



ST. ISIDORE HARVESTER

Spring 2016

A publication of St. Isidore Church for all registered parishioners, so that they may share in the vitality of our faith community

WE CELEBRATE



WE BELIEVE!



*Easter Season
at St. Isidore*



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Deacon Larry and Wife Sharon

...for your many hours of service to our parish community. Your caring and compassion have been a comfort, and spiritual inspirations to the people of St. Isidore Church and the Clare Oaks residents.

As you retire to a warmer climate, we pray you will be blest with good health and days filled with much joy and peace-filled happiness.

JUST ADD THE VOWELS...

a - e - i - o - u

The four Gospels relate the Passion of Jesus with places and people playing a part in this spiritual drama. By adding the right vowels, you will be able to name them.

- CPHS _ _ _ _ _
- CLVRY _ _ _ _ _
- GTHSMN _ _ _ _ _
- PLT _ _ _ _ _
- JDS _ _ _ _ _
- BRBBS _ _ _ _ _
- JRSLM _ _ _ _ _
- JHN _ _ _ _ _
- MRY _ _ _ _ _
- SMN _ _ _ _ _
- NNS _ _ _ _ _
- HRD _ _ _ _ _
- PRTRM _ _ _ _ _

The Rite and Invitation of Baptism

By Penni Cannova

As Catholic Christians, we are of a faith and a family called into the mystery of God. We have many traditions and sacraments meant to call us deeper toward Him. Baptism gives us the first invitation to join the faith that will comfort, sustain, and save us.



In a conversation with Deacon Larry about the Rite of Baptism, he mentioned that we have seen an overall decrease in the amount of children and people coming to baptism at St. Isidore and also the wider Catholic church. Deacon Larry spoke of how it used to be a tradition, a hallmark in the first step of faith. Lately, though, it does not seem as important to young people, one that some approach as an insurance policy they obtain to check off their list.

I wish to call each of us to reflect a little more upon this newer trend. Oh, certainly, we are all busy, but in keeping this sacrament, and those that follow, we are joining in a larger community. It is one that will be there for us down the road as we rear our children, struggle with worries, and cope with difficult events. Deacon Larry the larger church, and the absolute importance of parents and godparents as the first role models of faith. In the very same way that babies and children learn to trust their parents, and have that trust rewarded with comfort and sustenance, we too trust in the Lord when we place our faith in Him. We model that trust when we respond to Him by accepting His invitation to baptism.



Here at St. Isidore, we celebrate baptisms on scheduled Sundays during Masses, or during a few Sunday afternoons. New parents and godparents attend a monthly baptismal prep class.. This class covers details of the baptism service, but moreover, Deacon Larry added, commends these parents and godparents for this first step as a family and as a community of faith. Our baptismal team is led by Christine and John Brannigan, Deacon Oscar and his

wife facilitate the very same for our Spanish-speaking parishioners. Christine Brannigan mentioned that new members have joined this ministry, too, by indicating on their stewardship card.



60,000 Meals a Day – Food is Fuel for a Better Life

By Angela Orlando

What is NIFB about? Why are they always asking for help in the Bulletin? Why should I care?

Good questions, all. The Northern Illinois Food Bank, NIFB, is a member of the national organization FEEDING AMERICA. It is one of 200 Food Banks across the USA; several are in the state of Illinois. Our Food Bank provides food to 800 community food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters and youth and senior feeding programs.

Where does the food come from? Food manufacturers, retailers, farmers, individuals and the federal government donate food (and funds). Money donated is used to purchase at wholesale prices, items not donated. Six days a week, nine hours a day, three on Saturday, volunteers at the NIFB located in Geneva, Illinois repack food from manufacturers throughout the US into manageable packages that are distributed to the local food pantries. This could be a 2,000 pound container of onions or potatoes being re-bagged into 5 pound bags. It might be cereal from a 15' x 4' round plastic bag being repackaged into two pound bags. And so it goes, fruits and vegetables are inspected and separated into family size portions and sent out to the food pantries in the 13 counties served by NIFB. Fresh fish, chicken, beef, eggs, cheese, bread and rolls are all processed through the facility in Geneva where it is inspected and sorted to assure wholesomeness and freshness. It is imperative that the in/out procedure is rapid since those items become less usable quickly. Frozen meats, vegetables and fruit are processed there as well. Most frozen food does not need repackaging.



