



# ST. ISIDORE HARVESTER

Summer 2023

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

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



## Stories Inside

All Are Welcome  
OCIA

Knowing the Gifts  
of the Spirits

Rich in Spirit,  
Bountiful in  
Fellowship  
The Filipino Community

# The Spirit is a Moving

Relics Revisited

Lenten Food Drive

Knights in Service

The Elements of  
Baptism

Oil Water Garment  
Candle

School News





# ALL ARE *Welcome*

*Most of us become Catholic because we were born into the religion.*

Almost 80 percent die as Catholics as well. Some people leave after they receive the sacraments but still refer to themselves as Catholic. Some of them come back to church as an adult and really want to know about the church. Some are not born into a Catholic family or were baptized in another church but want to become Catholic. The way to go about it is through The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA). All are welcome! However, this is not a quick, "Let's get to be Catholic."

In discussing the process with Adult Faith Formation Director Leonor Carvajal, I learned that Candidates are called Catechumen and do about a year of study. Their formation starts in September. Much is discussed at their weekly sessions once they are dismissed after the homily on Sundays. Their discussions include what we believe. More importantly, they have all of their questions answered (and believe me, they all have questions.) They are learning about the Church and unpack the treasures of the sacraments. As we enter the season of Lent, they are prepared to become true Catholics. In November Candidates from different Christian faiths and Candidates who want to complete the sacraments go to St. Raymond Cathedral in Joliet for the Rite of Continuing Conversion.

Months later on the first Sunday of Lent, the Catechumens again go to the Cathedral of St. Raymond and formally express their desire to join the Church. They are now the Elect.

When Easter Vigil rolls around, they are ready. Baptism is first, then the Elect receive the Eucharist and finally Confirmation. It's not over—for the rest of spring, they continue to meet and firm up their faith, but, now they are participating in the full Mass on Sunday (or Saturday) and they can reflect on all that they have learned.

This year we had one person baptized following John the Baptist's practice of going down into the water and having water poured over you. Two other candidates who were baptized in another denomination were ready to receive their First Eucharist and then Confirmation.

But it's not over! After Easter, the newly received Catholics and the returned Catholics continue throughout the next couple of weeks filling in all the information that strengthen their faith and help them to blend into the church community. In addition to those three, seventeen others joined who had received the sacraments as children but for one reason or another had fallen away from church.

To make OICA more welcoming, there are usually two groups, one in English and the other in Spanish, because you learn better and are more comfortable with the language you speak at home.

## *Welcome Home!*

### Harvester

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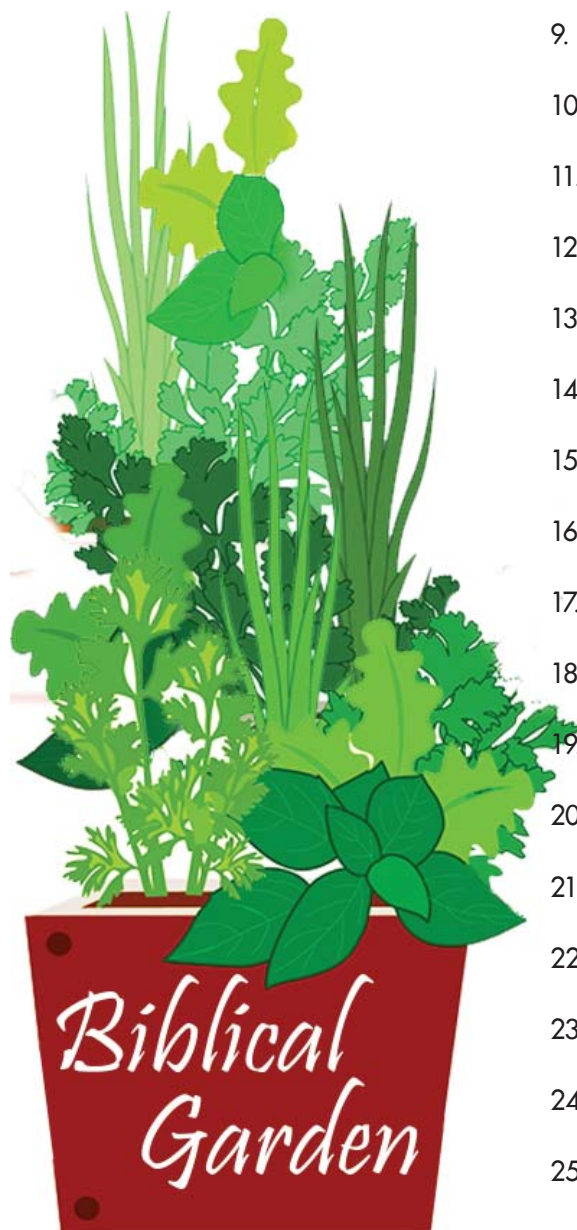


## BIBLICAL GARDEN

There are 95 plants, trees, herbs, fruits and vegetables mentioned in Scripture. Some of the names are no longer in our vocabulary. There are 25 with which we are all familiar.

