

*Lazarus  
longed  
to eat  
the scraps*

September 29, 2019 • Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

The parable of the rich man and Lazarus is a powerful and painful cautionary tale. The Gospel narrative paints a vivid picture. We can imagine the poor man, Lazarus, lying at the door of the rich man. We can see the rich man in our mind's eye, well-dressed and well-fed. The rich man has walked past Lazarus every day but has never really seen him. Even though he knows Lazarus' name, he does not matter to the rich man. Lazarus matters to God, however. The rich man did not only fail to care for Lazarus in life. He expected Lazarus to serve him in the afterlife. He is totally focused on himself. Only after he realizes the eternal consequences of his failure to care does he think of his brothers. And even then, he expects Lazarus to be his messenger! The rich man missed the point of the commandments and the witness of the prophets, in life and in death.

### SEE LAZARUS IN OUR MIDST

As people of faith, Lazarus must matter to us as well. It is impossible to hear this parable without thinking of the poor and homeless in our cities, on our streets. We may not know them, but they have names. We may not understand their circumstances, but they are our brothers and sisters. Jesus' life and teaching show us that God's way is the way of love. Jesus sacrificed everything on the cross, and leads us to give beyond what we think we can or should, to pour ourselves out for the sake of others. How much like the rich man are we? We cannot solve all of the issues of poverty and homelessness in our cities, country, and world. But we are called to do something, to pay attention, to truly care, to advocate for justice and fairness, to see and to love the person on the street, as a person. As Lazarus.

Today's Readings: Am 6:1a, 4-7; Ps 146:7, 8-9, 9-10; 1 Tim 6:11-16; Lk 16:19-31

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### **ST. ISIDORE CHURCH** **Laingsburg, Michigan**

Pastor: Rev. Robert C. Bacik

Rectory: 651-6617 – E-Mail: [frbob@stisidorechurch.org](mailto:frbob@stisidorechurch.org)

Parish Secretary: Sharon Gillespie

Office: 651-6722 – E-Mail: [office@stisidorechurch.org](mailto:office@stisidorechurch.org)

Office Hours: Wed. & Fri. 8:00 – 3:00

R.C.I.A. Dir.: Nancy Kienitz – [nk1001927@gmail.com](mailto:nk1001927@gmail.com)

Religious Ed. Formation (REF) – Mary Stevens-  
[marystevens@stisidorechurch.org](mailto:marystevens@stisidorechurch.org)

Outreach Ministry:- Jesse Anguiano – 517-881-2227

Web Address: <http://stisidorechurch.org>

Saturday Mass: 5:30 pm - Sunday Mass: 9:00 am

Confession: Wednesday 5:15 to 6:15 pm

### **HOLY FAMILY CHURCH** **Ovid, Michigan**

Sr. Priest in Residence: Rev. Raymond J. Urbanek

Phone: 989-834-5855

Parish Secretary: Sharon Gillespie

Office: 989-834-5855

E-Mail: [holyfamilyovid@gmail.com](mailto:holyfamilyovid@gmail.com)

Office Hours: Tues. 8:00 – 3:00

Religious Ed. Formation (REF) Ginger Kusnier

R.C.I.A. Dir.: Vivian Durling

Web Address: <http://stisidorechurch.org/hf/>

Saturday Mass: 4:00 pm - Sunday Mass 11:00 am

Confession: Saturdays 3:00 to 3:30 pm



## A YOUNG MOM'S TESTIMONIAL OF HER EXPERIENCE OF THE RCIA

I would like to share my experience with RCIA\*\* for those of you who are considering taking the journey. When I started attending Catholic church, I will admit, it was never my intention to become Catholic. You may ask "then why attend a Catholic church at all?"

Let me start with a brief background of my religious upbringing. I was raised in a split family. My Dad, cradle Catholic, and my mom Protestant. My parents divorced when I was very young and because my dad wasn't a practicing Catholic at that time and my mom primarily had us, I was raised mostly in the Protestant church. I attended Catholic church when we were with my Grandma during the summer months and usually around holidays. So I did have exposure to both.

6 years ago we decided to enroll our son in Catholic school to allow him a more targeted education in a Christian environment. In 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, it was obvious he was in love with the Catholic religion. After several deep conversations about him making his sacraments, we knew it was something we had to support him on. So, as a parent who wanted to support their child, we started attending Catholic church on Sundays so he could get the exposure to the religion he desperately wanted to be a part of.

He made his first reconciliation and then went on to make his first communion. As I sat in the pew watching my beautiful 8 year old process in with Father Pamment and his fellow classmates, make his first communion, then kneel in prayer, something in me exploded. I knew right then that I too was in love with the Catholic religion and the beauty of the sacraments. I NEEDED this for myself.

That is how I reached RCIA. Once the decision was made and classes were about to start, I was nervous and a little worried about what this would entail.

Would I be judged for what I didn't know?

Would there be a lot of homework?

Would I have to memorize scripture? (I have a terrible time memorizing things)

A year seems like FOREVER, will I get through it?

What if something came up that I didn't agree with? Would I be kicked out and not deemed worthy of joining the Catholic Church?

I know these all seem like silly thoughts but all of them went through my mind.

To answer these questions:

I was not judged. At all! I was taught in a loving environment and every question I asked was answered in a non-judgmental, thoughtful

way.

There was homework, but I couldn't WAIT to get home and do it. I found the "homework" led me to understand the bible more, connect with my emotions on a more spiritual level, look at scripture and see how I could apply it to my life to become a better person, a person that put God at the forefront.

No, I didn't have to memorize scripture, but I found myself voluntarily reading it. When I had a situation arise, I found myself looking to the bible for guidance and clarity. There may have been some googling to find scripture that applied to my current situation so as to help me locate it quickly in the bible, but non the less, I was doing it and it felt amazing!

It didn't take forever. In fact, it went so fast I was wishing it wouldn't end!

There were some things that I had a hard time understanding. I don't want to say I "disagreed" but rather it didn't make sense. I learned that we all have our way of understanding and we don't all have to take things in the same way. Being a Catholic isn't all about following "the rules" and definitely not about "if you don't agree, you aren't a good Christian." It's about how I perceive the scripture, how I choose to allow God to guide my life, how I use the information God provides me to better myself. Holy RELIEVED!

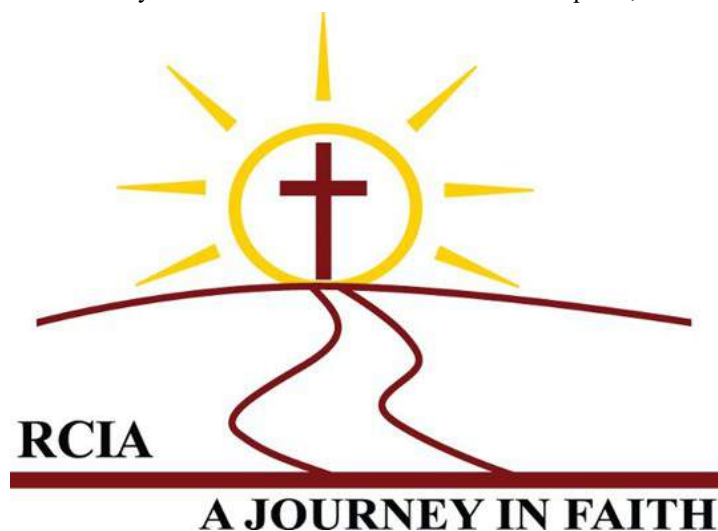
So, my advice as a convert from Protestant to Catholic, if you are considering this journey, I highly recommend you take that leap. You will NOT regret it.

I have been a Christian my entire life, I went to church every Sunday (most of the time), I taught Sunday school, I thought I was as close to God as I needed to be. I was wrong... but not because my mom didn't raise me right, or my church didn't teach me properly. I just wasn't ready to give myself completely to God. Going through RCIA and becoming Catholic has changed me. Instead of thinking that being "close enough" to God was good enough I now know that being one with God is life changing and truly amazing!

-- Kim

Fully initiated into the Catholic Church on April 1, 2018

\*\*The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is a process by which adults explore formal initiation into the Catholic Church.



### PARISH WIDE

Oct. 6—Family & Friends Fun Day—1:00 PM

Oct. 9—Holy Land Meeting—7:00 PM

Oct. 13—Blessing of Pets—2:00 PM

**MOVIE NIGHT** is coming back to the Holy Family, starting in October. The first movie night is set for **October 7**. We will be showing the Green Book. If you haven't seen it, make plans on attending! Because of the length of the movie (2 hours), we will start at **6 pm**.



**R.C.I.A.:** Are you interested in learning more about the Catholic faith? Perhaps you or some members of your family have not been fully initiated into the Catholic faith through the sacraments -- maybe you are not affiliated with any church but are seeking answers about God and the Catholic faith— maybe you are a practicing Catholic who wants to know more about your faith — if so, RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) is a process of welcoming adult inquirers into the Catholic faith. The first step— called the **Inquiry Sessions**— will begin **SEPTEMBER 29** at St. Isidore. During this process no commitments are made— this strictly is an “inquiry” period where questions are asked and answers provided by trained catechists. If you, or anyone you know, are interested in this program, please speak to Fr. Bob or contact Nancy at 517-651-5957.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY DAWN WROBEL!!

Dawn will celebrate her 90th Birthday on October 11. Birthday wishes can be sent to her at: 7770 Round Lake Road, Laingsburg, MI 48848



### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FORMATION (REF)

Sundays—10:15 AM—11:15 AM

Sept. 29—REF Classes

Oct. 6—REF Classes

Sign up for **REMINd** to receive all notifications for REF. Go to

<https://www.remind.com/join/stisidorer>

Sign up to receive notices via text or email.

