



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
INSIDE
and more

Our Deacons

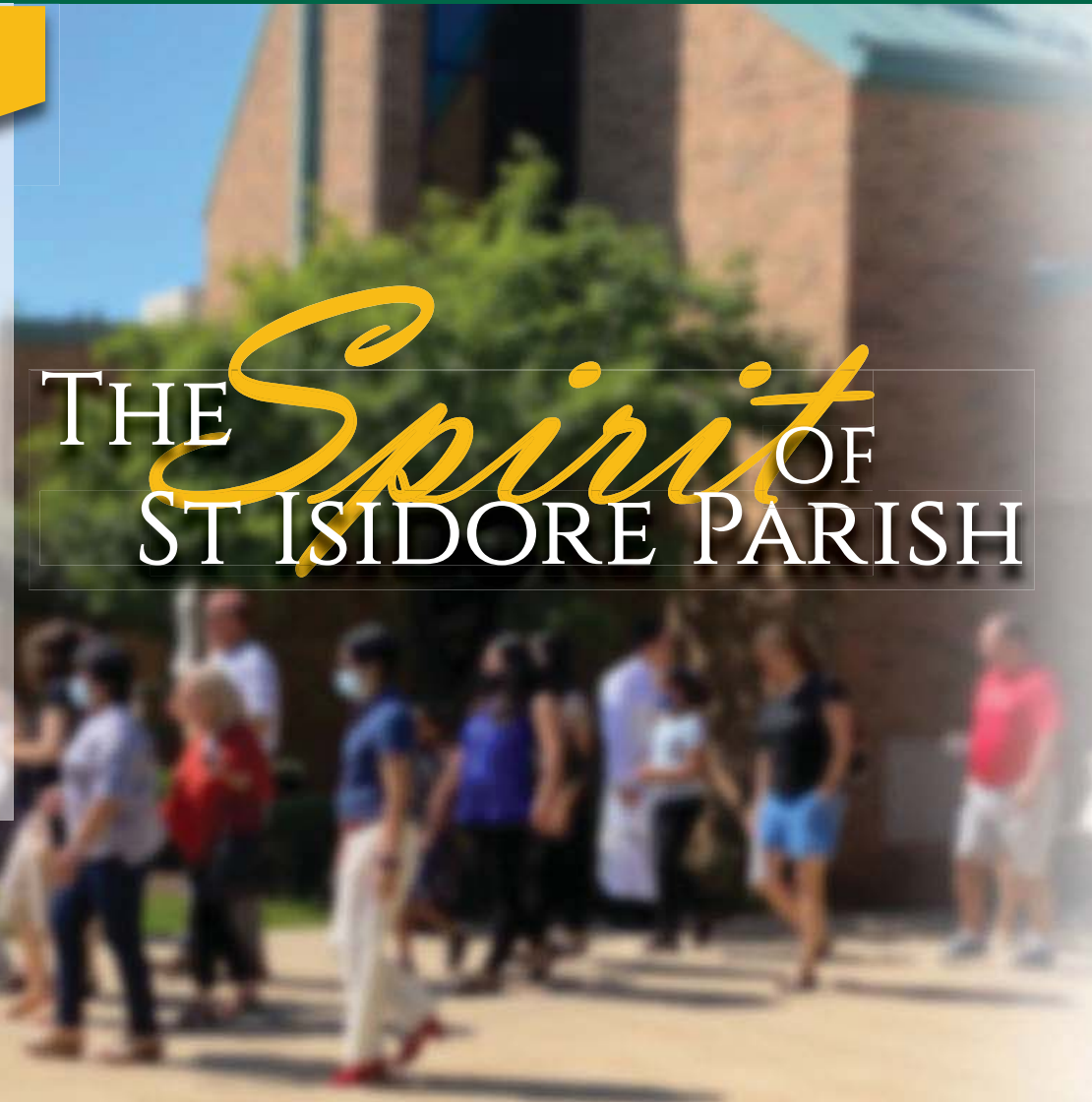
The
Communion
of Saints

Sacrament of
the Spirit

Important
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Explore

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and
Help Wanted

THE *Spirit* OF ST ISIDORE PARISH



OUR DEACONS

There are two kinds of deacons - transitional and permanent - most need to balance their ministry with family life.

