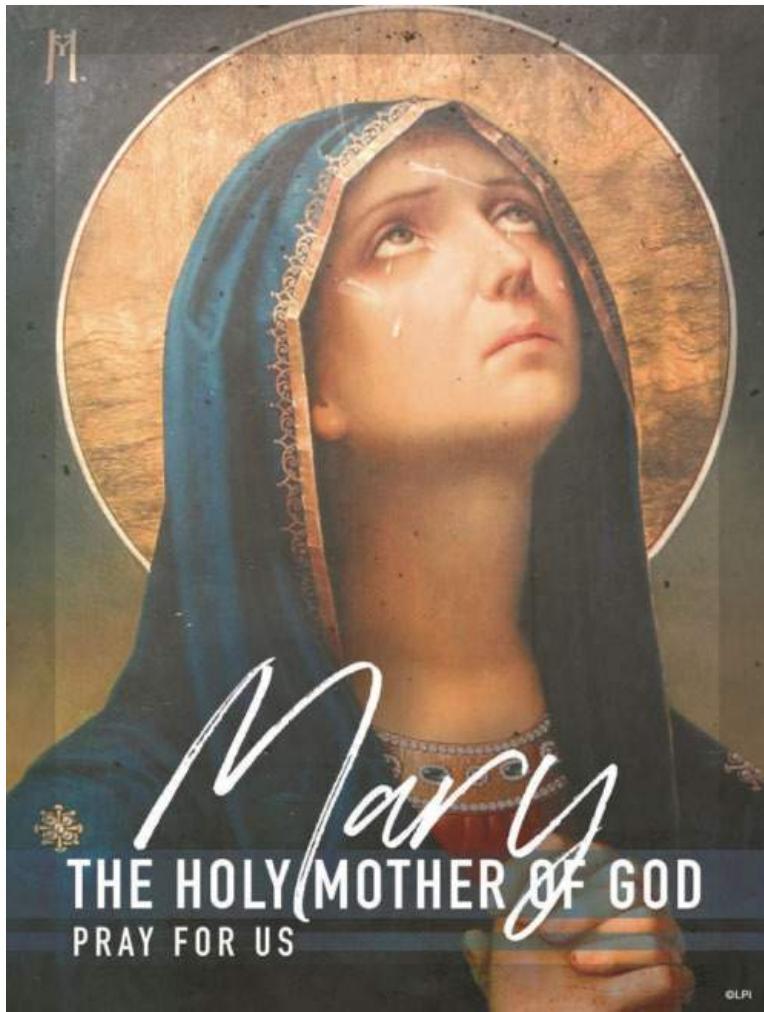




# SS. Isidore and Maria Parish

GLASTONBURY, CONNECTICUT

January 1, 2023



In celebrating this annual cycle of Christ's mysteries, the Church honors with special love and devotion Mary, the Mother of God, who is joined by an inseparable love to her Son and his saving work. In holding up Blessed Mary before us, the church is able to contemplate what it desires and hopes to be.

These are our hopes and desires as well, especially as we begin a new year. May we continue to look to our Blessed Mother for inspiration so that we too can be joyful, loving and devoted bearers of Christ to the world. ~ Father Mark Suslenko

The parish office will be closed on

**Mon., Jan. 2, 2023**

Regular office hours resume on  
Tues., Jan 3 at 9 a.m.

## Jan. 3: Solemn Celebration of Evening Prayer with Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

Take a break from the hustle and busyness of the holidays to continue the celebration of Christmas on Tues., Jan. 3 at 6:30 p.m. at St. Paul Church with the Solemn Celebration of Evening Prayer with Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. It's an opportunity to become familiar with this beautiful tradition of our faith, and we hope you and your family will join us. Learn more about this special liturgy at [www.isidoreandmaria.org/jan3](http://www.isidoreandmaria.org/jan3).



## SAVE THE DATES: Hospitality Weekends Begin in Jan. 2023

Please save the dates of **Jan. 7** and **Jan. 8** to join us for our first all-parish "Hospitality Weekend." It consists of a "Wine and Cheese Social" following the 4 p.m. Mass on Sat., Jan. 7 and the new "11:15 a.m. Hospitality Social," on Sun., Jan. 8 after the 11:15 a.m. Mass. Both events will be held in the south wing of St. Paul Church.



## Jan. 5: Blood Drive at St. Paul Church

SS. Isidore and Maria Parish is holding an American Red Cross blood drive in the South Wing of St. Paul Church on Thurs., Jan. 5, 2023 from 9 a.m. until 6 p.m. If you are 17 or older, weigh 110 pounds or more and haven't donated blood in the 56 days prior to Jan 5, you may be eligible to donate. Learn more about the eligibility requirements and/or sign up at: <https://www.redcrossblood.org>



## Collections and Parish Finance

We are grateful for your generous support of our Sacrificial Giving Program.



### Report for the week of 12/25/2022:

Weekly collection: \$ 17,990.05  
Online Giving: \$ 2,845.50  
Total: \$ 20,835.55

Annual Parish Collection: \$ 11,583.00

Annual Chancery Assessment for 2022: \$ 94,171.00

For a more detailed report please visit our website under the **ABOUT** tab. The monthly accountability reports can be found in the Financial Accountability folder.

Check donations should be payable to: **Saints Isidore and Maria**. For online giving, go to our website and click on the **DONATE** tab. *Thank you.*



### Jan. 8: Parish Health Care Ministry Meeting

Are you a health care professional?  
Are you interested in promoting health within the parish?

The Parish Health Care Ministry will meet on Tues., Jan. 8, at

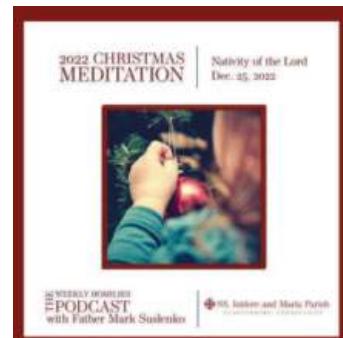
7 p.m. in the Education wing of St. Paul Church.

**All interested health care professionals are invited to attend.**

This includes nurses, doctors, pharmacists and pharmacy technicians, occupational therapists, physical therapists, speech-language pathologists, nutritionists, health care aids, and anyone else interested in contributing to the health of our parish community. For more information, please contact **Donna** at mmrudy@snet.net

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.  
—2 Cor 5:17 (ESV)

May God's peace be upon you and remain with you throughout the year.



## Father Mark's Christmas Meditation

Feeling a little melancholy now that Christmas Day has passed? Let Father Mark's Christmas Meditation lift your spirits:

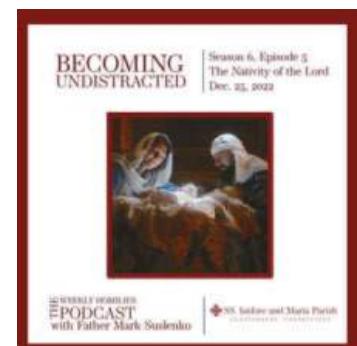
[www.isidoreandmaria.org/christmasmeditation2022](http://www.isidoreandmaria.org/christmasmeditation2022).

## PODCAST: Becoming Undistracted

"If we stop and think about it, we live busy but also very distracted lives. It seems we're always engaged in something. One reality or another is always vying for our attention. We never seem to be quite finished with the agenda that's before us. It's hard to unplug, and you can't just shut it down.

Where does that all bring us as human beings?" ~ Father Mark

In his Christmas homily, Father Mark points out the importance of unplugging from modern technological distractions that are increasingly keeping us from grappling with the questions that all humans face: Who am I? Who is God? What is the meaning of life? Listen now at [www.isidoreandmaria.org/podcasts](http://www.isidoreandmaria.org/podcasts)



## SAVE THE DATE: Jan. 22 Book Discussion



M. Regina Cram

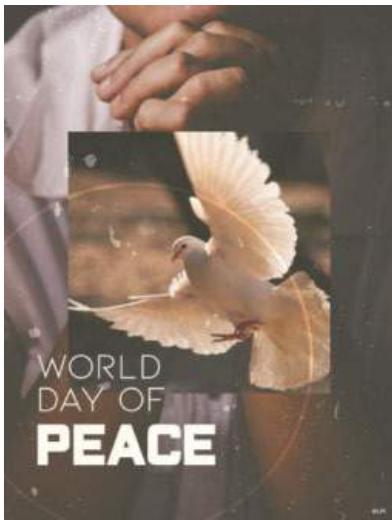
Join us on Sun., Jan. 22 at 2 p.m. at St. Augustine Church as we host a book discussion centering on "Now Do You Believe? Living the Gospel in Everyday Life," featuring the book's author and parishioner, M. Regina Cram.

Fellow parishioner Margaret LaCroix will facilitate the discussion. Refreshments will be served. Copies of the book may be purchased on Amazon, or borrowed from the main office of the church. Those attending are asked to RSVP at [contact@isidoreandmaria.org](mailto:contact@isidoreandmaria.org) or by calling the parish office at 880-633-9419. Snow date is Jan. 29.

**Thank You** to our sponsors

SS. Isidore and Maria Parish sincerely thanks the sponsors whose generosity makes our bulletin possible.

Our Sponsor Spotlight this week is:  
**Palmer and Associates Insurance**



## MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS for the 56th WORLD DAY OF PEACE January 1, 2023

(*Excerpt*)

*"Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night"* (First Letter of Saint Paul to the Thessalonians, 5:1-2).

With these words, the Apostle Paul encouraged the Thessalonian community to remain steadfast, their hearts and feet firmly planted and their gaze fixed on the world around them and the events of history, even as they awaited the Lord's return. When tragic events seem to overwhelm our lives, and we feel plunged into a dark and difficult maelstrom of injustice and suffering, we are likewise called to keep our hearts open to hope and to trust in God, who makes himself present, accompanies us with tenderness, sustains us in our weariness and, above all, guides our path. For this reason, Saint Paul constantly exhorts the community to be vigilant, seeking goodness, justice and truth: "So then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober" (5:6). His words are an invitation to remain alert and not to withdraw into fear, sorrow or resignation, or to yield to distraction or discouragement. Instead, we should be like sentinels keeping watch and ready to glimpse the first light of dawn, even at the darkest hour.

Covid-19 plunged us into a dark night. It destabilized our daily lives, upset our plans and routines, and disrupted the apparent tranquillity of even the most affluent societies. It generated disorientation and suffering and caused the death of great numbers of our brothers and sisters. . .

In addition to its physical aspects, Covid-19 led to a general malaise in many individuals and families; the long periods of isolation and the various restrictions on freedom contributed to this malaise, with significant long-term effects.

Nor can we overlook the fractures in our social and economic order that the pandemic exposed, and the contradictions and inequalities that it brought to the fore. It threatened the job security of many individuals and aggravated the ever-increasing problem of loneliness in our societies, particularly on the part of the poor and those in need. We need but think of the millions of informal workers in many parts of the world left without a job and without any support during the time of the lockdown.

Only rarely do individuals and societies achieve progress in conditions that generate such feelings of despondency and

bitterness, which weaken efforts to ensure peace while provoking social conflict, frustration and various forms of violence. Indeed, the pandemic seems to have upset even the most peaceful parts of our world, and exposed any number of forms of fragility.

Three years later, the time is right to question, learn, grow and allow ourselves to be transformed as individuals and as communities; this is a privileged moment to prepare for "the day of the Lord". I have already observed on a number of occasions that we never emerge the same from times of crisis: we emerge either better or worse. Today we are being asked: What did we learn from the pandemic? What new paths should we follow to cast off the shackles of our old habits, to be better prepared, to dare new things? What signs of life and hope can we see, to help us move forward and try to make our world a better place?

Certainly, after directly experiencing the fragility of our own lives and the world around us, we can say that the greatest lesson we learned from Covid-19 was the realization that we all need one another. That our greatest and yet most fragile treasure is our shared humanity as brothers and sisters, children of God. And that none of us can be saved alone. Consequently, we urgently need to join together in seeking and promoting the universal values that can guide the growth of this human fraternity. We also learned that the trust we put in progress, technology and the effects of globalization was not only excessive, but turned into an individualistic and idolatrous intoxication, compromising the very promise of justice, harmony and peace that we so ardently sought. In our fast-paced world, the widespread problems of inequality, injustice, poverty and marginalization continue to fuel unrest and conflict, and generate violence and even wars.

The pandemic brought all this to the fore, yet it also had its positive effects. These include a chastened return to humility, a rethinking of certain consumeristic excesses, and a renewed sense of solidarity that has made us more sensitive to the suffering of others and more responsive to their needs. We can also think of the efforts, which in some cases proved truly heroic, made by all those people who worked tirelessly to help everyone emerge from the crisis and its turmoil as best they could.

This experience has made us all the more aware of the need for everyone, including peoples and nations, to restore the word "together" to a central place. For it is together, in fraternity and solidarity, that we build peace, ensure justice and emerge from the greatest disasters. Indeed, the most effective responses to the pandemic came from social groups, public and private institutions, and international organizations that put aside their particular interests and joined forces to meet the challenges. Only the peace that comes from a fraternal and disinterested love can help us overcome personal, societal and global crises. . .

Clearly, this is not the post-Covid era we had hoped for or expected. This war, together with all the other conflicts around the globe, represents a setback for the whole of

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by
<b>Saturday, Dec. 31</b> <i>Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God; Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord</i>	2:30 p.m. 4 p.m.	<b>Reconciliation (Confession)</b> Cecilio, Rose, Don Giles and Joy Flores	Family
<b>Sunday, Jan. 1, 2023</b> <i>Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God; Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord</i>	8 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 11:15 a.m.	D. Joon Yoo Francisco (Paco) Garrido John McGovern	Family Son and Family Rooney Family
<b>Monday, Jan. 2</b> <i>Ss. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church</i>	7:30 a.m.	Marguerite Butera ( <i>1st Anniv.</i> )	Family
<b>Tuesday, Jan. 3</b> <i>Christmas Weekday Most Holy Name of Jesus</i>	7:30 a.m. <b>7 p.m.</b>	Filomena Colangelo <b>Rosary (St. Augustine Church)</b>	Elaine Henry
<b>Wednesday, Jan. 4</b> <i>St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious</i>	7:30 a.m.	Kusiak Family	Fran Juda
<b>Thursday, Jan. 5</b> <i>St. John Neumann, Bishop</i>		<b>No Mass</b>	
<b>First Friday, Jan. 6</b>	12:15 p.m. <b>After Mass until 2 p.m.</b>	Raymond Connor <b>Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament</b>	Savidge Family
<b>First Saturday, Jan. 7</b> <i>The Epiphany of the Lord</i>	2:30 p.m. 4 p.m.	<b>Reconciliation (Confession)</b> Frank Larosa	Kathy McGuire
<b>Sunday, Jan. 8</b> <i>The Epiphany of the Lord</i>	8 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 11:15 a.m.	Wilma Mitchel Eileen Marie Ahearn Maryane and Peter Jiovo	Don and Kathy Kray Thomas Ehrhardt Family

If you are offering a Mass Intention and you and your loved ones would like to bring up the gifts, please see the greeters prior to the start of Mass. One of them will be happy to assist you..



## PRAYER REQUESTS

Tim Blomstrom  
Susan Bowhall  
Bob Caisse  
Diane Varni Caisse  
Sandra Cavanna  
Thomas Cavanna  
Kathy Cerne  
Ashley Chapman  
Donna Chapman  
Keith Chapman

Gerald Delany  
Deacon Bill Dziatko  
Patricia Feeney  
Richard Giguere  
Ernesto Guardia  
Dan Hebert  
Keith Henson  
Julia Krawiec  
Gilbert Morin  
Gil Morin

Roger Morin  
Jack Murphy  
Clara O'Brien  
Jacob Rivera  
Jaxson Rivera  
Lilly Sinnamon  
Frank Schultz  
Doreen Thurz  
John Thurz  
Barbara Vassar  
Roger Yost

To add a prayer intention, please contact our parish office and their name will be listed for ONE month. We cannot publish names of friends. Thank you for your understanding.

## REMINDER

The following Masses will be live streamed from St. Paul Church:

Sat., Dec. 31 at 4 p.m.  
Sun., Jan. 1 at 11:15 a.m.

SS. Isidore and Maria Parish  
MILTON, CONNECTICUT

## Pope Francis' Monthly Prayer Intentions JANUARY — For Educators

We pray that educators may be credible witnesses, teaching fraternity rather than competition and helping the youngest and most vulnerable above all.



*World Day of Peace* continued from page 3

humanity and not merely for the parties directly involved. While a vaccine has been found for Covid-19, suitable solutions have not yet been found for the war. Certainly, the virus of war is more difficult to overcome than the viruses that compromise our bodies, because it comes, not from outside of us, but from within the human heart corrupted by sin (cf. *Gospel of Mark* 7:17-23).

What then is being asked of us? First of all, to let our hearts be changed by our experience of the crisis, to let God, at this time in history, transform our customary criteria for viewing the world around us. We can no longer think exclusively of carving out space for our personal or national interests; instead, we must think in terms of the common good, recognizing that we belong to a greater community, and opening our minds and hearts to universal human fraternity. We cannot continue to focus simply on preserving ourselves; rather, the time has come for all of us to endeavour to heal our society and our planet, to lay the foundations for a more just and peaceful world, and to commit ourselves seriously to pursuing a good that is truly common. . .

Read more at: <https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/peace/documents/>

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## I Am Here: Christine's Story

*"I lost many people during the pandemic."* - Christine Panyard

People like you share their personal stories of transformation by an encounter with Jesus in the Eucharist as part of the *National Eucharistic Revival*.

Learn more about the revival and how to share your story at: [isidoreandmaria.org/eucharisticrevival](http://isidoreandmaria.org/eucharisticrevival).



**Worldwide Marriage Encounter** is sponsoring a variety of in-person and virtual marriage experiences, some on weekends and some on seven weekdays. Couples will explore their relationship with each other, God, and the Church. Registration is limited and a \$100 application fee is required. For more information or to apply, call Frank & Margie Pearson at 860-337-2447 or visit them at <https://wwmectw.org/>.

What better gift can you give your spouse for Christmas than to tell them you want to attend a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience together:

Feb 3-5, 2023	Huntington, NY
Mar 10-12, 2023	Upton, MA
Jun 23-25, 2023	Huntington, NY

## Prayer Bring these words from St. Oscar Romero to prayer:

"Peace is not the product of terror or fear. Peace is not the silence of cemeteries. Peace is not the silent result of violent repression. Peace is the generous tranquil contribution of all, to the good of all. Peace is dynamism. Peace is generosity. It is right and it is duty."

Gentle God, help me to be a vessel of love to those who are broken and lost. Help me be a witness of faith to those who have lost their ability to trust and help me be a beacon of hope to those who are often trapped in despair. Amen.

## Weekly Prayer

### Scripture Readings for the Week

**SUN 1/1/23** Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 (2a)/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21

**MON 1/2/23** 1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:2-3ab, 3cd-4/Jn 1:19-28

**TUE 1/3/23** 1 Jn 2:29—3:6/Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6/Jn 1:29-34

**WED 1/4/23** 1 Jn 3:7-10/Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9/Jn 1:35-42

**THR 1/5/23** 1 Jn 3:11-21/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5/Jn 1:43-51

**FRI 1/6/23** 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-28 or 3:23, 31-34, 36, 38

**SAT 1/7/23** 1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5 and 6a, and 9b/Jn 2:1-11

**SUN 1/8/23** Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 (see 11)/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

## Pray for Those Who Are Serving

**God, keep special watch over these men and women serving in the Navy, National Guard, Army, Marine Corps., Air Force, Coast Guard and keep them safe:**

**Tammy Breiner**

**Oliver Cary**

**Charles Edward**

**Celia Fajardo**

**Brandon Farrell**

**Chris Gibb**

**Michael Hitler**

**Samuel David Hovanec**

**Peter Kamianowski**

**Samuel MacDonald**

**Alexis Maher**

**Michael Scott Mullin**

**John W. Murphy**

**Drew Scarfone**

**Jack M. Zaremba**

*Do you know someone who is currently on active duty with the U. S. Armed Forces for whom our community prayers would bring comfort, please email the person's name, rank and military branch to: [contact@isidoreandmaria.org](mailto:contact@isidoreandmaria.org), or call the parish office at 860-633-9419.*

## Mary, the Holy Mother of God

This solemnity is a rather recent addition to the cycle of seasons, Sundays, and feasts in our liturgical year. We have Pope Paul VI to thank for the 1974 enshrining of the devotion to Mary into our calendar on Jan. 1. It is also a day in our calendar as a World Day for Peace.

God of heaven and earth,  
you came to us and took our earthly flesh  
through the gift of Mary's yes.  
She is our Mother in faith,  
as she is your earthly mother.

We are thankful beyond our ability to thank you for the gift of her Son as our brother and savior.

Through her self-giving,  
we have been reconciled to you.

Bless us as we begin this New Year and endow us with the desire and ability to create a world of peace.

We ask all this, through the intercession of Mary to you, one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

## This Day in History — Jan. 1, 2023

### Why Do We Drop a Ball on New Year's Eve? By Meg Matthias (Excerpt)

"The Times Building will be especially illuminated to-night in honor of the birth of 1908," announced The New York Times on December 31, 1907. "The exact moment of the New Year's arrival will be signalized by the dropping of an electrically illuminated ball above the tower. The ball will be five feet in diameter, and light for it will be supplied by 216 electric lamps."

The first ball bore little resemblance to today's crystal one. Crafted in iron and wood, it weighed about 700 pounds (317 kg) and was decorated with 25-watt light bulbs. Its designer was Jacob Starr, an electric sign designer and manufacturer who supervised when, at the stroke of midnight, the ball was lowered by an elaborate pulley system. And though the ball's design changed over the years — from iron and wood to aluminum to Waterford Crystal — the tradition itself did not. With the exceptions of the World War II "dimouts" in 1942 and 1943, the New Year's Eve Ball hasn't missed a year since its 1907 debut. Since 2009 it's been the "Big Times Square New Year's Eve Ball" (or the "Big Ball," for short) that drops: an almost six-ton geodesic sphere covered in 2,688 Waterford Crystal triangles.



to all our friends at SS Isidore and Maria !



## Harry & Oliver's Corner

<https://www.britannica.com/story/why-do-we-drop-a-ball-on-new-years-eve>

## SS. Isidore and Maria Parish Directory

### Clergy

Rev. Mark S. Suslenko, Pastor  
William G. Dziatko, Deacon  
Stephen L. Weaver, Deacon

Melissa Lacafeta

*Admin. Assistant to the Pastor*  
[melissa@isidoreandmaria.org](mailto:melissa@isidoreandmaria.org)

Kristina DiDominzio

*Business Manager*  
[kristina@isidoreandmaria.org](mailto:kristina@isidoreandmaria.org)

Carol Vassar

*Director of Communications*  
[carol@isidoreandmaria.org](mailto:carol@isidoreandmaria.org)

David Garrido-Cid

*Director of Music Ministries*  
[david@isidoreandmaria.org](mailto:david@isidoreandmaria.org)

### Faith Formation Office

[faithformation@isidoreandmaria.org](mailto:faithformation@isidoreandmaria.org)

Donna Berger

*Interim Faith Formation Director*  
[donna@isidoreandmaria.org](mailto:donna@isidoreandmaria.org)

Ann Poker, *Program Coordinator*  
[ann@isidoreandmaria.org](mailto:ann@isidoreandmaria.org)

### Weekend Masses

*St. Paul Church*

Sat. Vigil: 4 p.m.  
Sun.: 8 a.m.  
Sun.: 9:30 a.m.  
Sun.: 11:15 a.m.

### Daily Mass

*St. Paul Church*

Mon., Tues., Wed.: 7:30 a.m.  
Fri.: 12:15 p.m.

### Sacrament of Reconciliation

Confessions at St. Paul Church  
Sat. 2:30 p.m.

### Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament takes place each Fri. following the 12:15 p.m. daily Mass (approximately 12:45 p.m.) at St. