



# ST. ISIDORE HARVESTER

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

[www.stisidoreparish.org](http://www.stisidoreparish.org)

## Giving and Sharing Joys of the Season

### Inside

**St. Isidore Students**  
*day of service*

**Blue Mass**  
*honoring First Responders*

**Adoption Awareness Month**  
*sharing our story*

**Deep Roots**  
*sharing our history*

**CCW Sharing Christmas Joy**  
*with the residents of the Nursing Home*

**Knights of Columbus**  
*establishing a new scholarship*

**Christmas, Why December?**



# Sharing Christmas Joy

By Kate Rodman  
Photos from Margaret Labreu

*Every Christmas season for the last 40 plus years, the Council of Catholic Women (CCW) organizes a festive Christmas party for the residents of the West Suburban Nursing Home and Rehabilitation Center in Bloomingdale, formerly called the Bloomingdale Pavilion.*

Over the years many changes have taken place in the facility, the residents can count on is an annual visit from Santa and a wonderful holiday party.

The CCW ladies, led by Ann Gazda and Pat Baker, begin planning and organizing weeks in advance. Many St. Isidore parishioners volunteer to help with the preparations to ensure that the party is a great success.

Once the staff from the nursing home shares the needs of the residents with the CCW, the gift list is shared with parishioners. A few weeks before the event the narthex sparkles with huge “golden” boxes ready to accept donations of robes,

slippers, socks, puzzles, games, hand cream and other items that the

residents can use throughout their stay. These items are sorted and prepared for distribution by Santa’s helpers, otherwise known as the ladies of the CCW and volunteer parishioners. Everyone pitches in to help. Some residents don’t have family or friends to visit them, so this year they will be “adopted” by the CCW ladies and other parishioners ensuring that they will be given all the gifts and special attention they need to make their holiday special.

Vera Zielinski of the Faith Formation office coordinates the Religious Education classes and they donate cozy slippers, socks and placemats for the residents. Faith Formation students provide added joy to the residents.

When it’s time for the festivities to begin, the residents gather in the dining room; soon the sound of jingling bells announces the arrival of Santa Claus, a role played for many years by Dick Boyer, whose wife Rose is a long time CCW member. Santa and his elves visit with the partygoers, join in the singing of carols and distribute gifts. Santa then heads to the Memory Care Unit to cheer the residents and surprise them with gifts. Back in the dining room it’s time for holiday cookies and punch, some musical entertainment, socializing and playing the ever-popular BINGO game. When the party concludes the residents return to their rooms and no resident leaves empty-handed. Last year 202 residents received gifts and had a great time.

It’s a lovely way to share the gifts of love and community while rejoicing in the birth of our Lord.



# Special Gifts from Faith Formation Students

By Penni Cannova

Very important guests are coming for Christmas dinner at our parish, and the children in our Faith Formation classes are preparing for them with great anticipation. On Christmas Day this year, St. Isidore is hosting PADS guests. And, a few weeks before Christmas, these same students are also preparing to shower the guests of the CCW nursing home Christmas Party with similar care. To make them feel welcome as guests of honor of this holy celebration, our students will begin their preparations for this special meal right after the Thanksgiving holiday.

Kindergarteners and First-Graders will be busy creating placemats for the PADS dinner and the CCW nursing home Christmas party. Second-Graders, and Third- through Sixth-grade Sacramental Preparation students will be decorating the gift bags for the residents at the holiday party as well as the PADS guests on Christmas Day. Vera Zielinski, St.

Isidore Director of Religious Education, said that each gift bag will contain hand warmers and other items for the PADS guests. Our Third- and Fourth-graders will be bringing in white socks, slippers and slipper socks for the nursing residents. The students will line clear plastic gifts bags with green and red tissue paper. Fifth-Graders will make Christmas cards and ornaments that will be placed with the gifts.



