

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

Approaching the Holy Season

CCW preparing for the St. Joseph Table by filling the bags that hold the prayer card and fava bean.



RE students present the Stations of the Cross service. Watch the Lenten brochure and the weekly bulletin for times.

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blankets of comfort

RE students prepare for Lent

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English as a second language *(ESL)*

St. Isidore School students participating in healing novena.



ESL classes meet Wednesday morning or Thursday evening.



Wrapped in Prayer



By Angela Orlando

If you've seen the basket in the narthex labeled "for yarn". Funny, a yarn? A Story? What is that all about?

A few years ago, it was suggested that our parish offer "Prayer Blankets" to those experiencing disease of body, mind or spirit. How easy it is to say, "I'll pray for you" but sometimes you just need a reminder of that. And the Prayer Blanket Ministry was born.

Skeins of yarn are collected in the basket in the narthex. It might be a whole skein but it also might be just several smaller lengths of yarns unused on a completed project at home. What do you do with just a little left over yarn? Bring it to church, of course. All the colors of the rainbow go into knitting by a couple of prolific knitters and the blankets are born. The members who knit prepare the blankets in their homes and while they are knitting, they'll say a prayer for the recipients of the blankets. As requests come into the Human Needs office, the blankets are distributed to those who need them.

Blankets are an array of colors considering that the donated yarn may be of many different colors. They are knitted or crocheted in a pattern decided upon by the knitters and end up being about three feet by four feet. They are enough to cover a lap or the shoulders of the recipients. Considering that the donations of yarn are so varied, the prayer blankets become works of art. They may be distributed to someone recuperating from surgery, a major illness, a loss or an emotional situation. How they help healing is a gift from God.

- If you'd like to help, drop off your unused yarn in the basket.
- If you are a needleworker needing a project
- If you "want" or "need" a blanket to wrap yourself or a family member

Contact the Human Needs Office. A prayer card is tucked in the blanket when it is distributed.



Can't sleep?

don't count sheep.

Talk to the Shepard.

LENT AND CHILDREN

By Dorothy Jaskey and Barb Mendralla
Photos from Viera Zielinski

Catechism – Confraternity of Christian Document (CCD) – Religious Education (RE) – Faith Formation . . . whatever is the correct name . . . it is for children, from Kindergarten through sixth grade, who do not attend Catholic school to learn about the Catholic religion. (Students in grades seven through twelve participate in the Connect Youth program.)

Under the direction of Vera Zielinski, there is a dedicated staff of 55 teachers, 35 teacher aides, 16 hall monitors, 16 office volunteers and 10 substitutes. The office staff consists of Amy Alvarez, Maureen Cubala, Arizbeth Alcaraz, and Terry Majeski. Together they all guide 582 youngsters to live their Catholic Faith.

During the season of Lent, all the classes participate in an almsgiving project to serve others and to make the Lent more meaningful. This year the students will be asked to bring in their coins and dollars which will help fill grocery carts of food for Neighborhood Food Pantries (NFP). Vera urges the students to earn the money by doing chores around their homes, not just ask their parents to give them money.

Along with the lesson in almsgiving, Vera shares how a donation of \$5.00 can fill a small grocery cart with food for NFP while the same \$5.00 would buy only one children’s meal at a typical fast-food restaurant. The visual comparison between the grocery cart and the children’s meal really hits home with the students, especially when they realize the restaurant meal allows them to eat only one time.

Another activity during Lent is the live Stations of the Cross service for all Faith Formation students and their parents. Since 2011, each fifth grade class has performed the Stations of the Cross, with some students acting out the parts and others narrating the service. The students spend several weeks rehearsing and while they are hesitant at first, they soon get into acting out their roles. Vera shared how powerful the experience is for the students. After portraying Jesus, one student said, “How did Jesus do what He did?”



The Stations of the Cross service will be on Saturday, April 8th, Tuesday, April 11th and Wednesday, April 12th. Watch the Lenten brochure and the weekly bulletin for exact times. Vera emphasized that all parishioners are welcome to attend the program.





For more than 50 years CCW has been preparing the Table. What table? St. Joseph's Table and this year we are fortunate to have it on the day, March 19. How do we get the table set? With the women from CCW and many others volunteering their time to help.

