

HELPING THOSE WHO ARE HUNGRY, THIRSTY

This issue contains articles focusing on food insecurity and the many ways as a parish we help those in need

stories
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Many parishioners here at St. Isidore may not realize that we have a Helping Hands program, or what exactly it is, or how much it does indeed help many people.

Helping Hands

Helping Hands, a replacement for the St. Vincent DePaul Society, is an assistance program for our parish and neighbors. The purpose of this program is to help those who are in need with a variety of assistance, mostly including helping with payments for utilities and rent/mortgage.

The Helping Hands group is made up of about seven members who help facilitate aid. One member handles intake calls and vets the potential client to ensure they are either within church boundaries or a parishioner at St. Isidore. Once a client completes this first phone call, they set up a meeting with another member of the Helping Hands group to provide further identification, as well as further details on what exactly they need. The group then comes to a consensus amongst themselves regarding what aid can be given to each respective client.

Once a client has been approved for assistance, the Helping Hands organization assists with taking action to get the necessary bills paid. While the group does all it can to assist as much as possible, it also offers additional resources to each client that may be helpful in their current situation.

The acts of service arranged by the Helping Hands operation are made possible by donations from parishioners like you. If you would like to contribute to the Helping Hands organization, you can visit the St. Isidore website and find the link to donate under Giving, Other Collections, Helping Hands. There is also a Helping Hands donation box in the narthex by the pamphlet rack. Any financial help is deeply appreciated.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer for the group, please reach out to helpinghands@stisidoreparish.org for more information.



Harvester

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KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

FATHER JOHN GUINEY COUNCIL #8522

Photos By Don Lively





Our Lady of Good Counsel

Busy Busy Busy!

St. Isidore Council of Catholic Women

The St. Isidore Council of Catholic Women (CCW) has been busy this past year. We have prayed together. We have laughed together. Oh, and we love to eat—we always have good food and drink at our monthly meetings. AND we have worked together for our community, our parish and our world.

- ★ Our Craft Show in November was a huge success with 45 crafters
- ★ We hosted a Pro-Life baby shower for the residents of Heather House and Monica's House
- ★ We celebrated Christmas in December and provided a Christmas Party for 180 residents of a local nursing home, adopting about 20 of the residents who have no family
- ★ The Girls' Night Out in January included a showing of a recently released movie
- ★ Cookies for Kids found the sweet spot for many families after weekend Masses
- ★ Our St. Joseph Table provided an Italian Dinner for over 200 of our parishioners and guests



Now in May, we are presenting a High Tea with all the formality, food and frivolity.

While we enjoy all of these activities, they are the backbone of our giving to others. The St. Isidore CCW provides funds for PADS (Public Action to Deliver Shelter) to provide shelter for the homeless among us. We provide a large portion of the budget for an orphanage in Nyumbani Orphanage in Kenya, Africa. Much of our fundraising also supports the Neighborhood Food Pantries.

And all of this is done with our members contributing time and energy at once-monthly meetings on the third Thursday of each month. All ladies of the parish are members; if you want to be an active member, just come to the meetings.



By Angela Orlando
Photos Veronica Martinez

The POPES



Pope means "father" or "papa" and he has a multitude of official titles.

- Bishop of Rome
(leader of the entire Catholic Church)
- Vicar of Jesus Christ
(the role as supreme leader of the Church on earth, which is the role given to St. Peter in John 21:16-17 and Matt 16:18-19)
- Supreme Pontiff of the Universal Church
(“pontiff” referring to bridge builder.)
- Successor of the Prince of the Apostles
- Sovereign of the State of the Vatican City
- Servant of the Servants of God

