



FOR unto us A CHILD IS BORN

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD



CELEBRATING ST. ISIDORE
DECEMBER 25, 2019

 stisidore.church
a catholic community



MERRY CHRISTMAS

WELCOME TO THE CHRISTMAS SEASON!

REV. RON VICTOR
PASTOR
RRON@STISIDORE.CHURCH

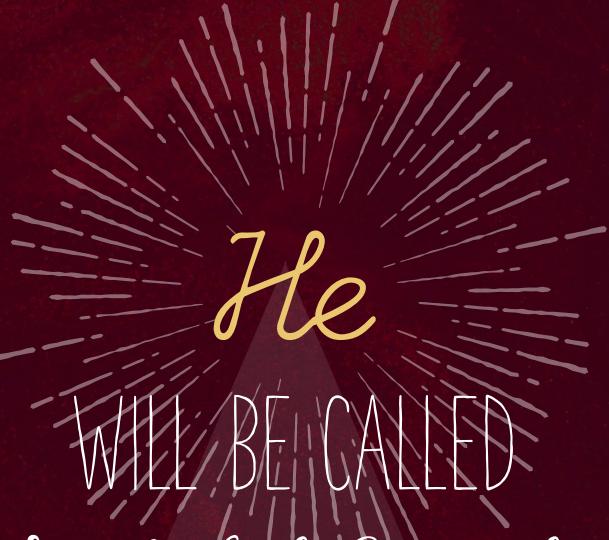
This wonderful season begins on Christmas Eve and continues until the Solemnity of the Baptism of the Lord on January 12. The season is filled with many bright feasts: The Feast of the Holy Family; the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God; Epiphany, (liturgically, the brightest feast of the season!) and the Solemnity of the Baptism of the Lord. We urge you to continue to celebrate the entire season! Join us to celebrate these bright feasts! Keep the mangers up, the carols playing, the lights shining, and the hospitality flowing throughout the season.

I was recently told by a friend one of the ways her family continues to celebrate. Each day during the Christmas Season the family selects one or two Christmas cards they had received and then prays for the person or family who sent it. At times this motivates them to call or visit the person or family, especially if they are alone, ill, or grieving the recent loss of a loved one. I am going to adopt this practice myself this year. I will include the family in my prayers and in my intentions at daily Mass.

What are some of the creative ways you and your family can celebrate the entire season? There is so much good that happens each year at St. Isidore through the generosity that our parishioners share through time and talent. We wanted to highlight some of that in this special newsletter.

Thank you for all that you do for St. Isidore Church as well as through your generous gifts, service in ministry, and support for the less fortunate.

Merry Christmas!