Unscramble these that are common today; the biblical passages will be helpful clues.

1. FSNOAFR \_\_\_\_\_ Song of Solomon 4:14 \_\_\_\_\_
2. ECCRUMBU \_\_\_\_\_ Numbers 11:5 \_\_\_\_\_
3. LEHITST \_\_\_\_\_ 2 Chronicles 25:18 \_\_\_\_\_
4. NNIOO \_\_\_\_\_ Numbers 11:5 \_\_\_\_\_
5. SLUTO \_\_\_\_\_ Job 40:20 \_\_\_\_\_
6. RAUMTSD \_\_\_\_\_ Matthew 13:31 \_\_\_\_\_
7. NCNONAIM \_\_\_\_\_ Proverbs 7:17 \_\_\_\_\_
8. RYALEB \_\_\_\_\_ Ezekiel 4:9 \_\_\_\_\_
9. PGERA \_\_\_\_\_ Genesis 40:10 \_\_\_\_\_
10. IGF \_\_\_\_\_ Joel 1:7 \_\_\_\_\_
11. RLGCAI \_\_\_\_\_ Numbers 11:5 \_\_\_\_\_
12. GPAEMNOTEAR \_\_\_\_\_ Song of Solomon 7:13 \_\_\_\_\_
13. CPSIATIOH \_\_\_\_\_ Genesis 43:11 \_\_\_\_\_
14. DRCAE \_\_\_\_\_ Isaiah 44:14 \_\_\_\_\_
15. MPAL \_\_\_\_\_ John 12:13 \_\_\_\_\_
16. LOAE \_\_\_\_\_ Proverbs 7:17 \_\_\_\_\_
17. LLID \_\_\_\_\_ Matthew 23:23 \_\_\_\_\_
18. MAODLN \_\_\_\_\_ Genesis 43:11 \_\_\_\_\_
19. TYEMRL \_\_\_\_\_ Isaiah 55:13 \_\_\_\_\_
20. TNLLEI \_\_\_\_\_ Ezekiel 4:9 \_\_\_\_\_
21. LVOEI \_\_\_\_\_ Judges 9:9 \_\_\_\_\_
22. NTMI \_\_\_\_\_ Matthew 23:23 \_\_\_\_\_
23. EKLE \_\_\_\_\_ Numbers 11:5 \_\_\_\_\_
24. MNUIC \_\_\_\_\_ Isaiah 28:27 \_\_\_\_\_
25. ABNE \_\_\_\_\_ Ezekiel 4:9 \_\_\_\_\_



# Knowing the Gifts of the Spirit

*The Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit can seem both familiar and remote. For those of us who made our confirmations years ago, we know we studied them; our recollections can be a bit vague, however. Here, then, are the Gifts of the Spirit:*

## **Wisdom**

This represents the ability to exercise sound judgment, but in this context, it means sound judgment from God's perspective, which will not match what is considered wisdom in the world.

## **Understanding**

This marks a deeper comprehension than simply knowing a set of facts. It offers the ability to see things from a higher perspective, especially in matters of faith, but also includes the ability to see the viewpoints of others.

## **Counsel**

In the first instance, this reflects one's ability to receive advice from God, especially with regard to moral judgment. Secondly, anyone who hears and heeds God's direction would also be able to offer sound advice to others.

## **Courage**

This affords us the strength to follow through with what we know to be right. The Spirit helps us to persevere in spite of difficulties.

## **Knowledge**

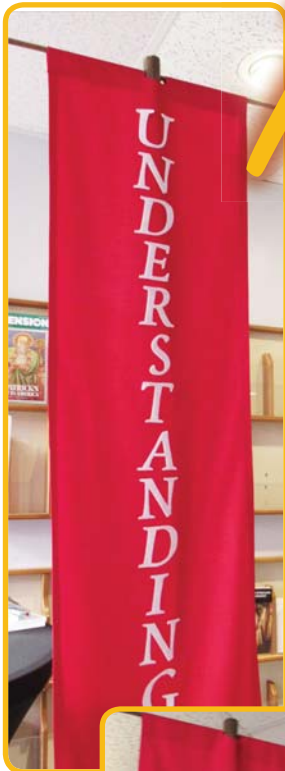
More akin to the common use of the word "knowledge," this Gift assists us in knowing the world around us, but when given by the Spirit, it elevates knowledge, seeing the world in higher accord with divine Truth.