Our Faith-Based students, those who have come to us for the first time for religious formation, will join with the Fifth-Graders in creating these items to adorn the presents.

The Sixth-Grade classes will walk over together to the Christmas Giving Trees in the narthex of the church to select ornaments, and throughout that week will purchase the item listed on their ornament. The ornaments will suggest offering personal care offerings, such as diapers, paper towels and the like.

It is quite easy for a child to associate Christmas with toys and fun gifts only, Vera mentioned, and the Faith Formation program wishes to show these students that giving presents which meet a need is also a valuable present indeed.

## Isaiah Challenge

By Dorothy Jaskey

**During Advent we prepare for the birth of Jesus. Many Old Testament readings foretell the Glory of the Lord. This is especially true in the Book of Isaiah. Fill in the missing words in each quote from Isaiah:**

*Isaiah 6:1*...In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a \_\_\_\_\_, high and exalted, and the train of his \_\_\_\_\_ filled the \_\_\_\_\_.

*Isaiah 7:14*...Therefore the Lord himself will give you a \_\_\_\_\_; the \_\_\_\_\_ will be with child and bear a \_\_\_\_\_, and shall name him \_\_\_\_\_.

*Isaiah 9:5*...For a \_\_\_\_\_ is born to us, a son is given us; upon his shoulder \_\_\_\_\_ rests. They name him Wonder \_\_\_\_\_, God \_\_\_\_\_, Father \_\_\_\_\_, Prince of \_\_\_\_\_.

*Isaiah 40:31*... They that \_\_\_\_\_ in the Lord will renew their strength, they will \_\_\_\_\_ as with \_\_\_\_\_ wings; they will run and not grow \_\_\_\_\_, will walk and not be \_\_\_\_\_.

### Clues:

babe • child • Christ • counselor •  
dominion • eagles • Emmanuel • faint •  
father • forever • hero • hope • peace •  
robe • sign • soar • son • temple • throne  
• virgin • weary •

(Just to make a bit more of a challenge ... there are more clues than answers)



# BLUE MASS

## September 10th

By Tom Murray  
Photo by Bill Archer

This year's Blue Mass was celebrated on September 10 at the 10:00 am Mass, St. Isidore Church. This occasion was the third time that it has been held at St. Isidore. Twenty-nine first responders attended at this year's Mass, and afterwards a luncheon was held by the Knights of Columbus for the first responders and their families.

This event began with a suggestion by one of our own, Bill Gorsline. With the cooperation of Father Jim and the St. Isidore Parish, it has become an annual event to honor the work of the first responders throughout the year. This year we remembered Bloomingdale Police Officer Raymond Murrell who had died in the line of duty last January.



*The Blue Mass celebrated annually in the Catholic Church dates back to September 29, 1934.*

**A** smile *is an inexpensive way to improve our looks.*

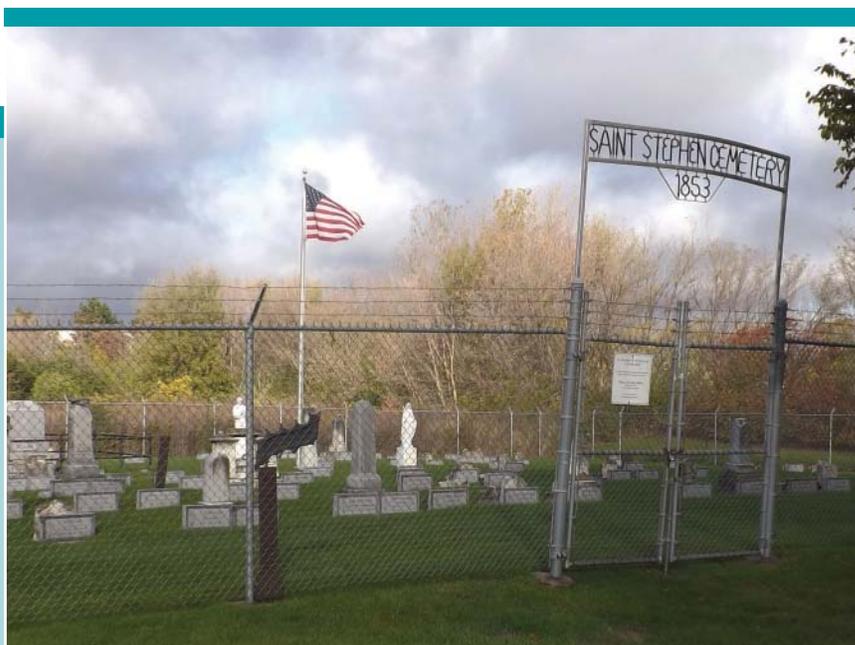


*In 1992 the Harvester started a series of articles called “Deep Roots.” During the past 25 years, St. Isidore Parish has welcomed many new parishioners. As the 100th anniversary of our parish approaches in 2020, the Harvester will once again present a look into our heritage.*

# DEEP ROOTS REVISITED

part 1

By Dorothy Jaskey  
Photo by Bill Archer



Our history begins in 1852 when a group of immigrant German farmers settled in Gretna (now called Carol Stream). The Catholic Mission Church of St. Stephen was organized; it was the second Catholic Church in DuPage County. On a two acre plot the Chicago diocese oversaw the building of the church, school and cemetery.

All records of St. Stephen Church were transferred in 1882 to the newer St. Michael's Church in Wheaton. But fire consumed the wooden structure of St. Stephens in 1891 and a year later fire destroyed St. Michael's Church.

However, burial at the cemetery continued until 1911. There were 102 graves. Earliest burials were in 1854. The youngest recorded baby was one day old – Tatoa Stark died in 1858. Some tombstones just read 'baby'.

Some of the weather-worn markers are readable with names such as Hahn, Stark, Nagel, Gardner, Mittman and Dieter, farm families who were instrumental in building the new church of St. Isidore. German inscriptions are common, but seldom a birth date. A few have the age of the deceased.

In 1981 the Joliet diocese took control of the cemetery property. Bishop Joseph Imesch gave the Audubon Society permission to erect a fence on three sides to protect the natural prairie grass growing there. Railroad tracks once on the south side of the cemetery.

In the fall of 1989 vandals toppled tombstones. A four square foot hole that was once three feet deep is an indication that grave robbers were interested in a particular grave. Buried here is a war hero in full military attire complete with gold war medals given to a “Dieter” by Napoleon III.

Volunteers from the Milton Township Cemeteries Authority and the Joliet Diocese have made efforts to restore the cemetery. On September 12, 2010 this historic spot was rededicated.

To locate the cemetery of these pioneer Catholic families, walk the bike path along St. Charles Road east of Schmale.

Descendants of these farmers cultivated their lands and formed the town of Cloverdale and built a new church in honor of the Spanish farmer, St. Isidore.

*.....and more to come in the next issue.....*

---

# Christmas Comes But Once a Year,

## *Why December?*

By Michael Fassbender

*Today, the date of Christmas is part of the foundation of our year. After more than 16 centuries of continuous observance, it feels inevitable. It was not always so. This date was fixed in the fourth century, and the circumstances of this choice remain murky today.*

The early Church did not mark this feast at all. Whether there was a bias against celebrating birthdays as a pagan practice, or it was simply not a high priority, the question of Christ's birthday did not even appear in the written record until the third century. In the absence of clear scriptural data, local traditions emerged around dates all across the year, and justifications were often ingenious. By the fourth century, the eastern portions of the Church preferred January 6.

Significantly, the Roman Christians came to a different conclusion. At some time between the years 330 and 354, December 25 was chosen as the date of Christ's birth. Some sources give the Emperor Constantine a substantial role in making this determination, but it is noteworthy that the date was not accepted as the consensus date for all Christians in the Empire until the end of the century. Clearly, the selection of December 25 was a Roman choice in the beginning. Unfortunately, there is no clear evidence to explain why.

Some commentators point to the Saturnalia as a possible influence. A lengthy celebration at the end of December, involving demonstrations of generosity alongside other displays of goodwill, it is sometimes linked to Christmas. There is, however, no clear connection to the Christian feast, and it seems that it was still celebrated by much of the population after Christianity came to prominence in the fourth century.

A more pertinent contributor is likely to be the festival of *Natalis Sol Invicti*, the birthday of the "Unconquerable Sun" under the last pagan emperors of Rome, who favored sun worship as an imperial cult. The linguistic connection of "sun" and "Son" does not work in Latin. In fact, the Church Fathers tried to dissuade people from seeing Christ as a solar figure, but more generally, this was a period when the Church was converting formerly pagan holy sites to Christian use even as they tried to convert Roman pagans. December 25 remained a public holiday to honor a divine birthday, but the identity of the god so honored had changed, and with that change, its deeper meaning was transformed.

Love, not time, heals all wounds.



# Morning Prayer, Vespers Benediction

By Angela Orlando  
Photo by Bill Archer

*Hey, I go to Mass on Sunday (Saturday, anyone?). What's this other stuff I keep hearing about?*

Morning Prayer is as old as the hills. Okay, maybe not quite that old but it goes waaaay back to the Old Testament when the Jews would pray at set times during the day, starting off in the morning when the priests in the temple offered prayers along with the sacrificial animals. These set prayers were passed down by the Apostles (remember they were practicing Jews) along with the other prayers offered throughout the day. The Orthodox, Eastern and Western Catholic, Anglican and Lutheran liturgies all incorporate these prayers throughout the day. During the Middle Ages with the founding of monasteries, certain psalms and other readings from the Bible were added. Eventually the prayers at specific times of the day were incorporated into the Divine Office, which ordained priests, deacons and other consecrated men (brothers) and women (sisters) pray daily. Lay members of our parish pray the Morning Prayers after the weekday 7:00 a.m. Mass. It takes a few minutes and makes the day seem more wholesome.

Vespers, too, go waaaay back. Vespers are the Evening Prayer of the Divine Office. As the Morning Prayers are organized, so too are the Evening Prayers: usually a hymn is sung, followed by a psalm response, a Gospel reading, intercessions, the Our Father and a Concluding Prayer. Other Divine Office prayers throughout the day follow the



same pattern although can be truncated to suit the time and activities of the person.

Way back in the 30s, 40s and 50s some parishes offered late Sunday afternoon prayer services called Vespers as well. This often ended with Benediction.

Benediction is celebrated in conjunction with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, or Adoration. Our First Friday Adoration ends with Benediction prior to the 8:15 a.m. Mass on Saturday mornings and follows the same pattern as Morning Prayer and Vespers. The rubrics for that include a sung hymn (O Salutaris), followed by a prayer, liturgical readings, reflection, divine praises and a closing hymn (Tantum Ergo or Holy God).

Any of these are is a great way to enhance your prayer life. If you cannot attend at Church, you can find them on the UCCB site ([www.usucb.org](http://www.usucb.org)) and pray them on your own.

## Answers Isaiah Challenge

Fill in the missing words in each quote from Isaiah:

*Isaiah 6:1...* In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a **throne**, high and exalted, and the train of his **robe** filled the **temple**.

*Isaiah 7:14...* Therefore the Lord himself will give you a **sign**; the **virgin** will be with child and bear a **son**, and shall name him **Emmanuel**.

*Isaiah 9:5...* For a **child** is born to us, a son is given us; upon his shoulder **dominion** rests. They name him Wonder **Counselor**, God **Hero**, Father **Forever**, Prince of **Peace**.