Volunteers have packed “backpacks”. That’s a euphemism for black plastic bags about the size of a backpack that is filled with cereal, cans of fruit, boxes of macaroni, cans of corn, tomatoes and beans, peanut butter and jelly. Shelf stable milk and a snack food complete the bag. These are distributed in various schools and community centers to children at the end of the week. The foods are transferred to backpacks at the site where the children pick them up. Many of the youngsters live in homes that are “food insecure” and are eligible for breakfast and lunch at school but the family may have no access to nutritious food on the weekend.

Those Thanksgiving Boxes that our Parish provided during the holiday season came from and were packed at the Northern Illinois Food Bank.

So, what goes on when we volunteer? We sign in, then a quick video explains the processes used by Feeding America and specific to NIFB. Then it’s off to the warehouse, where we don gloves, we cut bags, or fill bags, we weigh them and the product is counted. At the end of a shift, the volunteers clean up the work area. That’s usually sweeping the floor or wiping down the counters where we’ve worked. Ask anyone who has been there and they will tell you how much fun they had. Come join us next time the Human Needs page asks for your help. Oh, and just in case you’ve heard of Pope Francis’ call for Mercy this year—*Feeding the Hungry is one of the Works of Mercy.*

Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship

By Bill Archer

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has for many years published a document entitled *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*. It is intended as a “teaching document on the political responsibility of Catholics. This statement represents our (the Church’s) guidance for Catholics in the exercise of their rights and duties as participants in our democracy.” It does not tell you who to vote for, but rather gives Catholic guidelines for help in making that decision. The complete document can be found at: www.faithfulcitizenship.org

What follows is a short synopsis taken directly from the document:

What is Conscience?

“The Church equips its members to address political and social questions by helping them to develop a well-formed conscience. ...Conscience is not something that allows us to justify doing whatever we want, nor is it a mere “feeling” about what we should or should not do. Rather, conscience is the voice of God resounding in the human heart, revealing the truth to us and calling us to do what is good while shunning what is evil.”

Conscience is a judgment of practical reason that helps us to recognize and seek what is good, and to reject what is evil.

Conscience does not simply “come to us”! Throughout our lives, we have to spend time forming our consciences so that we can make well-reasoned judgments about particular situations.

How Do I Form My Conscience?

We need to form our consciences in an ongoing manner. How do we do this?

- 1) When examining any issue or situation, we must begin by being open to the truth and what is right.
- 2) We must study Sacred Scripture and the teachings of the Church.
- 3) We must examine the facts and background information about various choices.
- 4) We must prayerfully reflect to discern the will of God.
- 5) The prudent advice and good example of others support and enlighten our conscience.
- 6) The authoritative teaching of the Church is an essential element.
- 7) The gifts of the Holy Spirit help us develop our conscience.
- 8) Regular examination of conscience is important as well.

From the Catechism of the Catholic Church:

“Conscience is a judgment of reason whereby the human person recognizes the moral quality of a concrete act that he is going to perform, is in the process of performing, or has already completed. In all he says and does, man is obliged to follow faithfully what he knows to be just and right.”





FOND MEMORIES

On November 9, 2015 our parish community lost a very special parishioner – PAUL GREENING.

The Harvester staff remembers Paul with deep gratitude. He was one of the creators of the Harvester when it was first published in the spring of 1991.

Paul served as the editor for many years and spearheaded many innovative articles. His leadership and dedication has inspired us all.

We extend our sincere sympathy to Joanne, his wife, and his entire family.

We will miss you, Paul.

Confirmation Group Service Projects

By Barb Mendralla



Whoever wishes to be great among you will be your servant, whoever wishes to be first among you will be the servant of all.
(Mark 10:43-44)

One of the essential requirements of the Confirmation Program at St. Isidore is Service Learning. During their formation, the Confirmandi learn how to serve others so they can answer the call and become true Disciples of Christ.

Candidates are required to complete a group service project, as well as a family and individual project. The following is a partial list of the Confirmation group projects:

- Helped set-up for PADS and provided dessert
- Packed food at Feed My Starving Children
- Played Bingo with seniors at Windsor Park Retirement Community or West Suburban Nursing and Rehabilitation Center or Sunrise of Bloomingdale or Lexington of Bloomingdale
- Polished chapel pews for Lent/Easter Season
- Helped place music supplements in song books
- Sorted and packed food at Northern Illinois Food Bank
- Made valentine cards for veterans

After the service project is complete, students are required to complete a written reflection outlining how they were transformed by the experience and how they think the service project made a difference in someone's life.

The candidates will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on Saturday, May 28 at either a 10:00 am or 1:30 pm mass. the presider for this celebration will be Abbott Dismis Kalcic of St. Procopius Abbey, Lisle, IL.

