



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



Christmas Blessings

As we prepare for the celebration of the birth of Jesus, may you find time to offer your gratitude for the many blessings you have. We pray the joy and peace that this holy season brings will continue in your lives throughout the new year.

The "Harvesters"

** Abby * Angie * Diane * Dorothy *
* Gloria * Kathy * Michael * Penni **



OCIA Sponsor
Responsibilities
Word Search

Unseen Miracle
Empowering
Students

**Stories
INSIDE**
and more

OCIA SPONSOR RESPONSIBILITIES

By Abby Catania

The process for adults interested in joining the Catholic Church is an intricate and rewarding experience.

The OCIA, formerly the RCIA, stands for the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults, and is the process which individuals complete to join the Catholic Church. While there is much involved in the process – forms to fill out, meetings to attend, discussions to be had – one main aspect of the formation is the sponsor.

All candidates, on their journey to the church, choose a sponsor to help guide them down their path and grow in their faith in a multitude of ways, and I'm sure it is not a decision that anyone takes lightly. Candidates, or catechumens, can choose whomever they'd like to be their sponsor, as long as they check a few boxes. These guidelines include

- being over 16 years of age
- living a life of faith
- being confirmed
- not being the father or mother of the candidate
- having received the Eucharist

St. Isidore provides a Confirmation Sponsor Eligibility Form to be filled out by all chosen sponsors and their candidates prior to the beginning of the OCIA program.

Sponsors are required to assist the candidate throughout the OCIA process, which runs from September to Pentecost Sunday, by attending Sunday sessions and other important programs and Holy Week events. In addition to assisting throughout the program, they continue to offer guidance to them. The main roles and responsibilities of the sponsor include listening to the candidates' hopes and goals, being a good listener and leader, and praying - presenting the needs of his or her candidate to God daily in prayer. Each candidate going to church with their sponsors each weekend is recommended, as that will strengthen their relationship.

Those who are called to be sponsors do not need to have all the answers to every question the candidate may have. They are just one voice within a community of disciples that together will discern the readiness of the candidate to follow the way of the cross. It goes without saying, the program would be much harder to complete without one.



ATTENTION
Attention

BE ALERT

BE WATCHFUL

**CHANGE IS
COMING**

**WHAT?
RECONCILIATION???**

**CHANGES IN THE
PRAYERS AND
WORDING**

WHEN?

**SPRING EDITION OF
THE HARVESTER!!!**

**THERE WILL BE MORE
DETAILS**

SO....

**BE EVER SO
WATCHFUL**

Harvester

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WORD SEARCH

Christmas



THE CLUES BELOW WILL HELP YOU FIND THE PEOPLE, PLACES, AND DETAILS THAT ALL ARE PART OF THE CHRISTMAS NARRATIVE FOUND IN THE GOSPELS:

- ANGEL
- BETHLEHEM
- EGYPT
- ELIZABETH
- GABRIEL
- HEROD
- INN
- JOSEPH
- MAGI
- MANGER
- MARY
- NAZARETH
- SHEPHERDS
- SIMEON
- STAR
- ZECHARIAH

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| G | H | D | L | H | T | E | R | A | Z | A | N |

VOLUNTEER

By Dorothy Jaskey



I think that I will never see

A parish without busy bees.

These are those who help wherever
there is a need,

But you may not always see them
taking the lead.

They give their precious time and
energy to serve;

Yet never get the credit they so justly
deserve.

We are told we have gifts that we
should share;

Volunteers give because they truly care.

Grateful each parishioner should be

For all these volunteers who we see.

Unfortunately, there are too few;

For there is always much work to do.

Special gift or talent you need not have
at all;

Just consider this your personal call

To be Our Lord's hand here at our
parish;

It will be time you will always cherish.

Volunteer, who me? You now do say.

Why not? You'll meet friends along the
way.

As you can readily see,

A "poet" I will never be.

At least I'm trying desperately to
inspire you

To become a valued volunteer in what
we do.

PLEASE VOLUNTEER !!!!

School News Alert

By Gloria Larusso

On September 16th, St. Isidore Catholic School (SICS) in Bloomingdale was named the sole school in Illinois and one of only 30 nationwide given the distinction of Microsoft Incubator School for the 2022 - 2023 school year. This prestigious title has been granted in recognition of the innovative work carried out by our teachers and students. This is the first step toward becoming a Microsoft Showcase School, joining an exclusive community of innovative schools around the world that share insights and best practices for transforming every aspect of their mission. "We are delighted to expand our STEM – science, technology, engineering, math – programming through our distinction as a Microsoft Incubator School and are excited to partner with Microsoft as we work towards becoming an official Microsoft Showcase School", said Principal Corie Alimento.



Showcase schools create student-centered, immersive, and inclusive experiences that inspire lifelong learning, stimulating the development of essential future-ready skills so students are empowered to achieve more. This outstanding accomplishment is attributed to the tireless efforts of our entire school community: administration, faculty, students, parents, and friends of SICS. "All have invested time, talent, and treasure to aid in this outcome", said Technology Director, Rita Carter.