*Isaiah 40:31...* They that **hope** in the Lord will renew their strength, they will **soar** as with **eagles** wings; they will run and not grow **weary**, will walk and not be **faint**.

# SCHOOL 8TH GRADERS LEARN FROM DAY OF SERVICE

By Mike Yerly, Director of Development

*St. Isidore School's motto is "Teaching the Heart of the Matter."*

In essence, the phrase reminds us that there is much more than "reading, writing and 'rithmetic" instilled in the minds of those young people attending our school.

A vivid example occurred earlier this fall when our 8th grade class participated in a Day of Service at two local charities: the food pantry at the People's Resource Center in Wheaton and the senior citizens Victory Centre in Bartlett.

"Before heading out for our Day of Service, the class reflected on Mark's gospel: '... for the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve and to give His life as a ransom for many,'" explained Mrs. Sue Robinson, our 8th graders' homeroom teacher who accompanied one of the groups, Youth Minister, Jackie Ludwig accompanied the other.

Service activities at the food pantry included restocking shelves, helping "check out" patrons and instructing them on how much of each item they were allowed to take, assisting them to their cars and unloading their shopping carts among other duties.

At the senior center, students reorganized and cleaned supply closets, put silverware together for meals, sang songs to and with the seniors, and played games with them as well. "I am so proud of how well the students interacted with those we were serving and the genuine kindness they showed to others," Mrs. Robinson added.

"It really felt satisfying and fulfilling working at the food pantry," said 8th grader Nathan Meyers who was part of the group helping at People's Resource Center. "It kept a smile on my face the rest of the day. I think I speak for the rest of our group when I say I would go back and work again at the food pantry willingly."

"This experience made me feel good and happy," echoed Nathan's classmate Alyssa Sethna regarding her work at the Victory Centre. "It felt this way because I knew what I was doing was helping others. I got to talk to seniors, and being a different age, it made it more interesting. It is important for us to participate in activities like this as Catholics, because we are following Jesus and the things he would do for other people. We got to help others like Jesus did, and we also got to make them smile, laugh, and have a good time."

*"It kept a smile on my face the rest of the day. I think I speak for the rest of our group when I say I would go back and work again at the food pantry willingly."*



8th graders helped reorganize and stock supply shelves at Victory Centre in Bartlett.



## Just a Reminder

*There has been so much conversation recently about the First and Second Amendments that we are printing the Bill of Rights for your reference. The Constitution, like the Bible is a complex and interrelated document. To place one verse or one amendment or one line ahead of all others can be divisive.*

# The U.S. Bill of Rights

## The Preamble to the Bill of Rights

Congress of the United States begun and held at the City of New-York, on Wednesday the fourth of March, one thousand seven hundred and eighty nine.

THE Conventions of a number of the States, having at the time of their adopting the Constitution, expressed a desire, in order to prevent misconstruction or abuse of its powers, that further declaratory and restrictive clauses should be added: And as extending the ground of public confidence in the Government, will best ensure the beneficent ends of its institution.

RESOLVED by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, two thirds of both Houses concurring, that the following Articles be proposed to the Legislatures of the several States, as amendments to the Constitution of the United States, all, or any of which Articles, when ratified by three fourths of the said Legislatures, to be valid to all intents and purposes, as part of the said Constitution; viz.

ARTICLES in addition to, and Amendment of the Constitution of the United States of America, proposed by Congress, and ratified by the Legislatures of the several States, pursuant to the fifth Article of the original Constitution.

*Note: The following text is a transcription of the first ten amendments to the Constitution in their original form. These amendments were ratified December 15, 1791, and form what is known as the "Bill of Rights."*

[www.archives.gov/founding-docs/bill-of-rights-transcript](http://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/bill-of-rights-transcript)

### Amendment I

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

### Amendment II

A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.

### Amendment III

No Soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in any house, without the consent of the Owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.

### Amendment IV

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

### Amendment V

No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the Militia, when in actual service in time of War or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offence to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.

