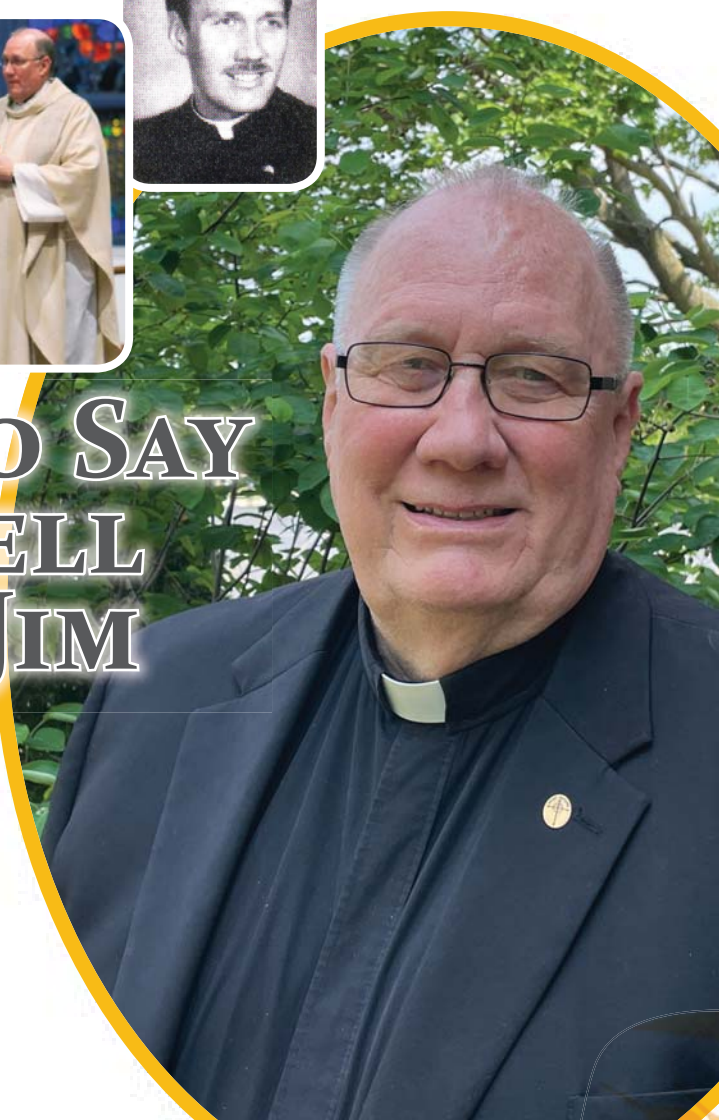


TIME TO SAY FAREWELL TO FR. JIM



We bid a fond farewell to our Father Jim who has shepherded our parish for nearly 20 years.

Father Jim has led us through many joys and challenges, both as a community and in our personal lives.

Father Jim has given much to us, and we wish him every grace, blessing and good health as he begins his retirement.

Thank you
Father Jim.

Everybody Say Amen!

By Michael Fassbender

As children, we were all taught to say “Amen” at the end of a prayer. Later, we may have been taught that it means “I believe,” but it rarely went beyond that.

When we see cases where Christ says, “Amen, amen, I say to you,” it becomes more confusing. “Amen” is a little word with big meanings, and it was adopted into other languages because nothing else carried the same significance.

“Amen” has its origin in the Jewish tradition, where it carried multiple meanings. Derived from a word root linked to the Hebrew word for “belief,” it carries the meaning “truly” as readily as “I believe.” It can be used to seal an oath, or to demonstrate agreement. When Jesus said “Amen” before another statement, it was a signal that what He was saying was both certainly true and very important. These uses of the word are still valid in Judaism, but they have not carried forth in Christianity except to the extent that they are reflected in Scripture.

