



ST. ISIDORE

CATHOLIC CHURCH



Meet Parishioners **GARY AND IRENE TINDEL** “WE’VE NEVER GONE BACKWARDS IN OUR FAITH”

Gary and Irene Tindel met on a blind date in 1973. Gary was working for the sheriff’s office, and while on patrol with one of Irene’s cousins, he learned about Irene and then called her a few months later.

“We’ve been practicing Catholics our entire lives, and together we’ve never gone backward in our faith — always forward,” Gary says. “Our parents rooted us in the Catholic faith, and over time, we’ve desired to do more with a community of people who feel the same as we do.”

Since 1973, St. Isidore has been their faith community, and their involvement in the parish has changed over time as they raised their family. They were married at the parish in 1975, and all three of their children received their Sacraments of Initiation here.

“For us, St. Isidore has always been a place for gathering with family and friends,” Irene says. “It is a place where we celebrate our faith with other families.”

When their neighbors persuaded them to participate in



The Tindel family, Easter 2022

Marriage Encounter, Gary and Irene found the catalyst for them to become more active in parish life. Soon they started digging deeper into their faith through a Bible study with other couples.

“We started to be more curious about how the Bible influenced our faith,” Irene says. “We’d bring our kids to the Bible studies and would have family time. Our kids were about

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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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CURSILLO MINISTRY:

A Valuable Opportunity to Encounter Christ

Often when a person comes to a Cursillo retreat, something profoundly changes within them — it enriches their lives and brings them to encounter their Eucharistic Lord in an incredibly powerful way.

“Once, when a group of us was praying before the Blessed Sacrament, I spoke profoundly to everyone who was present, and afterward, everyone said a prayer to the Blessed Sacrament,” Hilario Rivera says. “It helped me realize that God is the author of everything, and with His love and His Word, we can be different. The Cursillo helps us create a better awareness about our need to encounter God’s presence within ourselves and our faith community. It makes us realize that we need to continue praying and studying our faith, always asking the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts.”

The Cursillo Ministry, properly called in Spanish the *Movimiento de Cursillos de Cristiandad*, is a retreat for adult men and women. Men’s and women’s retreats take place separately, beginning on Thursday evenings and finishing on Sunday afternoons. After completing a Cursillo retreat, participants are invited

to attend weekly group meetings named “Ultreyas” in order to inspire them to keep learning about their Catholic faith, share their personal growth with others, and hold onto the graces they gained from their retreat experience.

The Cursillo movement began in Majorca, Spain, in the wake of the Spanish Civil War. In 1940, Pope Pius XII challenged church leaders to come up with ways to bring Catholics back to the Church because the war had killed more than 72,500 people — 10 percent of whom were clergy members and religious, and the rest were laity. In response to this faith crisis, Eduardo Bonnín initiated the first Cursillo in 1944. In the United States of America, the Cursillo movement started in Waco, Texas, in 1957, and from there it spread out to the rest of the states.

The Cursillo Ministry meets on the second and fourth Mondays of the month from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the conference room. The meetings include time for prayer, singing, small-group sharing, and, at times, a brief speech offered by a visiting deacon or priest.

Ever since Hilario became involved with this

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“The Cursillo helps us create a better awareness about our need to encounter God’s presence within ourselves and our faith community. It makes us realize that we need to continue praying and studying our faith, always asking the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts.” — HILARIO RIVERA





A Letter From Our Pastor

IF NOT STEWARDS, THEN WHAT ARE WE?

Dear Parishioners,

As a stewardship parish, it is important to ask how well we understand the message of stewardship that keeps surfacing in all we do in our personal life and the life of our parish. If not stewards, then what are we? If not disciples of Jesus Christ, then what purpose do we serve as members of His Holy Catholic Church? Aren't these intriguing questions for any believer? And if not, why aren't they?

God's goodness and the gifts given to each of us shouldn't be taken for granted and our lives should be motivated by our gratitude for all we have, including every opportunity that gives glory and honor to God. Those opportunities are given at each moment of each day. Wait for them and expect them to become obvious. The idea of being a steward of those gifts and opportunities isn't new to the realm of believers in the Old Testament or the New Testament. And certainly, the Gospels of Jesus Christ make it quite clear that our Lord views us to be the stewards He expects us to be. His stories and parables confirm it. So, if you cannot or will not see yourself as "that" steward He invites you to be, then what are you? I am curious about those who reject being that steward. I am even more curious about what they believe are the other options.

I am still in awe of the first line in the U.S. Bishops' pastoral letter, *Stewardship: A Disciple's Response*, that boldly states: "Once one has decided to be a disciple of Jesus Christ, stewardship is not an option." They were so convinced that the stewardship way of life is a disciple's way of life. And yet, that is what we are and have always been.