To learn how St. Isidore Catholic School is continually leading the way through innovation, or to schedule a tour, contact Gloria Larusso, Director of Advancement at 630.295.8338 | glorusso@sicatholic.org

In What Language Do You Pray?



By Angela Orlando

If that language question jolts you, then the answer may as well.

St. Isidore Parish has a thriving Hispanic Community and that is evident when you read the bulletin or check on the Mass Schedule.

According to Hispanic Community Pastoral Associate Leonor Carvajal, while many arrived here from Mexico, we have residents who came from several different Central and South American countries, and while the differing dialects may separate, they share many of the same common words. She identified parishioners who come from Ecuador, Honduras, Venezuela, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Colombia, Perú, and México. Not to forget: many in our Filipino Community speak Spanish as well as Tagalog so they occasionally attend the Spanish Masses. Father Rey who speaks Spanish, English and Tagalog is usually the prime celebrant at those celebrations.

Most of us pray in American-English because we were born here. But for people born in a Spanish-speaking home, Spanish is the language in which they pray because that is the language with which they grew up.

St. Isidore Parish provides Masses in Spanish. Celebrations at those Masses include the Spanish Choir. Several of our Holiday Liturgies are bilingual so that we are not separated by language but joined by it. We offer Baptism, Confession,

Quinceañera, (which identifies a young woman as having come of age), weddings, funerals, OCIA (formerly RCIA), and Prayer Groups on both Tuesday and Friday evenings.

Several other annual celebrations may be specific to one or the other native culture. In early December, the church begins the Novena to Our Lady of Guadalupe and celebrates on December 12 with a special Mass before dawn and sharing coffee and sweets after Mass. In the evening the 7:00pm Mass includes a parade and the Folklore Dance and a celebration in the Ministry Center sharing tamales and hot chocolate with the community.

Following that celebration, the community immediately prepares for the Posada which is a re-creation of the trip Mary and Joseph took to Bethlehem.

The community of St. Isidore is really a melting pot. Our ethnic backgrounds include German, Gaelic, Italian, Filipino and several Slav cultures (Polish, Russian, Slovak, Slovene, Czech) and Indian.

To quote someone: "Variety is the spice of Life" but definitely the Church of Christ, and it is definitely so in Christ's church.

Let us make our future now and let us make our dreams tomorrow's reality.

We cannot direct the wind, but we can adjust the sails.

It takes courage to grow up and become who you really are.



TRANSUBSTANTIATION

The Unseen Miracle of the Eucharist

As Catholics, we know that Christ is really present in the Eucharist.

By Michael Fassbender

We know that an important miracle takes place during the Consecration. For some, however, long Latinate words like Transubstantiation can be confusing. In short, this word refers to the change in the essential nature of the bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ.

We are more used to thinking of change in the context of *transformation*, a change in **outer** characteristics. A caterpillar transforms into a butterfly. Water freezes and becomes ice or snow, and then the ice or snow melts and appears as liquid water again. The butterfly is the same creature as the caterpillar, just in a different stage of maturity, while water, scientifically speaking, is water regardless of whether it appears as a solid, a liquid or a gas.

The Church Fathers were heavily influenced by the philosophy of Aristotle, and Aristotle referred to those outer characteristics as *accidents*, which he distinguished from *substance*, or the essential nature of things. Thus, *transubstantiation* means a change in the essential nature of something.

It was St. Thomas Aquinas who best articulated the Church's teaching on the Transubstantiation of the bread

and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ. Beginning with the related teaching on the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist, he went on to examine the idea of Transubstantiation in contrast with two competing notions, and explained that Transubstantiation is the only understanding that makes sense in light of God's power and

His plan for us. Christ does not stand alongside the bread and wine; nor does He discard the bread and wine and substitute Himself for it. Rather, He converts the bread and wine so that they become Himself.

The idea of conversion is crucial to the understanding of this doctrine. In Latin, *conversio* and *mutatio* both refer to a change, but conversion is more complete and enduring than any mere mutation. Another sign of God's power at work is the fact that the bread and wine are converted totally into Christ's Body and Blood without any change in their external appearance, or accidents.

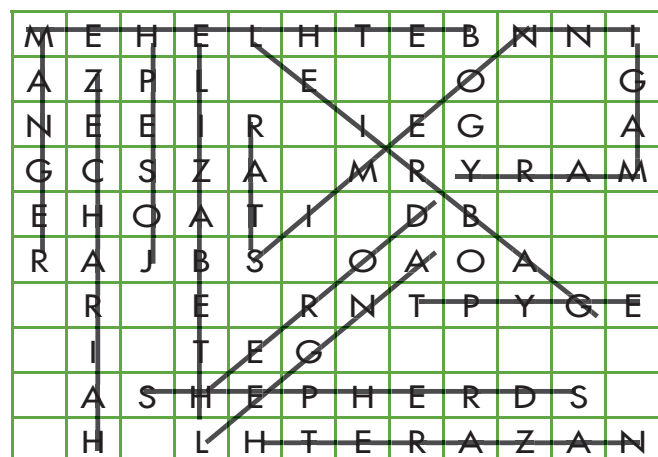
The Council of Trent reaffirmed Aquinas' explanation and it appears in the Catechism as Paragraph 1376. With the National Eucharistic Revival upon us, now is a good time to reexamine our faith in the Mystery of the Eucharist.

