



Spring 2025  
A publication of St. Isidore Church for all registered parishioners, so that they may share in the vitality of our faith community  
stisidoreparish.org

STORIES  
INSIDE

# JOURNEYS

Each story represents a unique journey — whether spiritual, social, or educational

## A St. Joseph's Honor for a Treasured Friend

A journey of tribute and remembrance, to honor a beloved individual's faith and legacy.

## Assisted by Deacon...

A journey of faith and support, spiritual guidance, assistance, or leadership within the community.

## Women in the Bible

A journey of the faith and strength of biblical women



## Following the Cycle of Christ's Journey

A journey explore the different phases of Christ's ministry, following key events in His life.

## KofC on the Move

A journey of service and action, highlighting charitable efforts and community outreach.

## Catholic Schools Week 2025

A journey of Catholic education, celebrating the values and achievements, that shape young minds.



*Mrs. Margaret Leabru was a good friend and committed member of the parish and the Council of Catholic Women (CCW).*

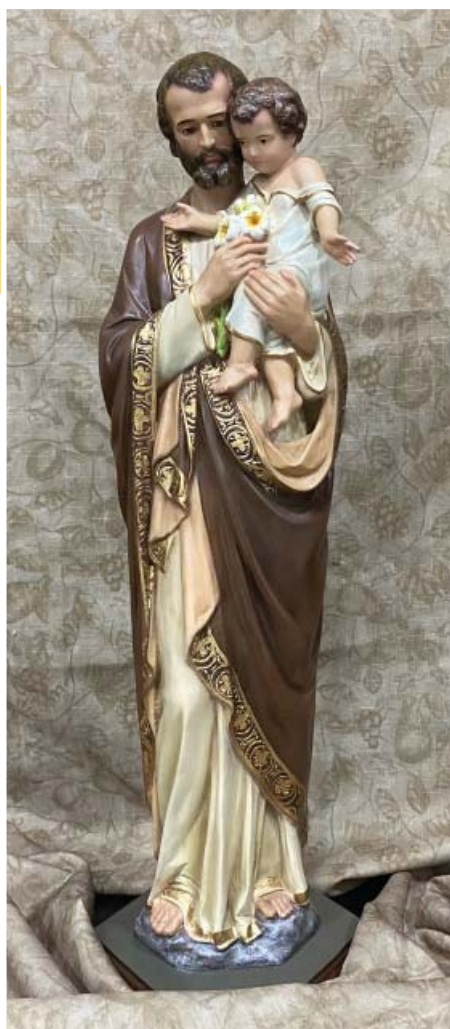
By Penni Cannova

She held many roles

- President from 2013–2016,
- Membership Chair, as well as each year
- Chair of the St. Joseph's Day Table event.

She made a real impact upon all who partook of the abundance of the Table and looked forward to heading up the effort annually.

Margaret passed away on September 13, 2022, at the age of 65, dealing a huge blow to her family and to her friends. Margaret's husband, Rich, and her family, requested donations in her memory to be made to CCW, Carol Stream Historical Society, and/or the Carol Stream Public Library.



## A St. Joseph's Honor for a Treasured Friend

Many folks generously donated to our CCW in honor of Margaret. Its leaders earmarked those funds to honor her memory. They brainstormed possibilities and asked the membership to vote on the ideas. The CCW wished to pay homage to Margaret's service so decided upon a new St. Joseph statue. The CCW had a statue of St. Joseph, which was showing its age.

The CCW researched its options, again presenting the membership its choices for vote. They chose a statue sold through Wheaton Religious Supply that is hand-painted and made in Italy. It is larger in size and more vibrant in color than the prior St. Joseph statue. This statue represents St. Joseph with the infant Jesus; the women were moved by the intimacy of the gaze of St. Joseph and the infant Jesus. Being hand-made and coming all the way from overseas with a statue of that size and delicacy had its challenges, but the statue arrived intact in September 2024. It was presented and unveiled to the CCW in September, their first meeting of the year.

The new statue was proudly featured at this year's St. Joseph's Day Table for all to enjoy, and serves as a fitting and heartfelt tribute to Margaret Leabru, a treasured friend and a very giving parishioner.



# “Mass is celebrated by Father John and Assisted by Deacon...”

The deacons of St. Isidore

By Angela Orlando

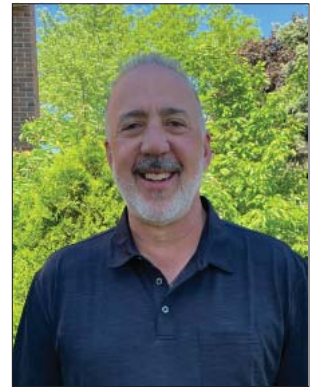
*At the beginning of the Mass, after the song is announced, we are usually told who the presider is. But, which Deacon is assisting: Terry, Dan, Terry or Rocco? Who are these men and how did they get involved in the liturgy?*

Deacons are ordained by the bishop and assigned to a parish but may also serve other Catholics outside our parish. They assist at Masses, they may preside at marriages, baptisms and funerals. A deacon may often provide other services to the parishes in which they serve. They often work with Confirmation Preparation, Order of Christian Initiation (OCIA), and Respect for Life. At St. Isidore, we have been fortunate to have several deacons through the years. Incidentally, three of our deacons were classmates at training and ordination six and a half years ago. Who are these people?

**Deacon Terry Cummiskey** has been a deacon for over 30 years. He serves as the Moderator for the Council of Catholic Women (CCW). Limited by health problems, he is no longer active in liturgy, but over the years has trained the acolytes (altar servers) and served as parish liturgist. He continues to visit the sick, provide prayer services at wakes, and offer counseling by phone.



**Deacon Dan Defino** serves our parish in many ways. Currently, you will see him at the altar; he provides a homily once a month. Ash Wednesday and Fridays during Lent he will likely lead one of the Stations of the Cross. Right now, he is working with the recently inaugurated Men's Spirituality. Dan also has been involved in the Prison Ministry, locally and throughout the diocese.



**Deacon Terry Neary** also serves at Masses and provides a homily once a month. He particularly enjoys working with the Helping Hands ministry which provides for people who have just hit a rough patch financially. Terry said that serving at wakes and committals and baptisms are reminders that life goes on. He has interviewed candidates for confirmation and worked with Faith Formation and the Homebound Ministries.



**Deacon Rocco Busato** just joined our parish last year from Kankakee. Rocco serves at Masses and also provides a homily once a month. He works with the Baptism prep classes and often conducts the baptisms on Sunday afternoons. Faith formation, the Eucharistic Renewal Program, and Confirmation classes are all part of his ministry.



These men serve our parish as deacons but also they are married, and have children and grandchildren; they may work other jobs. A deacon's vocation is another facet of their blessed busy lives.

GREAT OCCASIONS FOR SERVICING GOD COMES SELDOM, BUT LITTLE ONES SURROUND US DAILY.

ST FRANCIS DE SALES



# WOMEN IN THE BIBLE

More than 150 women are mentioned in Holy Scripture. Some were holy, some were known for their bravery. Search below for a few:  
 (hint: Anna is found within other names, but search for it separately)



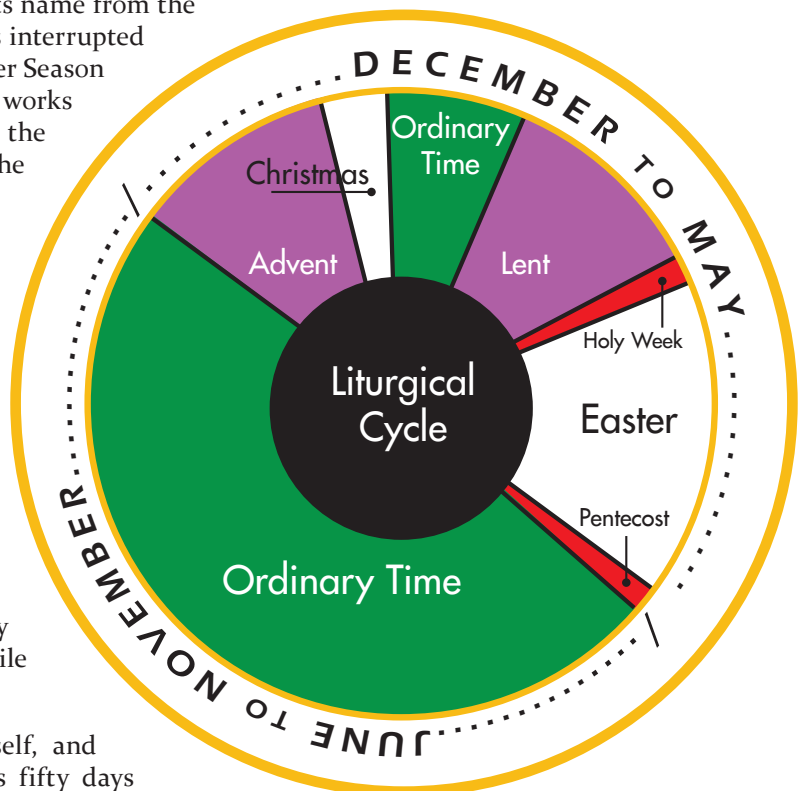
ABIGAIL	F	C	Q	Z	D	F	E	A	W	F	R	Q	G	S	C
ANNA	D	S	A	R	A	H	T	Q	D	E	B	O	R	A	H
DEBORAH	W	H	T	A	B	I	G	A	I	L	X	M	J	X	K
DELILAH	Z	A	W	X	F	W	D	T	I	S	R	A	F	V	I
ELIZABETH	N	N	R	E	B	E	C	C	A	P	R	R	N	J	Y
ESTHER	H	N	U	H	E	S	T	H	E	R	Q	Y	B	U	F
EVE	F	A	L	E	Y	Y	E	X	L	I	J	G	S	D	D
HANNAH	A	H	Y	L	J	J	L	V	S	S	T	J	H	I	H
HULDAN	T	D	D	I	V	O	F	G	E	C	S	U	Q	T	T
JOANNA	M	E	I	Z	H	L	A	K	M	I	M	Y	U	H	F
JUDITH	A	L	A	A	N	T	E	N	X	L	V	R	D	H	E
LEAH	R	I	J	B	L	H	V	A	N	L	F	B	A	T	R
LYDIA	T	L	E	E	Z	R	A	C	H	A	E	L	N	R	M
MARTHA	H	A	G	T	H	U	L	D	A	N	I	A	N	J	B
MARY	A	H	Z	H	R	T	F	W	N	O	G	L	A	J	N
PRISCILLA															
RACHAEL															
REBECCA															
RUTH															
SARAH															

# FOLLOWING THE CYCLE OF CHRIST'S JOURNEY

By Michael Fassbender

*Every year we progress through the same cycle of liturgical seasons. We usually think of the secular year, beginning in January and ending in December. There, Christmas looks like a big celebration to end the year. In the Church, the year is organized differently. Through the cycle of the liturgical year, we the Church are following Christ's journey on Earth.*

- **The Church year begins with Advent.** At the end of November or the beginning of December, we focus on the anticipation of Christ's coming. The liturgical color is generally violet, with the exception of rose for the third Sunday.
- **Christmas is the season of fulfillment.** Here we see God keeping His promises, and they are revealed to the whole world. It begins with Christmas Eve and continues through the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. As such, it also covers the time before Christ began His Ministry. The liturgical color is white.
- **Ordinary Time follows.** This season takes its name from the numbers used to identify each week, and it is interrupted by the arrival of Lent, resuming after the Easter Season concludes. It represents Christ's teaching and works in the world, beginning on Monday after the Baptism of the Lord and ending with Christ the King. The liturgical color is green.
- **Lent begins on Ash Wednesday.** The season lasts forty days (not including Sundays) in imitation of Christ's forty days in the desert, and serves as our preparation for Christ's death and resurrection. As with Advent, the liturgical color is violet with one Sunday in rose; Palm Sunday, like Good Friday, is represented with red.
- **The Easter Triduum** is the most central part of the Christian year. Here we commemorate the Last Supper, Christ's crucifixion and His resurrection. The liturgical colors for Holy Thursday and the Easter Vigil are white, while Good Friday is red.
- **The Easter Season** begins with Easter itself, and continues on through Pentecost. It presents fifty days of celebration, marking Christ's resurrection and His final days with His disciples, and also the work of the early Church. The liturgical color is white.



After Pentecost, Ordinary Time resumes, but it is not a new season, only the continuation of the same Ordinary Time that began after the Baptism of the Lord. And then, with Christ the King we look ahead to Christ's return, pointing us once again to the anticipation of Advent, beginning the next liturgical year.







## Feed My Starving Children (FMSC)

On Saturday, January 11, Knights of Columbus volunteers participated in a FMSC Packing Event at the Schaumburg location. Volunteers included Sandy and Don Lively, Jackie and Ed Hauser, Donna and Dennis Stephenson, Maria and Franz Woerle, Frank Zappa, Frank Custable, Mary Wacker, Greg Spoor and Bob Darby. Our Knights'volunteers and the others who attended packed 41,040 meals!

## Catholic Education Week Pancake Breakfast

The annual Catholic Education Week Pancake Breakfast sponsored by the Knights of Columbus was held on Sunday, January 26. Over 150 hungry eaters attended the pancake, sausage and scrambled egg breakfast. Jarosch Bakery pastries and Einstein Brothers bagels were also offered. The \$1,076 proceeds collected are used to fund our St. Isidore \$500 Scholarship and the Bishop Joesph Siegel \$1,500 College Freshman Scholarship.



## Waterleaf Donation

Waterleaf (a crisis pregnancy center offering essential services to expectant mothers who choose life) held its open house on Friday, November 22, 2024. Grand Knight Ed Hauser and Knights Ken Voelker and Jerry Frey presented Waterleaf with a check for \$11,936 which included the proceeds from this year's St. Isidore Parish Baby Bottle Drive. Thanks you all who generously donated.



## 2024 Knights Vocation Raffle Winners

The St Isidore's Knights of Columbus are excited to announced a bonus winner. Carolina P. from Glendale Heights was our \$100 winner from the raffle tickets sold by St. Isidore Council. There were 20 other winners for a grand total of \$20,000. Congratulations everyone!

## Knights of Columbus Drive to Support Individuals with Learning Disabilities Recipients Named

During this year's Individuals with Learning Disabilities Drive, the St Isidore Knights of Columbus collected over \$5,000. The donations received were distributed to Western DuPage Special Recreation Carol Stream, Clare Woods Academy, SEASPAR Special Recreation Association of Downers Grove and Special Camps for Special Citizens.

# CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK 2025

By Gloria Lorusso, Director of Advancement for St. Isidore Catholic School

*Catholic education stands as a beacon of academic excellence, personal growth, and spiritual development.*

The unique combination of rigorous academics, strong values, and a faith-centered environment creates a nurturing atmosphere where students not only excel academically but grow in character and compassion. As we reflect on Catholic Schools Week (CSW) 2025, it's clear that these benefits continue to shine brightly at St. Isidore Catholic School.

This year's Catholic Schools Week was filled with excitement, memorable events, and meaningful moments. One of the most exciting highlights was the WGN Friday Flyover, a special recognition that truly set the tone for the week, reminding us of the great significance of Catholic education and the impact it has on our community. We were thrilled to be part of this remarkable event that allowed the St. Isidore community to be celebrated on a grand scale.