By Abby Defino

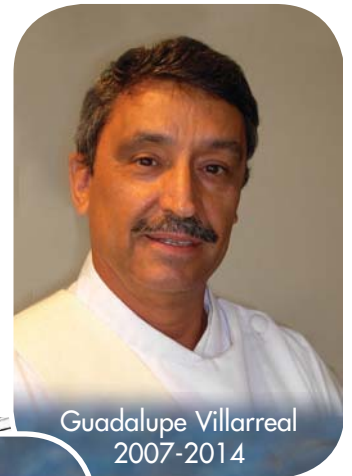
Alongside our dedicated priests we have here at St. Isidore, are their right-hands during masses, sacraments and other church and parish events – our deacons. Currently, we have four deacons serving our parish, Deacon Terry Cummiskey, Deacon Daniel Defino, Deacon Terry Neary and Deacon Hung Nguyen.

Deacons have many duties and can perform a variety of tasks within and outside of church. These include, but not limited to, assisting at mass, proclaiming the gospel, and occasionally preaching a homily. They can also perform sacraments and other rites like baptisms, weddings and funerals, outside of the mass. By definition, deacons are servants, so they are always involved in other ministries outside of mass and sacraments as well. Some of their involvement outside of the parish can include ministering to the sick, the imprisoned and the homeless. Some deacons also have been involved as Eucharistic Ministers to the nursing homes.

Regarding the process of becoming a deacon, formation is almost five years long, and there are many requirements and steps they must take before they reach Ordination. Schooling is through the Joliet Diocese, at the Blanchette Center diocesan office in Crest Hill. Once schooling is complete, ordination for deacons is held once every two years, at



John Freund
1997-2012



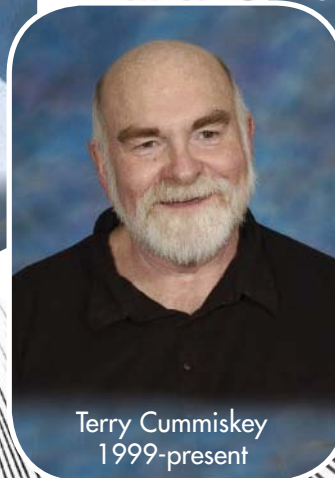
Guadalupe Villarreal
2007-2014



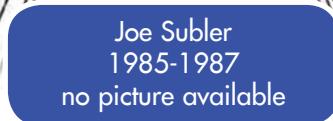
Don Randolph
1999-2013



Ken Jackson
1988-2007



Terry Cummiskey
1999-present



Joe Subler
1985-1987
no picture available

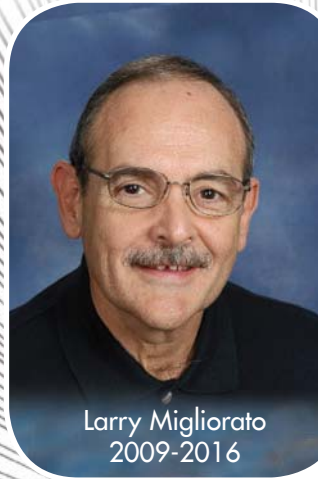
Our Deacons

St. Raymond's Cathedral in Joliet. Requirements to begin the process of becoming a Deacon include a background check, a psychological evaluation and almost five years of classes to prepare. You must be at least 35 years old before you begin formation, and no older than 60, and of course, you must be Catholic, and have made received all your Sacraments.

Although deacons are considered "ordained ministers", there are a few tasks they cannot perform within the church, which a priest can. The main differences are that priests can consecrate the Eucharist, hear confession, and anoint the sick, while deacons cannot. Another important thing to note, is that all priests are deacons first - even the Pope! So every priest you see today was, at one point, a deacon that then progressed on to becoming a priest.