## **Piety**

Derived from a Latin word denoting devotion to one's father, piety signifies the reverence that we rightly give to our heavenly Father. This does not prescribe rote observances, but rather inspires us to do what is right out of love.

## **Awe**

This represents a healthy regard for God's power, but also recognition of our dependence upon Him.





# Gifts of the Spirit

Six of the Gifts of the Spirit were enumerated by Isaiah (Is. 11:2-3) in describing attributes of the Messiah, but our current understanding of them was formulated by St. Thomas Aquinas in *Summa Theologiae*. He compares them both to “instincts” and “habits,” reflecting simultaneously impulses which God has implanted in us and our willingness to cultivate them.

Even if our own confirmations happened years ago, Pentecost serves as an annual opportunity for the renewal of our openness to the Spirit. It is a good time to look anew for the signs of these Gifts in our lives.



To be more loving takes practice, so practice – practice – practice. You can't do everything, but everything you do, do it with love.



Honk if you love Jesus, text while driving if you want to meet him.



Tweet others as you would like to be tweeted.



# THE FILIPINO FAITH COMMUNITY OF ST. ISIDORE

## *Rich in Spirit, Bountiful in Fellowship*

By Penni Cannova

*We are drawn to St. Isidore to feel the presence of God, join in communion amid our fellow worshippers and join in spiritual fellowship and reflection with our fellow parishioners. Each of these is abundantly present in the Filipino Community of St. Isidore. The many and varied offerings of our Filipino brethren offer an incredibly vibrant spiritual community to all who partake in them.*

The Harvester spoke to Totie Leonardo, one of the Filipino leaders, about our parish's faith-rich Filipino community. On the last Friday prior to Christmas, a Filipino tradition is carried out in full solemnity and worship as Simbang Gabi. In their home nation of the Philippines, a nine-day Novena marks this annual time of worship, with farmers and fishermen arising before dawn to attend the 4:00 am Mass each morning prior to their work. This Novena was inherited from the Spaniards who occupied the Philippines. Currently, our Filipino community holds Simbang Gabi as one spiritual celebration prior to Christmas, followed by a feast of Filipino delicacies and fellowship.

The Seven Last Words of Jesus Christ is held on Good Friday, starting at noon. The Deacons and Priests all prepare a reflection for each of the last seven words uttered by Christ as he suffered on the Cross. The Filipino community has organized this for over 30 years, as it has for Simbang Gabi. Filipino ushers also handle the veneration of the Cross at the parish's Good Friday service each year.



Prior to the pandemic:

- ✿ Sacred Heart Prayer Group met at church each Monday evening. At that time, the group would pray together, host speakers, and share reflections. Now they meet at various times in their homes to pray together via Zoom.
- ✿ Santo Niño was an event celebrated annually. This occurs early in the year, carrying on the tradition of the early Spaniards who would present a statue of the Infant Jesus. Totie said that they very much wish to bring this tradition back.
- ✿ 2000 Hail Mary prayers on every first Saturday each month. With the advent of the pandemic, Sacred Heart now has four separate groups which pray at respective homes together on Zoom.
- ✿ Native language Mass in Tagalog, with a Filipino priest presiding.

Our Mother of Perpetual Help is an annual Mass followed by a delicious feast and more fellowship – a wonderful pattern in each of the Filipino spiritual traditions. After this Mass, the icon of the Our Lady is brought into participants' homes for a week or so for individuals and families to host. At the end of the year, all who prayed before the icon come together for a Mass and celebration, carrying the tradition forward.

The Filipino choir sings at Mass and celebrations, knitting the community together and keeping the thread of song at worship throughout each Filipino Mass ministry.



Our Lady of Fatima is an icon which goes out to parishioners who wish to pray over it, and then once shared this image is brought to the next home for prayer and reflection.

Also active a few years ago was the celebration of the Feast of Corpus Christi. After the Sunday 1:00 pm Mass, the Blessed Sacrament is exposed and carried in procession from the Church to the Chapel. The community would stop several times at the cemetery, Ministry Center, School, and Parish Office to pray and sing. This also is a Filipino tradition.



