

OUR BUSY TEENS



The youth ministry program is entering into a “rebuilding period” this year, and Mitch believes the best way to do this is to start integrating all our service into raising up our Confirmation candidates.



During the last year, the youth have volunteered and participated in lessons and activities focused on walking by faith, identity, living from the heart, and dating.



St. Isidore Youth

Home-Bound, Spirit-Filled

A Century of Progress (CCW)

How's Your Math A Fun Quiz

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School Update

**STORIES
INSIDE**

ST. ISIDORE PARISH AND THE YOUTH

By Abby Catania

We all know there are many happenings going on within the parish.

That being said, one fundamental program that runs throughout our parish, which you may not know much about, is the youth ministry program, led by our director of youth and young adult ministry, Mitch Ryan.

The program is entering into a “rebuilding period” this year, and Mitch believes the best way to do this is to start integrating all our service into raising up our Confirmation candidates. During the last year, the youth have volunteered and participated in lessons and

activities focused on walking by faith, identity, living from the heart, and dating. This year, however, Mitch will be bringing a refreshed curriculum to the parish built around “Being Transformed” (Romans 12:2). These sessions will be assisted by our parish’s catechists and will include large group lessons and faith-based activities, followed by smaller group answering sessions. Mitch sees the vision of our Confirmation program turning into the bedrock of a youth group itself.

The goal of the youth program here is to integrate all that they have already been doing into a larger platform, to provide leadership to our young people, and to have the Confirmation program play a large part in that. Mitch said, “It can be difficult to congregate young people, and we know we have 100 coming here every week through Confirmation! My goal is to pour all my energy into this program this year and hope that God will use these efforts to draw Himself closer to them. We don’t want to just ‘run a religious program,’ we want to be effective. We want to capture hearts.” For more information on what the youth group is up to, follow @igniteisidore on Instagram, or reach out to Mitch at mryan@stisidoreparish.org.



How's Your Math

CHURCH
+
ARITHMETIC
= A FUN QUIZ

Reach an important number for St. Isidore Parish when you add [+] or ... subtract [-] or... multiply [x] or... divide [÷] various “churchy” facts.

Some clues to help you are found in the

- Bible
- Parish bulletin
- Harvester (last and present)
- Nave (walls / windows)
- Narthex
- Chapels.

Did you remember:

...to count all the masses on Saturday (even in the morning)

...to count the images of Mary in the Stations.

How Many ? ? ?....

- _____ Pastors at St. Isidore
- + _____ Masses on weekends
- + _____ Stations of the Cross
- _____ Chapels in the Church building
- x _____ Religious images in the Reservation Chapel
- x _____ Images of Mary in Nave
- ÷ _____ Trinity
- + _____ Deacons
- + _____ Angels in the nave window
- + _____ Apostles
- + _____ Parochial Vicars
- + _____ Gifts of the Spirit

= _____ Area Code of Parish

Harvester

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

Address comments or articles to:

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Our Chapels

A chapel is a place for prayer and veneration. St. Isidore Parish is blessed with three chapels.

Our original church is now referred to as a chapel. In the main church, there are two chapels. The newest one is the Adoration Chapel and can be entered from within the church or from the outside. It is open 24/7 if you have a key card that is obtainable from the parish office; it is open from 8:00 am to 9:00 pm without a card. The Eucharist is in a monstrance which can be exposed only when someone is in the Adoration Chapel.

The Reservation Chapel (also called Eucharist or Blessed Sacrament Chapel) is in a separate room next to the nave. A glass door allows entrance into this peaceful environment. Hosts consecrated during Mass are reserved here in the tabernacle, which had been designed to symbolize the Ark of the Covenant where the manna was housed.

The Eucharistic Hosts are reverently carried from the Tabernacle by a Eucharistic Minister at Mass for distribution to parishioners. They are also taken to people in the West Suburban Nursing Home as well as homebound parishioners.

This chapel was part of former pastor, Fr. Joel Fortier's, 1996 renovation of St. Isidore Church. Prior to that, the space was a multipurpose facility where Mass was celebrated. However, it wasn't until June 25, 2000, that the stained glass windows were blessed and dedicated.