There are two kinds of deacons - transitional and permanent. Transitional deacons eventually move on and become a priest, while permanent deacons plan not to move past that. Permanent deacons can transition at a point, if they are no longer married; most permanent deacons need to balance their ministry with their family life.

All in all, there is no doubt our deacons play a huge role in masses and other parish events. On top of assisting our priests with all that's going on here at St. Isidore, they continue to be gracious and supportive members of our parish, ready to serve wherever they are led, for all who need them.



Larry Migliorato
2009-2016



Oscar Monterroso
2014-2020



Terry Neary
2018-present



Dan Defino
2018-present



Hung Nguyen
2020 - present

Harvester

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URGENT NEED



On a personal note... Many a time after meeting with a client and hearing the sad story, I drive home in tears. I am so thankful that Our Lord has allowed me to meet, pray with and know this special person. And I am ever so grateful for the opportunity to be part of a group that has the funds to help pay these troubling bills.

In a previous issue Penni Cannova wrote a most informative article about the Helping Hands Ministry (formerly called St. Vincent de Paul).

During the pandemic many people were unable to pay their utility bills, rent and/or mortgage. To help those in need, the government granted a grace period in many cases and the bill payments were postponed.

But as of August the moratorium on these payments is removed. The bills must now be paid; the amounts due are tremendous. The St. Isidore Helping Hands Ministry (HHM) is available to help, but our funds are limited. You can call 630-295-8364 and a HHM team member will be able to offer some assistance.

Among other sources that might be able to help are:

Catholic Charities	630-495-8008
Peoples Resource	630-682-5402
Salvation Army	630-629-4948
DuPage County	800-942-9412
Bloomington Township	630-529-9993
Carol Stream Outreach	630-260-7600

For monetary assistance in particular for gas or electric bills contact:

LIHEAP	630-407-6500
NICOR	630-388-2667
COMED	877-411-9276

A budget can possibly be arranged.

There may still be rental help available for DuPage County residents from the Illinois Housing Department. The County is working with IHDA; applications can be obtained from the website www.wihda.org

The pandemic has taken its toll on all our lives. Lack of money to pay these overdue bills is a burden but the HHM can offer some relief. Parishioners who are part of HHM feel blessed:

Kathy Calero – Dorothy Jaskey – Totie Leonardo
Deacon Terry Neary – Carroll Madison – Jack Sassmann
Dianne Troutman – Frank Zappa

Talk to these parishioners to be inspired to join them in helping people with financial burdens.

And of course, any financial donation you wish to give is greatly appreciated. Just add on the memo section of the check or on an envelope "Helping Hands Ministry".

Which Came First...

Which came first...the chicken or the egg???

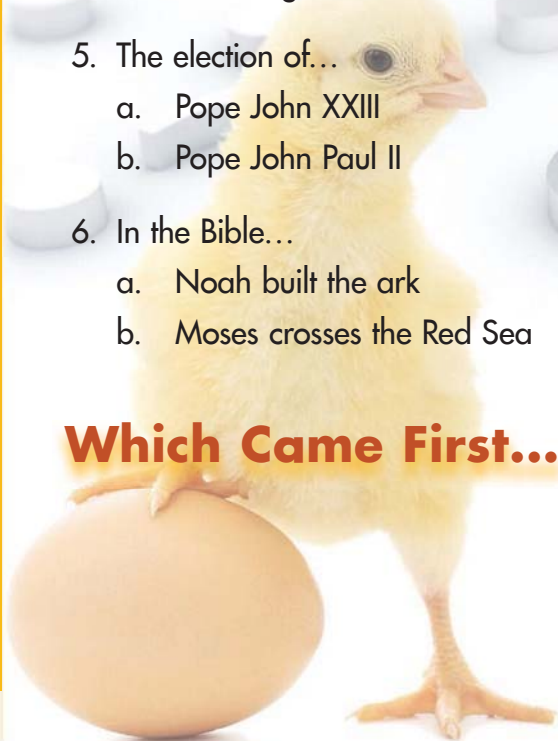
Now that is the "ultimate" question.

You smile, as you ponder this proverbial challenge.

