



ST. ISIDORE HARVESTER

Fall 2024
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

stories

INSIDE

Patron Saint
Challenge

Honoring Lives:
Our Funeral
Ministry

Welcome Fr. John

Jesus: Bread from
Heaven



Updates from
KofC and CCW

School News

Preparing for
Your Wedding

Making a Pilgrimage *Anywhere!*

The Stations of the Cross are probably the most familiar images to grace a church interior apart from the crucifix itself. Countless artists have rendered their versions of beloved episodes in the story of Christ's Passion. Some of these episodes appear nowhere in the Bible, however. The Stations of the Cross evolved from centuries of pilgrimages in the Holy Land.

continue on the next page



Making a Pilgrimage

By Michael Fassbender

The stations begin with the Way of the Cross, or Via Dolorosa. The Christian community in Jerusalem has revered the holy places since the beginning, with documentary evidence of simple processions along a route at Calvary in the fourth century. By the time of the Crusades, this had grown into a substantial journey through Jerusalem to Calvary, filling the procession with sites marked from local tradition. This became the core of pilgrimage to the Holy Land. The Crusades were fought in large measure to keep the way clear for pilgrims, but fighting in the Crusades itself became a pilgrimage, as well. Everything depended on helping the faithful to visit the sites associated with Christ's life, but most especially those associated with His Passion. By participating in His journey to the Cross, they sought special graces, and in time, indulgences were offered formally for those who made the journey.

Several influences joined to make this an experience for the faithful anywhere in the world. There is a tradition associated with Mary that she built a path near her final home to imitate the path of Christ to Calvary, so



that she could walk it and relive those moments. Later, in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, saints like St. Francis of Assisi encouraged the faithful to build displays at home for their devotions. In this spirit, returning pilgrims began to build displays of the Way of the Cross. The need for such devotions grew as the journey to the Holy Land became more dangerous.

The Stations of the Cross in the familiar form began in Spain in the early seventeenth century. The practice spread through the Mediterranean, and in 1731, Pope Clement XII authorized the construction of Stations of the Cross, with fourteen stations, in every church. The fourteen stations emerging out of this tradition have remained dominant ever since, although Pope John Paul II offered an alternative version in 1991 that presents fourteen events taken directly from the Gospels.



On the Move

By Don Lively

Feed My Starving Children

Council 8522 had another successful Feed My Starving Children packing event. We contributed 11 volunteers. We want to thank our team (pictured below) of Donna & Dennis Stephenson, Judy & Larry Beckerdite, Maria & Franz Woerle, Bob Darby, Ken Voelker, Frank Zappa and Jackie & Ed Hauser.

It was a great crew. There were two challenge opportunities, and our table, along with another team, won both times. Go Uganda Team!!!



There were 90+ volunteers in attendance for the packing session. As a group, we completed 135 boxes, which equates to 29,160 meals and 80 children fed daily for one year.

Knights and Their Truck Moving Company

Fr. John asked for assistance to have a bed, desk, and dresser moved to the St. Isidore Rectory in Hanover Park. The purpose for the move is to furnish a bedroom for a seminarian who will be at St. Isidore Church this summer. Special kudos to Ken Voelker, Ted Mazurski, Sandy and Don Lively, Don's neighbor Jerry Mroz and Ed Hauser. On the morning of August 13, they moved the bedroom set from St. Luke's Convent to our rectory in Hanover Park. They even had to navigate over a ditch, because the village was adding new curbs. Plus, no marks on walls or damage.





Saints are revered for their holiness, virtue, and dedication to God. Patron saints are considered heavenly advocates for specific causes, professions, or groups of people. For instance, St. Francis of Assisi is the patron saint of animals and the environment, while St. Thomas Aquinas is the patron saint of students and scholars. The Catholic Church recognizes over seven hundred patron saints. Those preparing for the sacrament of confirmation select a saint for themselves. Patron saints offer comfort and guidance to those who seek their intercession. By turning to a patron saint, one can find strength, hope, and inspiration in their daily lives.