The final meaning of “Amen” in Judaism is when it is spoken by listeners after someone else has said a prayer or expressed a belief. Here it means more than “I believe” because to our ears that will sound passive. Saying “Amen” after a prayer was understood to be the equivalent of speaking the same prayer again; indeed, this was more powerful than the original recitation of the prayer. A later (fourteenth century) Talmudic commentary explained this by referencing the Jewish tradition that two must testify for evidence to be accepted. The second speaker completes the testimony.

Due to the rich significance of the word “Amen,” the Greek and Roman Christian communities had no words in their own languages that carried the same meaning. Accordingly, the Hebrew word was retained. Today, much of the resonance that attached to the word in the early Church has been lost in rote repetition, but in one context, at least, some measure of that rich meaning remains. When we say “Amen” in response to the priest saying, “the Body of Christ,” we are conveying our faith and our agreement in a number of truths. These begin with the reality of Christ’s Presence in the Eucharist, but also include the power of the priest to effect the Transubstantiation and the power of the Church as a whole in ordaining its priests and passing on its teachings.

Sing With All the Saints

By Angela Orlando

Someone asked, “How do you pick the songs for liturgy?” Well, who better to ask than our Director of Music, Pat Mooney.

When choosing the music for the weekend Masses, Pat looks at the readings for the Mass. Quite often they lead to specific music. Then if that doesn’t work, there is a publication that suggests certain music for the liturgy. The seasons of the church year also lend themselves to certain hymns.

Our acquisition of the new Gather hymnals has opened the flood of familiar as well as new pieces that we will learn.

Music at funerals and weddings is somewhat circumscribed. The family or the couple pick from a list of ordinary music for the occasion. While someone may request certain songs, some may not be appropriate for singing in Church. Pat said that there are many hymns in the new books that we will learn, but he will introduce them slowly so that the congregation will get to know them.

Those who attend the 10:00 a.m. Mass are blessed to sing along with the choir members who are grounded in the music. Many of the choir members have been singing their whole lives. There are several members who have been in the choir for 30 or more years and some who are new to the choir. No experience is required. The music in the fall is familiar songs but as we near Advent the music grows more longing, then really gets going for Christmas; Lent is penitential, Holy Thursday is uplifting, Good Friday is somber and the Resurrection is erupting. Fifty days later comes the Pentecost liturgy, followed by Trinity Sunday.

How do they get to sound so great? The same trick applies to every endeavor: practice, practice, practice. They practice on Wednesday evenings. Choir rehearsal is scheduled almost every week, throughout much of the year. During the summer months, they get time off, but as we gear up for the fall, rehearsals begin again. The Cantors are leading the congregation year round, which is fortunate for most of us. The congregation is the choir at most Masses and we need them to lead us.

When I was growing up the choir director often said, “singing is praying twice.” I don’t know if that is true or not, but I believe that singing is a special prayer.

Hunger and You

By Dorothy Jaskey

Yes, there are hungry children and families in the world, in the United States, and even in DuPage County. However, in our corner of the county there is help for these families.

There are Neighborhood Food Pantries where people in need of food can receive healthy meals:

- LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE MASTER
580 N. Kuhn Rd. (Carol Stream)
630-665-5188
Mon. 12:30 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.
Tues., Wed., Thur. 10:00 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.
- FAMILY IN FAITH CHRISTIAN CHURCH
1480 Bloomingdale Rd. (Glendale Heights)
630-315-4012
Wed. 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Sat. 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
- ST. ANDREW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
250 N. Gary Ave. (Carol Stream)
630-653-7116
Mon. 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
- IMMANUEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
29W260 Batavia Rd. (Warrenville)
630-929-3923
Sun. 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Tues. 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- FREMONT STREET PANTRY
123 Fremont St. (West Chicago)
630-293-4958
Mon. 11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Wed., Thur., Fri. 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Sat. 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
- RESURRECTION CATHOLIC COMMUNITY
30W350 Army Trail Rd. (Wayne)
630-289-2510
Mon., Thur. 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Tues. 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Sat. 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

The food for these pantries is gathered through purchases from the Northern Illinois Food Bank, donations by local grocery stores, and primarily the generosity of parishioners in the neighboring churches. St. Isidore has seasonal food drives and baskets in the narthex for weekly non-perishable donations.