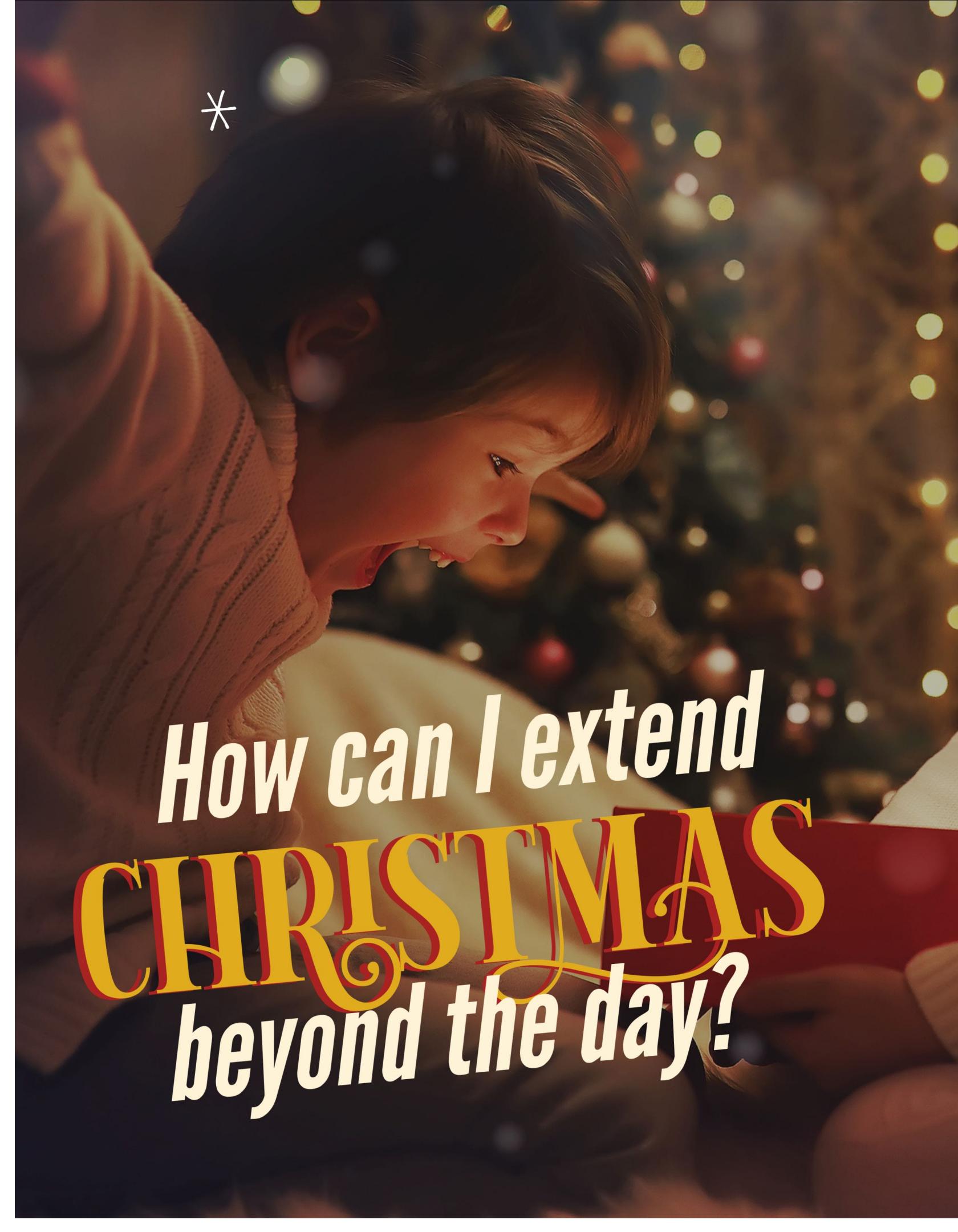
He
WILL BE CALLED

Wonderful Counselor

MIGHTY GOD

Everlasting Father
Prince of Peace

ISAIAH
9:6

A close-up photograph of a young girl with blonde hair, wearing a light-colored striped shirt. She is looking upwards and slightly to her right with a thoughtful expression. In the background, a Christmas tree is decorated with numerous small, glowing yellow and white lights, creating a warm, festive atmosphere.

*
How can I extend
CHRISTMAS
beyond the day?



CONNECTING POINT



Having heard the angels sing, having followed the shepherds to the manger; having gathered with our faith community to celebrate that most sacred night; having come together with family and friends to celebrate our love and friendship; now what? How do we extend the blessings of this day beyond the day, and throughout the year?

The joy of Christmas is the promise of a new world; A world transformed by God's taking on our flesh and dwelling among us. The coming of a light the world cannot extinguish. However, the world cannot be transformed without us. We are called to participate with God in creating the world that Christmas promises. God will not transform the world without us, And we cannot transform it without God.

So we continue to gather with our faith community to celebrate the Eucharist so that we can be transformed. Then, being transformed ourselves, we work to bring about the new world that Christmas promises.

We commit ourselves to serve the needs of others with the same passion and generosity that seems to come naturally during the Christmas Season and continue to share with others the love that we experience this Christmas Day.

Perhaps the best way to celebrate Christmas beyond Christmas Day is to commit ourselves to the three pillars of St. Isidore Church:
CONNECT with God;
REACH others;
BUILD community.