Below is a list of a few familiar patron saints; match them with their patronage.

SAINTS **PATRONAGE**

Albert	Singers
Aloysius	Lovers
Anthony	Youth
Basil	Lost Items
Blaise	Throat Ailments
Carlo Acutis	Doctors
Cecilia	Gardeners
Damian	Journalists
Dorothy	Soldiers
Francis de Sales	Childbirth
Gerard	Teachers
George	Fathers
John the Baptist	Bankers
Joseph	Hopeless Cases
Jude	Mothers
Martha	Charity
Matthew	Scientists
Monica	Cooks
Valentine	Hospital Workers
Vincent de Paul	Computer Programmers



St. Isidore Council
Catholic of Women

By Kathy Lopez

Welcome to the CCW Season!

The Council Catholic of Women (CCW) is excited to kick off the new season with enriching events and activities. If you missed the Welcome sign-up weekend on September 7-8, don't worry—there's still plenty of time to get involved!



Upcoming Highlights:

- **Christmas Party:** We're sponsoring a festive celebration for the residents of West Suburban Nursing Home.
- **Ladies Night Out:** Want to get out of house this January? Join us for snacks and a movie.
- **Spring High Tea:** Mark your calendars for a delightful afternoon in May.

Featured Event:

Don't miss our **Fall Craft Fair & Bake Sale** on Saturday, November 9 in the Ministry Center. This exciting event last year showcased over 40 vendors offering a diverse range of unique gifts and treasures that were perfect for early holiday shopping. In addition, our Bake Sale will feature an array of homemade treats, ideal for savoring or giving as thoughtful gifts. Join us for a day of shopping, delicious baked goods, and community spirit. CCW President Marisol Glaser and Fair Chairperson Pat Murray invite you to bring your friends and enjoy this special occasion. We look forward to seeing you there!



HONORING LIVES: CELEBRATING LIFE IN TIMES OF LOSS

Our Funeral Ministry

By Angela Orlando

In a parish this size, we often have almost 100 funerals every year. Death is a part of life, and so we celebrate. When we are born, we are taken to church to be baptized. When we die, we are taken on a journey to church and onward to heaven. But there's a lot going on between baptism and our funeral.

We are blessed to have a Funeral Ministry here at St. Isidore that makes the leaving so much easier on the family. The first thing that happens is that a loved one calls to notify the church of the death. The date of the Mass is set and then the wheels of our parish start to turn. A priest is alerted. Our Music Director, Pat Mooney, meets with the family and helps them decide on the music that will be played and the readings that will be read. A Funeral Coordinator is assigned.

The Funeral Coordinator helps prepare the church for the funeral service/Mass. Nothing is left to chance, because whether the death was sudden or expected, the family is stunned and needs some help to bury their loved one fittingly. The loved one's body, whether cremated or in a casket, is processed into church and greeted at the doors with a blessing that mirrors their baptism. Bells ring, signifying the joy of welcoming the soul to heaven. A pall (a white cloth that covers the casket or remains) is placed on the casket and put in place and the Priest leads the procession into church as the opening hymn is sung by the cantor.

Family members usually proclaim the readings and offer the petitions during Mass. (If family members are unable, the funeral coordinator will do this). After the Eucharist, but before leaving church, the body is incensed and then the closing hymn is sung. Again, the bells are tolled as a farewell reminder to send the soul onward.

In between all of this, the coordinator will be opening doors, preparing the Holy Water, preparing the altar, greeting the funeral director, placing flowers near the

altar, helping with distribution of the Eucharist, lighting the incense, and directing wanderers to the restrooms and the cry room. We are so blessed to have several members of our parish who are part of this ministry. Our Coordinator, Joan Gilleran-Strom, assigns one of the members to each service: Christina Macias, Fran Mascari, Lillian Delfin, Brenda Stanton, Debbie Migliorisi, and Angela Orlando.

Each takes an assignment as they are able.