Cookies for Kids

By Barb Mendralla

The St. Isidore Council of Catholic Women (CCW) is a busy bunch of women with big hearts. In April, CCW members will be hard at work preparing for their annual Cookies for Kids Sale held after masses on April 30 and May 1.

Not only do the baked goods taste delicious (yes, I have sampled many of these delectable treats!), but the ladies package everything so it's visually appealing. Parishioners are generous in supporting Cookies for Kids and last year's sale brought in over \$2,000.

The "kids" who benefit from Cookies for Kids live at Nyumbani Children's Home in Kenya. CCW has donated the proceeds from the sale to Nyumbani for nearly 10 years. Nyumbani, which means home in Swahili, provides care to more than 120 HIV-positive children. Parishioner Carol Osburn spent time volunteering at the home during her mission trip in 2004 and shared with CCW how devastating HIV/AIDS was in the community.

The home was founded in 1992 and was originally a hospice. With access to medication and proper nutrition, the facility transformed into a home. According to its

website, Nyumbani provides "comprehensive medical, nutritional, dental, life-skills, psychological, academic and spiritual care." (www.nyumbani.org)

Some of the children who come to live at the home were abandoned by their families due to the stigma of HIV/AIDS. Others are there for respite care and eventually return home to their families who receive training in caring for their needs. The end goal of the Nyumbani is to successfully reintegrate the children back into their families or to independent living.

The children live in cottages which include a house parent, typically a grandparent, and up to 14 children. Facilities include a medical clinic, pharmacy, water supply, greenhouse, and pig and poultry pens.

So when you buy your sweets at the Cookies for Kids sale, rest assured you are making life a little sweeter for some children half-way across the world.



Your Smile Feeds the Hungry

By Dorothy Jaskey

Smile for the camera and for every picture taken, money will be donated toward providing food for those in need.

You wonder!!!!

How is this possible???

When and where???

Can I buy the photo of my family or of just me???

Intrigued???

A new parish photo directory is coming. Watch the bulletin or listen to the pulpit announcements for more details.



No Winter Blahs for St. Isidore School

By Mike Yerly, St. Isidore School Development Director

The long, dreary days of winter went by quickly at St. Isidore School with a bevy of activities keeping our students quite busy.

The new year began with celebration of Catholic Schools Week on Sunday, January 31 with a Mass at 8:30 am, Art Fair and Science Fair Display. The rest of the week featured a variety of fun and Catholic faith-based activities: a Service Day where students made valentines for local nursing homes; Wheel of Wisdom in the Ministry Center; and an evening Family Mass and Potluck Dinner/Trivia Contest. The week ended with the traditional Faculty vs. 8th Grade Volleyball Game, wrapping up with Olympic relay games.

A number of students gained honors during the winter months. Eighth-grader Matt Esses was the winner of the annual St. Isidore School Geography Bee while eighth-grader Catie Modugno is this year's St. Isidore winner of Bloomingdale VFW Post 7539's Patriot's Pen Youth Essay Contest. Five SIS students were named Big West Catholic Conference Basketball All-Stars: Olivia DiMenna, Ryan French, Sam Premak, Carley Sansone and Alyssa Torres all of whom participated in the 2016 All-Star Basketball Game.



A busy winter wrapped up with the annual Gala Auction Dinner Dance on February 27, held this year at the Belvedere Banquet Center in Elk Grove Village. More than 230 loyal supporters of St. Isidore School attended and bid on auction items, enjoyed dinner and dancing, renewed old acquaintances and overall raised more than \$60,000 for the school. Themed "The Great Gala" with atmosphere and evening wear reflecting the Roaring 20s, Randy and Debbie Isoda chaired the event for the seventh consecutive year. The Kelliher family won the \$15,000 Grand Raffle top prize, while the Defino family won the Cassidy



Did you know

By Carolyn Simek

Over ten years ago, Fr. Tony Taschetta and Tom Norton from St. Isidore Catholic Church had a dream. They wanted to help feed those in need with fresh vegetables grown organically on the church's campus. From that dream, the soil was prepared and volunteers helped measure out the gardens and plant seeds. Fourteen gardens each 10'x4' were laid out and the new St. Isidore Organic Garden was born.

That first year, we had the usual start up issues, including soil that needed to be enriched, critters that needed to be discouraged from having dinner on us as well as maintenance of the garden. In the years that followed, we realized it would be best to add compost to the soil. Our neighbors Holteroff Nursery and Prestige Nursery came to the rescue in donating the compost for the soil. But, we still needed to make the garden a beautiful place to spend time working. Lowe's Home Improvement donated wood for raised beds. We were able to purchase



wood to enhance the fence as well as pavers to maintain neat aisles. Lastly, we needed plants to really get going. Caputo's Market has generously donated plants to get the garden off to a good start. Now, we could easily spend time in the quiet of the garden working to feed the hungry through the Neighborhood Food Pantries.