Each window represents either a saint or an angel associated with the Blessed Sacrament. Each window is framed in a particular color – yellow/white for angels, green for confessors, red for martyrs and blue for virgins.



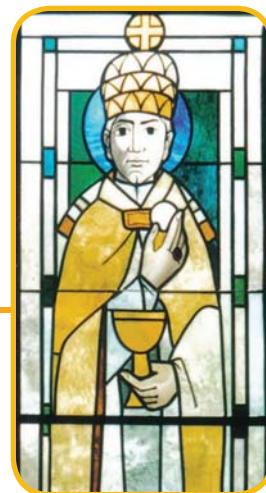
Angel Gabriel holds a lily – a symbol of the Annunciation. Mary became the first tabernacle of Christ earthly presence.



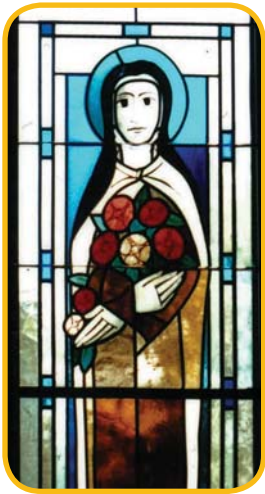
St. Clare of Assisi wears a brown habit and black veil and carries a monstrance. When soldiers threatened her convent, she stopped them by standing in front while carrying a monstrance.



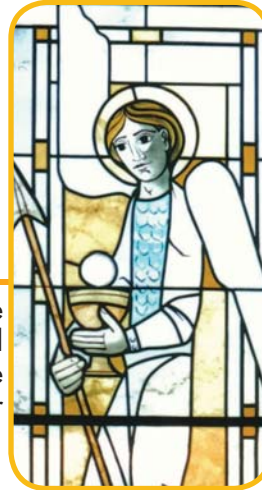
St. Tarcisus was a 1st century martyr. He was a young boy who carried the Eucharist to Christians in prison. He is holding a pyx with the Eucharist, just as he did when facing Roman soldiers.



St. Pope Pius X wrote the encyclical encouraging frequent communion and recommended offering the Eucharist to children who have reached the age of reason.



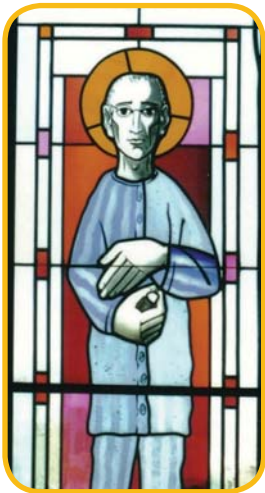
St. Theresa of Lisieux was a Carmelite nun and a Doctor of the Church who encouraged frequent Communion. The roses she holds are in the form of a tabernacle.



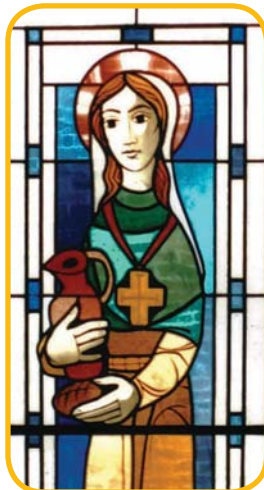
Archangel Michael is holding a chalice and a spear since he is considered "Defender of the Church". During the Middle Ages he was called "Protector of the Blessed Sacrament."



Our own St. Isidore was a man devoted to praying and sharing food with the poor; he attended Mass each morning before he would work in the fields. He reminds us that we share in the Body and Blood of Jesus when we receive Communion.



St. Maximilian Kolbe, a Polish Franciscan priest, who was imprisoned at Auschwitz concentration camp; smuggled crusts of bread which he would secretly concentrate at Mass.



St. Genevieve of Paris, a 5th century saint, saved the French city and fed the poor bread and wine during a severe famine.