Every Monday morning, dedicated parishioners transport the food collected throughout the week to the Lutheran Church of the Master Pantry.

If you or a family you know cannot afford food, do not hesitate to contact a local pantry. The process is simple:

1. Go to any local food pantry
2. Show a photo ID
3. Show a proof of residency (even a letterhead paper with the landlord's info is OK)
4. Receive an ID card to use on your next visit.

If you are not sure where there is a Pantry near you, just dial 211.

When a client shops at a local pantry, it affords them cash to purchase other essential needs and expenses. Help is available to put nourishing food on the table. Do not hesitate to shop at a Neighborhood Food Pantry.



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:

Harvester
St. Isidore Church
427 W. Army Trail Rd.
Bloomington, IL 60108

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CELEBRATING MILESTONES AND GRATITUDE

A RECAP OF RECENT EVENTS

As we journey through the spring season, our community at St. Isidore Catholic School has been blessed with numerous milestones and celebrations, each marking significant moments in the lives of our students. From First Holy Communion to Ribbon Day and culminating in the joyous occasion of 8th grade Graduation, these events have brought us together in faith, joy, and gratitude.

First Holy Communion:

In receiving the sacred sacrament of First Holy Communion, our young parishioners took a significant step in their spiritual journeys. It was a day filled with reverence and joy as they received the Body and Blood of Christ for the first time. We witnessed the innocence and purity of their faith as they approached the altar, surrounded by the love and support of their families and the entire parish community.

May Crowning:

In the month of May, we honored the Blessed Virgin Mary with our annual May Crowning ceremony. With flowers in hand, our 8th grade students adorned the statue of Mary, Queen of Heaven, as we offered prayers and hymns in her honor. May Crowning serves as a beautiful reminder of Mary's role in our faith and her unwavering intercession for all God's children.

Ribbon Day:

Ribbon Day was a vibrant celebration of academic achievement and dedication to our Catholic values. Our 8th grade students were recognized for their hard work, perseverance, and commitment to excellence in their studies and their faith. As they received their ribbons, we applauded their accomplishments and encouraged them to continue striving for greatness in all aspects of their lives, as this milestone signifies nearing the end of their elementary school journey.

8th Grade Graduation:

The culmination of years of hard work and growth, 8th grade Graduation was a bittersweet moment for our students, families, educators and administration. We celebrated their achievements and bid farewell as they prepared to embark on the next chapters of their academic and spiritual journeys. With hearts full of hope and excitement, we send them forth, confident in their abilities and grounded in their Catholic faith. To the Class of 2024, St. Isidore will always be your home, and we will never say "good-bye".



Vowel Challenge

A E I O U A E I O U A E I O U A E I O U

Throughout Scripture, Jesus has many titles and names. Below are just a few. Unfortunately, the laptop omitted putting in any vowels. So...A E I O U are in the answer.

___MM___N___L
 ___DV___C___T___
 T___CH___R
 J___DG___
 S___V___R
 R___D___M___R
 L___RD
 B___L___V___D S___N
 K___NG ___F K___NGS
 M___ST___R



H___GH PR___ST
 ___LM___GHTY
 ___LPH___ND ___M___G___
 G___D SH___PH___RD
 BR___D___GR___M
 R___CK
 TH___W___RD
 M___SS___S
 L___MB ___F G___D
 TR___V___N___



A Grateful Heart and a Call to Action:

As we reflect on these moments of joy and celebration, we are reminded of the importance of community and support. None of these events would have been possible without the dedication and generosity of our parish community. Your prayers, encouragement, and financial support have been instrumental in nurturing the faith and growth of our students.