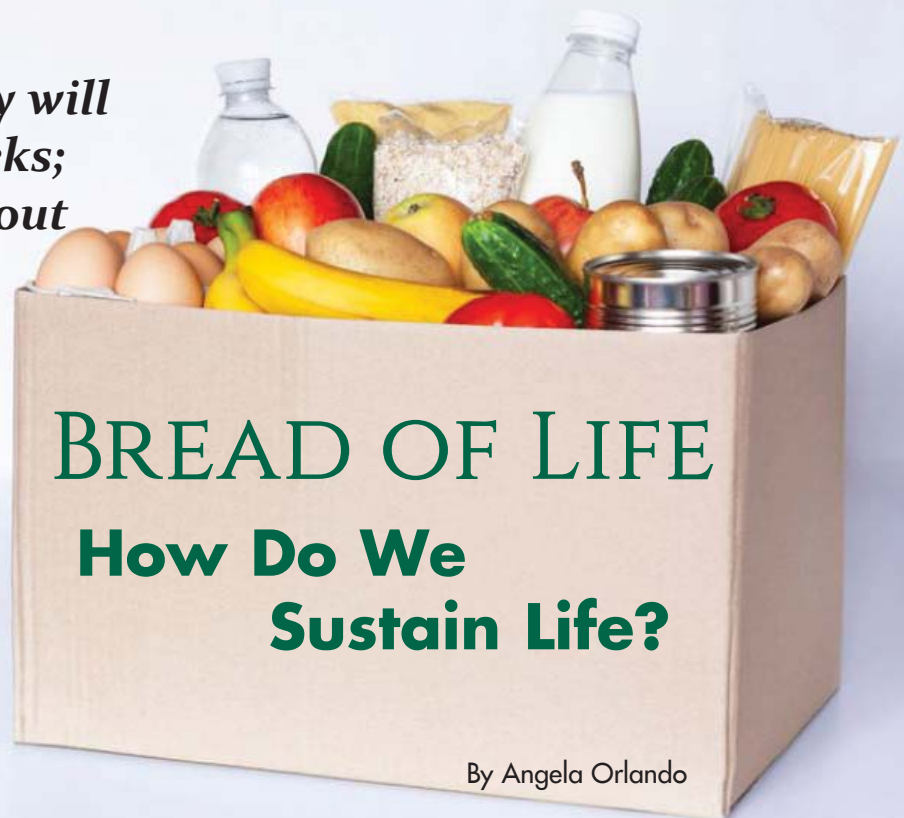
....and so many more titles. The word search challenge is to find the names of a few of the 267 popes we have had with these clues:

R	E	T	S	E	V	L	Y	S	U	I	P
E	U	R	O	T	C	I	V	I	I	V	A
T	G	O	O	B	U	N	I	X	O	X	U
E	E	M	V	D	E	U	F	T	H	S	L
P	N	A	L	E	O	S	B	U	N	U	T
X	E	N	O	G	A	E	O	S	C	D	C
L	J	U	L	I	U	S	H	I	G	O	I
E	C	S	W	X	L	L	U	T	N	N	D
F	R	A	N	C	I	S	R	O	A	U	E
L	A	N	D	O	V	N	N	X	B	S	N
E	B	O	N	I	F	A	C	E	C	O	E

- | | |
|----------|-----------|
| BENEDICT | LINUS |
| BONIFACE | LUCIUS |
| CONON | PAUL |
| DONUS | PETER |
| EUGENE | PIUS |
| FRANCIS | ROMANUS |
| GREGORY | SIXTUS |
| JOHN | SYLVESTER |
| LEO | THEODORE |
| JULIUS | VICTOR |
| LANDO | |



Without food, a body will die in about two weeks; without water, in about three days.



BREAD OF LIFE

How Do We Sustain Life?

By Angela Orlando

How best to help our friends and neighbors who are hungry, thirsty and have given up hope in some instances? St. Isidore's Focus on Hunger Ministry has been helping those people for several years. Did you know that the people involved in this ministry are people who sit in the pew next to you doing a yeoman's job of providing that little help that keeps our neighbors alive and nourished?

