



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



stories
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100 YEARS

By Dorothy Jaskey

*Someone once told me “Man plans; God smiles”.
2020 was to be our BIG CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION.*

What Was to Be



For a few years a dedicated committee planned fabulous events to honor our heritage. Under the charismatic chairman, Debbie Isoda, enthusiastic staff personnel (Fr. Jim Murphy, Dan Tobin, Tom Norton, Cyndi Collins, April Stefanic, Joanna McDaniel) and a committee of parishioners (Antonette Tobin, Linda Beagley, Carroll Madison, Beth Sole, Larry Stark, Dorothy Jaskey) there was brainstorming and finalized plans were made.

Saturday, May 16 was to be the kick-off with the trumpets blaring, while doors of our church opened and a triumphant procession was to be led by an honor guard of our Knights of Columbus to start the joy-filled Holy Mass. Family members of the early pioneers were to be the guests of honor. A party atmosphere with refreshments was to follow.

Then on Saturday, June 20 a Mass was to be followed by a catered Chicken Dinner, followed by indoor and outdoor activities. This would have included a band, a cake walk, and a Bag Toss Tournament.

In fall there was to be a service project planned to benefit the entire community. The parish was able to carry out monthly curbside food collections for area pantry guests, until weather took a turn; support for meals was creatively delivered through Du Page PADS to our neighbors experiencing homelessness. Also alternatives to our annual Advent and Christmas sharing ministry events were developed. Adversity generated creativity.

Saturday February 20, the Annual Auction Dinner Gala was a virtual affair celebrating our school's 100-year anniversary. This Virtual Gala was surprisingly successful, as we gathered in our own homes viewing this celebration together-at-a-distance. It allowed us to reminisce on our history, generate

A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU

Past issues of the Harvester included an article called "Deep Roots". This was possible because of the fantastic memory and the passionate dedication of family members of the early farmers who desired to preserve the history of St. Isidore Church.

It is with deep gratitude that the Harvester staff extends a warm THANK YOU to:

Alice Blackwell Marie Kylander
Elaine Stark Larry Stark
June Stark (deceased)

For happiness brings happiness and loving ways brings love;
And giving is the treasure that contentment is made of.
(Anonymous)

What Was to Be

hope for our future and fund our school's growth for the year ahead!

Throughout the year there was to be a pictorial review of parish events. We have done our best to share pictures and videos of our history online and with our Flocknote email network. A Centennial banner created by Vicki Dau adorns the church worship space, while outdoor banners, designed by our team, are posted on the church and chapel, inviting the community to celebrate with us in spirit.

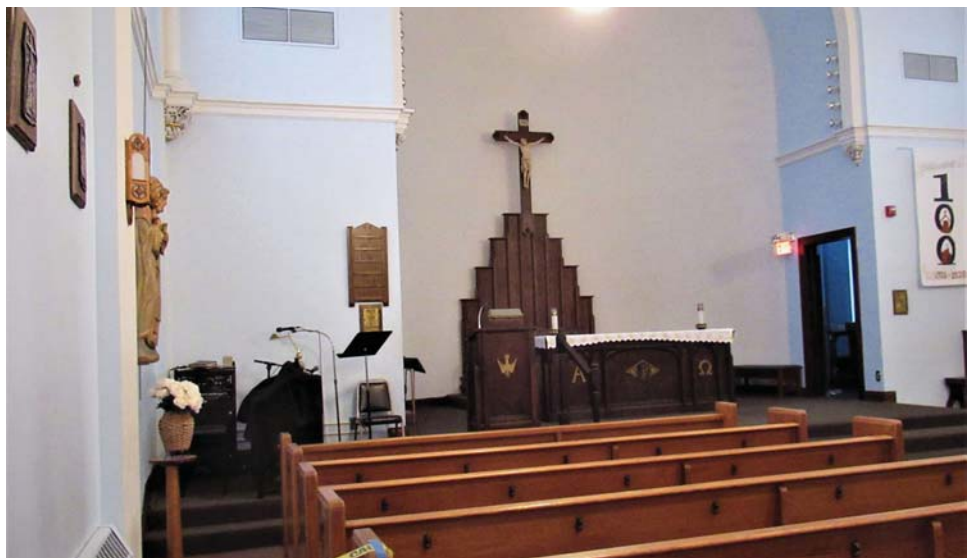
Culminating the year's celebration will be a Mass that is scheduled for the Feast of St. Isidore on Saturday, May 15 at 5:00 p.m. As of now, it is planned as a limited-seating safely distanced event that will be streamed live to our website home page and our Facebook page.