Come, Time to Set the Table

St. Joseph's Table, March 19

By Kathy Lopez



This Table will not set itself. Preparations began in January with our chair Madeline Spinello and her co-chair Margaret Leabru making sure committee leads are in place.

Michele Miller begins by reaching out to our local merchants for donations for food or gifts. Valerie Calvente and her team, Dorothy Jaskey and Sherry Hagedorn, follow up with phone calls to confirm the donation and arrange for pickup. Once donations are confirmed, a volunteer calls on the merchant to pick up their contribution for the event.



How do we let the public know we're having our St. Joseph's Table? publicity is Kate Rodman's task. She provides the information to the local newspapers, city websites and this includes the village signs.

As we get closer to the day, Pat Baker and Rosemary Smylie take inventory of the paper goods and supplies needed to serve 300 or more people. During our general meeting, all CCW members help support the efforts by filling the bags that hold the prayer card and fava bean.



With the donations from our merchants and CCW members, Ann Gazda, Valerie Calvente and Cathy Medearis create baskets filled with goodies to be raffled. Check them out, you may find one that really catches your eye, and go home with a great prize.



St. Joseph's Table is all about the food. Linda Brauer with Mary Jo Staszak, Kim Rogers, lead the kitchen team of volunteers. Once the menu is decided and food secured, preparation begins the day before and continues through the end of the event.

As you come to the Table, Sharon Zappa and her team greet you with their smiles, offer you a bag containing a fava bean, a prayer card, a brief history of St. Joseph Table, and crust of bread. A free-will donation is your admission.

Kathy Lopez will manage the serving crew who serve you and the food trays will always be replenished. Donna Stephenson is in charge of the beverages. Dorothy Jaskey and Gloria Hagedorn will make sure you have plenty of sweets to choose to top off your meal at the dessert table.



Look around the Ministry Center at the signs throughout the room. CCW acknowledges the merchants who generously donate to our St. Joseph's Table. These signs are created by Mary Ellen Graf. (Remember to please support our donors).

Your donation and profits from the raffles support the Neighborhood Food Pantry and PADS. Join us as we celebrate our 55th St. Joseph's Table on March 19 in the Ministry Center. Come.



School Students Participate in Diocesan-wide Healing Novena

By Mike Yerly, Director of Development



Fr. John Belmonte, Superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Diocese of Joliet, before Christmas break asked all principals in the Diocese to submit names of students in their respective schools in need of special prayer, which would be added to a Healing Novena taking place for nine consecutive days between January 17 and January 27.

A novena is a traditional form of Catholic prayer. Those praying a novena recite a specific prayer or series of specific prayers with a certain request or intention in mind, continuing over the course of nine days or nine hours.

Fr. Belmonte's intention for the novena was to pray for healing. A list of names from all the principals was compiled and shared, and St. Isidore students began the Healing Novena on Tuesday morning, January 17 with their morning prayers

The Healing Novena consisted of nine prayers to obtain graces through the intercession of Venerable Antonietta



Meo, a young six-year old Italian girl born in the 1930s in Rome. She attended Catholic school and was a "charismatic, active, and kind young lady," who at the age of five, was diagnosed with an aggressive form of bone cancer which eventually caused her left leg to be amputated. She prayed, "Dear Jesus, you are holy, you are good. Help me, grant me your grace and give me back my leg. If you don't want to, then may your will be done." But the amputation had

not stopped the tumor from spreading, and for six years until her death in 1936, the illness itself and treatments she received caused her horrible, almost intolerable pain.

In the months before her death, "Nennolina," as she was affectionately called, wrote one hundred letters to Jesus or to the Blessed Virgin. She prayed often, and offered her pain to Jesus. St. Isidore students began on the first day of the Healing Novena with Antonietta's "Little Letter to God the Father," and continued the novena with other of her letters daily through January 27. After each reading, our students concluded with a "prayer to obtain graces through the intercession of Venerable Antonietta Meo," the last line of which was "We humbly request healing for and all the children who suffer ..." Amen."

Names of 24 children or faculty members in the Diocese for whom the novena was prayed were then read, including one of our own students.

