



ST. ISIDORE

CATHOLIC CHURCH



MEET TOM AND KAREN ORTNER *FINDING A TRUE HOME IN OUR PARISH COMMUNITY*

Retirement can come as a bit of a shock to some people. You go from days filled with work and purpose to days that might feel a bit empty. Tom and Karen Ortner experienced that about six years ago when they first retired. But they soon found a way to fill their time at St. Isidore, where they had been members for about 30 years.

Tom and Karen spent much of their careers running several nonprofits to help those with serious mental illnesses.

“God called me to a mission in my 30s, strong, and it was a burning feeling,” Tom says. “I was meant to be in that field. I was working in corporate medicine, and I felt this was where he needed to be.”

The couple had always attended Mass, but their work was their ministry. When they retired, it was a hard tran-



Tom and Karen Ortner are grateful to belong to our parish community.

sition. They knew they wanted to use their gifts, but they weren’t sure where. Now, they’ve found their calling again. Karen helps out with the St. Vincent de Paul Society by entering data on those who receive donations and also on donated furniture.

“Working with these people makes you appreciate what you have,” Karen says. “Some have nothing, and their stories are so sad.”

“Many homeless people are also mentally ill, and these were the types of people we worked with for many years,” Tom says. “We have a heart for them. They are special to us. They are here because God needs us to care for them.”

Tom serves as a lector and is a member of the Finance Council. Tom and Karen are training to be marriage

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MASS TIMES: Saturday: 8 a.m. *Bilingual* | 6 p.m. *Spanish* / Sunday: 8 a.m. *English* | 10 a.m. *English* | 12 p.m. *Spanish*
Weekdays: Monday - Friday | 8:45 a.m. *English* | 12 p.m. *Bilingual*

CONFESSION TIMES: Wednesday: 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. / Thursday - Saturday: 5 p.m. - 6 p.m.

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STEWARDSHIP:

WHAT TO DO WITH A WINDFALL?

A businessman sells some property for a nice profit. A woman retires from a 20-year career at age 43. A high school student discovers he has an exceptional talent for playing the piano. What do they have in common?

Each person has recently received a windfall — an unusually large gain of money, time, or talent. Now each must answer a question — what to do with this newfound gain?

The businessman, already somewhat financially successful, finds that the profit from the sale of rental property is unexpectedly large. For the first time, he feels an urge not to save it, but to share it. The next Sunday, even though he already contributes to his parish, he puts a larger sum in the offertory basket. He also knows of a local charity that supports low-income mothers, and mails them a generous donation.

After her retirement from the Air Force, a woman finds she has a large amount of time during the day. Her husband works full-time and her two children are in high school. She hears a quiet voice asking, “How can you give back for all that you have received?” She calls her pastor and explains that she has the time to play a significant role in a parish ministry. He asks her to re-invigorate their newcomer’s ministry and visit

each new family, to which she happily agrees.

In his high school music class, a 10th-grader discovers an amazing talent to play piano. After encouragement from family and friends, he joins the ensemble at the Sunday morning Mass. He even volunteers to play at special functions at the parish when needed.

In all three cases, the businessman, retiree and student have received something of value, and have made deliberate choices to share it with others, particularly within their parish.

Of course, it could have been different. The businessman could have taken an especially extravagant vacation. The woman could have done any number of things with her free time (couldn’t we all?). The young pianist could have used his talent to form a band or make a recording. And the truth is that they can still do all those things. But having received such wonderful gifts, their gratitude compels them to share a *portion* of them. After all, what do they lose by sharing what was already a gift to them from God?

We’re all gifted and are called to share on a daily basis. But when the big blessings come, let’s pray for the grace to be even more generous than ever.

A Letter From Our Pastor

GETTING OUR PRIORITIES IN ORDER

Dear Parishioners,

I know that many people are not on a “school year” calendar. But for many of us, this time of year brings a livelier rhythm to our schedules. Life seems to get especially busier after Labor Day. Therefore, this seems to be a good time to think about our priorities and to pray for God’s guidance.

It has been said that the truly important is often pushed aside by the merely urgent. So, as you review your priorities, please make sure that you include what’s really important!

First of all, be sure to include time for God, as well as for job, family, and recreation. Of prime importance, make sure that Mass on Sundays is a top priority — that’s the most important event of the week. In addition, reserve some time for personal Scripture study, as well as prayer with your family or a prayer group — then incorporate that into your daily and weekly routine.

There are many forces pulling at us as we decide where to use our talents. For most of us, our jobs claim the lion’s share of our efforts and sometimes threaten to engulf our whole lives. We also have responsibilities to our families and legitimate calls for service to the community — that obviously includes the Church. We have lots of areas for service right here in our own parish — religious education, music, serving as an usher, or any



one of the many ministries in which you may use your talents to grow closer to God.