Here are a few chronological order questions for you to master:

1. The birth of...
 - a. Isaac
 - b. Ishmael
2. The Vatican appointment of...
 - a. Daniel Conlon (Bishop of Joliet)
 - b. Blase Cupich (Archbishop of Chicago)
3. The reign as King of Israel ...
 - a. Solomon
 - b. David
4. In the Gospel of John...
 - a. Baptism of Jesus
 - b. Wedding feast at Cana
5. The election of...
 - a. Pope John XXIII
 - b. Pope John Paul II
6. In the Bible...
 - a. Noah built the ark
 - b. Moses crosses the Red Sea
7. The construction at St. Isidore Parish of...
 - a. The Adoration Chapel
 - b. The Reservation Chapel
8. At the Sea of Galilee ...
 - a. Jesus walks on water
 - b. Jesus calms the wind and the waves
9. The ordination of ...
 - a. Deacon John Freund
 - b. Deacon Terry Cumiskey
10. Paul's preaching at...
 - a. Antioch
 - b. Philippi
11. The appointment as pastor at St. Isidore Church...
 - a. Rev. Anthony Taschetta
 - b. Rev. Joel Fortier
12. In the New Testament...
 - a. The Beatitudes
 - b. The Lord's Prayer
13. Which came first...
 - a. Chicken
 - b. Egg

Which Came First...





In the Apostles' Creed, we confess our belief in the Communion of Saints. For many, the significance of this belief is unclear. Briefly, this teaching can be thought of as the unity of the Church in all of God's Kingdom.

The Church encompasses all who are in Heaven, and all who wait for entry into Heaven in Purgatory, as well as us here on Earth. We're on different points in the same journey; we're also all integral parts of the Mystical Body of Christ, and so we are all able to help each other, even on opposite sides of the apparent divide presented by bodily death. We can appeal to the Saints in Heaven to pray for us, just as we can pray for the souls in Purgatory.

Indeed, this is what we commemorate on All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day. While the term does not refer to Communion in the sense of the Eucharist, it is related: the consumption of Christ's Body and Blood affirms and perfects our place in His Mystical Body. At the same time, it is also a union effected by the Holy Spirit, beginning with Pentecost and joining each of us into the Church through our own baptisms.

The Communion of Saints is believed to have entered the Apostles' Creed relatively late, but the process by which the Church Fathers came to understand this doctrine is not

ONE BODY: The Communion of Saints

clearly represented in surviving texts. It probably appeared around the fifth century. Some of this attention may conceivably have been sparked in response to challenges from heterodox (not orthodox) movements, including one that rejected the veneration

of saints; more fundamentally, however, the idea of the Communion of Saints flows organically from Scripture. The strongest influences would be our conception of Baptism itself, and Paul's teachings about the Church as Christ's Mystical Body.

Later Church Fathers addressed the idea in greater detail, with the teaching approaching its modern form under the formidable attentions of St. Thomas Aquinas. This vision sees the Church Militant on Earth, the Church Penitent in Purgatory and the Church Triumphant in Heaven actively working for the benefit of each other. Even the faithful angels are a part of this system, although they never needed forgiveness, because they stand under Christ's authority.

In parallel to the Holy Trinity, the three states of the Church are united, and we too are saints in the meaning of the term that Paul used in his writings. We fulfill our place in the Communion of Saints when, by our prayers and deeds, we serve each other on Earth and the faithfully departed, and when we honor the saints in heaven and ask them for their intercession.

The Sacrament of Confirmation is, like Baptism a once in a lifetime event that deepens the faith received at Baptism. It has been likened to a coming of age, or maturity. In talking to the Connect Youth Ministries Co-Coordinator Terri Majeski and Arizbeth Alcaraz, it is similar but not quite.



Sacrament of the Spirit

By Angela Orlando

The first confirmation took place on Pentecost when the Holy Spirit descended on those gathered in fear. Afterwards they were no longer afraid and were filled with inspiration and strength to carry the teachings of Christ to the world. Confirmation confers the seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit which go all the way back to the Old Testament: Wisdom, Understanding, Right Judgement, Courage, Knowledge, Reverence and Fear (awe) of the Lord.