## Rich in Fellowship



Totie relates that no one person organizes all these wonderful spiritual and communal celebrations. Rather, they seek each other out, asking one another to contribute their unique different skills to bring out plentiful opportunities to learn, reflect upon and partake in these joyful Filipino Catholic traditions.



# RELICS, REVISITED

By Dorothy Jaskey

*In the last issue of the Harvester, there was an article about relics with a picture of the marble slab that is embedded in the altar of our Chapel (the original St. Isidore Church).*

In 2019 the relic of the Incurrupt\* Heart of St. John Vianney was entrusted to the care of the Knights of Columbus to tour the United States for six months. The tour was organized and hosted by the Knights marking the 200th anniversary of Father Vianney's arrival in Ars, France, where he ministered to people who waited for hours to have their confessions heard by him. He would sit between 12 to 18 hours a day in the confessional.

St. Father Vianney is the patron saint of parish priests. Dominican Fr. Jonathan Kalisch, director of chaplains and spiritual development for the Knights' Supreme Council said, "St. John Vianney's great love of the priesthood serves as a model and witness to clergy and laity alike".



*\*"Incurrupt" means the organ, as well as St. Vianney's body, has not disintegrated, despite the absence of any chemicals or preservation.*

**As you pass this little church, be sure to plan a visit, so when at last you're carried in, God won't ask, "Who is it?"**



**In this busy world, it's wonderful that some people still have the art of taking time for others – giving from the heart.**

## plants, trees, herbs, fruits and vegetables

- |                 |            |
|-----------------|------------|
| 1. SAFFRON      | 14. CEDAR  |
| 2. CUCUMBER     | 15. PALM   |
| 3. THISTLE      | 16. ALOE   |
| 4. ONION        | 17. DILL   |
| 5. LOTUS        | 18. ALMOND |
| 6. MUSTARD      | 19. MYRTLE |
| 7. CINNAMON     | 20. LENTIL |
| 8. BARLEY       | 21. OLIVE  |
| 9. GRAPE        | 22. MINT   |
| 10. FIG         | 23. LEEK   |
| 11. GARLIC      | 24. CUMIN  |
| 12. POMEGRANATE | 25. BEAN   |
| 13. PISTACHIO   |            |





# Lenten Food Drive for Neighborhood Food Pantries

By Sandy Lively

*This year's Lenten Food Drive in support of the Neighborhood Food Pantries brought in over 2,500 pounds of donations from our St. Isidore Parish Family.*

In week one, over 1,000 cans of tuna and salmon were collected, followed by week two with over 600 cans of bean products. The momentum continued in week three with almost 600 containers of detergent, dish soap and other cleaning products. Then week four wrapped up the drive with over 1,500 paper product items including toilet paper, paper towels and facial tissue. Together the collection totaled over 3,800 items. Special thanks to the 7:00 am Daily Mass crew who helped load the donations each week.



St. Isidore's donations support the food pantry location at Lutheran Church of the Master on Kuhn Road in Carol Stream. The donations arrived at the pantry and were stocked on the shelves to fill the baskets for those visiting the pantry. Over the last several months, the pantry has seen an increase in the number of individuals and families it is serving each week. Many thanks for your generosity and continuing support of the Neighborhood Food Pantries and please keep in mind, the need is all year long.



**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**  
FATHER JOHN GUINEY COUNCIL #8522

## Our Ever Serving Knights

By Don Lively



The St. Isidore Knights of Columbus have served as Honor Guards for our parish on many occasions. On Holy Thursday they stood at the Adoration Tabernacle from 8:00 p.m. to midnight. While at the two Confirmation ceremonies, again the Knights were the Honor Guards when Bishop Conlan and Fr. Jim respectively administered the sacrament.

The Knights Honor Guards were Bill Gorsline, Mike Aguilar, Larry Beckerdite, Ed Hauser, Jim Olsta, Barry Smith, Ken Voelker, Mike Madonna, Richard Mikulecky and Don Lively.

On Sunday, April 23, the Knights held a Blood Drive. Twenty-three people signed up and there were 19 units of blood collected. Thanks to Ed Hauser and, Bill Gorsline for assisting John Horak with this life saving activity.



# THE ELEMENTS OF *Baptism*

By Abby Catania

- Water •
- Oil •
- Garment •
- Candle •



## **BIBS etc.**

For years the St. Isidore CCW has been providing baptismal bids/stoles to the young ones being baptized. The women who now make these items are Mary Jo Staszak, Joan Gilleran-Strom and Kim Rogers. They are also the creators of the beautiful palm bouquets that are part of Palm Sunday Mass processions.