Mike Jankiewicz, chairman, said that helpers are ordinary parishioners who see a need and pitch in. Two or three times a year, about twenty people go out to the Northern Illinois Food Bank (NIFB) and pack boxes of non-perishable food for families. This is not heavy work, and after about three hours, you come away thankful for having seen all that food going to many homes. It might include cake mixes to nourish the soul, but also canned vegetables, cereal, noodles, rice, snacks and even frozen venison.

Several times a year, we sponsor Kids Against Hunger at the mall and watch the youngsters (along with a few chaperones) carefully measure out the spice package or the grains being packed as a lesson in patience. Since Stratford Mall is closing, we will be looking for a new location.

Twice a month, a group of St. Isidore volunteers provide food to residents of a senior low-income housing complex. These residents cannot physically leave and do not have a car. They pre-order groceries or household items they need.

In a separate effort, volunteers meet at a distribution center to help pack fresh microwaveable meals and deliver them to various locations.

The Neighborhood Food Pantries organization is a recipient of food which is collected in our narthex every week. On Monday or Tuesday, it is packed up and delivered to the

food pantry at the Lutheran Church of the Master. Often the baskets in the narthex are overflowing on Monday, a sign of our parish's generosity. It is so easy to just add one can of food or one jug of laundry soap to your shopping list, and many of our parishioners donate one or two items every week.

In September, we encourage our parishioners to write letters to Congress advocating for legislation to end hunger. Over 500 letters were sent this last year.

Have you contributed to the Thanksgiving Drive for Meals? It isn't hard to contribute \$25 to feed a family of four, and our parish has done that for 500 families. Our Lady of Sorrows in Chicago receives 160 Dinners.

Where there's a need—St. Isidore Parish tries to fill it.

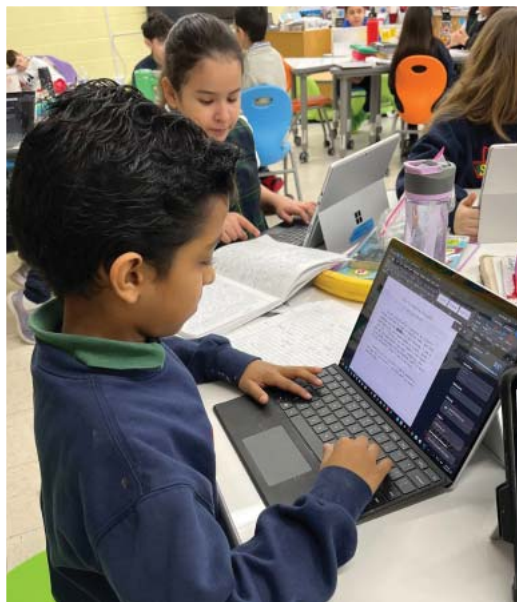
WE DID IT!

THANK YOU, PARENTS, PARISHIONERS, DONORS, AND FRIENDS OF ST. ISIDORE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

By Gloria Lorusso, Director of Advancement for St. Isidore Catholic School and a proud Alumni parent

Last year the 2023 Your St. Isidore Gala Fundacause proceeds served to not only greatly improve our technology, but also propelled the transformation of our school culture, spaces, and specifically the 1st, 4th, and 8th-grade classrooms into learning environments that challenge our students and staff to innovate and grow using 21st Century skills.

This year's Gala, hosted on February 24, 2024, highlighted the final phase (Phase 2) of giving during the Fundacause segment. To round out the transformation, the 2nd, 3rd, 5th, and 7th-grade classrooms are up next. The proceeds raised through Fundacause 2024 are dedicated to the completion of the remaining spaces, which will complete the campus classrooms. During the final segment of the Live Auction, George Alvarez, parent and School Board member, hosted a presentation and video that showcased the 2023 improvements in action from the heartbeat of St. Isidore Catholic School, our students!



We are grateful for our community of supporters! Without you, this achievement would not have been possible. Thank you.