# The U.S. Bill of Rights

## Amendment VI

In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the Assistance of Counsel for his defence.

## Amendment VII

In Suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury, shall be otherwise re-examined in any Court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.

## Amendment VIII

Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

## Amendment IX

The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.

## Amendment X

The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.

*Note: The capitalization and punctuation in this version is from the enrolled original of the Joint Resolution of Congress proposing the Bill of Rights, which is on permanent display in the Rotunda of the National Archives Building, Washington, D.C.*

## The Knights Honor Two of Their Own

By Tom Murray  
Photo by Bill Archer

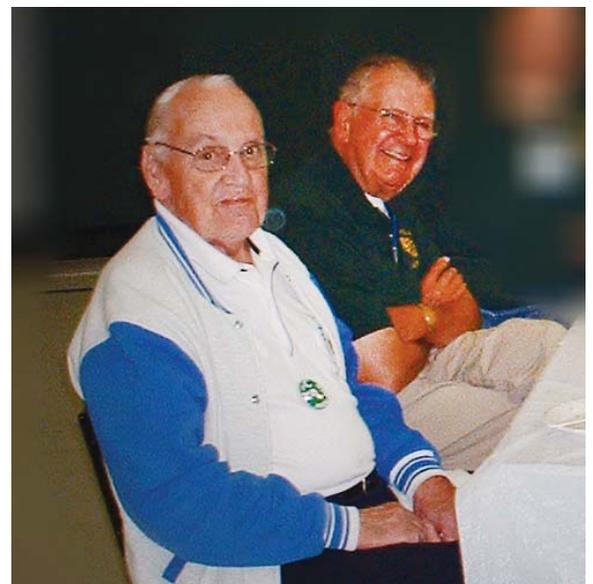


This year the St. Isidore Knights of Columbus established a \$500 grade school scholarship to honor two of their deceased members, Paul Greening and Gene Osowski.

Paul organized the St. Isidore Knights of Columbus Council and was the first Grand Knight. Over the years, Paul held many different offices and his long service helped to guide the success of our Council #8522.

Gene Osowski was in charge of membership over the years and was instrumental in growing the Council. On many occasions, he drove prospective members to First Degree events to make sure that the member fully understood what being a Knight entailed. Gene was a Captain of the Fourth Degree and helped organize many honor guards throughout the years.

The Council established the scholarship in the memory of these two fine men to honor their work and dedication to our four core principles of the Knights of Columbus: *charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism.*



Harvester  
St. Isidore Church  
427 W. Army Trail Rd.  
Bloomington, IL 60108

Nonprofit Org.  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Carol Stream, IL 60188  
Permit No. 1614



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

## Harvester

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

Send questions, comments or articles to:  
Harvester  
St. Isidore Church  
427 W. Army Trail Rd.  
Bloomington, IL 60108

### Writers:

William Archer  
Penni Cannova  
Terry Cumiskey  
Michael Fassbender  
Dorothy Jaskey  
Diane Limanowski  
Barb Mendralla  
Angela Orlando  
Mike Yerly

### Layout:

Kathy Lopez

### Photography:

William Archer

### Website:

Tom Norton

[www.stisidoreparish.org](http://www.stisidoreparish.org)

## Be My Witness

By Angela Orlando

**Witness what?** Witness the love God has for you. Have you ever wondered why God loves you as much as He does?

**Witness when?** Every day, as you live your life.

**Witness who?** You are a witness to the love of God, aren't you?

**Witness where?** Where you are. Do you live your life every day at school, at work, at play as a Christian?

**Witness how?** How you live—"if someone accused you of being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you?"

Shortly after the new year begins, we will have the opportunity to RENEW our commitment. We will renew ourselves and meet in small groups as the first Christians did, relating to one another, relating to the whole parish, relating to the diocese, relating to the Church in the US, relating to the Church in the world.

*Are you up for it? More to come...*