

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

Spring 2019

# Our Past and Our Present



A look at our beginnings and artistic treasures



Construction begins soon!  
Groundbreaking Ceremony.



## ST. ISIDORE HARVESTER

stories and more  
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Let your Lenten practices continue to renew you

## Our Annual Sojourn in the Desert



Our space, as it is prepared for the season



*The Lenten journey is defined as forty days in length. A glance at any calendar will show that this does not quite work if one simply counts the days from Ash Wednesday to Easter. Lent is somewhat more complicated, as is the history of how it developed into the season that we observe today.*

Written accounts from the second century testify to the notion that a period of fasting before the Easter celebration existed from the earliest days of the Church. It seems, however, that no universal standard for the length of this fast existed, with local churches prescribing their own standards that might last for only a few days. Interestingly, one of the variants that was reported indicated a period of forty hours, which was believed to represent the length of time that Christ remained buried before His resurrection.

The number forty has a powerful significance in the Bible, from the forty days of rain in Genesis to Christ's forty-day fast after His baptism. The forty-hour fast mentioned above may have played a role in defining Lent, for a transcription error in the translation of the Greek text into Latin changed the meaning from forty hours into forty days; when a universal standard for Lent was determined by the Nicene Council in 325, however, its forty days were meant to evoke Christ's fast in the desert.

Both the Greek and Latin names for Lent mean, simply, "forty days," and for a while, the number of days involved was the only consistent part of the Lenten fast. Some eastern churches exempted Saturday and Sunday, which lengthened the fast to eight weeks. In the west, a six-week program was adopted; Sundays, however, needed to be kept apart as a day to commemorate the Resurrection, so Pope Gregory the Great extended Lent for half a week to compensate. Thus began the tradition of Ash Wednesday.

Over time, the severity of Lenten regulations has been reduced; some early standards sometimes called for just one meal a day with no flesh of any sort and no supplemental nourishment. Vatican II further refined the definition of Lent by separating the Easter Triduum from Lent as a season in its own right. It should be noted that this change only affects Lent as a liturgical season; the Lenten Fast, as a discipline, still extends from Ash Wednesday through Holy Saturday, not including the Sundays.

# PICK A NUMBER

Below are numbers that match the following  
(well, some do and some do not and some numbers are used more than once)

2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 6 - 8 - 10 - 12 - 13 - 14 - 18 - 22 - 25 - 27 - 30 - 36 - 40 - 45 - 48 - 50 - 53

## How many ? ?

Days in Lent	_____	Saints in the stained glass windows in	_____
Books in the New Testament	_____	the Eucharistic Reservation chapel	_____
Apostles	_____	People in Noah's ark	_____
Weeks in Advent	_____	Stone water jugs used at the	_____
Husbands woman at the well had	_____	wedding at Cana	_____
Sons of Jesse	_____	Gospel writers	_____
Historical books in the Old Testament	_____	Lazarus sisters	_____
Magi	_____	Disciples with Jesus at the Transfiguration	_____
Days in the Easter Season	_____	Tribes of Israel	_____
Men Jesus met on the road to Emmaus	_____	Days Jesus spent in the desert	_____

### Harvester

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What can a nickel buy today? In the early days of St. Isidore Parish, the girls in the choir could buy an ice cream cone. Fr. Ott would give each young lady 5 cents after singing (and washing his car) and off they would go to Tedran's Store for their treat.

# Our Artistic Treasures

## Deep Roots

By Dorothy Jaskey



There was an organ in the balcony of our original church, today's Chapel, The stained glass window of St. Cecilia (carrying organ pipes) looked down at this musical ensemble. Those stained glass windows are true treasures. Just like windows in early European churches, the windows were teachers, telling Biblical stories or the wonders of holy people.

St. Isidore is featured in the circular window, devotedly praying while in the background, his wife and angels plow the fields.



On each side of the window are King Solomon, the builder of the first Temple in Jerusalem, and King David, the architect of the temple.

Also in the choir loft, is the window of St. Rose of Lima, the first saint of the Americas.