We can always use more coordinators. If you are interested, please contact the parish office.



WELCOMING FR. JOHN A JOURNEY OF FAITH AND SERVICE

By Penni Cannova



We are fortunate here at St. Isidore to have welcomed our new priest, Fr. John Balluff, this summer. The Harvester relished the opportunity to sit down with Fr. John to get to know him more.

Born and raised in Elmhurst, Fr. John recounts the wonderful independence as a child of biking and walking to downtown Elmhurst, and the school and church. His dad and grandfather, both architects, were in business together – Fr. John jokingly said the name of their firm made that clear: Balluff and Balluff Architects and Engineers.

Heading to Lincoln, Nebraska for college, he spent three years at the University of Nebraska as a scholarship gymnast. He said he never would have been able to go so far from home but for the assistance of the scholarship. After three very enjoyable years studying architecture like his dad and grandfather, Fr. John discerned a different calling. He departed the university in Lincoln to finish his college studies, in Philosophy, at St. Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology in Indiana. His new path was to the priesthood. Fr. John obtained his degree and then entered Mundelein Seminary, where he studied theology and prepared for the priesthood for the next four years.

The importance of friends became clear as Fr. John talked about the friends he made at the seminary, talking of how friendship fulfills God's commandment to love. These bonds of friendship served him and his friends as they shared worries, milestones and joys in the years after graduation and ordination.

Beginning his service in priesthood at St. Elizabeth Seton in Naperville, Fr. John described his rich experiences during this time. The parish had no church home when he arrived; the parish worshipped at a school designed by his father. He recalls how parishioners would help put out and restack chairs before and after Mass, and how, once the new church was built, the holy water sprinkled to bless the new building froze onto the bricks, it was so cold out! He remembers it as a time of wonderful group effort to build a church home for the parish.

Next, Fr. John spent two wonderful years in Rome, studying for a doctorate in theology. He found Rome an incredible

place to live, experiencing Catholic faith through new facets. He sensed the international nature of the church, meeting so many in service to their Catholic faith from all parts of the world. He felt an eternal quality in the air of Rome, walking the road of St. Peter to his crucifixion.

Once he returned to the States, he was placed at his home parish of Immaculate Conception (IC) in Elmhurst. He described that it was neat to be home again, but as so much had changed, he certainly didn't know every face in the pews. He smiled to recount that here, too, he felt a tie to his family; his dad designed and built the convent at IC.

After three to four years, Fr. John let his leadership know he was open to serving in Hispanic ministry, and the Personnel Board, responsible for priest placement, accepted his request and needed a priest in Onarga, IL, which had a thriving Hispanic ministry. This role included serving four churches: St. Peter in Piper City, as well as the parishes in Gilman, Roberts and Onarga. He enjoyed the smaller towns, and how the churches of all denominations supported each other. He also smiled to describe that you are priest to the town, and not just your parish, in a small town.

Before coming to St. Isidore, he worked in the bishop's office at the diocese as the human resources representative for priests, and also pastored a small church in Joliet, St. Anthony's.

Father John is very happy to be with us, and when asked what we could do for him, he asked for our prayers for his discernment of what God would lead him to do for the church and parishioners of St. Isidore. He wants God to lead him in his actions and care of our faith community and asks that we pray to help him in this calling.



Jesus: Bread from Heaven Bread of Life

By Bill Tice

St. Augustine and the Catechism (paragraph 129) teach that “the New Testament lies hidden in the Old and the Old Testament is unveiled in the New”.

A few examples:

- In the Old Testament (OT), the nation Israel is the People of God. In the New Testament (NT), the Church, which includes persons from every nation and culture, is the People of God.
- In the Old, the Ark of the Covenant contained tablets on which the Ten Commandments were written. In the New, Mary, the new Ark of the Covenant, held Jesus within her womb.
- In the Old, Moses led Israel out of slavery through the waters of the Red Sea. In the New, Jesus leads everyone out of slavery to sin through the waters of baptism.