As giving for the 2024 Fundacause is coming to a close, there is still time to help us meet our goal. You may make an online donation by selecting "donate" at the following link: www.sicsgala2024.givesmart.com

We remain hopeful and expectant to bring the Phase 2 goal to fruition. For development and enrollment inquiries, contact Gloria at youbelong@sicatholic.org.



The Twelve Apostles CALLED AND SENT

By Michael Fassbender



We often think of the Twelve Apostles as Christ's inner circle during His ministry on earth, and picture Da Vinci's painting of The Last Supper. It is sometimes said that an Apostle is a disciple who was called by Christ directly; the word apostle, however, actually signifies someone who has been sent. Both the call and the sending are essential to their stories. These, the first bishops of the Church, were men who had lives before they heard Christ's call, and after Pentecost each was sent out on a particular mission to spread the Word.

Peter

Born Simon (Shimon) as the son of Jonah, he was a fisherman until Christ called him. For his faith and openness to the Spirit, Christ gave him a leadership role and dubbed him Kepha (meaning "stone," appearing as "Cephus" or "Peter"). As the first Pope, he traveled and preached through Asia Minor and on to Rome, where he was crucified during the persecution under Nero. He was crucified with his body inverted because he objected that he was not worthy to die in the same manner as Christ.

Andrew

The brother of Peter and a fisherman as well, Andrew had been a disciple of John the Baptist, and was the first of the Apostles to join Christ's following. Later, he preached in Georgia, the Balkans and Greece. He was crucified in Achaia in Greece, bound by ropes to an X-shaped cross.

James

Yakov or James, the son of Zebedee, was another fisherman; together with his brother John, they were known as "the Sons of Thunder." They held special rank among the Apostles and were present at the Transfiguration. James remained in Jerusalem until his martyrdom under King Herod Agrippa, who had him beheaded.

John

The brother of James, Yohannan or John is often known as “the beloved disciple.” Alone among the Apostles, he remained faithful through Christ’s Passion. Later, he wrote one of the Gospels, the Book of Revelation and several Epistles. He took care of the Virgin Mary for the remainder of her life on Earth and died naturally at Ephesus.

Matthew

Probably known originally as Levi, he was called Matthew meaning “Gift of Yahweh.” Previously, he had been a tax collector. Later, he wrote another of the Gospels, and preached in Ethiopia and Persia. Accounts of his death are contradictory, but he was probably killed in Ethiopia, either by stabbing or burning.

Thomas

Also known as “Didymus” (the Twin), Thomas is best known for insisting on seeing the risen Christ and touching His wounds before he would believe in the Resurrection. His path led him east into Persia and eventually India, where he was speared to death.

Phillip

Known chiefly for asking Christ to show him the Father, and possibly for bringing Bartholomew to the group, Phillip went on to Asia Minor and North Africa, and even to Pontus (on the northern shore of the Black Sea). Phillip was martyred in Phrygia in Asia Minor after bringing about the conversion of a Roman official’s wife. It is not clear if he was crucified or beheaded.

Bartholomew

This is probably a secondary name identifying him as the “son of Talmi.” He may or may not be the same person as Nathanael. Brought to Christ’s following by Phillip, he too was asked to be one of the Apostles. He traveled widely across the eastern half of the Roman orbit, from Egypt to India and from Georgia to Arabia. He is believed to have been martyred in Armenia, but the manner is unclear, and could be either flaying or beheading.

James

Known as “James the Less” to distinguish him from the Son of Zebedee, this James may have been a cousin of Christ. He went on to be the Bishop of Jerusalem and is thought to be the author of the Epistle of James. The accounts of his martyrdom variously cite stoning or being hurled from the Temple roof and then clubbing.

Jude

Known in his own language as Yehudah and with the secondary name Thaddaeus which may speak to his courage, this Jude was the brother of James the Less. After Pentecost, Jude traveled throughout the Middle East and Asia Minor before his martyrdom in Persia. The method of execution is variously identified as sawing or as hacking with an axe.