*Of the sacraments we receive throughout our lifetime, the first is Baptism – the official entrance into the Catholic Church and the gateway to the rest of the sacraments.*

Baptism is very symbolic in that sense. There are so many acts performed and symbols that are part of the ceremony that it is easy to see how important the sacrament is.

The most symbolic elements of the Sacrament of Baptism are water, the oil rubbed on each of the newly baptized, the white garment they wear, and the candle lit by the godparents during the ceremony.

1. **Water**, poured onto the head of whomever is being baptized, symbolizes divine life, new birth, and cleansing.
2. The **Sacred Chrism** oil rubbed on the head afterward represents salvation.
3. The **white garment** signifies that the person newly baptized has been clothed with Christ.
4. The **baptismal candle**, which is lit from the Easter candle towards the end of the ceremony, represents that Jesus is the light of the world.  
(thecatholicspirit.com)

Like many of the other sacraments, there are a handful of steps to take and a process to follow in the days leading up to being baptized. For many of us who were baptized as children, we were unaware of the preparation that went into our Baptism, with that responsibility falling on our parents, godparents and other family members. The sacrament itself and the steps taken ahead of time are fundamental.

Regarding that responsibility of the parents and godparents, it is their duty to bring our faith into the life of whoever is being baptized, whether that be as the child grows up or for an adult, in the time leading up to the day they are baptized. Teaching our faith and how to pray to those you are guiding through Baptism is of the utmost importance. Godparents, in their special role, represent the church community and help the person being baptized to grow in faith and guide them through prayer as they continue through life.

Here at St. Isidore, those requesting Baptism for a child must be registered and active members of our parish. For more information on having your child baptized at St. Isidore and on the Baptism Preparation classes for parents and godparents held ahead of time, please call the parish office at (630) 529-3045.



# SCHOOL NEWS



By Gloria Lorusso, Director of Advancement

## God bless the Class of 2023!

On May 24, St. Isidore Catholic School celebrated the commencement of the Class of 2023. It has been an absolute joy to watch this group of young men and women grow. During the school year, they were placed in leadership roles, sometimes with preparation and sometimes spontaneously. With each leadership opportunity, their commitment to St. Isidore Catholic School has shone through. They have demonstrated the Catholic way of life by their example to their peers. In addition to their role as students, they have been teachers, tutors, athletes, writers, mathematicians, sacristans, lunchroom assistants, landscapers, orators, announcers, and songbook distributors. Through every role and situation, they have represented the “Cyclone” way of life. We are all extremely proud of them and will miss their presence tremendously.

## Congratulations Graduates!

Danielle Byers, Ryan Callender, Neo Camara, Connor Carney, Guillermo Chavez, Zachary Embury, Lucas Hofstad, Daniel Juarez, Marley Goco-Juridico, Jakub Mackowiak, Derek Najera, Luciana Perez, Nikodem Roach, Jose Samaniego, Emily Schultz, and Aiden Sierra



## Scholarship Awarded

Congratulations to Benjamin Sarmiento, who has been awarded the CCW 2023 Scholarship. His essay was selected as exemplifying the spirit of St. Isidore School. Also considered were academic achievement, service and school involvement. The scholarship will be applied toward his tuition as he enters 7th grade in fall.

The CCW scholarship is available to St. Isidore students entering 6th, 7th or 8th grade in the fall.

## May, a Memorable Month!

The month of May began with the celebration of our 2nd grade students receiving the sacrament of First Holy Eucharist. Our 8th graders next adorned our Holy Mother with a crown of flowers at the parish and school May Crowning celebrations. Next came Ribbon Day, the 8th grade Luncheon, Outing and Retreat, along with the remaining Class of 2023 celebrations. The Preschoolers and Kindergartners also each had their own “graduation” celebrations.

## Looking to the Future

Our next scheduled community event is the annual 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament on Saturday, August 19 at 9:00 am. This is a wonderful opportunity for our alumni to return to St. Isidore. All are welcome to come join in the fun!

As we look ahead to the 2023-2024 school year, we are excited to welcome our students, families, and staff back on Wednesday, August 16 to kick off the first day of the school year with the annual tradition of ringing the original school bell. Until then, have a safe and restful summer!



*Gloria Lorusso is the Director of Advancement for St. Isidore Catholic School and a proud Alumni parent. For information on St. Isidore Catholic School, contact her at [glorusso@sicatholic.org](mailto:glorusso@sicatholic.org)*







*The Spirit is Moving*