In each example, the OT event was fantastic, but the NT fulfillment was even greater.

However, there is an even more profound example. On the first Sunday of August, we heard how God rained down bread from heaven (manna) to feed Israel while the people were wandering in the Sinai wilderness after leaving Egypt (Exodus 16). Undoubtedly this was a miracle.

In that day’s Gospel reading (and the following Sunday’s) from John 6, Jesus alludes to the manna in the desert when He proclaims Himself to be the true bread from heaven sent by God the Father.

This affirms the Catholic belief in the Real Presence – that bread and wine are changed into the Eucharistic Body and Blood of Christ through the priestly prayer of consecration. This isn’t true only if the priest is particularly holy, but because it’s God’s miraculous act.

Some people object, maintaining that the Eucharist is just a symbol. If that were true, it would not be a fulfillment, but a step backward. Why? If God started with a miracle (the manna), why would its fulfillment only be a symbol? It would be unlike the other examples cited in which the New Testament fulfillment surpassed the original Old Testament event.

What did the early Christians believe? In a sermon to newly initiated Christians, St. Augustine said:

“What you see is the bread and the chalice, that is what your own eyes report to you. But what your faith obliges you to accept is that the bread is the Body of Christ and the chalice is the Blood of Christ.” (Sermons 227)

Patron Saints

ANSWER



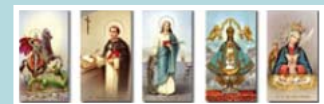
SAINTS

PATRONAGE

- Albert Scientists
- Aloysius Youth
- Anthony Lost items
- Basil Hospital workers
- Blaise Throat ailments
- Carlo Acutis Computer Programmers
- Cecilia Singers
- Damian Doctors
- Dorothy Gardeners



- Francis de Sales Journalists
- Gerard Childbirth
- George Soldiers
- John the Baptist Teachers
- Joseph Fathers
- Jude Hopeless cases



- Martha Cooks
- Matthew Bankers
- Monica Mothers
- Valentine Lovers
- Vincent de Paul Charity

As the August summer winds usher in a new school year, St. Isidore Catholic School is abuzz with excitement and anticipation.



This year, the first week of school has been particularly special, marked by traditions, new community members, and a heartwarming celebration of community.

On a sunny Tuesday morning, the school's historic bell tolled to announce the start of another academic year. This cherished tradition, which has become a symbol of renewal and hope for our parish community for 103 years, was honored this year in a particularly meaningful way. The ringing of the bell was a collaborative effort between our new pastor, Fr. John Balluff, the school principal, Mrs. Corie Alimento, and students: Anthony (5th) and Alessa (3rd) Marsico, who were the proud winners of the annual Gala raffle prize.



The ceremony began with a heartfelt welcome from Mrs. Alimento, who shared her excitement about the new school year. Her enthusiasm was palpable as she addressed familiar and new faces in anticipation of the new school year.

Following Mrs. Alimento's welcome, we heard from Fr. John, who, despite being new to our parish, has quickly endeared himself to the community with his warm spirit and engaging personality. His presence at the bell-ringing ceremony was a significant moment, symbolizing the strong bond between the parish and the school. He shared a few words of encouragement and inspiration, reminding students and parents alike of the values of faith, perseverance, and community that underpin our school's mission.

The schoolyard was filled with laughter and chatter as students, parents, and faculty gathered to celebrate. The new preschoolers and kindergarteners, wide-eyed and excited, clung to their parents before embarking on their first adventure in the classroom. Meanwhile, returning students caught up with friends and teachers, eager to share summer stories and reconnect with their school community.

The first week of school is always a time of joy and renewal, but this year's events have added an extra layer of warmth and significance. As the school year unfolds, the values of faith, family, and community will continue to guide and inspire us.

Here's to a successful school year filled with learning, growth, and the enduring Cyclone spirit of St. Isidore Catholic School!

