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## St. Isidore's pastor asks parish for prayers, support for accused priest

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— The **Rev. John Clarke**, Pastor, St. Isidore's Roman Catholic Church

### From staff reports

"It is not for us to pass judgment." That was part of a very brief statement read by **Rev. John Clarke**, pastor of St. Isidore's Church following the 9:30 a.m. Mass Sunday.

**Commenting on last week's arrest of Rev. Edward Gillespie**, the pastor called on parishioners to pray for all those involved in the alleged incident. "We were all shocked and saddened

by the news of this alleged incident but it is not for us to pass judgment," the **Rev. Clarke** said. "I ask for your prayers as a true showing of Christian faith."

**Rev. Clarke** also asked church members for their "support and prayers for **Gillespie** and "anyone who has been hurt by this alleged incident." **Gillespie**, who had been assigned to St. Isidore's Church and was a reli-

gion teacher at Sacred Heart High School, was arrested last week and charged with two counts of sexual contact involving boys ages 15 and 17. The alleged incidents reportedly took place a year apart in **Gillespie's** private quarters.

The priest has been placed on a leave of absence by the Diocese of Camden pending the outcome of the charges.