What a special and meaningful initiative for our Diocesan children in need of healing, through the intentions of a little girl whose life and suffering long ago had, according to Pope Benedict XVI in 2007 when the Pope declared Antonietta "Venerable," "been a witness of sanctity for all children who suffer."

*If you judge people,
you have no time to love
them.* **St. Mother Theresa**

The Symbol of Christianity

The cross is THE symbol of Christianity. The death of Jesus upon the cross was our redemption: we were saved by His death. Throughout the centuries various forms of a cross have developed, each with a special significance.

*Can you match a few of these crosses with their identity?
(Many of the Christian symbols have originated from ancient or biblical times.)*



1. _____



2. _____



3. _____



4. _____



5. _____



6. _____



7. _____



8. _____



9. _____



10. _____



11. _____



12. _____

match the
name to
the symbol

- Calvary
- Jerusalem
- Papal
- Tau
- Anchor
- St. Andrew
- Passion
- Ionic
- Flurie
- Orb
- Orthodox
- Natal

By Dorothy Jaskey



YOUR PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

By Penni Cannova

Parish Pastoral Council currently has 16 members who each serve a three-year term. The terms are staggered so that the Council always has experienced members in addition to new ones. Dominic Sole, the new leader of the Council, explains that the Council serves to advise the parish ministries and offer suggestions to Father Jim. Parish Pastoral Council guidelines from our diocese recommend reaching decisions on a consensus basis, rather than a more formal method like Robert's Rules of Order.

The Council Ministry or Team

The Council contains representatives from the eight St. Isidore ministries or teams. These teams are: Worship, School Board, K-6 Faith Formation, Connect Youth Ministries, Adult Formation (DEEP) Team, Human Needs, Administration, and the Hispanic Ministries. Teams report to the council periodically at its eight meetings per year. Taking a break July and December.

Joining Father Jim and these eight representatives are 5-6 Members-at-Large, who bring the perspective of the parish community to the table. Tom Norton, Pastoral Staff Director, represents the staff. The Stewardship Council advise Fr. Jim and staff on the overall stewardship culture and spirituality of our parish. It is at the same level in the parish structure as the Parish Pastoral Council.

Only members at large, like Dominic, serve as chairperson of the Council. Each week-end prior to a Council meeting, they host Meet and Greet. Members-at-large greet their fellow parishioners in the narthex to answer any questions and hear from people in the pew their feelings about the direction of the church, ideas and questions. These are then discussed at Parish Council meetings.

Six Goals of Parish Council

1. Improve week-end experience for all worship
2. Invite all to take the next step in discipleship through evangelization, such as the upcoming Renew program, "Be My Witness"
3. Connect young adults (ages 18-39) to the parish community
4. Strengthen hospitality outside of the week-end experience (such as baptisms, weddings or funeral hospitality)
5. Reaching more youth (on the periphery of the parish)
6. Deepen our prayer life as a community