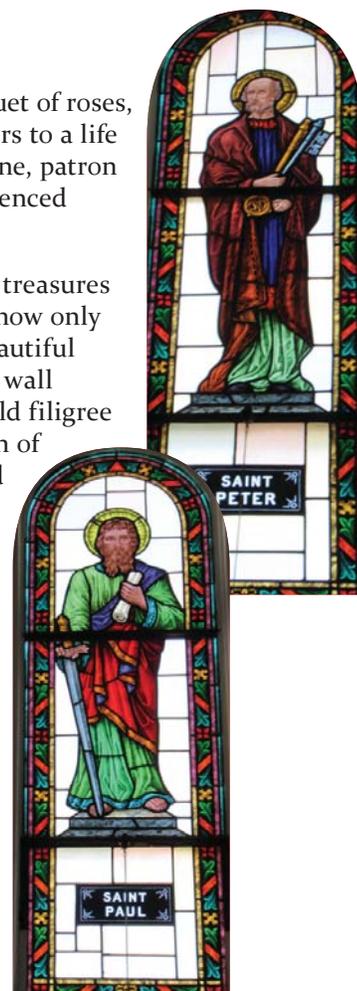
Nicknamed Rose because of her beauty and work in her garden, she wears a crown of roses. In life, Rose would wear a silver crown of thorns and devoted her life to chastity and caring for the homeless.

Our other stained glass windows depict the four Gospel writers, Mark, Matthew, John and Luke, each with a scroll or book and a quill. St. Paul also has a scroll, plus a sword, while St. Peter is pictured with the Keys to the Kingdom.

St. Theresa, carrying a bouquet of roses, inspired our early parishioners to a life of holiness, while St. Catherine, patron saint of Europe, greatly influenced Catholic teaching.

Unfortunately, many artistic treasures of the St. Isidore church are now only history. That includes the beautiful mural that once adorned the wall behind the altar. Intricate gold filigree was once in the lower portion of the back wall. Side altars had statues of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the Blessed Mother and saints, as well as six icons of angels.

Even the huge bas relief Stations of the Cross has been replaced. In the late 1970's there were major changes leaving only the pews and the inspiring stained glass windows, as the remaining artistic treasures that once were part of the St. Isidore Church.



# Welcome Hospitality Desk 4-1-1

By Angela Orlando

**Hospitality** *n.* the friendly and generous reception of guests, visitors or strangers.

**Desk** *n.* piece of furniture with a flat surface at which one can read, write or do other work.

What's with the Hospitality Desk at St. Isidore? On most weekends you can find a friendly Minister of Hospitality at the desk. This may be a staff member or a very knowledgeable volunteer, who will greet you and then help you with whatever needs you may have.

We want you to get the information you are looking for. When did that start? Several years ago, a parishioner wanted some information and couldn't find what she was looking for. (The squeaky wheel)—a complaint to the parish office and the Hospitality Desk finally had a person behind it. Just what is it that you need?

- Do you need to register as a newcomer to the parish? You will get a hearty welcome along with all of the information you need and the form to fill out.
- Find a bulletin—right there.
- Locate a lost item—they'll help you search. That's where most lost items start out anyway.
- Register for Religious Education (RE) classes, First Eucharist, Confirmation information?—no problem, it's right there.
- Pick up a hearing device for use during Mass or other services—yep, we've got that covered too.
- Tickets for the School Gala each February—got you covered. And tickets for the Grand Raffle are sold there, as well.
- Pen to write a check, here you go.
- Post-it note to leave something for one of the staff members, those are there as well.
- When is the next class for Baptism? for Marriage? Reconciliation schedule?
- Seasonally, you will be able to find Little Black, White, or Violet Books which provide private worship assistance.
- Where are the Oplatki? Bet you guessed they're right there at the Hospitality Desk.
- Is your teen looking for the permission slip for the next Connect Youth Ministries activity? Of course, it's available there.

Now once in a while, the hospitality minister doesn't have the answer. It's rare, but it happens and they will get your name and phone number which are passed along to the correct staff person. Normally, you will receive a call within a day or two. Go ahead, challenge the person with all your questions; I'll bet you get answers most of the time.



St. Isidore was present at the **March for Life** downtown Chicago, January 13. About 25 parishioners, "seasoned" and first-timers attended.



The nicest place to be is in someone's THOUGHTS!

The safest place to be is in someone's PRAYERS!

And the best place to be is in GOD'S HANDS!

Life isn't tied with a bow, but it's still a gift.

