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Easter 2015

Dear Parishioner and Welcome Visitor:

St. Isidore Parish is pleased to present this book as an Easter gift to you and your family. It has been made possible by the generosity of a couple in our parish who wishes to remain anonymous.

Since becoming Bishop of Rome just over two years ago, Pope Francis has touched the hearts of people everywhere. He is authentic, down to earth, at home in his own skin, and eager to go out to people at the edges. Most of all, he is a joy-filled man of faith who obviously lives the Gospel he preaches.

In November 2013, Pope Francis published *The Joy of the Gospel*, which he addresses to everyone in the church community. In this exhortation, he presents his vision of a church that proclaims the Gospel of Jesus Christ and is transformed by it. He calls for dramatic changes to customary structures and practices at all levels, from the Holy See to local parishes. He invites each of us to know the Lord more personally, and allow him to lift up our hearts, change our lives, and fill us with the joy of the Gospel.

So I invite you to read Pope Francis's exhortation. It is accessible and inspiring, indeed often quite amazing. I would also encourage you to read it a little at a time. A more reflective approach will help you grasp what he is saying and appreciate some of its radical implications. In fact, you might find that Pope Francis changes how you think and feel about your Catholic faith and its place in your life. Don't be surprised!

Thank you for joining us today. I pray that the Lord will bless you and your loved ones this Easter season and renew in you the joy of the Lord's resurrection.

With prayerful blessings,



(Rev.) Walter J. Woods, S.T.D., Pastor

P.S. Even though *The Joy of the Gospel* is quite accessible, it might raise questions or prompt you to look further into particular topics. Helpful resources are available at www.stisidorestow.org. Look for the "Joy of the Gospel" link on the home page.