



Paroisse St. Isidore Parish

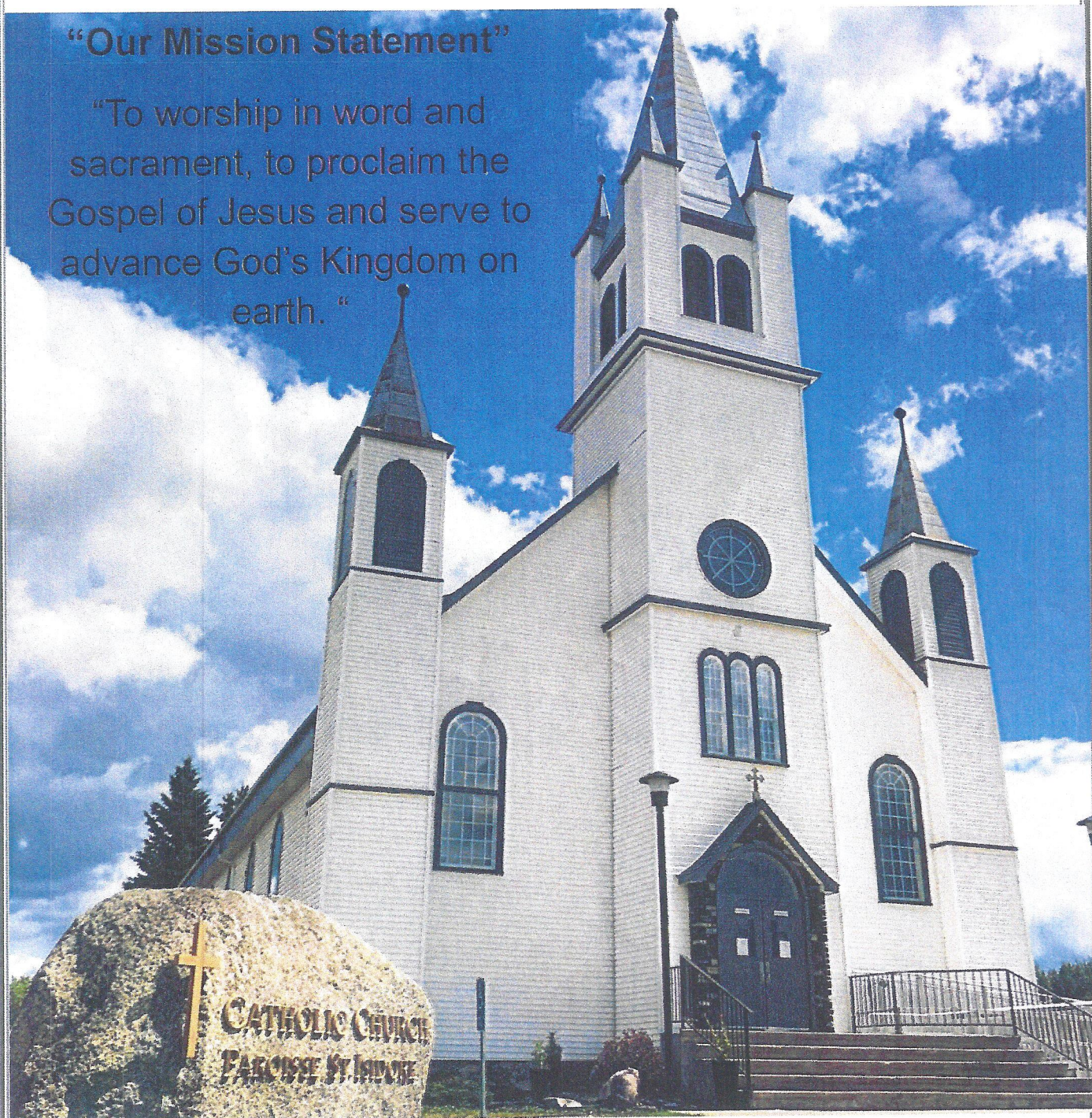
Annual Report

For 2021 year ending Dec 31, 2021

Web Site: www.stisidoreparish.ca

“Our Mission Statement”

“To worship in word and sacrament, to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus and serve to advance God’s Kingdom on earth. “





Our Core Values

Spirituality and Stewardship — we seek to respond daily to God’s love in gratitude and in prayer, with compassionate service, generous sharing, reconciliation and justice.