-Fr. Ron

\$23,833

Avg. Weekly Collection

\$7.32

Per registered giver each week

25%

of registered families contributed

\$80,000

CSA refund expected

THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2019, WAS BY ALL ACCOUNTS A SUCCESS!

Operationally, we cut expenses by more than \$85,000 from the previous fiscal year and income increased by more than \$20,000. The net result was we were able to build our cash reserves so that we can better handle future capital improvements. Contributing to the success of FY 18/19 were two major operational wins: Our Strawberry Festival, fueled by incredible weather and thousands of volunteer hours, was the most successful in the 61-year history, which led to those of us on the committee to refer to it with three simple words: "best festival ever." Likewise, our Catholic Services Appeal (CSA) was a major success, surpassing the Archdiocese of Detroit's goal for our parish by almost \$80,000. Because of our sound fiscal

operations, we are now more clearly able to focus on our mission. This mission currently involves more than 2,100 people worshiping with us every weekend, the weekly formation of hundreds of kids in their faith, and providing life changing assistance to people in need, through efforts like our St. Vincent de Paul Society, Baby Pantry, Prayer Blanket Ministry, Kids Coalition Against Hunger, and our Advent and Lenten Giving Trees. We know we can still do more to impact the lives of both our parishioners and those in need. We pray that you share this information with someone and invite them to invest their time and treasure at our parish and that we never lose the courage to change the world.

2100+ PEOPLE ATTEND MASS EACH WEEKEND

+HUNDREDS OF VOLUNTEERS IN MINISTRY

OUTREACH



13,334

Handmade rosaries given to military, parish causes, hospitals, nursing homes, and abroad



\$20,000

Domestic assistance provided from Christmas Giving Tree



\$8,000

International assistance provided from Lenten Giving Tree

FOLLOWERS

17% increase

1493

REACTIONS

on posts (i.e. likes)

3669



TOTAL ENGAGEMENT

reactions, shares, comments, + messages

4463



FOLLOWERS

84% increase

175

LIKES

on posts

1235

2019 BY THE NUM BERS

FAITH FORMATION

3200+

hours spent by
Faith Formation volunteers



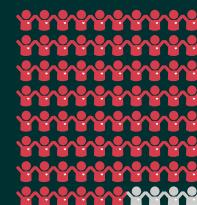
1600+

hours spent by
Vacation Bible School volunteers



765

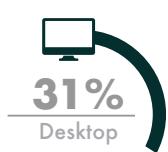
children in Faith Formation



NEVER DOUBT THAT A SMALL GROUP OF THOUGHTFUL, COMMITTED, CITIZENS
CAN CHANGE THE WORLD. INDEED, IT IS THE ONLY THING THAT EVER HAS.

MARGARET MEAD

WEB + APP STATISTICS



WEB TRAFFIC BY TECHNOLOGY

118K

TOTAL PAGEVIEWS

33K

NEW VISITORS
TO WEBSITE

7000

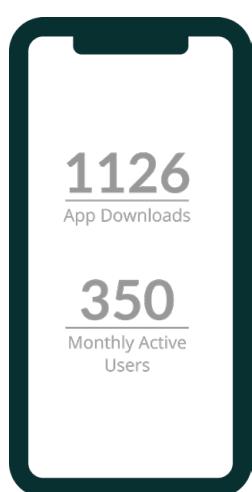
HIGHEST WEEKLY
PAGEVIEWS
April 14-20

1126

App Downloads

350

Monthly Active
Users



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL



THE ST. ISIDORE CONFERENCE OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL HAS 27 FULL TIME MEMBERS AND 6 ASSOCIATE MEMBERS. THEIR MISSION IS TO HELP THOSE IN NEED WITH: FOOD, EVICTION NOTICES, RENT & UTILITY PAYMENTS, MATTRESSES, & MORE!