As we look ahead, we invite you to continue supporting our mission through your participation in the Annual Legacy Appeal. Your contributions enable us to uphold the traditions of our faith, provide quality education, and serve as a beacon of hope and love in our community for all families who desire a faith-filled Catholic education for their children. Together, let us ensure that future generations may experience the same blessings and opportunities. For more information on how you may leave a legacy, email: appeal@sicatholic.org

May God bless you abundantly for your generosity, and may His grace continue to guide us as we journey forward into the summer season.

With gratitude and blessings,
 Gloria Lorusso, Director of Advancement, St. Isidore Catholic School





Welcome Our Neighbor

a new ministry to meet a pressing need

By Penni Cannova

A fledgling ministry has begun at St. Isidore Parish, one dedicated to helping those who have just arrived in our area from lands far away and situations often tenuous. Parishioners Eileen Higgins, Linda and Steve Sprauer, Toni and Mike Sinnott, and Corinne Callendar, staff member, have formed a leadership team for Welcome Our Neighbor (WON) based on their mutual impulse to follow the spirit of simple welcome for those who have so little.

Finding great inspiration in Matthew 25:35, each felt called to work for the comfort of those who have traveled so far.

For I was hungry and you gave me food. I was thirsty and you gave me drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me.

Eileen Higgins, along with Toni Sinnott, shared mutual concern for migrants and also ideas about how they could respond in a local way.

The ministry began about a year ago when Eileen, Toni and Mike Sinnott joined Linda and Steve Sprauer to form the WON Leadership Team. This group, just starting out in this ministry, wish foremost to share with their fellow parishioners their inspiration, which is to respond to the needs of those who have left or fled their homeland to make a life in this country, without bringing in any political aspect. They wish merely to awaken in us all the response of Christ who asks us to welcome a stranger in a strange new land. In this they wish to serve to those new to the U.S.

Their ultimate goal is to increase the number of parish volunteers and assist a family to become established, but for now they are helping to meet the immediate needs of those recent arrivals. Welcome Our Neighbor has begun working with the Illinois Community for Displaced Immigrants (ICDI), based in Chicago, who are meeting the people disembarking from the buses which have brought them here. The ICDI came out to speak with the leadership team and parishioners about their mission and the help these folks need when they initially arrive. With in-kind contributions from generous parishioners, the WON team has assembled 200 hygiene kits to be distributed to new

arrivals. These kits include toothpaste, soap, comb, hand sanitizer, dental floss, lip balm, lotion, shampoo, razor, deodorant, a pen and for women, feminine products, all housed in a tidy backpack. The team views this as the very beginning of their work.

Last fall, WON organized and conducted a coat drive and also provided much needed men's garments for newcomers. Welcome Our Neighbor would absolutely welcome all volunteers and donations. Our website has a donation link, under the heading of Giving, within Other Collections. They are grateful for the donations so far which have allowed them to begin this important work. On Sunday, June 23, Welcome Our Neighbor held an event to mark World Refugee Month and further their mission of bringing the light of understanding and support to those in need.



Did You Know?

Refugee: Someone who has been forced to flee his or her home because of war, violence, or persecution, often without warning.

Migrant: Someone who is moving from place to place usually for economic reasons such as seasonal work.

Asylum Seeker: Someone who is seeking international protection from dangers in his or her own country but whose claim for refugee status hasn't been determined. Asylum seekers must apply for protection.

WELCOME OCIA

By Angela Orlando

What is OCIA? Now that's a good question. We used to call it Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults or RCIA but now we call it Order of Christian Initiation for Adults.



At St. Isidore and most other Joliet Diocese Parishes there is a gradual process for someone who wishes to become Catholic. Any person who is looking to find a spiritual home begins by attending Inquiry Sessions which take place beginning in the fall. There are two ministerial teams that work under the guidance of the Adult Faith Formation Director, Leonor Carvajal, to facilitate the OCIA sessions. One team works in Spanish, and one in English. The English-speaking team members are Lee Lansford, Meg Studer, Bill Tice and Pam Lansford, the coordinator.