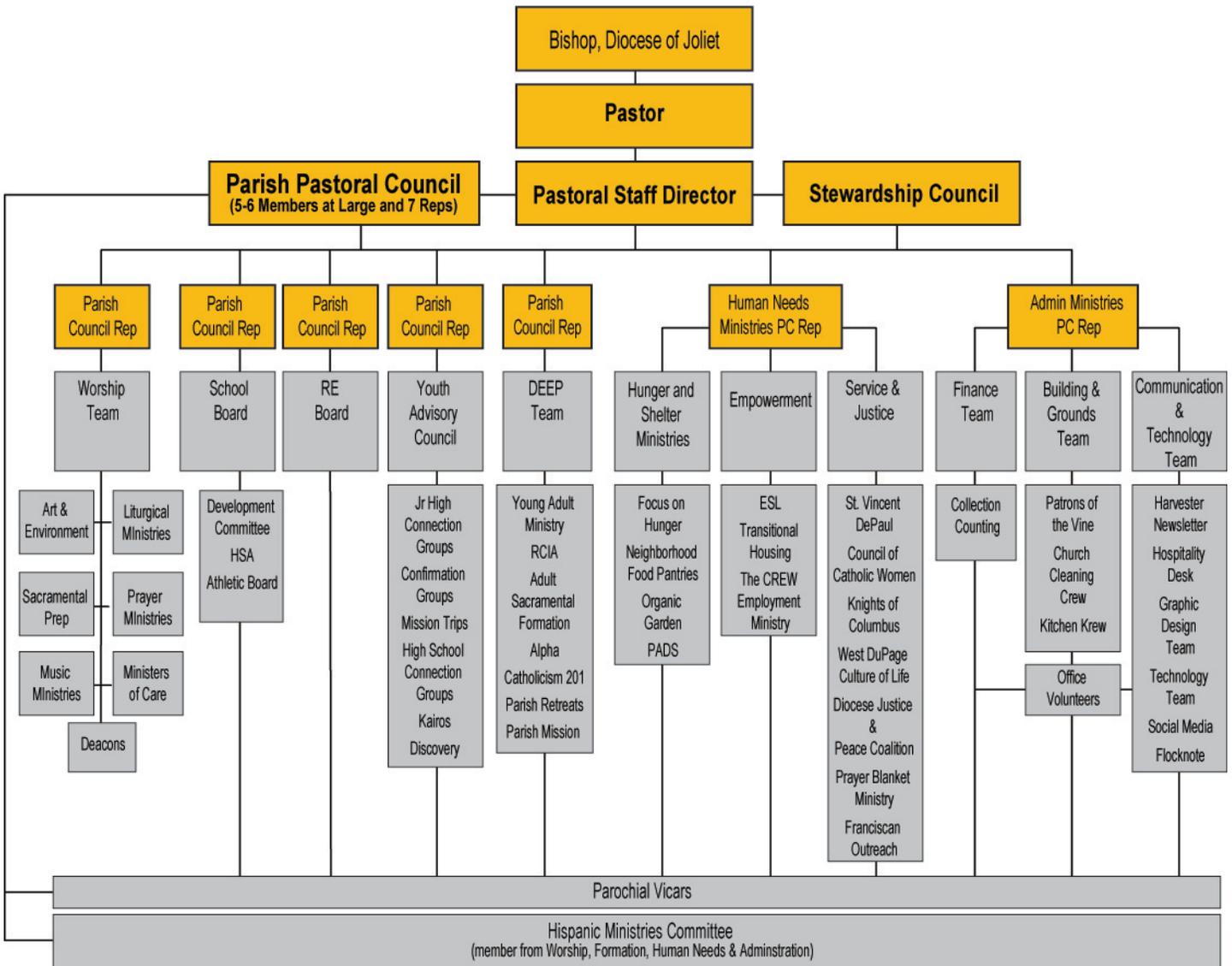
How do you get to be on the Council?

If you have an interest in becoming a Council member, talk to a current member or Pastoral Staff or someone at the Hospitality Desk.

Dominic and many of his fellow members like to be doers, but the Council's role is to help the ministries move in the right direction. The Council always has a five-year strategic plan, and they have six overall goals with fifty-two strategies within those goals the Council arrived at by working with the ministry teams. Each ministry team then goes out to work to achieve those goals, and reports back to the Council on progress of their goals. That is where the work of the Council comes in: they guide and ensure that the goals and strategies are moving forward. Dominic says, "It is really cool to see movement toward many of these goals and strategies."

Dominic added, "I could be having the worst day at work, or the worst commute home, and say I just don't want to go to the meeting, and then I do go and everything else falls away". He always leaves feeling that he's been touched and that he's been able to touch someone.

St. Isidore Parish Organizational Chart



Mary had a little cold,
it started in her head.

Everywhere that Mary went
the cold was sure to spread.

It followed her to church one day,
it didn't seem quite fair.

It made the people cough and sneeze,
to have that cold in there.

The ushers tried to drive it out
they tried hard, but ahh chooo.

It didn't do a bit of good
the pastor caught it too.



Marking Sacred Space: The Buildings of Catholic Worship

By Michael Fassbender

Church:
St. Isidore, Bloomington



In the Catholic Church, we have many places where Masses are celebrated, and it's easy just to think of them all as churches. Then we hear a news report that mentions St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, and we wonder what "basilica" means.