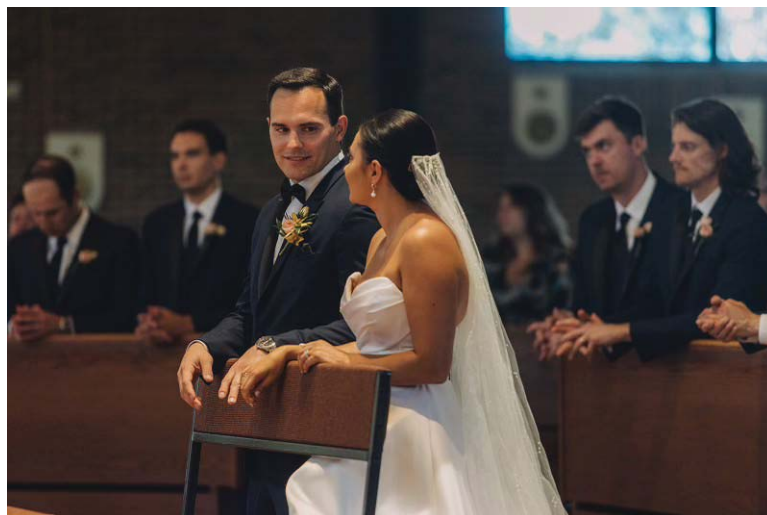
Gloria Lorusso,
Director of Advancement, and proud Alumni parent



Preparing for your Wedding

By Abby Catania

When planning a wedding, top-of-mind items and to-dos always include the venue, the flowers, the dress, and a variety of other specifics that will make every couple's wedding dream a reality on their big day. Often, what could be overlooked is everything necessary for your ceremony to take place in the church – the most important part of the entire day! The marriage prep process at St. Isidore, while it takes ample time to get details in order, is quite simple, and laid out for you every step of the way. A few changes have been made to the process over the past few years; updates are outlined below.



✦ St. Isidore Guide to Planning ✦

To begin, you choose a date. All planning is done through the parish office. You can call to find available dates or ask if a date that you have in mind is available. You will also let the office know if you'd like a full Mass, or just a ceremony. Once your date is chosen, you will have the most important piece of information to plan everything else. Shortly after your date is set, you receive a "checklist" of all the items that need to be completed before the big day – this includes everything from details on prep courses that need to be taken, to fees that need to be paid, to picking out your readings for your wedding Mass, and more. When choosing your wedding date, also consider the day of your rehearsal, typically 1-2 nights before the wedding.

A large part of the marriage prep process at St. Isidore involves the marriage prep course FOCCUS, which needs to be completed before your wedding day. During FOCCUS, the engaged couple will sit down and answer an array of questions about each other, your relationship, faith, your vision for your future together, and more. Your answers are submitted and scored. When your score is ready for review, each couple sets up a time with a priest or deacon to assess the similarity in your answers. The purpose of this is not to be graded on your answers, but to work through and discuss how and why your answers differed in certain spots. The entire course helps you better understand your partner and where you both stand on a variety of topics. To register

for FOCCUS, visit the Diocese of Joliet or Archdiocese of Chicago websites to sign up online.

While the prep course is a very important part of the process, the checklist outlines a multitude of other items. There are some fees to be paid, a church and music fee, as well as some paperwork that needs to be turned in to the parish office for the couple, including Baptismal and Confirmation certificates.

Another is the music and liturgy form. About 8-10 weeks from your wedding, you and your future spouse will meet with our music director, Pat Mooney, to confirm all music and reading choices for the Mass. Moreover, within 60 days of the wedding, you need to obtain your marriage license, so you have it for the rehearsal.

Two weeks from your wedding day, you discuss the entire Mass again with a St. Isidore wedding coordinator. This person will help you talk through all the details of your ceremony, so that when that time comes, you are both on the same page and everyone is ready to practice for the big day!

All in all, while there is a lot to do, especially during such a busy and exciting time, following this process will help the couple stay ahead of their tasks, and ensure they are prepped and ready for a blessed day and celebration of love.

Harvester

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