The year of the pandemic threw everything off but the normal process is really interesting. The earliest Confirmation preparation can begin is the fall of seventh grade. The program is a two year process from September to end of April: CYM101 is the prerequisite, followed by the second year for Confirmation Prep. Teens meet weekly, in small groups with a facilitator. The process begins by helping the students grow in their relationship with Jesus, and their call to be his disciples. Teen groups work through their understanding of the work of the Holy Spirit. For some of them, the light comes on as they work through the year. It is a gradual process and by meeting each week, they begin to work through various assignments and become active in the liturgy as they become stronger Disciples of Christ.

When the Confirmandi reach eighth grade or high school, they study the liturgy and prayers of the church. For some, it's an enhancement and for others it brings them a better understanding of what it means to be a member of the Body of Christ. Their service project during this year may include, packing food for food pantries or working with other organizations that provide service to the community. These show their commitment to others. During this time, they may have a teen companion to help them. These are

usually older teens who have gone through the process and help them figure out where they fit in the Communion of Saints.

Candidates must choose a sponsor. A sponsor can be a relative, even a grandparent (not a parent), their baptismal sponsor or any confirmed catholic over the age of 16 that the candidate feels is a good faith role model. Since Baptism and Confirmation are so closely connected, candidates are encouraged to keep their Baptism name for confirmation. The final preparation step before they are confirmed, normally in late Spring, is to write a letter to the pastor explaining why they want to be confirmed. This is followed by an interview with the candidate, their sponsor, and the pastor or one of our associates or deacons.

Whenever possible, Confirmation is celebrated by a Bishop, who anoints each candidate with the sacred Chrism upon their forehead saying "Be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit." This strengthens them in their commitment to live their lives as disciples of the Lord Jesus. Confirmation candidates attending St. Isidore Catholic Grade School follow a similar process in their 7th and 8th grade religion classes.

Converts may follow the same or truncated procedures and be confirmed at the Easter Vigil celebration.



Important Questions BUT OFTEN UNEXPLORED

By Penni Cannova

The Harvester recently spoke with Dan Tobin, Director of Administration, and “Knower” of many wonderful aspects of our parish.

Our topic was one that many folks might shy away from, but a necessary one for peace of mind: planning for our eventual passing from this earth. The Harvester wished to ask some of the questions that may be on the minds of many to help each of us move forward with planning.

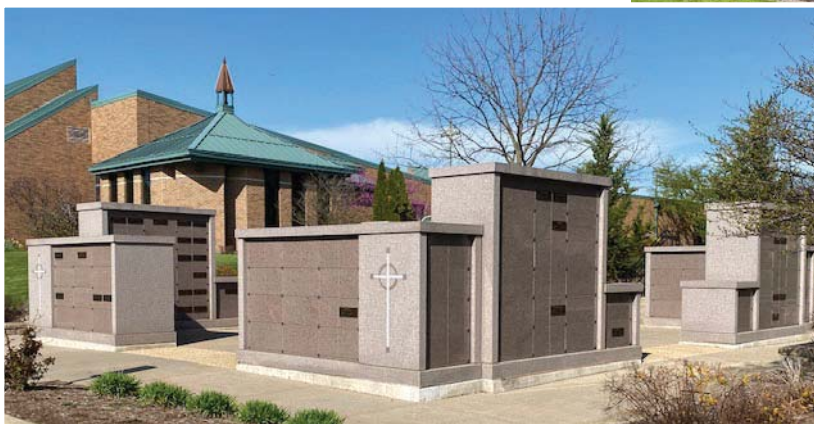
Surprisingly to this Harvester member, Dan explained that our cemetery is effectively at full capacity, either sold or occupied. The parish owns a few plots, and these were purchased from families who had moved out of state and no longer needed the plots. Our columbarium, designed by architects and the parish, opened in 2012, allows St. Isidore to commit the cremated remains of their loved ones in a setting on church grounds, as the cemetery has provided in the past.

