

St. Isidore Catholic Church, Springville, Iowa – A Brief History

In December 1959, Archbishop Leo Binz directed Rev. Cyril Engler, pastor of Stone City and chaplain of the reformatory at Anamosa, to take a census of the Springville area to determine whether there were Catholic families sufficient to support a parish. A parish was canonically erected on March 22, 1961, and dedicated to God in honor of St. Isidore, the patron of Farmers.

In April 1961, the new parish bought eighty acres for \$80,000. On May 21, the first Mass on the new property was celebrated by Father Engler. Until a facility could be built, two Masses were celebrated every Sunday in a house located on the parish property. This building later served as the rectory.

The original members of the parish were Gene & Nadine Ball, Jim & Dorothy Barnes, Lawrence & Pearl Begley, Cletus & Ann Boland, Maurice & Betty Breen, Manual & Lillian Clements, Bud & Marcie Ernst, Ray & Helen Gogel, Art & Louise Holub, Joe & Ann Holub, Lillian Hopkins, Dick & Anita Houlahan, Charles & Marge Johannimgmier, Oren & Angela Kelly, Richard & Josephine Matus, Allen & Ann McArthur, Robert & Opel Mercer, Earl & Lucille Merritt, George & Betty O'Brien, Charles & Pauline Randall, the Lyle Savage Family, William & Marcella Schmidt, Louis & Gladys Tesar, the Bernard Twatchman Family, the Richard Venenga Family, and Joe & Fern Zeller.

Dedication of the parish hall that served as the original church took place on July 8, 1962. The hall continued to be used for all purposes until 1989, when the current church was completed under the direction of Rev. James J. McBride. It was dedicated on December 17.

In July 1990, Rev. Marvin C. Salz became pastor of St. Isidore and St. Stephen, Central City. He served both parishes until 1993 when St. Isidore linked with St. Joseph in Marion. Change came again in 1999, when St. Isidore linked with St. John the Baptist, Mt. Vernon.

Ground breaking for the new parish center at St. Isidore began in 2001. However, on October 8, 2001, the pastor, Rev. James Duster died suddenly while on retreat. Lay leadership took on the day-to-day administration of the parish under the direction of Rev. Donald Klein, dean of the Cedar Rapids deanery.

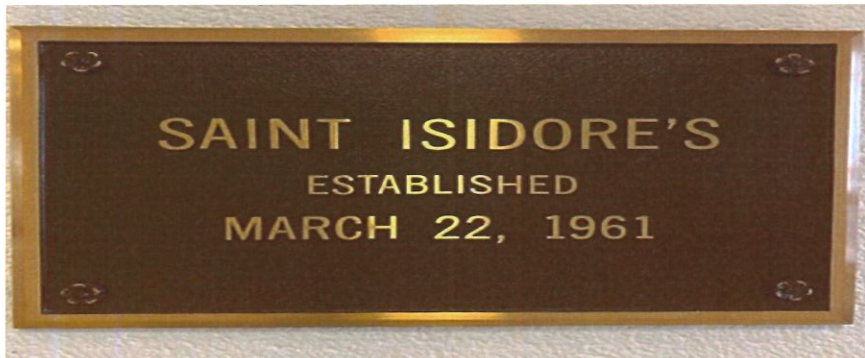
In July 2002, Susan Markee Schettler, was appointed as pastoral administrator of St. Isidore. Along with a part time office staff, DRE and numerous volunteers, continued to make this a viable faith community. The parish celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2011 with a Mass on May 15, the Feast of St. Isidore.

In July 2019, Rev. Andrew Awotwe-Mensah became pastor of St. Isidore and St. John the Baptist, Mt. Vernon. In July 2021, Sacred Heart, Oxford Junction was also assigned to Father Awotwe-Mensah linking the three parishes.

St. Isidore parishioners look forward to celebrating many more years of growing faith, family and friendship in the Springville community.

Adapted from *Archdiocese of Dubuque 1837-2012*

Jesus Alive Through 175 Years, Editions du Signe, 2011



60th Anniversary



1961—2021

*St. Isidore Catholic Church
Springville, Iowa*

*Welcome Mike Gregoricka
Pastoral Council Chair*

*St. Isidore Skit
Religious Education Students
with Michele Loehr, RE Coordinator*

Opening Prayer Rev. Dennis Juhl

*Prayer Before Meal
Led by the Students*

*Song by Children's Choir
Luke 1: Benedictus
By Steve Angrisano & Curt Stephen*

*Thank You and Dismissal
Mike Gregoricka, Pastoral Council Chair*

*St. Isidore Parish Memories
Betty Hoffman
Bob McArthur*

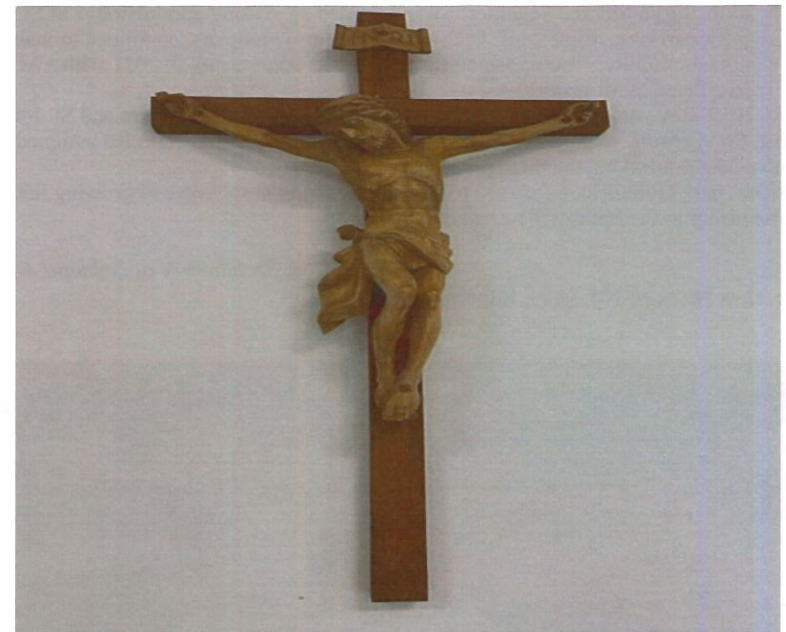
*Dismissal Song
Sing to the Mountains*

*Song by Adult Choir
The God of All Grace
By Ricky Manalo*

Proceed to the Hall for Food and Fellowship

*Recognitions — Please stand when your group is
recognized*

- ◆ *Charter Members and Their Families*
- ◆ *Past and Present Diocesan Appointed Leaders*
- ◆ *Past and Present Parish Staff*
- ◆ *Past and Present Parish Leadership*
- ◆ *Past and Present Liturgical Ministers and Liturgy Supporting Ministries*
- ◆ *Past and Present Parish Event Leaders and Volunteers*



Current picture of original crucifix used in worship space in what is now our "Hall".