We didn't harvest much during the early years but all of a sudden we realized that 500 lbs., then 700 lbs., and then 1,000 pounds of produce was possible. We exceeded our best year this summer with a bountiful harvest of over 1,900 pounds of vegetables from basil to zucchini. We grew 30 different kinds of vegetables.

We work the garden from April until the first frost around the middle of October. Twenty one volunteers helped us throughout this past summer, planting, weeding, watering and harvesting. We feel that we are doing God's work in feeding the hungry. It has been a work of love as well as a way to appreciate all that God has given us.



Tire Free Tuition for a Year drawing and Maria Mercola, the Champagne Raffle.

Also in February, an exciting piece of news was announced: SIS will be offering all-day pre-school starting with the 2016-17 school year! Principal Cyndi half day pre-school (8:00 am - 11:00 am) three or five half days will still be offered. Those needing full day pre-school will be required to have their child attend five days per week. Pre-school students will still also be able to attend before school care (7:00 am until start of school at 8:00 am), and/or after school care (2:55 pm until 6:00 pm).



Please Identify Yourself

By Kathy Lopez

When you look at a bulletin or the newsletter or a piece of mail, how do you know it is from a particular organization?

That would be its “Identity”. Through that visual recognition, you are able to quickly distinguish that item belongs to or is linked to an organization or company.

In the corporate world it is called your Brand. Think of some of the most recognized companies: McDonald’s golden arches, Nike’s swoosh, Target’s red bulls-eye. One major role in the brand or image of a company is its identity.

The identity or ‘image’ of an organization (or company) is made up of many visual devices: logo, stationery, marketing collateral, messages & actions, anything visual that represents the entity.

Identity design is based around the visual devices used within a company, usually assembled within a set of guidelines. These guidelines that make up an identity usually administer how the identity is applied throughout a variety of mediums, using approved color palettes, fonts, layouts. These guidelines ensure that the identity of the company is kept coherent, and allows the brand to be recognizable.

In the spring of 2015, Tom Norton started the process of looking at the ways each of the ministries identify themselves. Each ministry had its own icon; different design styles, fonts and colors were used. The church, the school, faith formation and even this newsletter each using an icon that identified their ministry. But, when you look at them collectively, there wasn’t a unified, consistent look that said, ‘this is St. Isidore Parish’.

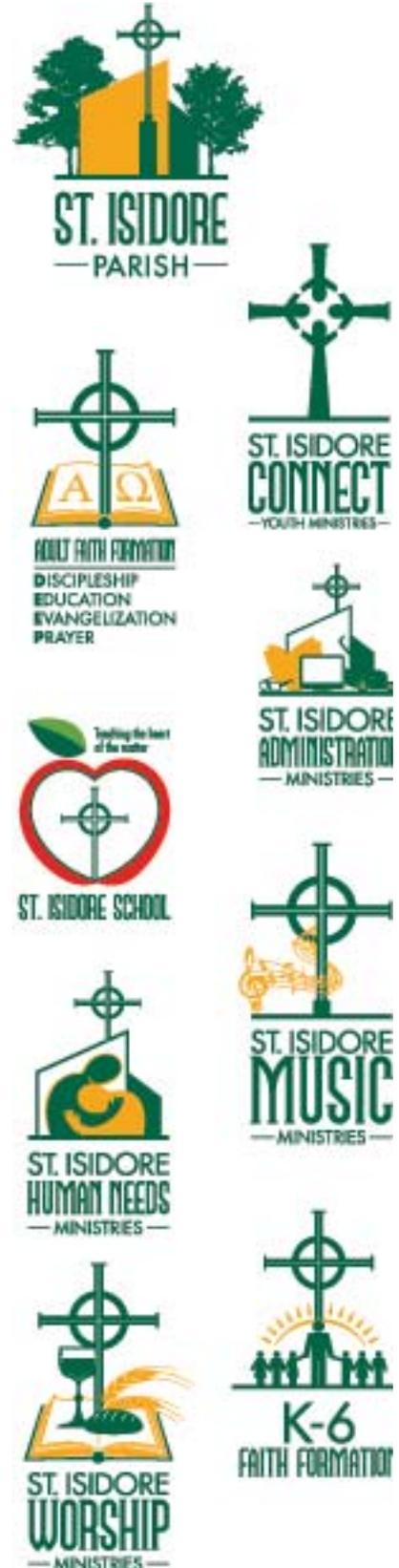
We needed a set of identity guidelines.