"A pessimist sees difficulty in every opportunity.

An optimist sees opportunity in every difficulty."

Winston Churchill

There are some questions that can't be answered by Google.



To render definitive assistance to local Catholic women's organizations in their efforts to give service in their respective fields.

## CCW Mission

By Kathy Lopez

"...May the Holy Spirit fill us with reverence for God's creation, and compassion for God's children."

This is a portion of the prayer Our Lady of Good Counsel, prayed each time we meet. The mission of CCW is to support women and children. Each year – September to May – all women of St. Isidore Parish are invited to attend our monthly meetings, typically on the third Thursday of the month.

**Transform the world through prayer and action with the aid and intercession of Jesus Christ, and our Patroness, Our Lady of Good Counsel.**

Are you aware that, CCW holds many events throughout the year from the Craft Fair in November to Cookies for Kids in April and many in between. We are not an organization whose purpose is to earn money. Sometimes money is raised as an end result. What do we do with those funds? Give them away! Nothing is kept at the end of the fiscal year. All remaining funds are given away. But to whom or what... Our Cause of the Year.

### How is a Cause selected?

An organization or cause must share our Catholic values and support women and children. Each year, all members have the opportunity to bring forward to the group an organization they feel would benefit from a donation. By vote, this year we decided to split 50/50 any funds between to two organizations. We chose Camp Out From Cancer and St. Joseph Carmelite Home. Here are some highlights of each.

### How Many?



40 Days in Lent

27 Books in the New Testament

12 Apostles

4 Weeks in Advent

5 Husbands woman at the well had

8 Sons of Jesse

13 Historical books in the Old Testament

3 Magi

50 Days in the Easter Season

2 Men Jesus met on the road to Emmaus

10 Saints in the stained glass windows in the Eucharistic Reservation chapel

8 People in Noah's ark

6 Stone water jugs used at the wedding at Cana

4 Gospel writers

2 Lazarus sisters

3 Disciples with Jesus at the Transfiguration

12 Tribes of Israel

40 Days Jesus spent in the desert

## CCW Mission

### Camp Out From Cancer



In 2011, a CT scan revealed a mass on the brain of 5-year old Issac. Today, after surgeries and radiation treatment, he is cancer-free.

On his anniversary weekend in 2013, Isaac and family wanted to thank the doctors and nurses who treated him. Isaac decided to make several care packages for kids in the hospital. Since Isaac was a minor, he was not allowed to enter the pediatric oncology wing. Luckily the Child Life Specialist found a family willing to meet with them. Their child had just been diagnosed with leukemia. Isaac spoke to the little girl and reassured her about her future. She received the first care package and headed back to her room.

The care package contained things for an indoor camping experience. After just a few minutes, photos were shared of the little girl in her room already “camping out” in her tent. It was at that very moment, CAMP OUT FROM CANCER was created.

Today over 900 kits are prepared for distribution for kids in cancer treatment. Each Camping Kit includes an indoor popup tent, glow bracelets, flashlight, two books, snacks and reusable bookbag. For more information or to donate, check out their website. <http://www.campoutfromcancer.com/>

### St. Joseph's Carmelite Home, OVER 100 years of service

A family and child residential treatment located in East Chicago, Indiana, St. Joseph's Carmelite Home provides a safe place for children in crisis from birth to age 18. By referral, the Carmelite Sisters of the Divine Heart of Jesus Northern Province open their home whenever there is an emergency and a child needs a safe place to stay.

Professionals provide a range of behavioral health care services for residents and family members in addition to the therapeutic program of care provided by these services. They work diligently to reunite children with their families and successfully integrate back into the community.

Emergency Shelter Care is provided to a child due to a family and/or personal crisis. This is limited to 20 days.

Open Residential Care is provided to children requiring care for more than 20 days. A child also participates in the community life outside of the Carmelite Home and receives benefits derived from their therapeutic program.



Teen Mom and Baby Care provides pregnant teens and teenage mothers with additional education, guidance and support. Participation in community schools, recreation and cultural events are provided and community medical pre-natal and, post-partum care are also provided. Hand-in-hand emotional support and reassurance is given by experienced moms who have the special training needed to meet the needs and calm the anxieties of young women experiencing pregnancy, childbirth and parenthood.

For more information or donate, check out their website. [www.carmelitehome.org/](http://www.carmelitehome.org/)



*Mike and Karen Stefanic look to their next step in life as the culmination of a dream. On the eve of their retirement from their cherished St. Isidore, they can look back on a dream built and realized here as well.*

## The Enduring Gift of Two Lives Lived in Faith and Unity

By Penni Cannova



Mike grew up at St. Isidore, attending the four-room school housed in the Chapel. Moving to St. Luke's during construction of the new St. Isidore School, Mike returned to finish his primary schooling in the new building. His parents built their own legacy of service to St. Isidore: his father, Tony, was Business Manager for many years while his mom, Gerry, was active in CCW. Karen was born in Chicago and raised from the age of five in Cicero. They met when Karen, working several jobs at the time, waited on Mike at a restaurant. After ordering a hamburger and leaving a \$5 tip, Mike drove away in his Corvette while Karen thought, "I could date this fellow!"

### Joining the Parish.

The culmination of those dates was their marriage in 1975 at her home parish of St. Mary Czestochowa in Cicero. They settled nearby in 1980 and joined our parish. Karen began singing in the choir and was surprised when the Director gave her a piano. Highly proficient at the organ, she taught herself the piano and within several years was elevated to Assistant and then Director of Music Ministries. Mike, at the time of her appointment to the new position, began to help with the ministry by spearheading the selection and installation of a new sound system. He has

tirelessly worked in this ministry since, serving with Rick Limanowski and Mario Amendola.

Karen said that the Choir Director has the best seat in the house. She can look out, see the faces and feel the faith of her fellow parishioners as they worship. She described how fond she is of each choir member and how thankful to their families who support them. Karen describes this ministry as a Christian family. In describing her work, Karen speaks of how much this ministry has given to her and to them, how much it has deepened her faith.

Parents of three children and five grandchildren, Mike and Karen have long dreamed of retiring in Florida; they are fortunate to be moving close to one son and his family but will have a small home back here to visit their daughter, April, who works in our parish office, and their other son Jason and family. Karen's eyes fill with tears as she contemplates leaving this parish and choir. Mike, heart full as well, reassures her, telling her that they are entering a new chapter with its own potential for new happiness.

Karen and Mike have given so much of themselves to make our worship soar and our parish a family. We wish them all happiness and health in their new home as we will miss them greatly.

By Barb Mendralla

*In a parish the size of St. Isidore, there is a lot of activity every week. While these activities may seem random, they are connected by a larger force – the Parish Pastoral Plan.*

This strategic plan is essential to a parish and addresses the ongoing activities that make it a vibrant community. Pope John Paul II framed the connection this way: Communio exists for missio, and missio flows out of communio. In a nutshell, the plan should align the people (communio) to the mission given to the Church by Jesus himself.

The current plan (2014-2019) for St. Isidore Parish addresses six goals:

- Improve the weekend experience for all worshippers
- Invite all to take their next step in becoming or growing as disciples through evangelization
- Connect young adults (ages 18-30) with our parish community
- Strengthen hospitality
- Reach more youth
- Deepen prayer life

Each of these goals include objectives and strategies. For example, an objective to improve the weekend experience is to increase mass attendance. Some of the strategies to achieve this objective are to improve the weekend experience through hospitality and by creating an irresistible physical environment.

Hospitality includes having ushers greet every parishioner, staffing the hospitality desk at all masses to answer parishioners' inquiries as well as creating a parking lot ministry for safety and traffic flow, which based on parishioner feedback, we know improves their weekend experience. The addition of parish signage and the landscaping done by the Patrons of the Vine ministry were also a result of the pastoral plan.

Other parish activities developed as a result of the pastoral plan are sacramental meetings for parents at which they are catechized about the sacramental life, upgrades to the chapel building, training of staff and parishioners in an Armed Intruder Response Plan and the building of a Perpetual Adoration Chapel.



# Parish Pastoral Plan

As Tom Norton, Pastoral Associate for Stewardship, Communications, and Evangelization shared, the plan was very ambitious and initiatives that did not launch or sustain themselves were due to staff time, resources and volunteer response. He added that the focus of future plans may have a greater emphasis on evangelization and bringing parishioners toward discipleship in their Catholic faith.

The St. Isidore Staff and Parish Pastoral Council invest a lot of time and effort into bringing the St. Isidore parishioners closer to the mission of Jesus. They rely on input from parishioners so make sure you respond to any survey you receive. This is your parish and your opinion matters.



By Mike Yerly, Director of Development

*Mrs. Cyndi Collins, principal at St. Isidore School for the past 15 years, announced recently that she will retire from her position at the end of the current 2018-19 school year.*

“These past 15 years have been one of the greatest blessings of my life,” she says. “I truly believe that God dropped me here 15 years ago so that I could grow in my own faith, but also so that I could encounter the many wonderful people I’ve met.”

Cyndi began her career in education at St. Louise De Marillac in LaGrange Park in 1976, where she taught kindergarten and preschool for three years. After staying home for a few years with children Tim, Patrick, Colleen and Kelly, she returned to work at a private preschool for five years. She then went on to St. Dominic’s in Bolingbrook where she taught second grade and kindergarten, served as assistant principal for a time, and was there for a total of 13 years before she started at St. Isidore in 2004.

Her early principal challenges – in addition to “finding my way around” – included making sure the school’s curriculum was up to date, acquiring materials and developing and staying within budgets.

When asked the biggest challenge facing her and all Catholic schools today, she said keeping enrollment strong and finding scholarship money. She explains that changes in the



economy throughout the years, have made Catholic education less affordable for families. It’s always been her belief that Catholic education is not just for the bright and rich, it’s for any child whose family desires a Catholic education.

She says that technology has been and is one of the most significant changes she has seen over the years. “We’ve moved into such a tech savvy world,” she explains. “We work constantly to keep technology fresh and current, but while still providing that Gospel value-based education.”

She feels the challenges her successor will face will be the same: staying current with standards, curriculum and technology, ongoing professional development of teachers, enrollment and scholarship dollars. “I also personally hope and pray that the new principal shares the same belief that Fr. Jim and I share; that any person who wants a Catholic education for their child should have one regardless of income level or status.”

An accomplishment she is most proud of? Opening a full day kindergarten. Four years later, the school also expanded its preschool to four days.

There has also been a host of “little” things that she feels very good about that happened during her tenure:

- Moving lunch out of classrooms to the lunchroom (“a much bigger deal than one would imagine for both the kids and the teachers”)
- The extended day program
- Instituting an Athletic Board
- Implementing Spanish in K-8
- Keeping up with technology

*and her personal passion*

- Inclusion—using differentiation to help kids with special needs

So what does she plan to do with all her free time? “I’ve got education in my blood, so I do want to stay as current as possible and help out in any way, maybe do some consulting if it becomes available.”



## Cyndi Collins to Retire at End of the School Year



But her number one answer was quick and unequivocal: “Spend time with my grandkids!” she exclaims. “I have four grandsons who live in Salina, Kansas: Jason, Ben, Will and Eli, and a fifth grandchild due later this year.” When her 5-year old grandson Eli heard grandma’s retirement, he said: “Now you can stay more than three days when you visit!”

Her husband Larry also retired recently after 40+ years with United Airlines, so they plan to travel.

“I’ve worked with supportive and compassionate pastors. I’ve grown so close to the parish staff and the teachers, which have become like another family to me. The parents and grandparents I’ve met through the years have been so kind and supportive. But of course what I’ve really enjoyed most are the kids, watching them grow from a small preschooler to a middle schooler to a graduate is an amazing experience that I will always cherish. I am so grateful parents have shared their children with me.”

“Serving as principal at St. Isidore has never been a job to me,” she concludes. “It’s always been a ministry to which I always felt privileged to have been a part. I will miss this place and these people, and these kids, so very, very much.”



## “The Greatest Show” Gala Auction Dinner Dance Just That!

The 2019 Gala/Auction Dinner Dance is now history, with a crowd of nearly 200 gathering at Empress Banquets in Addison Saturday night for an evening of fun(d)raising in support of St. Isidore School. Winners of the \$10,000 Grand Raffle were Mr. and Mrs. Jason Williams, with the \$1,500 prize to the Klein family and the \$500 prize to Tania Carrasco. The Perez family won the Cassidy Tire & Service Tuition raffle, while the poker tournament winners were Dan Schultz and Joe Freeman.



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