St. Thomas Aquinas, a 13th century, Dominican priest and a Doctor of the Church was commissioned to write the prayer for the Feast of Corpus Christi and the song "Tantum Ergo"





CCW
2023-2024

A CENTURY OF PROGRESS

By Angela Orlando

St. Isidore Parish is a little over 100 years old and so is the Council of Catholic Women (CCW).

Since it was founded in 1920, the national Council has been providing for international, national and local charitable causes. And since 1957, the CCW in our parish has been busy doing the same. All women of the parish are “members.” Active members through the years have numbered between 60 and 80. Of course, there are the official officers and commission chairs, but everyone has a job to do, which may be baking or cooking, volunteering at one of our fundraising events, or simply praying for the sick and the repose of souls.

The St. Isidore CCW meets from September through May, and while we take the summer off, there are several activities throughout the year to keep us plenty busy. We start off each year with a Welcome Dinner in September. Each following month, we host a meeting for all members with various activities, games, speakers, crafts, prayer services, trivia night, and movies.

Most of our activities are pretty much fun, but some of them involve a little work. October is Respect Life Month. The CCW members hold a baby shower to support Pro-Life organizations that help expectant women who decide to keep

their babies. The Christmas Craft Fair and bake sale in November is attended by hundreds of people. There are a variety of crafts displayed by outside vendors from throughout Illinois. A Christmas party for the West Suburban Nursing Home provides a gift bag for each resident and includes lotions, tissue packets, candy or cookies and socks for each resident. Additionally, we adopt and provide gifts for a few residents who have no family. Our St. Joseph Table is held on the Sunday closest to St. Joseph’s Feast Day on March 19. This celebration mimics the tradition of Santa Giovanni Tavola in Italy, which provided dinner for all who came.



Vice President Pat Murray
President Nanette Vogel

CCW Calendar 2023-2024

Date / Time	Event
Oct 19, 7:00 pm	General Meeting & Program
Nov 10, 3:00-5:30 pm	Craft Fair set up
Nov 11, 9:00-3:00 pm	Craft Fair & clean up
Nov 16, 7:00 pm	General Meeting & Program
Dec 14, 6:30 pm	General Meeting & Christmas Party
December TBD	West Suburban Nursing Home Christmas Party
Jan 18, 6:00 pm	CCW Girls Night Out “Meeting”
Feb 15, 7:00 pm	General Meeting
Mar 14, 7:00 pm	General Meeting & St. Joe’s Prep
Mar 16, 6:30-8:00 pm	St. Joseph’s Table set up
Mar 17, 2:00-5:00 pm	St. Joseph’s Table & clean up
Apr 18, 7:00 pm	General Meeting & Program
Apr 27-28, after Masses	Cookies for Kids Bake Sale
May 16, 6:30 pm	Installation Dinner
May 19, 1:00 pm	CCW High Tea



Some of these CCW activities generate proceeds, which are then distributed to various not-for-profit organizations or programs within our parish or diocese:

- The Bishop Blanchette Scholarship Fund
- Our St. Isidore parish school - a partial scholarship for a 6th, 7th or 8th grade student
- Neighborhood Food Pantry
- PADS (providing housing, food and job counselling for the homeless)



Come join us on the third Thursday of the month.

Then there is the Cookies for Kids annual bake sale, which is held after Masses. This is our international project, which supports the St. Joseph orphanage in Nairobi, Africa. And finally, our CCW has been hosting a High Tea to close out the year in May.



THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK: BEING FORTIFIED FOR A JOURNEY

From time to time, we still speak of “the Last Rites,” and many remember the term “Extreme Unction.” We think of it as a final blessing when death is imminent, and as such, it’s divorced from our lives until they come to their end.

By Michael Fassbender

Today, the Church prescribes a different name, *The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick*, and with it, a different understanding. This sacrament fortifies the person for a journey, which can be a journey through suffering back into health or through death into eternal life.