Tom Norton met with representatives from parish ministries in the areas of Worship, Formation, Human Needs, and Administration and a staff member from a graphic design company. We provided input in the process of creating a style guide. During the meeting, the group discovered there was a common element used in many, but not all, icons. The next step for the design firm was to take our input, incorporate that element in the new designs and come back with a cohesive set of icons, one for each ministry.

After our feedback, we now have a St. Isidore Parish Style Guide, the tool to use to assist us in speaking with one voice as a parish community to our members and to the surrounding community. This is our set of standards for the writing and design of documents and digital media.

Did you notice the new masthead for the Harvester? Go back to the cover, take a look. Here is what you will be seeing on documents and communications from our ministries.

Here is what you will see on documents and communications from our ministries.



WORD FROM FR. TONY

Below are excerpts from an email from our former pastor and friend:

....As I write this (truth be told, I am using voice recognition) one thought keeps coming back over and over. How vulnerable we all are. When I first got sick my prayer to the Lord was, "Now that you have my attention, what are you trying to teach me?" The great learning is how vulnerable we all are. It has been a real eye-opener to see the vulnerability of Jesus especially in the moment of his nakedness on the cross. If I have learned anything it is compassion. I have never been a good crier. I'm beginning to learn and it's OK. I am also beginning to see the people I serve and the people I love in a whole new light. We are all naked under our clothes. We are all vulnerable. That seems to be the gateway into Divine love. And if that's what it takes, I'll take it.

The heart is slowly healing but then I should not be surprised that it takes so long. I used to say in the war between the heart and the head, listen to the half with the brains. Now I'm not so sure. There is a heart brain too, You know and it is intimately connected to the source of love. The ancients were onto something when they centered everything in the heart. Speaking of which, I have recently become very grateful to the pig that gave up his life for me. I even named him Cornelius because I am sure he was corn fed.....

Enough rambling. Know how much I love you all and miss you. If the sickness has taught me anything it is appreciation. And I have so much to appreciate beginning with you all.

Always in Jesus, the wounded healer,



answers to
Add the vowel

CAIAPHAS

CALVARY

GETHSEMANI

PILATE

JUDAS

BARABBAS

JERUSALEM

JOHN

MARY

SIMON

ANNAS

HEROD

PRAETORIUM

When you feel you are drowning in life – don't
worry – your lifeguard walked on water.

Happy times are never gone
They are always fun to look back on

Good – Better – Best
Never let it rest
Until the good is better
And the better best !

Forbidden fruit
creates many jams



Divine Mercy

A Portrait Commissioned by Christ

By Michael Fassbender

Since the pontificate of St John Paul II devotion to Divine Mercy has

spread across the globe. There are several components to this devotion, including the celebration of the Feast of Divine Mercy on the Sunday after Easter, and the recitation of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy on ordinary rosary beads, but the original component was the creation and veneration of a portrait of Christ. It stems from a vision of Christ experienced by St. Maria Faustina Kowalska in 1931, and this is the only known case where Jesus commissioned a portrait.

St. Faustina began her novitiate in 1925, serving at a convent in Krakow until she took her vows five years later. It was at the convent in Plock, Poland, where she experienced her first vision of Christ. On February 22, 1931. He appeared to her, dressed in a white robe girded with a white sash. His right hand was raised in blessing, His left resting against his chest, from which extended red and white beams, representing the blood and water that flowed from His side at Calvary. He bade her paint an image that matched what she saw, and to complete it with the words "Jesus, I trust in you." He meant for the painting to serve as a vessel for His grace, and for it to be available to all.

Fulfilling her task was not easy. Lacking artistic skill, she was unable to produce a suitable painting on her own, while her superiors met her story with skepticism. Soon, however, she was sent to Vilnius, Lithuania, where her confessor proved more receptive. He brought in a professional artist to render what St. Faustina described, and this first image was completed in 1935, just three years before the saint's death.

As devotion to Divine Mercy has grown in popularity, other interpretations of the painting have been made. Artistic variations are inconsequential. In the end, it is not a particular painting that is important, but rather, the pattern



Original painting of the Divine Mercy (by Eugeniusz Kazimirowski in 1934). This is this image which was done with Sister Faustina's instructions and before her death in 1938, unlike the most known version by Adolf Hyla painted in 1943.

of the image, conforming as it does with Christ's intention. It invites the onlooker to accept His mercy, and also serves as a reminder to share that mercy with others. The pattern is completed with the words at the bottom, reminding us that it is our trust in Jesus that allow us to accept His mercy.