Interestingly, the Catholic Church began allowing cremation post-Vatican II, offering this choice to all Catholics for more than fifty years now. A columbarium inurns all cremains in an above-ground setting. Our columbarium offers three options for interment: Single, Single Shared, and Companion niches. The Single Shared is the same size as the Single, but allows two urns to be placed in the opening. The Companion niche is roomier, allowing for broader choice of urns, the addition of a favored artifact or item such as a medal or pair of signature glasses, for instance, or a note to be tucked in.

Our parish website actually has specific information on our Columbarium listed under “About Us”. The tab for Columbarium shows a map with specific diagrams of each quadrant, showing each spot, and exact pricing. One could peruse the map, pricing chart and read further about the columbarium at one’s own pace, and email right from that webpage, or phone, with further inquiries. Dan said that pricing includes all openings and closings of the niches.

When cremains are inurned, prayers, a reading and a blessing always accompany the ceremony. Afterward, a nameplate is placed on the niche that includes name, year of birth and year of death. If it is a Shared or Companion spot, it can be opened later for the inurnment of a spouse or loved one. After the cremains are placed, the next loved one’s nameplate is finalized with the year of death.

Dan Tobin encourages all parishioners to take care of this eventual need before it is needed, as a gift to one’s children and family.



Removing this worry from a child or spouse can be a great gift.

Nativity House

By Lee Lansford

The Pro-Life Action Ministry (PLAM) on Saturday, June 5, sponsored a tour of Nativity House in Lockport. Nativity House serves as a house of hospitality for first-time mothers in need of residence.

The founders and co-directors of Nativity House are Venus and Justin Wozniak. They purchased the property in 2013 with the intent of providing a place of residence for first-time mothers who have chosen life instead of abortion. The house can be home to two such women at a time. The women may live at the house the first year rent-free and counseling services are available to them to prepare for self-sufficiency.

The land is five private acres and has livestock (goats for milk and cheese, chickens for eggs) and gardens. When PLAM members delivered needed baby diapers that were donated by generous PLAM donors, they were treated to a tour of the grounds and outside views of the facilities.



Our Busy PLAM Parishioners

In the 90's when Bishop Siegel was an associate pastor at St. Isidore Church, he and the Knights of Columbus had a marker placed in memory of aborted babies. (photo). A few months ago, the Pro-Life Action Ministry (PLAM) members initiated plans to incorporate a new monument to form a single "Memorial to the Victims of Abortion".

The new marker (proposed rendition) would be placed near the image of Mary and the Pieta adjacent to the parish cemetery. Our current memorial will be placed in front of the new one. Donations were sought to cover the cost of \$6,000 as well as the expense of constructing a concrete foundation. Thanks to overwhelming financial support, in less than four months, the funds were realized and the memorial was ordered. The granite for it comes from Italy (domestic granite would take less time, but cost over 30% more).

Since the funding surpassed the goal, the extra monies will be distributed to Nativity House in Lockport and Waterleaf Women's Center in Aurora.



Before Confirmation, we probably learned the seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit from Isaiah 11:1-2 and Chapter 1831 of the Catechism: wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord.

The first six probably seem desirable to us, but what about the fear of the Lord? Little is said about it today. Understandably, it sounds like something to avoid rather than a gift.

However, its meaning is greatly misunderstood. All of us have fears. Some are healthy (example: “don’t play with fire!”). Others are misplaced or exaggerated (example: not leaving one’s home because something bad may happen). Either example is essentially negative.

“Fear of the Lord” conjures up images of our timidly cowering along in anticipation that God is looking to punish us for even our slightest misstep. There are some negative aspects such as fear of sin, evil, and ultimately, Hell (aka servile fear). Although this mindset is actually far better than ignoring, disrespecting, or not even

believing in God, it’s not the full meaning. Rather fear of the Lord is also a healthy sense of awe, reverence, and honor that God alone deserves (aka filial fear). It’s an invitation to speak of and praise Him freely, acknowledging the reality that none of us is God and implies a dependence on Him.