"If not stewards, then what?" remains a challenging statement to invite us to reflect on what our Catholic faith is calling us to experience and participate in for the time we are given on this earth. It challenges us to face our reflection in the mirror of this life given to us by God and see what our Lord sees in us, and then embrace the opportunities being handed to us each day of our lives. Blessings and challenges await us, and no matter what the balance may be from day to day, our God equips us with all we need. He created us and sees us as stewards. Why would we dare resist seeing ourselves in the way our God sees us?

Connecting stewardship and discipleship is inevitable in my book. For that matter, it is inevitable in the "Good Book," which we identify and recognize as the Word of God. It matters to our God what we do with the gifts He so generously gives to each of us. Why would it not matter to us? I ask you to take some time to refocus, reevaluate and re-commit yourself to the faithfulness of the life, the time, the talent, and the treasure you have been given.

We are the stewards of those precious gifts. What are we doing with them?

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Rev. Avram Brown
Pastor

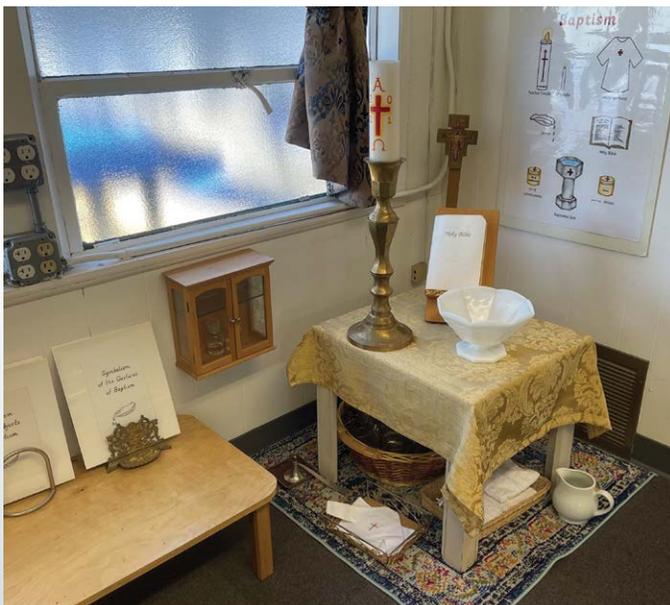
ST. ISIDORE

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CATECHESIS

OF THE *Good Shepherd*

A Path for Young Catholics to Draw Closer to the Lord



As parents, we recognize the importance of forming our little ones in the faith. We bring them to Mass, we pray with them before meals, and we pray with them at bedtime. In turn, our parish provides us with valuable ways we can further help our children grow closer to Christ — like Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, or CGS.

“When children are introduced to Jesus as their Good Shepherd at a young age, they fall in love with the One who calls them by name, who comes to find them when they are lost, who takes tender care of them, meets all their needs, and who lays down His life for them,” says Michelle Knox, Director of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd and Family Faith Formation at St. Isidore.

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is a unique, Montessori-based approach to enabling children ages 3 to 12 to draw closer to the Lord. It is based on Scripture and Liturgy. The program is divided into three levels — Level I for students ages 3 to 6, Level II for students ages 6 to 9, and Level III for students ages 9 to 12.

As Michelle explains, the origins of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd took place in Rome in 1954, as a response to the needs of a child.

“A Scripture scholar named Sofia Cavalletti was asked to help three young boys prepare for First Communion,” she says. “At first resistant because of lack of experience with children, she opened the Scriptures with them and was amazed at their response. She could see a joyful way of being in the presence of God that she later realized every child has within them. This joy is a gift to the adult who is privileged to be a co-listener of the Word with them.

“A mutual friend introduced Sofia to Gianna Gobbi, who had worked with children in a Montessori setting for

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Catechesis of the Good Shepherd *continued from page 4*

15 years,” Michelle adds. “Maria Montessori had already done some work on materials to present to children related to the Mass, such as a small model altar and articles used for the Mass. Even with only a few materials, Sofia and Gianna began the first ‘atrium.’ They observed the children carefully and worked together to make more materials to present essential liturgical and scriptural themes to the children. These themes are developmentally appropriate and serve to meet the most vital religious needs of the children.”

The atrium is a room appointed with specific materials for the children to use. According to the CGS website, www.cgsusa.org, “The atrium is a place of meaningful work through which the child can have a conversation with God. The atrium was the place in the early church where the catechumens were prepared. For the child, too, the atrium is a place of preparation for involvement in the larger worship community.”

“For children ages 3 to 6, everything in the atrium is very small and appropriately sized for them,” Michelle says. “We have many materials that the children work with to enter more deeply into the essential themes of Scripture and Liturgy.”