The pandemic altered all these plans, but God is smiling because the St. Isidore Parish is still a faith-filled community of people who still love and serve the Lord by continually serving others.

We confidently continue to build a future that is bright.



*planting seeds of faith – growing
as disciples – sharing the Gospel*



Harvester

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By Angie Orlando



Communication IS The Key

Yet how do you communicate when you can't meet in person? It happened last March and it is ongoing.

St. Isidore Ministries have skirted the problem and continue to meet and communicate. Okay, it's a little different but it works. And if you think ZOOM is little kids with their "Matchbox cars", think again. Last March when "in person" stopped not only in our community but in much of the world, the parishioners leaned into social media and many of our members learned how to ZOOM. For some, there was a learning curve, for others, it was just one more computer program.

CCW The Council of Catholic Women, CCW, couldn't stop meeting since they were in the midst of St. Joseph Table planning, Cookies for Kids, and wrapping up of fund-raising for the year. The first meeting via computer was different but the Board managed to figure out how to continue to provide funds for PADS and Neighborhood Food Pantries thanks to our generous parishioners. The General Meeting followed a week later and has continued each month through the year. Some members do not have computers but ZOOM allows them to continue to join the conversations via their phones.

KC The Knights of Columbus, did likewise. Grand Knight Ken Voelker indicated that they have continued their Officer Meeting via ZOOM during which they plan for the next member meeting and their monthly recitation of the Rosary. They continued to provide support to the Tootsie Roll Drive and funds for Waterleaf with the virtual Baby Bottle Drive.

FAITH FORMATION The Adult Faith Formation Office ZOOMed Bible Study and fifteen members studied Acts over the internet. Participants prepare the readings ahead of the meeting and after a pre-recorded presentation from Ascension Press, discuss that week's lesson along with input from Father Rey. A quick break followed during summer and the group began meeting again for Bible Study with a program on Jesus Revealed –Encountering Christ in His Biblical Names through Catholic Scripture Study. Films are viewed, then Father Rey Treyes guides the discussion that follows. The current Thursday evening Search Program is also meeting via ZOOM.

The Hispanic Community is doing similar Bible Study Programs via ZOOM according to Adult Formation Director Leonor Carvajal. They also meet via computer for Divine Mercy Prayers and a Holy Hour.

RE Vera Zielinski, Director of Religious Ed for K-6 grades, provided the Sacramental Workshop for Reconciliation in groups of about 10 and will continue that for First Eucharist Programs, and the Catechists Workshops at the beginning of the school year. Current staff meetings are held the same way.

SCHOOL Our K-8 school has been in session since the beginning of the school year. They have been using Google Meets and Microsoft Teams programs that function the same way as ZOOM.

What happens when a pandemic stops the world? We pray, ZOOM, and carry on.

Old Testament Scrambler

The Bible has been referred to as a “library” – a collection of books gathered together in one place. There are 73 books in the Bible. Below are 20 books, out of the 46 in the Old Testament, for you to unscramble

- | | | | |
|----|--------------------------------|----|-------|
| 1 | OASM | 1 | _____ |
| 2 | MROUDEYTON | 2 | _____ |
| 3 | SSMAPL | 3 | _____ |
| 4 | SSEENIG | 4 | _____ |
| 5 | SOAUJH | 5 | _____ |
| 6 | OHASE | 6 | _____ |
| 7 | DXUSOE | 7 | _____ |
| 8 | KZEELEI | 8 | _____ |
| 9 | DUHJTI | 9 | _____ |
| 10 | AAIHS | 10 | _____ |
| 11 | CSVIILTUEI | 11 | _____ |
| 12 | SEUAML | 12 | _____ |
| 13 | HSRTEE | 13 | _____ |
| 14 | BCAEMCSAE | 14 | _____ |
| 15 | EDNLAI | 15 | _____ |
| 16 | EEIMAHNH | 16 | _____ |
| 17 | LAIMHCA | 17 | _____ |
| 18 | EJLO | 18 | _____ |
| 19 | MJHAEIRE | 19 | _____ |
| 20 | OBJ (NOW THIS IS THE EASY ONE) | 20 | _____ |