In January, St. Isidore hosted a New Family Open House that welcomed over 30 prospective families to experience the heart and soul of our school. (high school band concert shown above) The response was overwhelmingly positive, as families had the opportunity to tour our campus, meet our dedicated staff, and learn about the faith-filled education we provide. This event exemplified our commitment to welcoming new families into the St. Isidore School and Parish community while sharing the benefits and many blessings of a Catholic education.

The excitement continued with the Knights of Columbus Pancake Breakfast, a long-standing tradition that brings our community together for food, fellowship, and fun. That morning, our students led the way with a beautiful Mass, where they actively participated in the liturgy by serving as lectors and singing in the choir. It was a powerful sight to see our students embrace their roles in worship, and to see so many school families in attendance. (shown at right)



After Mass, our School Family Open House offered an additional opportunity for families to explore the school, ask questions, and connect with fellow parents and staff. The turnout was fantastic, and the feedback we received was incredibly positive. It was a testament to the strength of our community and the commitment of our families.

"IT'S NOT HOW MUCH WE GIVE BUT HOW MUCH LOVE WE PUT INTO GIVING."

MOTHER TERESA





Throughout the school week, each day had its own unique theme, adding an element of fun and excitement to the celebration. From dress-down days, the “guess who faculty baby picture” game, band concerts, spelling bees, math competitions, raffle baskets, and the much anticipated students vs. staff volleyball game, all enjoyed the break from their usual routine. (shown at right)

As we reflect on the culmination of Catholic Schools Week, we are left with one powerful message delivered by Father John during his CSW homily: “Keep showing up.” It is a simple but moving reminder that the energy and enthusiasm felt during CSW should not fade away.

Let’s keep the momentum going. Let’s carry the joy, faith, and community spirit we shared into the days and weeks ahead. Let’s keep showing up—for our students, our families, our community and most importantly, for our faith.



Together, may we continue to grow in love for one another.

St. Isidore Catholic School is looking to connect with Alumni families! If you are interested in learning more, please email: [glorusso@sicatholic.org](mailto:glorusso@sicatholic.org)

## Dive Deeper Into Prayer with Hallow

We at St. Isidore are thrilled to announce that we’ll be partnering with Hallow this year, the #1 prayer app! Through prayer and meditation rooted in the Catholic faith, Hallow helps people grow closer to God and find peace. *[Users are able to pray alongside Fr. Mike, Sr. Miriam, Mark Wahlberg, Jonathan Roumie, + many more. The app also offers mental health and sleep content, audiobooks, and sacred music.]*

**All parishioners** – subscribers and those on the free version – are invited to be a part of St. Isidore’s parish page in the app. There, you’re able to create a profile, share prayer requests, and take part in prayer challenges together.

To join, visit [hallow.com/parish](http://hallow.com/parish), search (zip code 60108 is fastest), and follow the prompts. If you’re brand new to Hallow, you’ll be given a special \$1 trial which gives access to all the app’s premium content.



If you’d like to forgo and remain on the free version, simply hit “Skip” and you’ll have access to our parish page.

Issues with app access? Contact [parishsupport@hallow.app](mailto:parishsupport@hallow.app). We look forward to praying with you!

## WORD SEARCH WOMEN IN THE BIBLE

F	C	Q	Z	D	F	E	A	W	F	R	Q	G	S	C
D	S	A	R	A	H	T	Q	D	E	B	O	R	A	H
W	H	T	A	B	I	G	A	I	L	X	M	J	X	K
Z	A	W	X	F	W	D	T	I	S	R	A	F	V	I
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A	L	A	A	N	T	E	N	X	L	V	R	D	H	E
R	I	J	B	L	H	V	A	N	L	F	B	A	T	R
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A	H	Z	H	R	T	F	W	N	O	G	L	A	J	N

### Harvester

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

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