“For the older children, ages 6 to 12, there are many of the same materials available to them but they are presented and reflected upon in a way that meets the developmental needs of this age,” she adds. “Morality comes into the discussion, as well as historical and cultural details that would only distract a smaller child but are very interesting to this age.”

Michelle, who has been involved with CGS since 2012, describes the spiritual gift that comes from participating in this ministry.

“When my work is listening to the Word of God with children and reflecting deeply on certain moments of the Mass with them, I cannot help but be affected by it,” she says. “In the atrium, we as catechists realize that we are not the teachers. It is the Holy Spirit who is teaching. We are listening with the children and being taught and brought deeper into our faith as well.”

For Michelle, it’s truly been a joy and a privilege

to introduce a child to Jesus through the parable of the Good Shepherd.

“Their response is often quiet but content,” she says. “Many times I can see a glimpse of what is in their heart in their artwork. One young girl drew herself with Jesus, arms outstretched to each other, hearts everywhere on the page. This girl is in love with Jesus, and she knows how much she is loved and cared for by Him.”



St. Isidore currently offers CGS in our school for students in Transitional Kindergarten through fourth grade. Although we have previously offered it through the parish as well, the parish program is still on hold in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. There is a need for more catechists, and if you would like to learn about becoming a CGS catechist, or to talk about getting your child involved in the program, please contact Michelle Knox at mknnox@st.isidore-yubacity.org or 530-673-1573. Each of the three CGS levels requires approximately 100 hours of formation in order to become a catechist.

“The formation itself is a beautiful retreat-like experience,” Michelle says.

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Cursillo Ministry *continued from page 2*

ministry, he has grown in his stewardship journey in amazing ways.

“I started wanting to have a better relationship with God, so I went on a Cursillo retreat,” he says. “Afterwards, I was invited to be an offertory collector, a lector, and an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion. I was also asked to assist as a catechist and become involved more in the church community, such as with SEARCH retreats, Cursillo retreats, as well

as prayer workshops. In the midst of all my ups and downs, I ask God to help me in my daily life.”

To people who are considering going on a Cursillo retreat, Hilario has some helpful advice to share.

“There is a process we use to get to know the individual before we can invite them on a Cursillo retreat,” he says. “We are sincere with them, telling them that God loves them, and saying, ‘I would like to invite you to something that would change your life.’”

If you would like more information about this beautiful, grace-filled ministry, please contact Hilario Rivera at 530-790-7640 or feel free to come to their monthly meetings.

Parishioners Gary and Irene Tindel *continued from front cover*

the same age, and they grew up together.”

Over the years, Gary and Irene have served as liturgical ministers, with Irene as a lector and Gary as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion. Gary has also been in the Knights of Columbus since he was 18. Together they participated in the Life in the Spirit Seminar, which deeply rooted them in their faith, and they are involved with faith formation at the parish.

“Deacon Eldon Vignery and his wife, Bev, ran St. Isidore’s ministry to feed the homeless, and Gary participated in that for a time,” Irene says. “St. Isidore’s also continues to participate in the REST program to house homeless guests in our parish hall, and many groups and families provide meals for the guests each night. Our family did participate in that effort too.”

One day when Gary was praying at St. James in Petaluma, he read a few pieces of literature about the Blessed Virgin and her apparitions. He became excited about the possibility of traveling with others to visit Marian apparition sites.

“Both Irene and I had been part-time travel agents for a while, and at first I worked with a travel agent who specialized in Catholic pilgrimages,” Gary says. “We cut some of the sightseeing so that we could go to Mass every day, but we did a lot of sightseeing too and had fun!”

In 2015 Irene and Gary traveled to Mexico City to the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe with about 35 people from the parish. The following year, Irene and Gary went with a group of parishioners to Fatima and Lourdes.

“I remember in Lourdes participating in Mass together underground, and all of us just fit in this small, cave-like chapel,” Irene says. “We had Mass there, and it felt like we were the early Christians. In Fatima, we attended a Rosary rally with people from all over the world, and each decade was led in a different language.”

Gary and Irene went to Rome for their honeymoon, and always intended to go back — in 2018, they finally returned with another group and Fr. Avram Brown.

“It was wonderful to be there with so many people from our church and to experience that,” Gary says. “We went to Rome and then the Mediterranean together. Fr. Avram got to say Mass at several different cathedrals and the Vatican, and then we celebrated Mass every day on the ship.”

Gary and Irene would like to thank the faith community, noting that the involvement of so many other people encouraged them to also get involved.

“There are so many who are always working to build up our St. Isidore’s community,” Irene says. “We’re sharing with the community in a spirit of humility and gratitude.”