Evangelization and Lifelong faith formation — we strive to spread the good news of God’s love and to nurture the gift of faith through catechesis, education, reflection and daily living.

Respect and collaboration — we seek to identify & affirm the valued gifts of each person in pursuing Our Parish Mission.

Parish Pastoral Council April 2021-2022

Pastor - Rev. Jestoni Porras

Deacon – Rev. Jerry Metz

Recording Secretary – Jessica Lemay

Elected Members

- Crystal Plamondon - Chair
- Martha Ryan – Vice-Chair
- Raymonde Ménard – Secretary
- Deb Ménard
- Mark Gauthier
- Dominic Béland
- Vacant Position

Appointed Members

- Anita Gauthier – Catholic Women’s League
- Mike Piontek – Knights of Columbus
- Franco Giammarioli – Ecole Beausejour

Parish Finance Committee April 2021-2022

Pastor - Rev. Jestoni Porras

Recording Secretary – Jessica Lemay

Elected Members

- Rachelle Plamondon - Chair
- Lori Girard
- Denis St. Jean
- Richard Mahé
- EJ Menard
- Vernon Plamondon – Maintenance Committee Rep

Paroisse St. Isidore Parish

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May 12, 2022

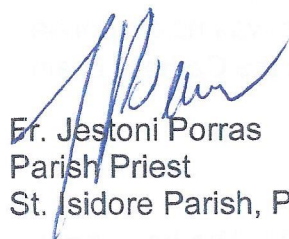
Dear Parishioners,

In October 2019, Bishop Paul Terrio appointed me as parish priest here in St. Isidore Parish, Plamondon. And as a young and newly ordained priest, I still remember how excited I am to have my own parish. But looking back on my experiences as parish priest for almost 3 years, I can say that it was indeed very challenging because of the Pandemic. So basically, I spent most of my years as parish priest facing restrictions, lockdowns, physical distancing and isolation brought by this pandemic. And you know what, dear parishioners, I believe that I will not be able to overcome these challenges in my life as your parish priest, without the grace of God, and most especially without your dedication, commitment and support, and for that, I would like express my gratitude and to say "Thank You" to all of you. Indeed, your faith and commitment inspired and helped me grow in my priesthood.

So, during these years of uncertainties brought by the pandemic, we showed as a parish and as the people of God, that restrictions will not stop us from serving our parish community, lock downs will not stop us from praying, kneeling down and attending mass, physical distancing will not stop us from becoming closer and supporting one another, isolation will not stop us from volunteering and to be generous. We all showed that our faith and love for God is bigger than the fear of the virus. We showed that the light of faith will always be victorious over the darkness of fear and sin.

So, my dear parishioners, once again thank you for all your dedication, commitment and support, and honestly, as your parish priest, I am no longer worried, instead I am once again excited and hopeful for the future because I know we are all together in this journey. May God bless you always!

Blessings,



Fr. Jestoni Porras
Parish Priest
St. Isidore Parish, Plamondon

Pastoral Care & Spiritual Growth Reports

General

Our Parish has concluded another challenging year with ongoing changes to comply with Covid restrictions at different times of the year. Many of our ministries have been on hold, while others have been able to find creative ways to continue programs. The Parish Council and Finance Committee meetings, and several educational opportunities were conducted online via Zoom. Zoom on line was a safe way to continue to conduct the administrative activities of the parish and to offer ongoing spiritual educational sessions to our Parishioners. We worked hard through the many changing restrictions that affected the traditional way in which we celebrate mass, serve our parishioners and evangelized. On line, live stream from St. Isidore services were made available during the Covid restrictions for those at high risk that were unable to attend worship and for funerals/special events where the number of attendees were capped. St. Isidore's Parish continued to prosper because of our many dedicated volunteers. They were essential in implementing the restrictions and rules in place to keep the church a safe place for our community to worship.

Reports

i. Liturgical Committee – Chair – Anita Gauthier

1. Ministry – Welcoming, Readers, Eucharistic Ministers and Collectors – Martha Ryan, Co-ordinator

Takes part in planning celebrations, organizes and trains the ministers. 2021 following AHS regulations as well as St. Paul Diocese Regulations, the roster consisted of a Safety Coordinator, a Point of Entry, Ushers, a Sanitizer, a Reader and a Computer operator. We would like to thank all of the Parishioners for your patience and especially to all of you who stepped up to the challenge of being on the roster.

2. Altar Servers – Vanessa Melanson, Co-ordinator

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic we were not able to meet with the Loving Altar Servers of St. Isidore's Parish. Altar Servers were not allowed to serve at mass, until further notice.

At the beginning of the pandemic, a Facebook group was created for the altar servers and their families. A few different things were posted on Facebook like prayers and reflections. There was little to no participation; therefore, using Facebook as a tool to reach out to the families was dropped.

Deacon Jerry started up the Catholic Brain program for our parish; I reach out to the parents for their participation in the Catholic Brain program to keep our altar servers engaged. There was no response from the altar servers to set up a group class setting. If there was any participation in the Catholic Brain learning tool, the families worked solely on their own, as they were free to do so.

3. Angel's Liturgy – Natasha Giammarioli, Co-ordinator

Due to the Covid pandemic we were forced to suspend our program in March 2020. We have been anxiously waiting for the time when we can start our program again. We have been told that we can start back up in 2022 and are looking forward to seeing the children again.

Our goal is to provide a safe, fun environment for our young children to learn more about their faith and to continually do our best to promote the program and try to get more involvement in our Parish.

4. Sacristans – Bonita Marchand, Co-ordinator

Our Parish has had a dedicated team providing their service to St. Isidore Parish as sacristans. The sacristans are Sylvia Cote, Anita Gauthier and Bonita Marchand. Linda Metz and Walleen Steeves are our casual sacristans. With covid it has been a bit difficult to have a rotation of sacristans with only 3 people and two masses per weekend. Fr. Jestoni was setting up and arranging the credence table during the pandemic. We thank him for this.

We are still looking for another sacristan, or a couple, to help us out.

The sacristans are responsible for diligently arranging the liturgical books, the vestments, the gifts, altar and credence table in preparation for the mass.

5. Art & Environment – Lena Labonté, Co-ordinator

The preparation of altar flowers for the Sunday celebrations, special celebrations of Christmas and the Holy Triduum continued through the years 2020-2021. In the Advent and Lenten season all flowers were removed from the altar. On Holy Thursday and Good Friday, the crucifix and statues were draped.

In April and May we provided a distinct focus and prayers for the nine days of Novena for St Joseph and St Isidore as well as for the Thanksgiving weekend.

We are always grateful for the Christmas Poinsettias and Easter Lilies donated by parishioners to adorn the altar and sacristy and the seasonal garden flowers over the summer and fall.

A gracious thank you to Vernon and Maria Plamondon for the six years of assisting in the committee, to Caroline Giammarioli for garden flowers and to Jacques Labonté my constant support. And special thank you to Father Jestoni.

6. Music/Choir – Claire Richard, Co-ordinator

The year started with no music.

In July and August, we had a short joyous time of singing and playing for our Lord. Ramona Doucet had made up a Live Spread Sheet that we could input our names where we were able to either direct or play music. It started out great, but then it became obvious we were scrambling again for input.

We were shut down for the rest of the year at the end of August, beginning of September.

We were fortunate enough to have recorded music to fill in the empty parts of the Mass.

Aline and Jean Paul Gauthier moved away and we thanked her for her dedication to the choir.

ii. Education/ Spiritual Growth – Deacon Jerry Metz

1. Schools

Franco Giammarioli remains as the liaison for Spiritual Education in the schools. The principal Etienne Vaillancourt, has been very active in maintaining a strong link between our church and the school. On May 29, 2021 a Baccalaureate Mass and graduation was held with some covid restrictions in place.

Many of our usual spiritual masses in 2021 were cancelled in the church because of school COVID compliance, but Fr. Jestoni has kept in contact with the school via Google meets on-line with the children. He met with them on the topics of Ash Wednesday, Lent, and for the school opening in September.

3. Bible Studies - Caroline Giammarioli

Bible study programs have been put on hold due to COVID.

4. Library & Resource Materials including on line studies.

DVD series of **Word on Fire**, "Catholicism", "The Mass", "Pivotal Players" by Bishop Robert Barron remain available for you to sign out for your viewing.

The "Lighthouse Catholic Media" CD's display remains available. If you are interested to view what material is available, contact the parish office for a viewing.

5. Church Store – Located in the basement of the rectory – Maria Plamondon

The Church Gift Store is a small year-round fundraiser for our church. Please consider supporting it. We offer Confirmation, First Communion, Baptism, Wedding, and home décor gift ideas.

It also offers Christmas, Mother's Day and everyday religious articles like candles, rosaries, statues, bibles, and all occasion cards, all at very affordable prices. It is all for your convenience, and with your support could expand.

6. RCIA - Caroline Giammarioli

Our parish had one participant in the RCIA program which now unfortunately has been put on hold due do to COVID.

7. Retreats & Prayer

During the Lenten season, Deacon Jerry, lead a group of individuals to watch the "**The Pivotal Players**", by Bishop Barron / Word on Fire. This six-part film series illuminates a handful of saints, artists, mystics, and scholars who not only shaped the life of the Church but changed the course of civilization. These gatherings were held safely by zoom, and were well received.

In the month of April, a nine-day novena to St. Joseph was held in our church, to signal the beginning of the liturgical year dedicated to St. Joseph.

In the month of May, a nine-day novena to St. Isidore was held in our church, leading up to the feast day of St. Isidore on May 15th.

Every year, the Stations of the Cross are held every Friday during Lent.

On the first Friday of the month, Adoration and mass are held at 7 pm in the church. Consider, giving yourself the beautiful gift of spending quiet reflection time with Jesus.

8. A Safe Parish Community

The Safe Parish Committee consists of the Chair of Parish Council, Crystal Plamondon, Pastor Fr. Jestoni and a parishioner at large, Richard Mahé. The ongoing purpose of this policy is to protect the youth and venerable including those doing ministry through education and using best industry practices. Our facilities are in compliance. Our Safe Parish course for high-risk ministries signing up to minister is now on-line at, <https://dioceseofstpaul.talentlms.com> Having access to the training program on-line has made it very convenient and user friendly for all our new volunteers.

9. Youth Faith Formation “Catholic Brain.”

In the beginning of 2021 St. Isidore Parish introduced an on-line faith formation program for our youth, Grade 3 to Grade 8, a site called “Catholic Brain”. This is a comprehensive interactive on-line site that will allow our children to learn **more about our faith, know it and live it**. Join and see all the prayers, spiritual activities, games, quizzes, videos, and songs available. This program can be accessed by parents and grandparents alike and learning materials can be sent through email to the children. Currently, we have 15 children signed up to use the Catholic Brain program. For more information, please visit the parish website or contact the parish office.



March 12: Lent Day 24

10. Sacraments - Jacinthe Lemay

At present we have 8 candidates that are registered and are on their journey of completing their Reconciliation, Confirmation and their 1st Communion. In 2021- Due to Covid and all the restrictions etc., we adapted the program and continued with our Zoom sessions. Confirmation was held June 12, 2021 and 1st Communion was July 4, 2021 both officiated by Father Jestoni. The program was completed with 6 candidates and was taught by our wonderful, devoted team: Linda Metz, Deacon Jerry and Father Jestoni.

Four young individuals received the Sacrament of Baptism in our parish. Father Jestoni leads the program to prepare the parents for their children to receive this sacrament.

One couple has received the sacrament of Matrimony at St. Isidore Parish in 2021. The pre-marriage course for these newlyweds was led by Alex and Claire Richard.

vi. Plamondon Cemetery Report - Bernice St. Jean

In the year 2021, we had a June 21st General Cemetery clean-up with the help of many people. Again, October 13th we organized a group of volunteers to fill selected graves with black dirt, then levelled, seeded and packed the ground. We sincerely thank all the volunteers.

We met with Harold Hrynyk regarding his family's donation of land to adjust the cemetery boundaries.

Also, we are getting quotes for a new cemetery front gate, funded by the donation from Armand Favennec.

There were 8 burials in 2021.

viii. Catholic Women's League – Anita Gauthier, President

- Our 1st meeting was held October 5, 2021.
- Anita via zoom participated in the October 2, 2021 Diocesan CWL Meeting. Bishop Paul was in attendance and did a presentation on the St. Paul Diocesan Caritas (An organization like Peace & Development in our own local Diocese). This organization was developed to help fund projects particularly in the North. Donations are as follows: to the Diocese of McKenzie/Fort Smith 50% to support a seminarian and fix the roof of the church; 25% to churches in need particularly in the middle East and Ukraine; and 25% to Chalice.
- We received funds from Cecile Lambert for \$1000.00, which we were very grateful for.
- Christian Family Life Outreach Project – Cecile & Raymonde Christmas Stocking project: 18 boxes of Chocolates and cards were given out to our Seniors in the Lacalta Lodge and Long-Term Care residents and 12 stockings to local seniors. Get Well, Thinking of You, Sympathy Cards and flowers are a big part of the outreach program. A big thank you to our loyal CWL ladies, Cecile & Raymonde who are consistently on the look out for people in need of a kind word or deed.
- Eileen Sehn, who was our first CWL President, completed a history album on the Plamondon St. Isidore Parish CWL. It was with much gratitude that we received this beautiful album.
- The CWL donated money to Newman College and St. Joseph's seminary, and the Morinville Church. A gift of a crucifix was given to the confirmation candidates as well a gift of appreciation to Father Jestoni and Deacon Jerry. Thanks to Sylvia who keeps our books up to par.
- Caroline continues to enlighten us with a spiritual dialog at our meetings. Always so interesting. Thank you, Caroline.
- Finally, I would like to thank Rena Braund who takes wonderful minutes, so that I can report and keep track of what we do.

iv. Plamondon Knights of Columbus – Michael Piontek, Grand Knight

Continued to promote membership Faith Formation during monthly meetings from scripture and spiritual reflection. Distributed the food bank box donations located in the back of the church to our local needy families and the women's shelter.

Purchased small rosary gifts for the children who had their sacrament of First Communion.

The Knights of Columbus continue to accept bottles and cans in the blue garbage bin at the rear of the church for donations and their initiatives. We also collect non-perishable food items to give to families in need. The collection box is located in the gathering room of the church.

The Knights of Columbus along with a few parishioners helped to set up outside Christmas décor at the rectory and church. This initiative helped our community to feel some Christmas spirit for the season.

Parish breakfasts and Mother's Day breakfast were suspended due Covid.

No honour guards were present at any masses during this time of pandemic, due to the capacity and restrictions for the number of people present at mass.

Our group has increased by one member this year. Should anyone be interesting in knowing more about our meetings and initiatives, please contact us.

We recently were able to host a snowmobile rally in March of 2022, and we were able to donate \$517 to the Boys and Girls club from the sale of charity appeal tickets.