Like the other sacraments, the Anointing of the Sick is founded on the deeds of Christ during His Ministry. This sacrament builds upon the many times that Christ healed someone who was ill. In all of the stories that were handed down to us, the suffering person was healed in body as well as spirit. The same results cannot be expected in every instance, but it does highlight one of the virtues of celebrating this sacrament when a person is known to be seriously ill, and not merely when death is certain: it allows for the possibility of God bringing healing through the sacrament before the point when only an obvious miracle could save the person’s life.

This sacrament is recorded in the early third century, when Hippolytus described the blessing of oil by a bishop

for use in anointing the sick. The precedent that the sacrament should be performed only by ordained priests (including bishops) was confirmed at the Council of Trent in 1551. Over the years, it was known variously as Last Rites, Viaticum, and Extreme Unction. “Viaticum” emphasizes the giving of the Eucharist to a dying person in preparation for the journey from this life to eternal life. Extreme Unction points to the anointing of someone in acute crisis or at the apparent end of life. Each term brings a different emphasis to the sacrament.

In 1965, the Church reframed it as the Anointing of the Sick, offering guidance that it should be celebrated when an illness or condition is first identified. This presents the fullest scope in which the sacrament could act. If it is God’s will, physical healing could ensue: the surgery could succeed or the cancer could go into remission. And if it is this person’s time to leave this life, then the sacrament could offer spiritual healing, preparing the person for his/her final journey.



Home-Bound, Spirit-Filled

By Penni Cannova

Have you witnessed something beautiful, even sacred, in the midst of going about your week?

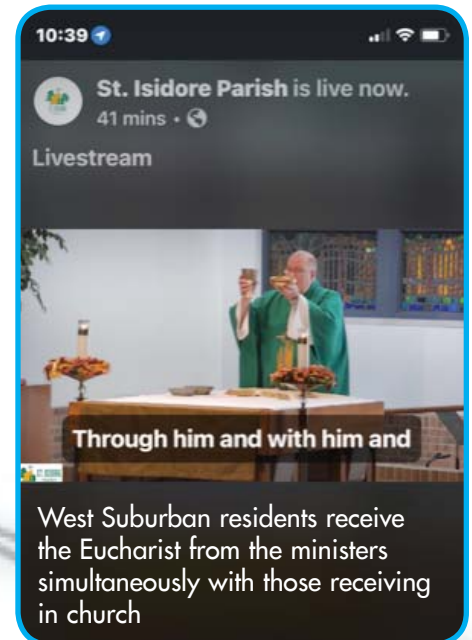
In these moments, we feel transported and elevated. In talking with those who bring the Eucharist to residents living at West Suburban Home, the *Harvester* learned that these folks have witnessed these incredible moments.

Deacon Terry Neary's eagerness to open the window to show us this transformative ministry is palpable. Each Sunday, a group of fifteen or so residents of West Suburban Home gather to watch our 10:00 am Mass streamed live on Facebook. The pandemic took away much, but it hastened something wonderful. Prior to this, lay ministers brought the Eucharist to those who could not come out to Mass. Those at home could not watch their home parish Mass in person. Now with the livestream, they experience the Mass and Eucharist at the same time as parishioners attending the 10:00 am service. The Eucharistic Ministers in this ministry take turns attending Mass in person at West Suburban and worship right alongside the residents. These Eucharistic Ministers sign up according to their desired frequency.

Having the livestream allows the residents to connect to the larger St. Isidore Parish community, which Deacon Terry expressed is so catholic; as with the Last Supper, we are called to community. They bond with the greater Catholic community while they grow together as a worshipping community at West Suburban. Deacon Terry expressed the happiness residents feel when they hear Father Jim begin Mass with a personal greeting to them.

They also love hearing the live music and homily. He notes that the worshippers at West Suburban, while cared for by us, are cared for by Jesus, who moves through us. The Eucharistic ministers are trying to follow Jesus, who said, "Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." And, as Mother Teresa said, "The greatest disease in the West today is not TB or leprosy: it is being unwanted, unloved, and uncared for."

Also, these participants deeply appreciate that this is not simply a prayer service, but a real Mass in which they join in celebration with all of St. Isidore.