The first six Gifts of the Spirit become real and alive within us when we have a filial fear of the Lord. As examples, we receive the wisdom and understanding to face life’s challenges when we honor the one, true God. He also gives us fortitude (aka courage) to stand up for what is right and true because we are ultimately judged by how God sees us, not by how anyone else does.

The fear of the Lord is truly a positive gift. A few of several hundred references to the fear of the Lord in Scripture are:

- 1.) “The fear of the Lord is **the beginning of wisdom**, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.”
(Proverbs 9:10)
- 2.) “In the fear of the Lord is **strong confidence** ...”
(Proverbs 14:26)
- 3.) “The fear of the Lord is **a fountain of life**, to depart from the snares of death.”
(Proverbs 14:27)

The fear of the Lord is not restrictive; it frees us to be the persons whom God has called us to be.



Fear of the Lord: A Surprising Gift



Into the Next 100 Years!

We did it! Amid the looming Covid-19 pandemic, a full school year was brought to a successful completion on June 2, 2021. Together, we were able to hit this milestone. And together, we look ahead, into the next 100 years of “Teaching the Heart” of the matter.

Some history...Just a handful of months after the first Mass celebrated in St. Isidore Church, the Parish expanded its reach of service with the addition of a grade school. The goal of the church was always to serve the needs of the community. And its parish families knew the importance of practicing their faith, not just on Sunday. They were seeking more than academic values for their children. They wanted the learning experience to be rounded out by the teaching of spiritual values and social growth, while the foundational principles of their Catholic Christian faith were incorporated. One where Jesus was at the center of every aspect of development. And so, St. Isidore Catholic School opened its doors on September 18th, 1921, to once again, meet the needs of the parish community.

Fun Fact: Ironically, our school was incepted at the same time of the Spanish flu pandemic, 100 years ago. What an interesting parallel? And look at how far we have come!

We are so proud of our students, families, faculty and parish members for the evolution and support of St. Isidore Catholic School. Through this century of growth and advancement, our roots and treasured traditions have enabled us to embrace new innovations which will launch us into the next 100 years. So we remember and we humbly thank you, our parish family, for your devotion to our school. YOU are the true examples of discipleship!

Looking ahead,
Gloria Lorusso

Gloria Lorusso is the Director of Advancement for St. Isidore Catholic School and a proud Alumni parent. For school inquiries, contact her at youbelong@saintisidoreschool.org



**THE SECRET OF
GETTING AHEAD IS
GETTING STARTED**

MARK TWAIN

HELP WANTED

Over thirty years ago Michael Hatt envisioned a parish publication that “shares the vitality of our faith community”. Thanks to the tireless energy of Paul Greening, the Harvester became a reality.

“Help Wanted” signs for workers seem to be everywhere, including even in our parish bulletin. Well now the Harvester is seeking volunteers. We need additional writers and especially a photographer. Experience is not necessary (but for the photographer, a camera would be important). You say, “I’m not a writer”; that’s OK. The staff is here to help and encourage.

There are three to four editions per year and that means there are two meetings per each edition – an assignment meeting and then an editing one. The meetings are truly a delight (in other words – it is a fun get-together).

Through the Harvester, you help spread the Good News; our parish activities and aspirations of are Our Lord’s Love in action.

If you need encouragement this is a ministry you would enjoy, just talk to a Harvester staff member...
Penni Cannova – Abby Defino –
Michael Fassbender – Dorothy Jaskey –
Diane Limanowski – Kathy Lopez – Angie Orlando.
For more details and convincing, call 630-307-0872.

**JOIN OUR
TEAM**

Which came first...

1. Which came first, the birth of...
 - a. Ishmael
2. Which came first, the Vatican appointment of...
 - a. Daniel Conlon (Bishop of Joliet)
3. Which came first, the reign as King of Israel ...
 - b. David
4. Which came first, in the Gospel of John...
 - b. Wedding feast at Cana
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 - a. Pope John XXIII
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 - b. Rev. Joel Fortier
11. Which came first, the appointment as pastor at St. Isidore Church...
 - a. The Beatitudes
12. Which came first, in the New Testament...

????
13. Which came first the Chicken or the Egg