REMEMBER BACK WHEN

The one-hundred-year anniversary for our St. Isidore Parish
Was surely to be a time to celebrate and a time to cherish.
But then 20*20 made memories that we will never forget,
When church life was not how it was originally set.
But hopefully soon we all will be saying....

“Remember Back When?”

You needed a seat reservation for a Mass on the weekend,
And you had to check in at a table before you could attend.
Hymns sung by the choir were not to be heard, way back then...

Remember Back When?

Sanitizing experts our ushers became.
For your hands and pews, with their bottles they came.
And a donation basket never was passed, way back then...

Remember Back When?

The mask was the stylish thing for all to wear;
EM's, lectors, deacons, priests – just everywhere.
And where were the altar servers you did ask.
In a pew with their parents, wearing a mask.
And that's how it was, way back then...

Remember Back When?

When the priest departed to the narthex, we would all sit down,
Waiting for our section to be called; leaving without a sound.
No hand shaking or holding hands was done, way back then...

Remember Back When?

Departing the service once was never a chore,
But gathering in the narthex was to be no more.
Smiles with our eyes only were allowed, way back then...

Remember Back When?

Meetings were limited to just a few
And Zoom came to be what people would do.
The bulletin – Harvester - parish communications all,
Turned to the wonders of the internet to answer the call.
“New normal” is what we named it, way back then...

Remember Back When?

At weddings and funerals few could attend.
Thoughts and our prayers were all we would send
Everything was so different, way back then...

Remember Back When?

From St. Isidore Church, parishioners were able to see
The Sacrifice of Mass celebrated on Sunday TV.
Grateful for this technology were we, way back then...

Remember Back When?

The pandemic is the reason is what we were saying
For how we were living, but never how we were praying.
So, 2020 good-bye to you;
No celebrating did we then do.
But survive we will and soon we will be saying...

REMEMBER BACK WHEN!

By Dorothy Jaskey

By Michael Fassbender



In nearly any Catholic church, you can find some representation of the Stations of the Cross. Whether as plaques, paintings, statues or panels of stained glass, they facilitate what is usually a very private form of devotion. This quiet contemplation has its origins in public processions undertaken in pilgrimages since late antiquity.

The fourth century marked a surge in pilgrimages to the Holy Land after Constantine ended the persecutions of Christianity. For those who thronged the streets of Jerusalem, they focused the most on a walk that emulated Christ's path to Calvary. As a way of vicariously participating in Christ's Passion, this activity was the essence of the pilgrimage. The habits of the crowds and the establishment of fixed sites like the Church of the Holy Sepulcher created a Way of the Cross, or Via Dolorosa. The Way of the Cross was formalized by the Franciscans after these sites were placed under their care in 1342.

As popular as pilgrimages have always been, only a small portion of the population could ever perform one. As early as the fifth century, simulations of the most significant sites were created in some places to facilitate a pilgrimage of the heart when the feet were unable to follow. This impulse attained a new

In His Footsteps: The History of the Stations of the Cross

permitted the emplacement of stations in any church, and in 1742 Benedict XIV raised this to positive encouragement.

The virtual pilgrimage continues to evolve: in recent decades, the Vatican has supplemented it by offering alternative versions founded solely on the Scriptures, and by encouraging a focus on the Resurrection at the end, sometimes manifesting itself as a fifteenth station.

urgency in the fifteenth century, when the Turks began to deny passage to pilgrims and to forbid public acts of Christian veneration in territories under their control. By way of compensation, in 1686 Pope Innocent XI authorized the Franciscans to install reproductions of the Stations in their churches; he also extended the indulgences normally applying to the pilgrimage to the visitation of such reproductions. In 1726, that rule was generalized from the friars to apply to the entire Church.