Finally, we have to set priorities for using our money. As Christians, we are responsible to God for the use of the financial resources He has entrusted to us — no matter if it’s a lot or a little — and to make a return to God in thanksgiving. In this regard, Scripture gives us the tithe as a goal. Working toward a tithe may mean some changes in your priorities, but I can tell you from personal experience that those who

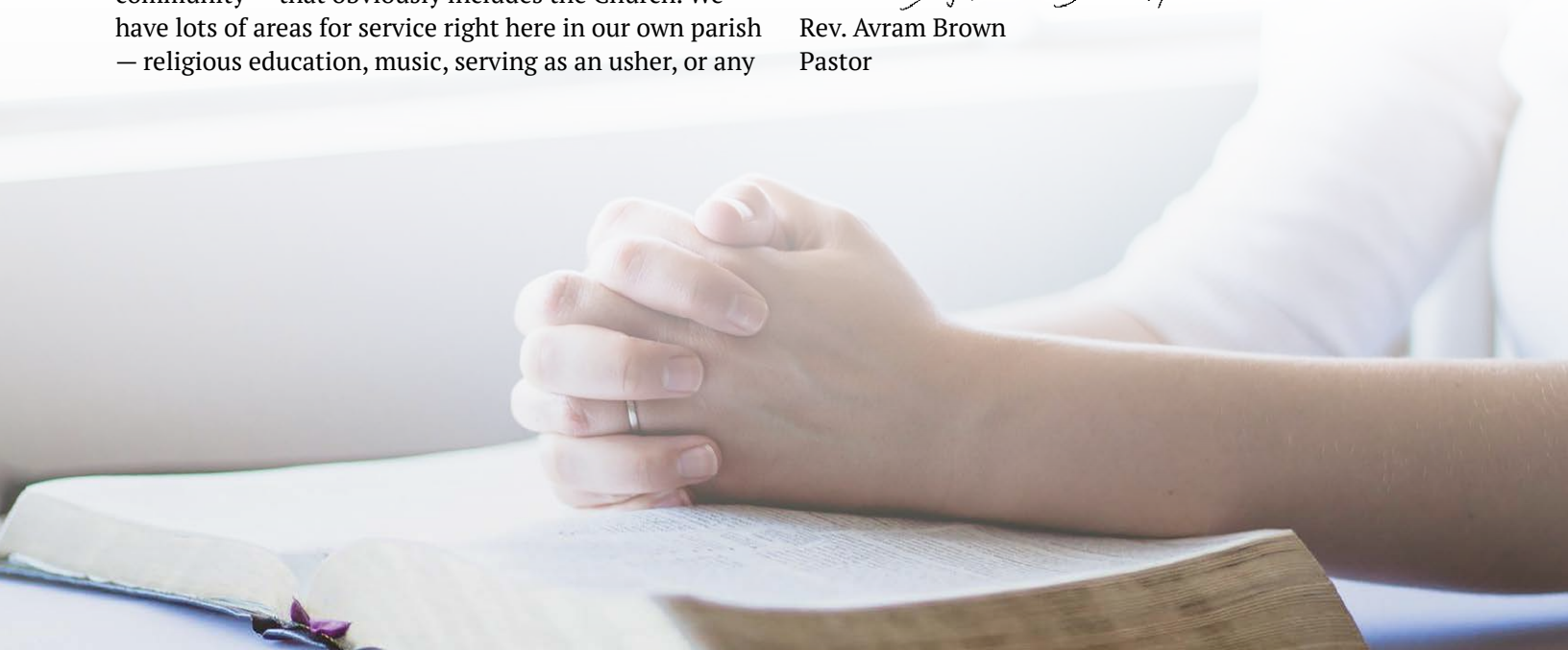
have adopted this as their standard of giving experience a joy rooted in the spiritual growth that occurs as we continually live out the “three Ts” of stewardship — time, talent and treasure.

Priorities are certainly a part of life. As you review your own priorities, especially now as we begin returning to our regular routines, ask yourself how you will use the time, talent, and treasure entrusted to you by God.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rev. Avram Brown". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rev. Avram Brown
Pastor



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SCHOOL COMMUNITY PREPARES FOR 2023-24 ACADEMIC YEAR

Entering Year Two of Transition to Classical Education Model

The 2023-24 school year is quickly approaching, and on Aug. 16, our students will step back into the classroom to begin a new year of learning and growth. Susan Burky, the Principal of St. Isidore Catholic School, and the teachers and staff have been working behind the scenes to make the upcoming school year a success.

This coming school year will be the second year in our three-year process of transitioning to classical education. This has taken a great deal of commitment from our teachers as they have learned to reframe all of their knowledge into a new context.

“We’re used to teaching subjects in isolation,” Mrs. Burky says. “What we are learning right now is how to teach in a more unified manner.”

Under the guidance of the Institute for Catholic Liberal Education, our teachers have taken part in two workshops between the end of the last school year and the beginning of the new school year. The topic of one of the workshops is “mimetics,” and equips teachers to help children memorize information in a way that builds up their stores of knowledge. This method is ideal for younger children who will then draw on this stored knowledge when they enter the questioning phase of their development.

“Classical education gives the students tools for learning so they understand how to learn and then they’re able to learn anything,” Mrs. Burky says. “We use those natural tendencies in the child to their advantage.”

Families can look forward to other changes, such as security updates. The school received half of the grant that we applied for through Cal OES. While this means re-evaluating how to use that money, families can rest assured it will be used to increase the safety of our school environment after careful analysis.

Mrs. Burky also looks forward to continuing the strong

relationship between the parish and the school. The past year was filled with wonderful collaboration and support, from the auction and carnival to working together on special liturgies and more.

“We are one parish community, and the school is a ministry of the parish,” Mrs. Burky says. “We only exist because of the parish here. It’s a major part of the mission of the church to help parents catechize their children and it’s through generous parishioner support that we continue to have our doors open.”

Ultimately, all of the changes and growth happen to help our students grow in faith and virtue, with the support of a strong faith community. Education at St. Isidore puts the relationship with Christ first and all the rest falls into place.

“Our emphasis is on knowing God, loving God, and serving God, and the only way we can know God is by exploring His world, and getting to what is true, beautiful and good,” Mrs. Burky says. “Academics is a byproduct of that discovery. The emphasis is not on test scores or GPA. The emphasis is on coming to know God and our story in salvation history.”



To learn more about our parish schools, visit www.stisidore-yubacity.org/our-schools.

RCIA ADAPTED FOR CHILDREN: GUIDING OUR YOUTH ON THEIR JOURNEY IN THE FAITH

No matter your age, there's always something new to learn about our faith! It's never too early to start building a strong faith foundation — and it's never too late, either. Here at St. Isidore, our RCIA Adapted for Children process welcomes children of all ages into the church and guides them through their individual faith journeys.

RCIA Adapted for Children is designed for children who, for various reasons, are receiving their Sacraments of Initiation at different ages or in a different order than what is usually done in this diocese. This includes children above the age of reason, around the age of 7, up to 18 years old. RCIA Adapted for Children falls under both the Christian Initiation and the Family Faith Formation umbrellas, and thus also takes a whole-family approach to catechesis.

"We have a really good team at St. Isidore and we all work together well between the various ministries involved," says Beth Jarvis, RCIA Adapted coordinator. "Parents come along with the children, and it's about giving the parents support as they catechize their children. We do some catechizing for them as well, so they can go home and then use the materials we've given them to further their children's catechism."

The sessions meet once a month, typically on a Thursday evening, for an hour and a half.

"I give presentations on various topics related to the *Catechism*, our faith, and the Church," Beth says. "These presentations go a little bit deeper than what they're getting in the Family Faith Formation program. The program we use for Family Faith Formation is based on the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, and sessions are held



Students gather for their formation session.

every six weeks. So they get a general catechesis when they attend that program and then the parents also do some more in-depth things with them at home, and my program then enhances that by giving them a little more information about our faith.

"It also gives them a chance to have a person who they can connect with and ask questions as we get closer to the various rites that they go through during the process," she adds. "I work in coordination with the adult Christian Initiation program to lead them to the Easter Vigil when they receive the sacraments."

Parental involvement is an important aspect of the process because it not only allows parents to guide their children in the faith but also gives parents the opportunity to continue their own spiritual growth. Through this approach, the entire family is able to grow in faith together.

"I think parents really enjoy it and feel empowered to pass their faith onto their children," Beth says.

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RCIA ADAPTED FOR CHILDREN *continued from page 5*

“With our small-group sessions, parents have someone they can turn to who can answer their questions, and I see a real growth in both their faith and in the faith of these kids.

“Last year after the Easter Vigil, one of the students came up to me and said, ‘I just want to thank you so much for going on this journey with me and leading me there,’” she adds. “He and his sister were baptized together, and now I continue to see them and their parents at Mass. It’s been a great way to build community. I think it’s a very worthwhile program and I’m looking forward to seeing how it grows!”



The sessions meet once a month, typically on a Thursday evening, for an hour and a half.

For more information about RCIA Adapted for Children, contact the parish office at 530-673-1573.

TOM AND KAREN ORTNER *continued from front cover*

mentors — after 50 years of marriage, they figure this is a good fit. They are also engaged with 40 Days for Life and attend Bible studies, and adoration is an important part of their lives, as well.

“Now, I know a lot of people,” Tom says. “I just knew their faces before. They are all wonderful people that I like to associate with. We have met so many people.”

Tom enjoys the monthly gatherings that are hosted by Fr. Avram Brown. He enjoys gathering with men to discuss topics and have time for fellowship.

St. Isidore is genuinely home for Tom and Karen, and they appreciate the parish community so much. Karen also appreciates that Fr. Avram offers so many opportunities for confession.

“The parish has filled a big void in our lives since we retired,” Tom says. “We feel so blessed with this parish and everything we have.”

Tom and Karen have a son and a daughter and five grandchildren — four girls and one boy. In their free time, they enjoy painting, playing pickleball, and traveling.

“The parish has filled a big void in our lives since we retired. We feel so blessed with this parish and everything we have.” — Tom Ortner