The Church defines a number of categories for houses of worship, and each place must meet strict criteria before being opened for official use.

The most familiar category is that of the parish church. A parish church needs to have a distinct body of worshippers to be served by the priest appointed to it, and it needs certain fixtures in addition to a main altar, such as a confessional and a baptismal font. In theory, a parish needs to be financially self-sufficient, but this was traditionally ensured through landholding, and in Protestant-majority countries like the United States, this has been difficult to establish with any uniformity. American parishes are still organized on a mission model instead of a true parish model, as seen in Europe.

A cathedral is simply the principal church of a bishop. While cathedrals tend to be larger than other churches in the diocese, this is not necessary. The term comes from "cathedra," which means Seat in the same sense that a

town is designated as the County Seat. The bishop governs the entire diocese, but the cathedral is the church where he serves for most of the year. A basilica is an historically significant church that has been granted special status. The original basilicas were large, open buildings built before Christianity and used for a variety of civic purposes, including the hearing of legal cases. They were adapted to serve as churches when Rome became Christian, and the basilicas of Rome retained their prominence, even though it is only the Basilica of St. John Lateran that is also, technically, a cathedral. Minor basilicas have been built at other important sites.

Chapels are generally part of a larger building, containing a small altar for use in limited services. When a larger structure hosts a full-sized altar for regular Masses serving many people, but is not part of a parish, it is called an oratory. Shrines, which can be churches or other holy sites characterized by the pilgrims attracted to them, are not a separate category, but crypts are: they are built underground in connection with burial sites.



Cathedral:
St. Raymond, Joliet

Basilica:
St. Paul, Rome

Oratory:
St. Procopius Abbey, Lisle

Chapel:
St. Isidore, Bloomington

Crypts:
Graceland Cemetary, Chicago



Additional examples of buildings of worship



Basilica:
St. Francis Xavier, Dyerville IA



Shrine:
National Shrine of St. Frances Cabrini, Chicago

The Crosses

Some of these explanations are based on tradition and legends.



1 Jerusalem Cross

has four arms representing the missionary work of the Church, spreading the Gospel to the four directions, of the world. The smaller crosses are for the Evangelists.



2 Anchor Cross

is for hope in Christ, based on Hebrews "We have this hope as an anchor...."



3 The Papal Cross

stands for the realms of authority of the Pope - church, world and heaven.



4 Tau Cross

comes from the last letter in the Hebrew alphabet. It is the traditional sign that the Israelites made with lamb's blood on their doorposts in Egypt on the night of the Passover.



5 Calvary Cross

is on the three steps representing the hill of Calvary meaning faith, hope and love.



6 Orthodox Cross

used by the Russian Orthodox Church has a top bar representing the sign that the Roman soldiers put on Jesus's cross (INRI) and the slanted bar the footrest on the cross.



7 Flurie Cross

or any cross that has trefoil end caps calls to mind the Trinity.



8 Orb Cross

symbolizes the final reign of Christ over the world.



9 Natal Cross

is shaped like a star that shone at the birth of Jesus and foretold the reason for his being born.



10 Ionic Cross

is the form of a cross that St. Columba took to the island of Iona in the 6th century



11 Passion Cross

has pointed ends to signify the suffering of Christ.



12 St. Andrew Cross

represents humility. According to legends St. Andrew felt unworthy to be crucified like Jesus so he begged to die on a different cross.

Does anyone know why the IONIC cross was selected for St. Isidore Church?
Email answer to djjaskey@sbcglobal.net



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St. Isidore ESL Ministry

By Bill Archer

The St. Isidore ESL (English as a second language) ministry is a one-on-one program for adult students who want to learn or improve their English for employment, higher education, citizenship classes or just to live an English-speaking life. It is supported and mentored by the Adult Learning and Literacy Department of the People's Resource Center.

Classes meet on Wednesdays mornings at 9:00am-10:30am and on Thursday evenings at 7:00pm-8:30pm.

Maureen deWaard said that the ESL program originally started in 2005 with about forty tutors and students. At present, there are one hundred tutors and students.

For more information regarding becoming a tutor or a student check out the St. Isidore parish website or contact Human Needs Ministries Director, Lisa Puulik at 630 -295-6890.