It helps now and then, to step back and take the long view.

The kingdom is not only beyond our efforts, it is even beyond our vision.

We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work.

Bishop Oscar Romero



EMPOWERING STUDENTS AT ST. ISIDORE SCHOOL *a Dream Come True*

By Penni Cannova

Dreams take many forms but one common thread is that to bring them to life, a dream requires vision and perseverance. Those who dream must adapt and be flexible, looking for opportunities to bring their hopes to life. St. Isidore School this year brought a true vision to reality through the dedication and work of a team of devoted educators.

Mrs. Alma Figueroa, social worker at St. Isidore School, envisioned a tool to help students challenged by sensory issues. She dreamed of bringing a Sensory Integrative Room, or areas, that she had seen in public schools. She wondered how to bring the sensory areas implemented in the public schools to St. Isidore. She knew students contending with Sensory Integration Disorder would truly benefit from such resources as well as many other students when they feel overwhelmed; as 'we are all sensory people'.

The goal of a sensory pathway or area is to engage movement, and work on a particular sense, to provide a way to reset for a student struggling at a particular moment. A student need not have a diagnosed sensory disorder; moving their whole body helps them focus on the act at hand and in doing so, step away and refocus.

Though funding was a big challenge, Principal Corie Alimento was extremely supportive from the start. Mrs. Figueroa began slowly collecting items from home and Goodwill for a hoped-for sensory integrative space. Then, last April, the school worked with a fundraising company which helps organizations raise money. Mrs. Figueroa describes being blown away when she learned that Mrs. Alimento selected the creation of a sensory space and path as the goal of the fundraising effort. She felt so humbled and thankful to the parents who raised the funds to bring this area to life.

Mrs. Figueroa asked colleagues to help her select and design the sensory path and areas for the students. She collaborated extensively with Ms. Francesca Riddick, Mrs. Sandra Sowa, an Art teacher who has a background in Special Education, and Ms. Carol Fuys, Occupational



Therapist from the local public school who works with St. Isidore students in need of services. They chose from many selections, and the sensory path was installed last May. They also installed a sensory area on the second floor for the middle school students. Mrs. Figueroa and Ms. Riddick carefully cut pieces and laid them out, assisted by Mrs. Monica Benes, and Mrs. Dawn Arms, both Administrative Assistants who also helped with selecting the path. Mr. Brian Sheehan, Assistant Principal, Ms. Sowa and Ms. Riddick installed each, as Mrs. Figueroa was ill. Mr. Sheehan applied 10 coats of wax to seal in the path.

The conflict circle, Mrs. Figueroa describes, on the second floor, is meant for students to use when they have a conflict with a peer. The typewriter and circle are on the wall, and the students can type or trace if they need a break.

The alphabet hopscotch is the first part of the path, then the white flowers and arrows follow so they can go in circles, then the logs with the lily pads where they can jump from side to side and be like frogs, then they go onto the flower where they can jump on the petals and go side to side like a hopscotch, then they can do the swirly lines and it ends.

Mrs. Figueroa notices that the students usually use the whole path from start to finish. They may just use parts of it if it's too long. There are wall push-ups and side-to-side steps on the floor so that they can push and stomp if they need to. The teachers allow free rein to the students to partake when they feel they would like to do so. She said the students love it and no one has abused the privilege of stepping out of class to take charge of their mindset and refocus using the sensory pathway.

LET'S GET BUSY *Join the Fun!*

By Kathy Lopez



CCW
2022-2023

Fall is a very active season for the CCW. The 2022-2023 session started in September with their annual Welcome Dinner. Smiling faces greeted new and long-time members, who had not seen each other for a few months.

The October meeting was jam-packed with activities. First, the group was introduced to Derek Najera. The St. Isidore School student was awarded the CCW Scholarship for the current school year.

Since October is Respect Life Month, a baby shower was held for moms at Monica House and Heather House, who have chosen life rather than an abortion. Baby items were collected to help through the first year: diapers, wipes, onesies, sleepers and much more.

After the business agenda wrapped up, the ladies enjoyed a Fall Fashion Show. Our own ladies chose and modeled their outfits from *This and That* in Roselle.



A lot more activities are planned for the rest of the year - December through the wrap-up in May. Girls Night Out, St. Joseph Table and High Tea are some of the reasons to come join the fun.



The Holiday Craft Fair was held on November 12, after a two year covid-hiatus. It was a chance to get started with your holiday shopping. The event was very successful. The members will decide at the end of the year what organization or charity will benefit from a significant donation.