This is a time for the participants to discern their relationship with God, how their life has been so far and what they are missing. Besides hearing the Gospel, they are encouraged to ask questions and share their background with other seekers. If they are ready to accept the Gospel and deepen their faith, they participate in a formal Rite of Acceptance and Welcome and officially become a Catechumen (for those who have not been baptized) or a Candidate (baptized Christians, Catholic or Protestant, who have not yet received the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist). This is the learning time for all: studying the doctrines of the Church, Sacred Scripture, prayer and worship. Each participant chooses a sponsor who walks with them on their OCIA journey of faith. If possible, the sponsors also attend the weekly sessions. However, the entire congregation is also part of the process as one faith community, tasked with praying for the OCIA participants.

In late fall, the Candidates celebrate the Rite of Continuing Conversion with the bishop at St. Raymond Cathedral in Joliet. On the first Sunday in Lent, the Catechumens celebrate the Rite of Election with the bishop, also held at St. Raymond Cathedral. During this liturgy, the names of all Catechumens throughout the diocese are entered into to the Book of the Elect and accepted by the bishop to receive the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. They are now called the Elect. All the participants now enter into the period of Purification and Enlightenment. These are the final steps to becoming a fully initiated Catholic. They have come a long way in their journeys. For some, the journey has been scary, for others joyful. It depends on where they started and where they have grown in their spiritual life.

The Triduum is the high-point of their journeys, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Vigil are a commencement for them. During the Easter Vigil, the Elect will be baptized, then join the Candidates in receiving Confirmation and First Eucharist. The newly initiated are now part of the church but they are not finished. These Neophytes will continue to deepen their understanding of the paschal mystery and make it part of their lives for several more weeks as they continue to meet until Pentecost. OCIA is only the beginning of a faith journey that never ends.



A E I O U A E I O U A E I O U A E I O U

IMMANUEL
ADVOCATE
TEACHER
JUDGE
SAVIOR

REDEEMER
LORD
BELOVED SON
KING OF KINGS
MASTER

HIGH PRIEST
ALMIGHTY
ALPHA AND OMEGA
GOOD SHEPHERD
BRIDEGROOM

ROCK
THE WORD
MESSIAS
LAMB OF GOD
TRUE VINE



IN THE MERRY MONTH OF MAY



St. Isidore Counsel
of Catholic Women



**KNIGHTS
OF COLUMBUS**
IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.

Joining the school for the May Crowning, representatives presented Our Blessed Mother with the beauty of a floral bouquet.

At the monthly meeting there was the recapping of the financial and social successes.

It was an honor to host the Arise and Awake West DuPage Deanery Spring Institute as nine parishes gathered together.

High Tea was time for pure elegance, with beautifully decorated tables by our CCW ladies. Live music was provided by Nick Gutierrez.

Climaxing the year was the installation dinner at Tony Spavone Restaurant. Officers for next year are Rachel Perek, Marisol Glaser, Nanette Vogel, Donna Stephenson, and Pat Murray.

Yes, it was a very good year for St. Isidore CCW.



Sunday, May 5, CCW High Tea. Our Knights participate in the CCW's High Tea by serving food and drink and bussing tables. Bill Gorsline, Ken Voelker, Barry Smith, Jeff Vogel, Jim Olsta and Tom Murray are shown here.



Thursday, May 9, Memorial Mass in Honor of Fr. John Guiney. It was the 10th anniversary of Fr. Guiney having been called to his eternal home and in his honor we remembered him at the daily 12:05pm Mass on May 9. Pictured are Grand Knight Ed Hauser, Ken Voelker, Larry Beckerdite, Dcn. Rocco Busato, and Don Lively.

Friday, May 24, Install Memorial Day American Flags. We placed American flags along the sidewalks in front of Church with the names persons who served our country; flags were also placed on the Chapel sidewalks; and on Veterans' graves on Friday, May 24, at 9:00 am. Thanks to Grand Knight Ed Hauser, Ken Voelker, Tom Murray, Bill Gorsline, Mark Osburn, Larry Beckerdite, Jim Olsta and Don Lively for their good teamwork.