**HOLY LAND 2020:** Many of you have expressed your interest in the October 19-28 2020 pilgrimage to Israel. Please plan on attending an informational meeting on **Wednesday, October 9** at 7pm with the travel company. We will see where Jesus was born in Bethlehem, grew up in Nazareth and was crucified at Golgotha. Our pilgrimage will include this and much, much more.

**Blessing of Pets:** Bring your goldfish, cats, dogs, snakes and cows— whatever animals you may have! Plan to join us for a “blessing of animals” on **October 13, 2pm** at St. Isidore. This blessing is offered in collaboration with the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the beloved saint who encourages us to see and praise God in all of creation.



### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Oct. 9—Business Meeting—7:00 pm

### **FAMILY & FRIENDS FUN DAY**

The Knights of Columbus are sponsoring our annual Family & Friends Fun Day on Sunday, October 6<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 PM. Everyone is invited. Bring the whole family and invite your friends too. This year all food will be provided including hamburgers, hotdogs, sides, beverages and ice cream. Plus, there will be games & prizes for all ages. Check the bulletin boards for more details. RSVP by signing up in the back of church.

## MASS SCHEDULE FOR THIS WEEK

SATURDAY — September 28	5:30 PM	Reparations for Sins & Healing of Abuse Victims
SUNDAY — September 29	9:00 AM	† John Voisinet 15th Anniversary by Ruth Voisinet
Monday	NO MASS	
Tuesday	NO MASS	
Wednesday	NO MASS	
Thursday	NO MASS	
Friday	8:30 AM	† Bruce Horne by Chris & Kay Basgall
SATURDAY — October 5	5:30 PM	† Karen Brown by the Family
SUNDAY — October 6	9:00 AM	† Steve Rourke by the Family

**PRAYERS: PLEASE PRAY FOR** MELVIN PAMMENT, - KEVIN PLATTE, OLIVER WASHINGTON, - GERRY PACE, - PAT SIMPSON, - RAY DOYLE, - KYLE WALLER, - JUDITH MARTELL (MOTHER OF TERESA PICKENS), - JIM (MAYO) HURST, - CHARLES OLENICZAK (BROTHER OF BARB WRIGHT), - BRUCE CHANDLER (BROTHER OF MARTI ROWLEY), - JIM OLENICZAK (BROTHER OF BARB WRIGHT), - ROSE MORRILL, - JULIE STONER (DAUGHTER OF GENE & BARB STONER), - FRANK LUNDIE, - JOHN MARTINEZ, (FRIEND OF JESSE ANGUIANO) - JANET ARTHUR, - PAM DELONG, - SUSAN DELONG, - THERESA HEEG, - LANA MIERSEN, - MARY STEIN, AGGIE CASSADY, - SHIRLEY GREENE, - MARY MAPES (MOTHER OF MIKE MAPES), - BILL DUSO, - TERESA KECK, (SISTER OF PHYLLIS HART & HELEN STELZER), - JOSEPHINE ANDERSON, - SHANNON HURST, - DENNY LEE, - DAVID OLENICZAK, - JEANNE OLENICZAK, - VERN WRIGHT, — STEVE IZDEBSKI, - DON ELLIOTT, - TONI DOYLE, - KEITH HURST, - MARY LOU DOYLE

### OFFERTORY Sept 21 & 22, 2019

82 Adult Envelopes	\$2,668
Loose Collection	\$482
Children's Offertory	\$34
19 ACH Electronic Offertory	\$1,630
<b>Total Weekly Offertory</b>	<b>\$4,814</b>



Envelopes can be found near the bulletins or in your Faith Magazine

### Help Spread the Faith Appeal (American Evangelization)

**This Weekend:  
Sept. 28 & 29**

By supporting the Help Spread the FAITH Appeal, you will help us continue to answer Christ's call to reach out with the Gospel message. Your gift to Help Spread the FAITH will support:

- FAITH magazine: a monthly magazine sent to you and every Catholic in the diocese – 70,000 homes.
- FAITHpub.com: an interactive online resource with daily changing content.
- Television Outreach Mass: a weekly broadcast of the Diocese of Lansing.
- U.S. bishops' national evangelization efforts: impacting the media and our society.
- FAITHpub app: Free iPhone/iPad mobile apps.

Christ called us to proclaim the Gospel from the mountaintop. In today's society, that is a big challenge. We all know the power of the media. With your support, we can use that power to reach out with a positive message – a message that we belong to someone – Jesus. —Thank you for your consideration.

#### ANNUAL EVANGELIZATION APPEAL

- Televised Outreach Mass
- FAITH magazine in every home
- National Evangelization