Until this point, no official list of the Stations enjoyed general currency. In some places, the number of stations ranged as high as 37. Then in 1731, Pope Clement XII established fourteen stations as the rule, including several with no scriptural basis but reflecting the traditions of the Via Dolorosa. He also



K-6 Religious Education: Imparting Faith in a Year of Challenge

By Penni Cannova

The Harvester checked in recently with leaders of two vital missions at our parish: the education of our young people in their faith, both elementary age and continuing on to middle and high school.

Vera Zielinski, Director of K-6 Religious Education, described the work of faith formation for our younger students in this most unusual year. At the onset of the instruction year, Vera, with school and other church leaders, envisioned methods to hold Religious Education in person. They concluded that it could not be done safely, as all classes are held inside of St. Isidore School after hours on Tuesday and Wednesday, and also on Saturday. While enough time could be gained after Saturday classes to clean properly, they could not ensure the same after Tuesday and Wednesday night RE classes before school students entered classrooms the next morning.

Though faith formation needed to be remote for K-6, Vera held in-person, large meetings and the Sacrament of Confession, with one parent accompanying one child for each. She related how special it felt to parents to be able to do this in person, and also do so safely. Some families not comfortable with coming into the church were certainly excused.

Vera, who had always designed her own curriculum for delivery for both in-person classes and those held at home in the past with Families in Faith, decided with all students remote she needed a family-friendly, unified and bilingual curriculum. Choosing the theme, “Faith Strong”, she purchased a program, Sunday Visitor, and augmented it with her own creation of flip grids. With every family working on religious education at home, these flip grids allow each child to do the lesson on their own, by chapter, and perform their own self-assessment. Vera added video content to engage the learners, emphasizing the week’s Reading with a Bible story. Vera also offered activities outside of the flip grid for students who wished to do more. Each week she sends a Family Faith newsletter highlighting saints and a weekly reading.



Every month all RE students and catechists meet in a large group gathering held in the church. Families reserve seats. Vera utilizes this time to tie together the lessons of the season. At the October large meeting, she presented the ties between Halloween, Day of the Dead and All Saints and All Souls feast days. She created a Day of the Dead altar which she said was a hit with the families. In December, she taught the traditions of Advent and Christmas.

Catechists are still essential to the program. In this most unusual year, they do not actually teach but they check in with their class’ families. They also help monitor the sacramental preparation in each family this way.

Connect Youth Ministries

Confirmation Preparation in a Year of Change

Our next level of Faith Formation, Connect Youth Ministries (CYM), has had its own very unusual year, also with many lessons and even new understandings.

Arizbeth Alcaraz described for the Harvester how she and Terri Majeski have shared with their students and catechists the challenges and surprises of this year. Following CDC protocol, CYM was actually able to convene in person this year. With initial plans for a hybrid model, in which a group would meet in-person and the next time at home, they soon made a realization. Their enrollment numbers dropped so they could convene completely in person.

Right at the start, they juggled two responsibilities: moving forward with the Sacrament of Confirmation postponed from last May to mid-October, and full force into the new year with CYM 101, the prerequisite class for confirmation, and CYM Confirmation Preparation. These names were recently changed in order to welcome students and the time and age at which they are ready to begin the confirmation process.

Arizbeth noticed at the first classes that kids were not interacting under new socially-distance rules, so she and Terri initiated ice breakers – with hula hoops to maintain distance. They continued with different ice breakers, combining the games with prayer to start each class. They shortened the sessions to follow best practices and have been able to continue the year in person, a blessing named by Arizbeth.

Arizbeth has noted a marked increase in attendance: the students who are here attend more faithfully than in prior years. And, only one family is working remotely, as they have a compromised family member to protect. Arizbeth



continues to include this family in the larger gatherings by booking the secluded, glassed-in ‘cry’ room at the back of the main church for their safe participation during the meetings. She was struck by a 98% attendance rate on the sponsor evening, higher than ever, and feels that those in attendance are more focused than at other similar meetings in years past.

Arizbeth and Terri are not able to schedule Teen Mass yet, as the number of participants could exceed safe levels even in our main sanctuary. And, addressing the drop in overall attendance, Arizbeth spoke to the difficulties families have faced, some working two part-time jobs to provide for their families, that they didn’t feel they could commit to coming to CYM each week. Arizbeth and Terri sympathize and are eager to welcome these families in the future.

This year, Confirmation will take place over May 7 and 8, in three sessions: in the evening on the 7th, and in the morning and afternoon on the 8th.



By Abigail Defino

It's Set Up Day!

Art & Environment at St. Isidore

If you've ever stopped and looked at or admired our worship space during a mass or other service at St. Isidore Parish, you've gotten a glimpse into the work of our Art and Environment team.

Art and Environment, or A&E, as we like to call it, is a group of talented, hardworking parishioners who strive to make our church as beautified as possible for every liturgical season and holiday.

A&E meets a few times a year. We do not have a consistent meeting schedule, but our meetings typically consist of one meeting before a major set up, such as Lent, Easter or Advent and Christmas and then a "set up" day. At our meetings we will discuss how we'd like to enhance our church for this particular time, and brainstorm ways of doing things to switch things up from ways it has been done in the past. Everyone always has an opportunity to give their input, and new ideas. Constructive criticism is always welcome!

Set up day, everyone comes knowing what needs to get done, and ready to work! The team divides and conquers different tasks, until everything is complete. There are many duties to assign every time we meet, including taking down items that were up in the church, and bringing them back into storage. The team never fails to work together to come up with wonderful new ideas, and make the church look enriched.

The St. Isidore maintenance team is a huge help when it comes to moving heavy items or hanging our large banners above the choir. Our pastoral staff is also helpful when it comes to approving new ideas!

The A&E group did have to pause meetings for a period of time, due to the pandemic, but we have recently joined together once again (with less snacks, and more masks!) to continue our calling. The A&E team does not only work diligently to adorn our church, but everyone also works to check in on members of our team, make everyone feel welcome, and incorporate everyone's new ideas and thoughts. We are blessed to have such a lovely group taking such great care of our parish and look forward to seeing what they will do next!



There's No Place Like Home!

The first of firsts seems to be an ongoing theme, even into the new year here at St. Isidore. As our parish and school embark on 100 years of planting, growing and sharing with our St. Isidore community, a grand celebration has been in planning since 2017, to mark this milestone. However, Covid-19 had other plans. And so, we were struck with the decision to forgo all of the efforts of past and present faculty, parishioners, and families OR press on and innovate once again. And so, we chose the latter.



We are eternally grateful for the continued support of our parish community. Thank you for believing in us! We are just shy of reaching our \$100,000 goal, in honor of 100 years! Another \$25,000 would ensure our school may launch its next phase of Advancement Initiatives.

As we all know, 2020 was a uniquely challenging year. Our students are navigating classes under far from ideal conditions. Our faculty and staff are working harder than ever to provide outstanding instruction. Using a STEM

focused curriculum, in partnership with Microsoft, our goal is to become a Microsoft Showcase School. While we are a 1:1 school, some of our classes are using aging Chromebooks that need to be replaced with Surface Pros. Our "vintage" networking equipment needs to be replaced as well. Our plan is to upgrade our shared internet connection to a dedicated fiber connection, alleviating much of the network congestion (and frustration) we have been experiencing with remote teaching and learning.

With your investment, you're not only supporting our current students and faculty/staff, you're supporting the future of St Isidore Catholic School. Think of your own sons and daughters currently attending, or your children who have graduated already, or the children who will attend SICS in the years to come. Catholic education is a gift and at St. Isidore, we are committed to ensuring we continue to pivot and evolve with the ever changing times to secure its future. Our ask: Would you consider us in your annual gift contributions and help pave the way into the next 100 years? We humbly ask

for your continued help in funding our growing technology programming, as we continue to meet the needs of 21st century teaching and learning.

If you have already given, we graciously thank you! You are the reason we continue to thrive.

Happy 100th, St. Isidore! Into the next 100 years!