Spirit-Filled

A Call to This Service

Parishioner Michael Menconi served as Eucharistic Minister at his first livestream Mass at West Suburban Nursing Home on Sunday, September 10. Speaking to him just prior about how he came to this ministry, the *Harvester* learned of his path, and how similar it is to many we know of who say yes to God.

He was invited to consider homebound ministry by our Youth Director, Mitch Ryan. Michael had been working on mindfulness training, the commitment to rid himself of mentalities that didn't serve him or bring him forward. One of these mentalities was people-pleasing. He has grown to find that in giving up the fear of saying 'no' if it could displease others, it freed his heart to say 'yes' to new opportunities. Now saying 'yes' when he can and saying 'no' when he cannot, he discovered that he actually pleases more people – and grows more deeply – when he responds to the call he feels to reach out.

Michael wondered if Mitch's invitation was God asking him to step out in blind faith. He'd never before considered Eucharistic ministry. He said yes, and then was asked to choose whether he wished to serve Eucharist at church or in homebound ministry. He chose in church, but the training scheduled for the next Tuesday conflicted with a prior commitment. Michael told Mitch he was free Wednesday and learned that training for home-bound Eucharistic ministry was that Wednesday.

He continued to say yes without understanding, until he showed up for the training. While sitting in the pew and listening to the training, it hit Michael that his grandmother was homebound, and he could bring the Eucharist to her. And, he learned at the training, St. Isidore has gluten-free hosts available. He is gluten-intolerant and had accepted the fact that he couldn't receive the Eucharist – until he said yes to this ministry and learned of the possibilities! Michael realizes these discoveries would not have come his way unless he had reached out and said yes to God.

The ministry is still in need of ministers to the homebound, whether at West Suburban or in their own homes. Volunteers determine their own frequency of serving.

God seeks to work through all of us and bring us those moments when we witness something bigger and more beautiful than what we'd seen before. In building our community, we find and build our own souls.

Pack the Pantry Drive for Hunger Action Month

By Sandy Lively



Neighborhood Food Pantries Location:

CAROL STREAM -

Lutheran Church of the Master
580 N Kuhn Road, Carol Stream

St. Andrew United Methodist Church
250 N. Gary Avenue, Carol Stream

GLENDALE HEIGHTS

Family in Faith Christian Church
1480 Bloomingdale Road, Glendale Heights

WARRENVILLE

Immanuel Presbyterian Church
29W260 Batavia Road, Warrenville

WAYNE

Resurrection Catholic Church
30W350 Army Trail Road, Wayne

WEST CHICAGO

123 Fremont Street Pantry, West Chicago

September was Hunger Action Month and St. Isidore's parishioners were invited to help "Pack the Pantry." Items donated to the Neighborhood Food Pantries helped struggling families with things to kick off the school year. Items collected included non-perishable food, toothpaste and toothbrushes, sandwich bags, bar soap, dish soap, detergent, shampoo, deodorant, toilet paper and paper towels.

Your generous donations helped fill the carts with much needed items that sometimes are not always available to pantry clients. St. Isidore's donations support the Neighborhood Food Pantries location at the Lutheran Church of the Master on Kuhn Road in Carol Stream. Each week, the pantry serves almost 100 individuals and their family members.

Your continuing support of the Neighborhood Food Pantries is very appreciated. Please keep in mind the need remains all year long.

We Have Much to Celebrate

By Gloria Lorusso, Director of Advancement

Senator Seth Lewis rang in the new school year!



Wednesday, August 16 marked the beginning of the 2023 – 2024 school year. Following tradition, the original school bell was rung by 8th grader Danielle Dabeca, accompanied by Illinois State Senator Seth Lewis, Father Jim Murphy, and Principal Corie Alimento cheering her on.

It was a beautiful start to the new year, as the sun was shining and our students were eager to enter the building, visit their new lockers and classrooms, reconnect with familiar faces, and get to know some new ones too.

Throughout the 2022 - 2023 school year, many of our teachers have become Microsoft Certified Educators and/or have applied to become Microsoft Innovative Educator Experts, giving our teachers the opportunity to instruct using 21st-century skills, technology, and innovation. Additionally, St. Isidore Catholic School was given the Commitment to Growth award from Microsoft.

