Ohio
  - 7. Messiah
  - 8. Isaiah
  - 9. Saul
  - 10. elk
  - 11. Delaware
  - 12. lake
  - 13. ark
  - 14. Neil
  - 15. Denver
- Hidden message: The promised land

## Fourth Sunday in Lent

Scripture Readings: Joshua 5:9-12, 2 Corinthians 5:17-21, Luke 15:11-32

*In casual golf, you get one second chance per nine holes.  
It's called a mulligan. In life, it's called the grace of God.*

One of the most touching stories in the Bible is the parable of the Prodigal Son. The tale Jesus tells is a profound illustration of God's grace and the power of second chances. It speaks to all of us who have ever strayed, stumbled or found ourselves in need of redemption.

The story begins with a young man who asks his father for his share of the inheritance, which he promptly squanders in a distant land. When a severe famine arises, he finds himself destitute, feeding pigs and longing for the food they eat. In his desperation, he comes to his senses and decides to return to his father, hoping to be accepted as a servant.

This decision to return is the first step toward a second chance. The son recognizes his failure, humbles himself and seeks his father's forgiveness. It is a moment of repentance, an essential element in receiving a second chance.

When the errant child returns, his father sees him from a distance, runs to him, embraces him and throws a feast to celebrate his return. The father doesn't condemn him, but instead offers overwhelming grace and love. His child, who was lost, has been found.

Isn't this typical of God's love and mercy for us? No matter how far we've strayed or how badly we've messed up, God is always ready to welcome us back with open arms. God's grace is greater than our sins, and God's mercy endures forever.

*Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come;  
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,  
And grace will lead me home.*

—"Amazing Grace," by John Newton

May the grace of God lead us all to embrace the power of second chances, both in our own lives and in the lives of others.

—Timothy Merrill

*Prayer: O God, I come before you with a heart full of gratitude. Thank you for your boundless mercy and grace that offers me a second chance, even when I fall short. Your love renews me, and your forgiveness restores me. May I never take your mercy for granted, and may I extend the same grace to others. Amen.*

# Activity Page

Week of March 30, 2025

## Daily Gospel Readings

**Monday:** John 4:43-54

**Tuesday:** John 5:1-16

**Wednesday:** John 5:17-30

**Thursday:** John 5:31-47

**Friday:** John 10:25-30

**Saturday:** John 7:40-53

## VERSE TO REMEMBER

*You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart.* —Deuteronomy 6:5-6

## Proverbs for Fun

The following proverbs originate from the 16<sup>th</sup> century, and most, if not all, are in use today. Fill in the blanks to complete the proverbs. Transfer the letters in circles, boxes and triangles to the line below. Then, unscramble the words to discover a three-word expression.

- Haste makes \_\_\_\_\_ .      \_ \_ ○ \_ □
- Look before you \_\_\_\_\_ .      \_ \_ \_ \_
- Two \_\_\_\_\_ are better than one.      \_ □ \_ \_ \_
- Don't look a \_\_\_\_\_ horse in the mouth.      ○ ○ \_ \_
- Robbing Peter to pay \_\_\_\_\_ .      ○ \_ \_ \_
- A new \_\_\_\_\_ sweeps clean.      \_ ○ \_ \_ \_
- Make \_\_\_\_\_ while the sun shines.      □ \_ \_
- One good \_\_\_\_\_ deserves another.      \_ \_ □ ○
- Hitting the \_\_\_\_\_ on the head.      \_ \_ △ \_
- Many \_\_\_\_\_ make light work.      \_ \_ \_ \_ △
- Strike while the iron is \_\_\_\_\_ .      \_ \_ \_

Answers: 1. waste, 2. leap, 3. heads, 4. gift, 5. Paul, 6. broom, 7. hay, 8. turn, 9. nail, 10. hands, 11. hot.

Write letters in circles, triangles and squares here:



Answer (each word is spelled backwards to make it harder to see the answer accidentally):  
gnirps si ereh.

Unscramble the three words and write your answer here: