

ST. ISIDORE

CATHOLIC CHURCH



PRAYING THE ROSARY WITH THE LEGION OF MARY

For longtime parishioner Pat Whitten, the mission of the Legion of Mary at St. Isidore is a simple, but profound one.

“We are an army of warriors,” says Pat, a member of the Legion of Mary at our parish since 2006. “We are soldiers of Christ going out to evangelize and the Rosary is our weapon.”

The main purpose of the Legion of Mary at St. Isidore is to promote the Rosary, but for Pat and the other members, the group means so much more.

Founded in 1921 by Servant of God Frank Duff, the Legion of Mary is a worldwide lay apostolate whose mission is the holiness of its members and the evangelization of the world. Though the apostolate has members internationally, its most basic unit is a small group within a parish, known as a praesidium.

The St. Isidore praesidium comes together to pray, serve and evangelize in the community. If a praesidium gains many members, it can divide into two groups so that the small family-like unit is always maintained.

“We call each other ‘sister’ and ‘brother’ because we are a little family,” Pat says.



(From left) Barbara Jupina, Cathy Marsh, Gina Grog, Blessed Mother, Matt Nelson, Rosalyn Watson, and Pat Whitten. (Absent due to illness: Christy Sue and Candy Ruiz.)

At their meetings, the members discuss business before praying the Rosary together. Their prayer not only builds up the St. Isidore community, but the whole Catholic Church, as the graces received through prayer aids the members in going out into the community to evangelize and serve.

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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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QUESTIONS & ANSWERS ABOUT OUR ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP RENEWAL

Once again, it's time for our Annual Stewardship Renewal. Every year, someone asks, as you may have asked yourself, "Didn't we just have a Stewardship Renewal? Aren't we sufficiently 'renewed' by now?" Yes, we had a Stewardship Renewal last year, and we're going to have one next year, too! This is an annual occurrence — part of the rhythm of parish life at St. Isidore. Just as the Church proposes a time of spiritual renewal each Lent, we believe in the importance of a yearly examination of commitment. Is the Lord asking you to give more time, talent, or treasure to our parish this year?

How do I use my Commitment Card?

Your Commitment Card allows you to make commitments to prayer, parish ministries, and offertory giving. It is designed to be used by the whole family.

Time Section: Except for the ill and homebound, everyone should be able to check "Come to Mass on Sundays and Holy Days." Try to check at least a few other items. Daily prayer should be a priority for every person trying to grow closer to God.

Talent Section: You can either sign up for new ministries or re-commit to your current ministries. Be sure to write your first name next to the ministry! This is especially important if the card is being used by more than one person.

Treasure Section: Clearly print how much money you plan to give each week or month to our parish. Try to take a step toward giving five percent of your income to St. Isidore.

One time I turned in a card, but no one ever called me when I signed up for a ministry.

If this happened in the past, please forgive us! And don't give up on filling out your Commitment Card! We have a very good plan to call every person interested in joining a new ministry. If for some reason the ministry leader does not call you within four weeks of turning in your card, let the parish office know.

How much should I give?

Your gift is entirely dependent on how much God has given you. At St. Isidore, we ask that you give five percent to our parish, one percent to the diocese, and four percent to other charities. Why a percentage of income? First, because the tithe (10 percent) is a scriptural benchmark that the Church has honored for centuries (see Malachi 3:10).

Secondly, we give a percentage of income because it is a common-sense standard by which everyone can equitably support the parish. Most of all, we give because we believe God comes first in everything, even finances.

What if I can't fulfill my financial pledge?

While our pledge is not a "contract," we should all make a good-faith effort to fulfill it. Of course, if your financial circumstances change — if you lose your job, for instance — then the amount of money you give the Church will change, too. Likewise if you get a raise or bonus. The biggest reason many people don't fulfill their pledge is that they attend Mass at another parish when they go on vacation, attend a wedding, etc. If you're out of town, just make up for the missed Sunday when you write your next check to the parish. Using your envelopes is a good way to see which Sundays you missed.

I don't even go to Mass very frequently. Why turn in a Commitment Card?

Because this is your chance to turn over a new leaf! Why not make a commitment to God to come to Mass every Sunday, and then write down that commitment? Even if that's the only commitment you make, take a step forward. Jesus Himself is waiting for you!

What if I don't return my Commitment Card?

We will mail you a reminder letter that includes an extra Commitment Card (in case you misplaced yours). Make every effort you can to participate. Our Stewardship Renewal is a very important annual event in the life of our parish. You and your family are part of what makes St. Isidore a great community! Most importantly, your commitments are actually promises to Christ Himself. All of us are called to give back to God a portion of what He has given us.

Commitment Weekend is October 23-24. Don't forget to bring your Commitment Card to Mass!

A Letter From Our Pastor

October: A MONTH TO TURN TO OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

Dear Parishioners,

Day by day, our heavenly Father provides spiritual food and graces to His beloved children, nourishing us on our earthly pilgrimage. October brings us the grace of the Holy Rosary, a prayer buried deeply in the heart of the Church, as one of its most precious treasures.

The Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, which takes place Oct. 7, is a commemorative feast established by St. Pius V on the anniversary of the naval victory won by the Christian fleet at Lepanto. The victory was attributed to the help of the Mother of God, whose aid was invoked by praying the Rosary.

This victory revealed the power of the Holy Rosary more than ever. Catholics who were open to the inspirations of the Holy Spirit took with deep resolve the Rosary as their link to God.

Pope St. John Paul II, in his 2002 Apostolic Letter, *Rosarium Virginis Mariae*, writes:

“The Church has always attributed particular efficacy to this prayer, entrusting to the Rosary... the most difficult problems. At times when Christianity itself seemed under threat, its deliverance was attributed to the power of this prayer, and Our Lady of the Rosary was acclaimed as the one whose intercession brought salvation” (39).

Thus, not merely through the Rosary, but more significantly, through the woman behind the Rosary — the glorious Mother of our Savior, Christ the Lord — a wellspring of God’s love has been discovered.

Indeed, the Rosary is truly a way to discover Christ’s infinite love through the tender heart of His Mother.



“With the Rosary, the Christian people sits at the school of Mary and is led to contemplate the beauty on the face of Christ and to experience the depths of his love. Through the Rosary the faithful receive abundant grace, as though from the very hands of the Mother of the Redeemer” (*Rosarium Virginis Mariae*, 1).

A great number of saints, such as Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta, who had a special concern for the preservation of the Christian family, sensed that its salvation would be through the Holy Rosary. And as Pope St. John Paul II wrote, “Today I willingly entrust to the power of this prayer... the cause of peace in the world and the cause of the family” (*Rosarium Virginis Mariae*, 39). Our Lady of Fatima, who pleaded with families to pray the daily Rosary, would agree with him!

Let us entrust everything to the Rosary along with the saints. As our hearts burn with hope, let us give to the Mother of God every concern that we bear, each cross we carry, piece by piece, worry by worry. She will be there to offer everything to our Heavenly Father, Whose care for each one of His children reaches beyond anything we could ever imagine.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

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

Rev. Avram Brown
Pastor

ST. ISIDORE

CATHOLIC CHURCH

Our Parish Altar Servers: PERFORMING AN ESSENTIAL ROLE AND GROWING CLOSER TO CHRIST



When you go to one of our parish Masses and you look upon the altar, you know you are in great company – not only are you with Christ the Eternal High Priest, offering Himself for you on the altar with love – but you are also in the company of some of His most loyal servants.

“When we train our altar servers, we explain to them that they are not just in God’s house, but they are also at His dinner table!” says Michael Cowley, who coordinates our parish altar servers. “First and foremost, we really try to teach them to be reverent at the altar. We encourage them to look at the crucifix that is on the wall, and realize what Our Lord went through for all of us. We ask them not to talk or fidget while they are in the sanctuary. They need to be reverent. This is imperative.”