Gloria Lorusso, Director of Advancement for St. Isidore Catholic School and a proud Alumni parent. For inquiries regarding the Centennial Gala Fundacause Campaign, please contact her at youbelong@saintisidoreschool.org

On February 20, 2021, Your St. Isidore hosted its first ever, Virtual Gala: "There's No Place Like Home!" Months of swift action planning came together in the form of an incredible production, which was launched by a livestreamed mass, celebrated by Father Jim Murphy. The production was a mix of live and previously narrated clips of our parish and school heritage; Interviews with voices of past and present, along with comical parody's and birthday wishes from our former pastors and a special message from Bishop Hicks. What a wonderful celebration it was!

If you were not able to join us, or would like to relive this momentous event, please see the archive on our parish page: www.stisidoreparish.org



A PERSONAL REFLECTION: WAS JESUS “NICE”?

By Bill Tice

Our first reaction is probably: “Obviously, yes”, but was He? Webster’s has several definitions for “nice”, the first being ‘pleasant, agreeable’. Nobody was more loving and compassionate than Jesus. He willingly offered His love and compassion to everybody who acknowledged their need for it. Yet, He was very honest and direct. A wise priest once said that love and compassion are a function of truth. Jesus said and did everything based on truth regardless of whether listeners were unhappy or even “offended” by it. Loving and compassionate, absolutely, but not always pleasant or agreeable (i.e. nice).

Primary examples are the topics of sin, judgment, and hell. While St. Paul is commonly blamed for many uncomfortable Bible passages, Jesus spoke far more often about these

topics than Paul or anyone else did. Judgment and even hell is a main theme in many parables. Jesus addressed the religious leaders as “a brood of vipers” and “whitewashed tombs” and even angrily overturned the moneychangers’ tables in the Temple. When the rich young man went away sad after Jesus told him to give away his possessions, Jesus didn’t apologize for insensitivity to his feelings. He even said, “Get behind me, Satan” to Peter who protested Jesus’ foretelling of His suffering and death.

At the root of this question of whether Jesus was and is nice is our image of God. The late Baptist minister Adrian Rogers began his radio program powerfully proclaiming, “In the beginning, God made man in His own image and likeness”. Then pausing and lowering his voice, he continued,

“and we have been returning the favor ever since”. Or as St. Augustine said, “If you believe what you like in the Gospel and reject what you don’t like, it is not the Gospel you believe, but yourself”. So do we believe God as He revealed Himself through Scripture and Sacred Tradition or do we believe only what we want to believe?

Bottom Line: if Jesus were always nice, He would have apologized to the authorities and anyone else offended by what might be labeled as “hate speech” today. He wouldn’t have been crucified and his approval ratings would probably have skyrocketed. However, such “niceness” would have deprived us of the greatest possible gift, the opportunity to have our sins forgiven and the hope of Heaven. So please consider: was Jesus “nice”?



**KNIGHTS
OF COLUMBUS**
IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.

This pandemic, with its mask wearing and social distancing, does not keep our Knights of Columbus men from doing good for our parish.



The Knights provided Honor Guards for the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe on December 12, and for Simbang Gabi on December 18, 2020.

Grand Knight Ken Voelker and Treasurer Don Lively presented a \$500 check to Father Jim, at a recent school Mass, for the annual Paul Greening / Gene Osowski Scholarship to the Parish School.

Tribute TO OUR SNOWMEN



DAN TOBIN

MARK STEVENS

GUS SERIO

As we all know, this has been a miserable winter. Neither snow, wind, nor sleet has hindered our hard-working maintenance men. Our huge parking lots and our walkways have been their challenging domain, but with determination and warm layered clothing they mastered the tasks. Working in the wee hours of the morning and hours upon hours during the day, they gave us safe parking and walking areas upon which we could maneuver.

Dan, Mark, Gus...Gentlemen...we do so appreciate you!!!

THANK YOU

Thank You

THANK YOU



1 AMOS	7 EXODUS	13 ESTHER	19 JEREMIAH
2 DEUTERONOMY	8 EZEKIEL	14 MACCABEES	20 JOB (the easy one)
3 PSALMS	9 JUDITH	15 DANIEL	
4 GENESIS	10 ISAIAH	16 NEHEMIAH	
5 JOSHUA	11 LEVITICUS	17 MALACHI	
6 HOSEA	12 SAMUEL	18 JOEL	





ST. ISIDORE
— PARISH —

Centennial Celebration

1920 - 2020