WHAT INSPIRES US

This year we helped a woman and her two boys ages 6 and 2. Her younger son was born with a condition called Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia (CDH). CDH occurs when the diaphragm muscle — the muscle that separates the chest from the abdomen — fails to close during prenatal development, and the contents from the abdomen migrate into the chest through this hole. At only 2 years old, her son has undergone 9 surgeries and is scheduled to have his 10th to repair another hernia. She must take him to U of M hospital for each

surgery and whenever he gets sick. She needs to stay with him constantly and has to administer his medications through a tube in his stomach. Needless to say, she cannot work and any little hiccup in her income stream causes issues with paying her bills.

We helped with one of her bills and she impressed all of us with her strength and with her faith. She says that she turns her worries over to God and He has taken care of her. She is truly remarkable and hers is only one of the families that have inspired us over the years.



To accomplish all of this, SVdP relies on the generous contributions of parishioners, Altar Society and Knights of Columbus and thank them for their support. They have recently placed a Prayer Intention Box in the Gathering Space. Members pray at every meeting for those intentions placed inside.

If you are interested in joining us we meet the first and third Thursdays of the month at 1:30 PM.

Rediscover the Saints

TWENTY-FIVE QUESTIONS
THAT WILL CHANGE YOUR LIFE

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR
MATTHEW KELLY

As a way to say "Merry Christmas" from all of us at St. Isidore, please be sure to pick up a free copy of *Rediscover the Saints* by Matthew Kelly after any Christmas liturgy (while supplies last).

This is not just another book about the saints. Both personal and practical, this book proves the saints are not long gone, but alive and well—and ready to join you on your journey! Discover how inviting the saints into your everyday life will open your eyes to the amazing possibilities God has in store for you!

We hope that you will find some quiet time this Christmas season to enjoy this thought-provoking book. Look for book club invites coming in the near future to allow us to come together and reflect on the book.

BABY PANTRY

The St. Isidore Baby Pantry has been in existence for four years with a purpose of helping low-income moms with infants less than two years of age. This ministry has grown into a valuable service which supplements the government Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program. They assist by supplying some of their needed formula, diapers, wipes, baby lotion, ointment, shampoo, food, and clothes. Every infant also receives a blessed handmade

blanket made by our volunteer crochet/knit crafting group. This dedicated volunteer ministry, working with the parish nurse, provides care and concern for those who reach out and operates solely on donations from parishioners, parish organizations, agencies, local churches and schools.

Every family that the Baby Pantry helps shares their own personal problems, hardships and struggles. All come with

the hope of meeting a friendly non-judgmental helping hand.

Their gratitude, smiles, and yes, tears, are the reward for the pantry's dedicated volunteers.



79
FAMILIES
HELPED
2019

95
CHILDREN
HELPED
2019

197
FAMILIES
HELPED
2016-19

231
CHILDREN
HELPED
2016-19

ST. ISIDORE APP



FIRST TO KNOW

New events and content are added here first. Get exclusive access!



SIMPLE GIVING

No need to carry a checkbook when you have quick access to our online giving experience.



DAILY READINGS

Get full-text access to daily readings.



PUSH NOTIFICATION

Be the first to know which priest and musician will be at your Mass this weekend and interact with us through push notifications.