Our parish servers have many important duties – lighting the candles; setting up the credence table; setting out the chalice, ciborium and other sacred vessels; bringing liturgical books to the celebrant at the beginning of Mass; and ringing the bells at the consecration.

Prior to serving, they are encouraged to read the Mass readings of the day, as well as thoroughly learn all of the prayers of the Order of the Mass.

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The Altar Server Ministry is just getting off of the ground again following the pandemic, and help is needed. Boys and girls who have received their First Holy Communion may be trained to be altar servers. Servers for the Spanish Masses will soon be trained as well. For further information about how to serve Christ the Eternal High Priest through this ministry, please contact Michael Cowley at 530-300-5644.

“We work with them and teach them a lot of things,” Michael says. “They need to know the names of all of the objects in the sacristy and sanctuary. They also need to know what their own garments and the garments of the priest are called. We ask them to take care of their cassock and surplice and hang them up neatly as well.”

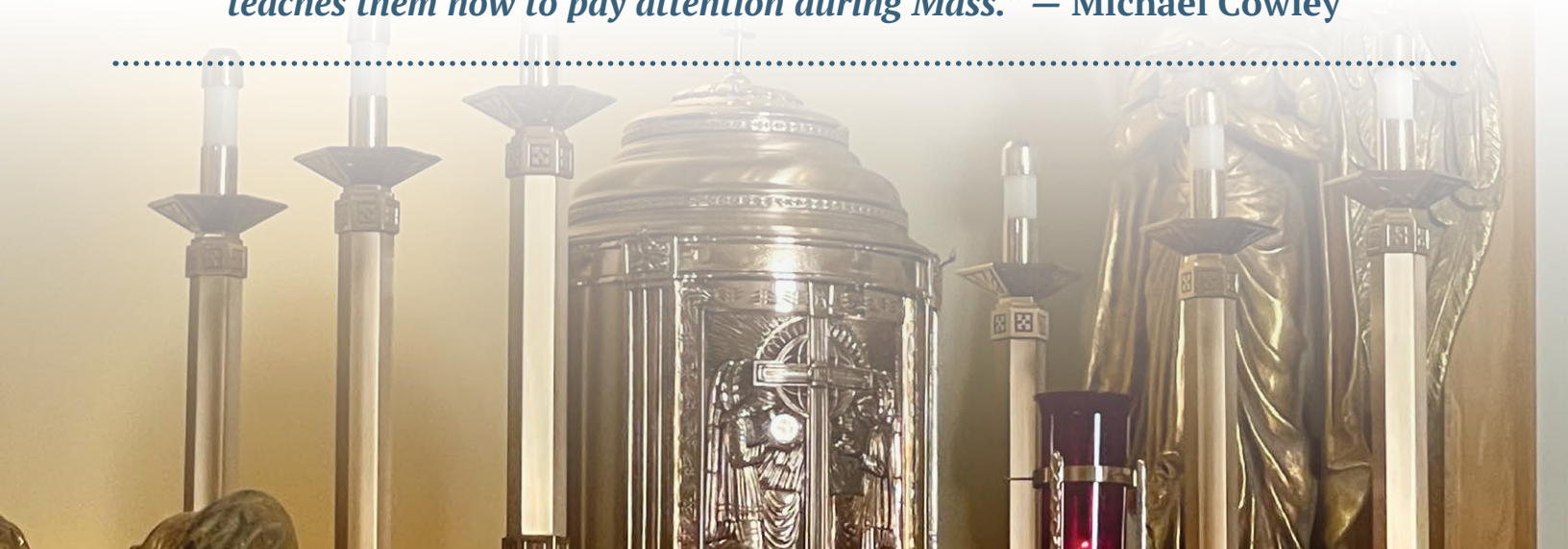
As we teach our young people how to serve Christ prayerfully at the altar, assist the priest, and be an example of reverence to our parish family, we are teaching them the joy of stewardship.

“Altar serving is a fantastic way for them to foster their life of stewardship, acquire self-discipline, learn to pray better, be close to the Eucharist, and give a good example for others,” Michael says. “It also helps them grow in their spiritual lives, and teaches them how to pay attention during Mass.”

In turn, Michael invites our young people to consider being a part of this important ministry. “I would encourage them to give it a try because it will not only make them stronger in their faith, but it will make them a stronger individual,” he says. “I still get goosebumps when I am serving up there! The sanctuary is sacred ground.”



“Altar serving is a fantastic way for them to foster their life of stewardship, acquire self-discipline, learn to pray better, be close to the Eucharist, and give a good example for others. It also helps them grow in their spiritual lives, and teaches them how to pay attention during Mass.” – Michael Cowley



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PRAYING THE ROSARY WITH THE LEGION OF MARY *continued from front cover*

“The more we pray, the more graces we have from the Holy Spirit and the Blessed Mother,” Pat says. “The Blessed Mother is trying to bring all her children together.”

The Legion of Mary at St. Isidore, which currently meets on Mondays from 4 to 6 p.m. at the back of the church, has two types of membership — auxiliary and active. Auxiliary members support the apostolate spiritually by praying the Rosary and the Legion’s daily prayers from home. Active members attend meetings, pray together, and go out to serve and evangelize in the community.

Through the ministry, Pat has shared her time and talent in several ways, including taking Communion to the homebound and driving parishioners to Mass who would otherwise be unable to attend. Although COVID-19 has affected what the members at St. Isidore were able to do together, the group has continued its mission of prayer through the Rosary and the Divine Mercy Chaplet.

“We wanted to give some time to Jesus, and it kept us going, kept us together, and our group grew,” Pat says.

Pat was inspired to join the Legion

of Mary because of the great value it places on praying the Rosary. Convicted by Mary’s message to pray the Rosary daily, Pat found in the Legion of Mary a community that does exactly that.

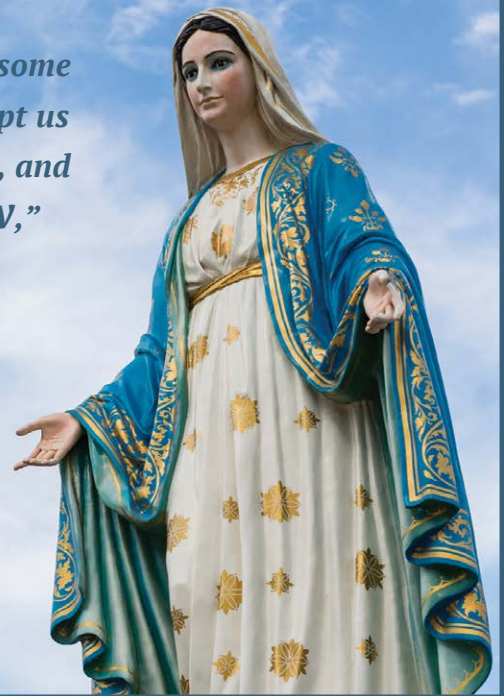
At St. Isidore, the Legion of Mary prays the Rosary at 11:30 a.m. before the daily Mass. The praesidium at St. Isidore has about eight members, but Pat hopes to see this evangelizing

group grow. The Legion can even have junior members and Pat would love to see young people join and carry on the mission.

More members of the Legion would mean more Catholics praying the Rosary and Pat hopes for “the biggest army possible” of Catholics, young and old, praying and evangelizing.

“We wanted to give some time to Jesus, and it kept us going, kept us together, and our group grew,”

— Pat Whitten



If you would like more information on the Legion of Mary, or to join the group, please contact Pat Whitten at 530-673-2613.