Simon

Believed to have been one of the Zealots, the revolutionaries carrying out a holy war against the Romans, Simon went on to preach a far more peaceful Gospel through much of the Middle East, North Africa and even in Britain. Accounts of his death vary, potentially taking place in Persia, Syria, Jerusalem or Britain; he may have been crucified or sawn apart.

Judas Iscariot

Another Yehudah, this one retains the Latin spelling of his name in English to distinguish him from the other Jude. He betrayed Christ and delivered Him to the Sanhedrin, and then in despair hanged himself. His death created a vacancy in the roster of the Twelve Apostles, because there was significance in the number, which reflected the Twelve Tribes of Israel.

Matthias

Matthias was one of Jesus’ other disciples, and after the Ascension, the Apostles held a vote to select their twelfth member. Matthias was chosen, and for a time he traveled with Andrew. He is believed to have died a martyr’s death, but he may have died by fire or by spear in Syria.

RECIPE FOR A HAPPY HEART

5 PINTS LOVE
3 QUARTS CARE
4 CUPS LAUGHTER
2 CUPS HOPE

MIX TOGETHER WITH A FULL MEASURE OF FAITH IN THE LORD. SPRINKLE WITH JOY AND UNDERSTANDING. BAKE IN SUNSHINE AND SHARE WITH FRIENDS.



EVERY TIME WE OFFER SOMEONE A
HELPING HAND,

EVERY TIME WE SHOW A FRIEND WE
CARE AND UNDERSTAND,

EVERY TIME WE HAVE A WARM AND
THOUGHTFUL WORD TO SAY,

WE HELP SOMEONE FIND BEAUTY IN
THIS PRECIOUS LIFE WE LIVE.

Neighborhood Food Pantries

By Sandy and Don Lively



Beginnings and...

Over twenty-five years ago, a simple request to research starting a local food pantry has now grown into a network of 5 pantries serving hundreds of families each month with basic household items such as fresh produce, canned goods, bakery items, meat, eggs, milk, paper products and toiletries.

In 1997, the pastor of Resurrection Parish asked Tom Norton, who was on staff at both Resurrection and St. Isidore, to research opening a food pantry. Tom met with Rev. Eric Dawson of Lutheran Church of the Master (LCM) in Carol Stream and Fr. Vern Arseneau of St. Mary's in West Chicago. Both churches were already hosting food pantries. After fifteen months of planning and preparation, the Northwest DuPage Walk-in Ministries launched with three pantries serving Bloomingdale, Wayne and Winfield townships. Through the years, additional churches and pantries joined the network. Then, to better describe the mission, a new name was selected: Neighborhood Food Pantries (NFP). NFP was incorporated in 1999 and continues to serve our neighbors at five pantries.

Volunteer Thank You

Many parishioners from St. Isidore are part of the volunteer force at the NFP site at LCM in Carol Stream. With the guidance of Pantry Director and St. Isidore parishioner, Carol Platt, these volunteers perform numerous tasks each day: food pickup, food inspection, quality control, stocking, guest relations, and translation work helping guests to complete documentation properly. A special thank you to all the volunteers who are the heart and spirit of NFP. Their hard work keeps the shelves and fridges stocked, and the carts full for the NFP guests. Pictured are some of the volunteers who spend several hours at the pantry each week. May God bless you for your service to our neighbors in need.



Our Glass Heritage



A few months ago, as I walked into the narthex, I was awed by the beautiful new “welcome wall”. There was a reproduction of the window that is above the choir loft in the original St. Isidore Church (now our Chapel).

Our first parishioners, the early German families who built St. Isidore, knew that having significant stained glass windows in their new church was very important. Farm families donated their hard-labored money to make this possible. Here was a memory of their churches and cathedrals in Germany where the stained glass windows were; not just artistically outstanding, they were teaching tools. As the churchgoers looked at their windows, they recalled a particular saint or a biblical story.

Besides the magnificent glass image of St. Isidore, on the balcony wall (facing Army Trail Rd.) are two huge glass images – King David and Pope Gregory the Great, wearing the 3-tier papal tiara. King David authored the psalms and normally they were sung with a harp. Pope Gregory is responsible for the Gregorian chant. The choir loft is the perfect location for these musical religious forefathers.

Each side window in our chapel tells a story. The saints depicted on these windows are Mark, John, Paul, Matthew, Luke, Therese, Rose of Lima, Catherine, and Cecelia. On each side of the image of the saint are smaller icons reflecting symbols from their Catholic traditions.

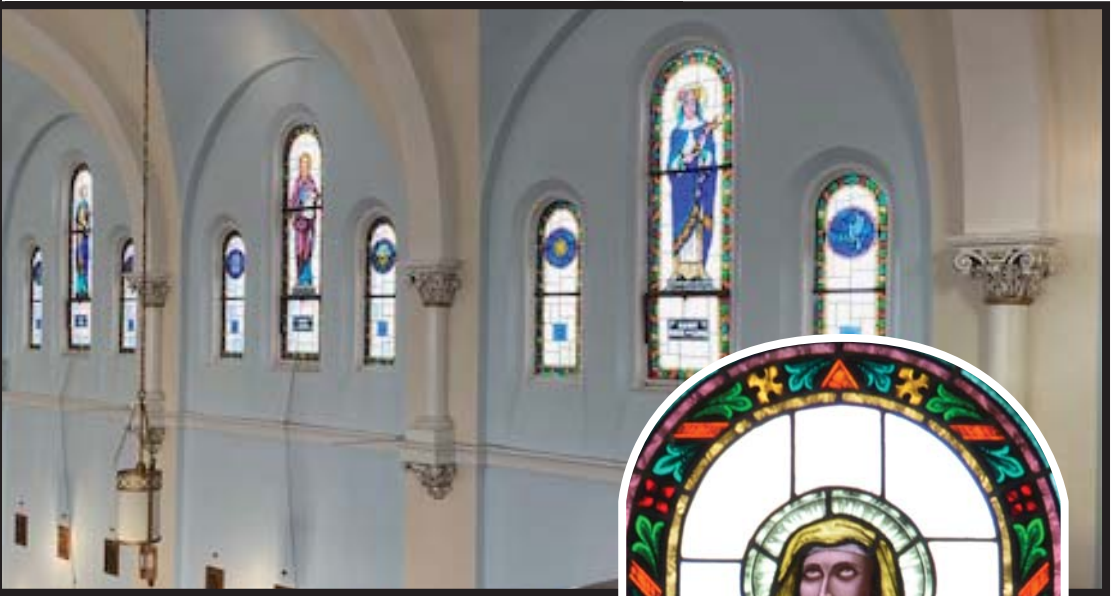
Today we can be proud of this centennial structure that truly represents the spiritual life of these German farmers.

In our current worship space, new stain glass windows have been added, thanks to parishioner, Jim Leix. He has created the glass work above the doorways to both buildings, as well as the beautiful windows by the baptistry and by the St. Joseph alcove.

Word Search
Did you find the Popes?

R	E	T	S	E	V	L	Y	S	U	I	P		
E	U	R	O	T	C	I	V	I	J		A		
T	G	O				N		X	O		U		
E	E	M		D		U		T	H		L		
P	N	A	L	E	O	S		U	N	U	T		
	E	N				E		S	C	D	C		
	J	U	L	I	U	S	H	I		O	I		
		S					U	T	N	N	D		
F	R	A	N	C	I	S		O		U	E		
L	A	N	D	O			N			S	N		
		B	O	N	I	F	A	C	E		E		
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Our Glass Heritage



Each side window in our chapel tells a story. The saints depicted on these windows are, Mark and Catherine. On each side of the image of the saint are smaller icons reflecting symbols from their Catholic traditions.