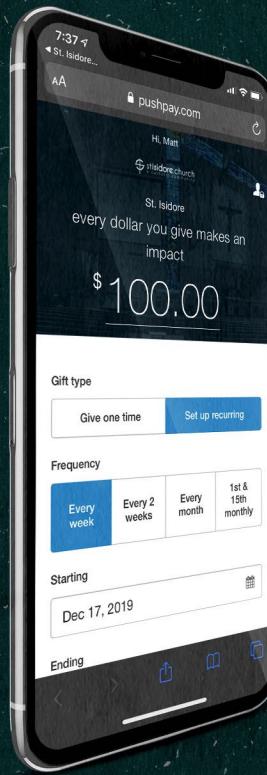
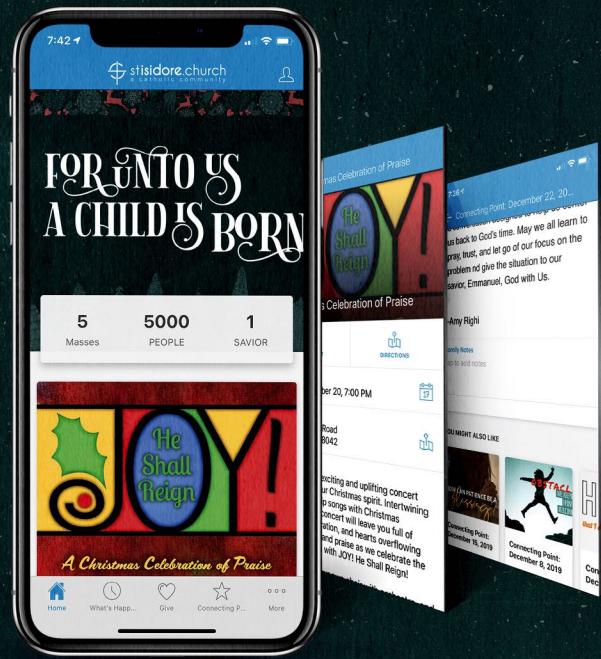
BULLETINS

No need to download the bulletin or wait until Sunday when you can get quick access to all content in the app first!



PERSONALIZATION

With custom profiles, the app is personalized for you!



GIVING MADE SIMPLE

The fastest, easiest, and most secure way to support your church!

360 People have already gifted more than **\$400,000**

TEXT STISIDORE APP TO 77977
TO GET STARTED WITH OUR APP



I LOVE THE APP. I USE IT EVERY WEEK TO READ THE BULLETIN AND CONNECTING POINT. I ALSO FREQUENTLY CHECK THE UPCOMING EVENTS TO MAKE SURE WE ARE IN TOUCH WITH ANY SPECIAL ACTIVITIES. IT'S SO EASY TO USE AND NAVIGATE!

KAREN BISDORF



WE ENJOY USING THE APP! THROUGH THE APP WE KNOW ABOUT AND CAN REGISTER FOR EVENTS HOSTED IN THE CHURCH. THE APP ALSO GIVES US AN OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW THE CONNECTING POINTS FROM PAST WEEKS. HAVING EASY ACCESS TO THE READINGS DURING MASS HELPS OUR ELEMENTARY-AGED CHILDREN FOCUS ON THE MASS. AS AN EXTRA BONUS, OUR CHILDREN'S READING, LISTENING, & THINKING SKILLS ARE REINFORCED; WE HAVE HAD GOOD FAMILY TALKS ABOUT BIBLE STORIES FROM THEIR QUESTIONS, BASED ON THE READINGS.

THE MAVIS FAMILY

WHY DO YOU LOVE THE APP?

I USE THE APP EACH WEEK. I LIKE TO SEE THE PRIEST SCHEDULE AND GIVE WEEKLY THROUGH THE APP. I CAN ACCESS THE BULLETIN WHEN I NEED INFORMATION AND ALSO READ THE CONNECTING POINTS. I LIKE IT A LOT!

KIM NOWAK





MERRY CHRISTMAS

FROM ALL OF US AT ST. ISIDORE CHURCH

FR. RON VICTOR • FR. MATT ELLIS • DEACON TOM CARTER • DEACON JEFF LOEB

TONY KENDZIERSKI • CHRIS KOZLOWSKI • DEBBIE RAK • ANN DE REY • DAWN ORMSBY • MARGARET TOPER • HEATHER HERBST

• AMY RIGHI • MATT KUSH • CLAIRE TOUPIN • JOHN KOVACIK • BETH BEEBE • KATHY HOMROCKY • DAWN KEHOE

MARILYN LIS • HELEN PUGH • ISABELLA KOZLOWSKI • REBECCA TOPER • RON PAZIER • EDWARD KOTULSKI

RON RYAN • PAOLO VITALE • SAM WIEGAND • RICK WOODWARD • CHRISTOPHER ZINK