Hard work pays off! In September of 2023, St. Isidore Catholic School was awarded the esteemed recognition of Microsoft Showcase School for the 2023-2024 school year! We are among an elite group of schools that exemplify the best in teaching and learning.

We truly are blessed to be surrounded by an incredible community of supporters. Thank you to our administration, teachers, students, parents, parishioners, and friends of SICS for your belief in us. Without your continued support of our efforts, this award may not have been possible.

Our commitment to transforming the school continues, and we are beginning Phase 2 with a request for gifts. Please consider helping us by offering a gift of any amount to ensure these academic advancements continue for decades to come. All inquiries and gifts are welcome at: glorusso@sicatholic.org

Happy Fall! We had some exciting community events in October:

- Saturday, Oct. 14 - Pack the House
Alumni and current family and friends cheer on the 5th through 8th grade volleyball teams
- Wednesday, Oct. 18 - Grandparents Day
Celebrated students' grandparents with Mass, followed by a breakfast
- Saturday, Oct. 21 - Trunk or Treat
A ghoulish time with decorated car trunks, tricks and treats, mingling with friends at Circle Park



We would like to see you at future events. Watch the bulletin or website for details.

Eucharistic Revival and the Mass

By Bill Tice

The U.S. Council of Catholic Bishops declared this to be a year of Eucharistic Revival. A deeper understanding and appreciation for the Mass is fundamental to achieving that revival. Unfortunately, the Mass easily becomes too familiar and routine for us.

Paragraph 1345 of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* has a powerful quote from St. Justin Martyr which demonstrates the antiquity of the Mass. Around the year 155, he wrote to the pagan emperor Antoninus Pius describing how Catholics worship:

“On the day we call the day of the sun, all who dwell in the city or country gather in the same place,

“The memoirs of the apostles and the writing of the prophets are read, as much as time permits.

“When the reader has finished, he who presides over those gathered admonishes and challenges them to imitate these beautiful things.

“Then we all rise together and offer prayers for ourselves and for all others, wherever they may be, so that we may be found righteous by our life and actions, and faithful to the commandments, so as to obtain eternal salvation.

“When the prayers are concluded we exchange the kiss.

“Then someone brings bread and a cup of water and wine mixed together to him who presides over the brethren.

“He takes them and offers praise and glory to the Father of the universe, through the name of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and for a considerable time he gives thanks (in Greek: eucharistian) that we have been judged worthy of these gifts.

“When he has concluded the prayers and thanksgiving, all present give voice to an acclamation by saying: ‘Amen’.

“When he who presides has given thanks and the people have responded, those whom we call deacons give to those present the ‘eucharisted’ bread, wine, and water and take them to those who are absent.”



While some prayers and the style of the Mass has changed over time, St. Justin’s letter demonstrates that the essence of the Mass has been the same since being instituted by Jesus at The Last Supper.

Pastors at St. Isidore + Masses on weekends + Stations of the Cross – Chapels in the Church building x religious images in the Reservation Chapel x Images of Mary in Nave ÷ Trinity + Deacons + Angels in the nave window + Apostles + Parochial Vicars + Gifts of the Spirit = Area Code of Parish.

Quiz solution:

$10 + 8 + 14 - 2 \times 10 \times 6 \div 3 + 4 + 5 + 12 + 2 + 7 = 630$

It is not the style of clothes one wears, neither, the kind of automobile one drives, nor the amount of money one has in the bank that counts. These mean nothing. It is simply service that measures success.

George Washington Carver





Our St. Isidore team helped “shop” for over 300 families in providing meals for the week through the My Pantry Express program at the Food Bank.



Knights presents Greening-Osowski \$500 Scholarship to St Isidore School Principal Corie Alimento

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

FATHER JOHN GUINEY COUNCIL #8522



September 17 Knights of Columbus Blood Drive held in the Ministry Center, 27 units were collected



September 10 Blue Mass recognizing first responders

Knights Collect Donations for the Mentally Handicapped and Citizens with Learning Disabilities.

