



ST. ISIDORE

CATHOLIC CHURCH



MEET FIRST-GRADE TEACHER *Nicole Calderon*

Embracing Our School Family and Building the Future of the Church

St. Isidore Catholic School is blessed with great faculty and staff who care about the school's mission: "Rooted in our Catholic Faith, we are a teaching ministry committed to promoting the spiritual, academic, and developmental growth of each student within our local community."

One of the teachers we'd like you to meet is Nicole Calderon, who teaches the first grade. Mrs. Calderon has been teaching at the school for 15 years and, before that, served as an aide. She first started by serving in her son Ben's class as the room parent. She then transitioned to the aide position, and eventually realized she wanted to be a teacher.

"I just found I enjoyed being with the kids," Mrs. Calderon says. "I loved the 'aha!' moments. I still love teaching them and being side by side with them."

Although Ben and Mrs. Calderon's daughter, Kaela,



Nicole Calderon

has long since graduated from St. Isidore Catholic School and high school, Mrs. Calderon has no intention of leaving.

"I love being in a Catholic school," Mrs. Calderon says. "Christ is always the center, and you can truly see Jesus

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MASS TIMES: Saturday: 8 a.m. *Bilingual* | 6 p.m. *Bilingual* / Sunday: 8 a.m. *Bilingual* | 10 a.m. *English* | 12 p.m. *Spanish*
Weekdays: Monday - Friday | 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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TEACHING OUR CHILDREN THE TRUE MEANING OF STEWARDSHIP

What is your response when someone compliments your child's achievements in art, music or sports? Do you say "thank you" as a kind response, or do you thank God for granting your child the gifts necessary for success?

As parents, we serve as the primary educators of our children. Teaching them from a young age that their talents — whether in soccer, chorus or painting — come not from us, but from God, is essential to teaching stewardship. God graciously grants each of us unique skills and abilities, and it is our job to use those gifts to glorify Him. As parents, aunts, uncles, or older siblings, we can guide children in our lives to recognize their God-given gifts. We can further encourage children to use God's gifts to their full potential, and then thank Him for bestowing them. This teaches young Catholics how to be good stewards. Indeed, not utilizing our talents brings to mind the parable of the servant who buries the treasure his master gives him, instead of using it to create more treasure. God wants us to use our talents wisely and thankfully.

Teaching children to utilize their talents to build God's kingdom is only one step of the threefold stewardship message. How your children spend their time is also important. As we move through the hustle and bustle of our day — balancing school, chores and extracurricular activities — do we find time to spend with God? It often seems as if 24 hours is not long enough to fulfill our many daily tasks.

So, how can we find the time to teach and demonstrate the importance of sharing our time with God? Simple time offerings include praying on the way to school, stopping by the church to pray for a friend in need, or thanking God for a good outcome on a test. Even learning about a saint over dinner and praying as a family before bedtime can be a valuable time offering to the Lord.

As parents, finding daily prayer time ourselves is also necessary, both for our roles as good stewards and as an example to our children. How wonderful for a child to witness their parent in quiet prayer devotion!

The third tier of stewardship — treasure — is most frequently overlooked when educating our children. Birthday money from Grandma and allowance money

doesn't count — or does it?

All gifts we receive are really from God, and the "first fruits" of those gifts should be generously returned to God — even if they come from Grandma. Starting as early as grade school, children can understand the concept of giving back to the all-giving God if we simply take the opportunity to teach it to them. Witnessing our weekly tithe is a great start, but encouraging them to give in their own way is also important. Knowing they are returning to God in thanksgiving will fill them with joy!

Of the many lessons parents instill in their children, teaching them to be good stewards should be a top priority. Our goal as parents is to get our children to heaven to be with our creator, God. Teaching them to be good stewards is a great way to ensure entry.



A Letter From Our Pastor

GIVING THANKS TO GOD FOR *the Gift of Time*

Dear Parishioners,

The next several weeks are certainly a busy time for us as Catholics, good stewards, good citizens, and faithful members of the Church and our parish. There are celebrations and commemorations both inside and outside the Church that are momentous in terms of faith, citizenship, and living as people of thanksgiving and gratitude.

We celebrate Veterans Day to honor and thank all those men and women who served in the United States Armed Forces in one capacity or another. Indicative of the importance of this day, every year at 11 a.m. Eastern, the President of the United States lays a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery.

We all understand that Americans celebrate a day of Thanksgiving on Nov. 25. What more can we say about this? It is a day that was based in faith from its very beginnings, and it is an indication of how much we have to thank God for in terms of the gifts we have received — our lives, our families, our Church, our Lord and Savior — everything we are and everything we have.

No sooner are Thanksgiving Day celebrations concluded, than we begin that glorious season called Advent on Sunday, Nov. 28. This prepares us for and leads to Christmas. Indeed, this is both a busy and extraordinary time of year! There is, of course, much



more on which we could focus and about which we could think, meditate and pray, but that is more than enough for us to consider and absorb.

From a stewardship perspective, I would like you to not only participate and focus on all the particular things that are about to happen, but also on one of our special gifts — the gift of time. The gift of time, which we all receive from God in equal amount, is precious because it is a non-renewable resource. Although some of our time is committed because of family responsibilities, work responsibilities or simply personal needs, we have an element of freewill with how we spend a certain amount of it. We need to spend some of that time in prayer, in thanksgiving, in worship, and in works of mercy and ministry. Our time is perhaps more precious than any material gifts we receive from the Lord. How are we doing with that gift?

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rev. Avram Brown". The ink is dark and the signature is written in a fluid, personal style.

Rev. Avram Brown
Pastor

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THE CHAMORU MINISTRY: *Promoting Friendship and Educating Parishioners on Cultural Traditions*

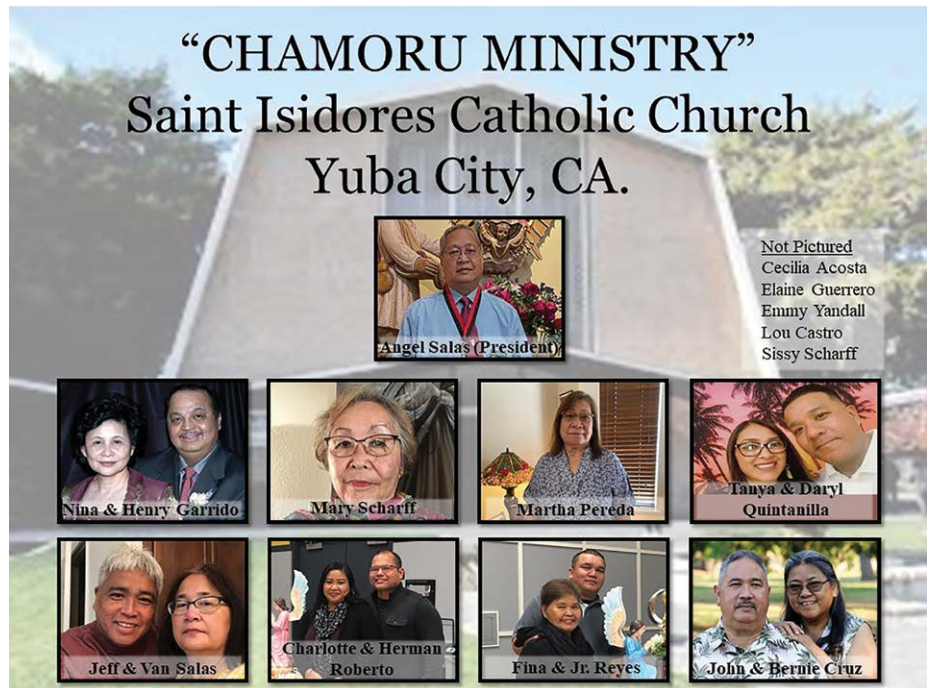
We are blessed at St. Isidore to have parishioners and friends who are of Chamoru origin. The Chamoru people are indigenous to the Mariana Islands. As a way to foster their identity while practicing their Catholic faith, the St. Isidore Chamoru Ministry was founded more than five years ago.

Angel Salas has been a member since the ministry started. Although it's important to him to nurture his Chamoru identity, it's also vitally important to participate in one faith with his fellow parishioners at St. Isidore.

"Our ministry mission is to promote friendship and good faith among its members in organizing church functions and church social events," Angel says.

Meeting quarterly, this ministry is a way to nurture the Chamoru traditions, especially for young children. It's also a way to keep the Chamoru history and traditions alive. Members also organize fundraisers to support the parish, school, and St. Vincent de Paul Society. They also use funds to support parishioners in need.

"The Chamoru Ministry members feel it is important to educate fellow parishioners on our cultural traditions, and although we all may have



different backgrounds, we are united in our Catholic faith," Angel says.

Members also actively serve at St. Isidore in other ways, as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, lectors, and with the Knights of Columbus. Angel feels blessed to have this community as a group of friends and a support system. This ministry also serves as a way to meet new people and create a social circle to promote Chamoru traditions. Ultimately, members are a part of the broader St.

Isidore parish community.

"I believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, sharing the love and kindness of our good Lord, having a sense of community with the Church, and strengthening our belief in God," Angel says.

Each year, this group organizes a parish-wide event to celebrate the patroness of the Mariana Islands, Our Lady of Camarin. Be sure to refer to the bulletin for information on upcoming events to benefit the Chamoru Ministry, like dinner dances and bake sales.

Anyone can be a member of the Chamoru Ministry. Please contact Angel Salas for more information on the Chamoru Ministry at 530-673-1573 or asalas_angel@aol.com.

MEET PARISHIONERS JOHN AND JUDI MALLEN: “THIS IS OUR FAMILY”

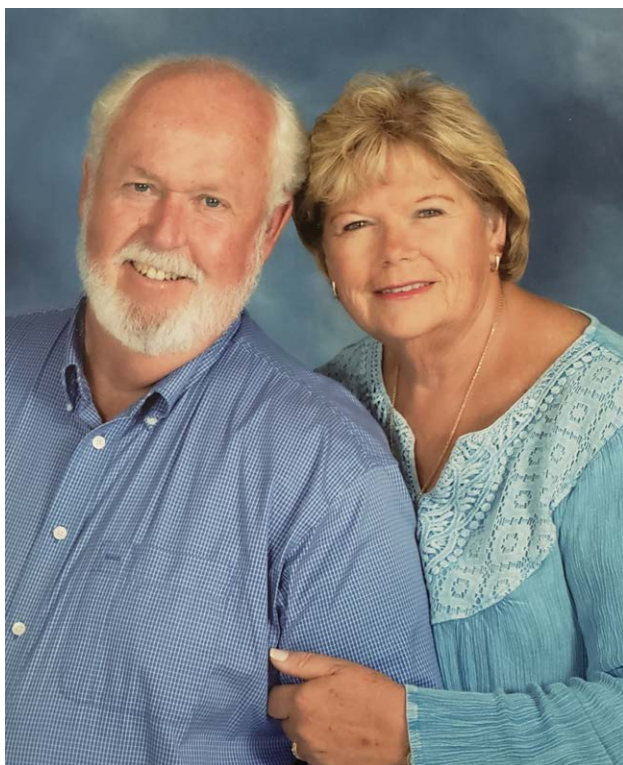
John and Judi Mallen were both raised in large families, and to them, the family is a reflection of the Church, which needs all its members.

“It was really a blessing in a large family if you identified how important each person is and how each person has a talent,” John says. “You have to rely on each other because you have expertise that other people might not have. Everyone has to pitch in and help.”

After moving to Yuba City in 1979, John and Judi started looking for a Catholic church as soon as they arrived.

“Honestly I was a little taken aback by the design of the church, though I have really come to love it,” John says. “It was designed in the late 1950s to represent a barn because St. Isidore was a farmer in Spain.”

John and Judi have both been Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and taught marriage preparation classes together. In addition, they have participated in a Rosary group and Bible studies for years along with other ministries. Judi has also served on the Finance Council for about 15 years, and John has been a member of the Knights of Columbus for about 30 years.



St. Isidore's John and Judi Mallen

But what really brought them close together as a couple was going through Marriage Encounter in the 1980s.

“It was a bonding experience for us as a couple and for us and the parish,” Judi says. “We moved away from our family, and our church is more family than our families are. Marriage Encounter opened us up to friends and families in the parish and got us involved in every direction.”

When John and Judi first joined the faith community, a parishioner reached out to them, expressed genuine concern, and welcomed them into the parish. This act of inviting others into parish life might connect someone with the parish as a “family” in a way they weren’t connected before.

“‘Be not afraid’ to reach out and see what you can get involved in,” Judi says. “There are always sign-ups at the back of church for different things. Pick something and try it out.”

Recently, as John has reflected on their decades of involvement with the parish, he has felt called to give even more to the parish and to the school. He describes the “big picture” and how important it is for all of us to

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“What we’re doing, we’re not doing for ourselves. We’re doing it for the people who come after us. The responsibility is to build up the Church spiritually and physically because there are people after us, and it is going to be necessary for them.” — JOHN MALLEN

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Parishioners John and Judi Mallen *continued from page 5*

contribute and keep the school and parish operating for future generations.

“What we’re doing, we’re not doing for ourselves,” John says. “We’re doing it for the people who come after us. The responsibility is to build up the Church spiritually and physically because there are people after us, and it is going to be necessary for them.”

John and Judi would like to thank all the great priests who have served the parish over the years and all the parishioners who have become part of their lives.

“This is our family,” Judi says. “We’ve had several big events in our lives, and there are people who show up and are there through the ups and downs. Thank you for being there in our lives and helping us.”



John and Judi Mallen celebrating Mass for their 50th wedding anniversary

Meet First-Grade Teacher Nicole Calderon

continued from front cover

in every one of the kids. You can see Him through their actions. You can’t go out in the world and not see Jesus after you work with these kids.”

Mrs. Calderon feels so blessed to work with the St. Isidore faculty and staff and is grateful for every single student and their parents.

“I love working here,” she says. “All of the other staff members are my second family. I have created a lot of special relationships and lifelong friendships.”

Mrs. Calderon also enjoys two of the programs she teaches — Education in Virtue and Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. Education in Virtues teaches the children about virtues and how to treat others as God does. Catechesis of the Good Shepherd helps the students learn, in their own way, the richness of the Catholic faith.

In the face of the many challenges brought forth by the COVID-19 pandemic, Mrs. Calderon has been

so thankful to lean on her faith and to share that with the students.

“Through all of this, you can see when the students are unsettled,” she says. “We can always have conversations about trusting in God with them. We get to bring faith into every one of our school subjects, too.”

Mrs. Calderon and her husband, Richard, enjoy hiking, camping, being with family, and playing games. In addition, reading is a big hobby for Mrs. Calderon — she not only reads for enjoyment, but she also reads books about classroom strategies in order to improve her teaching methods.

Supporting the school is so important to Mrs. Calderon — she asks all parishioners to join her in the cause, as the school is a large ministry of St. Isidore.

“Every child at the school is the future of our church,” she says. “This school is a big family. We look out for each other. I love being a part of that.”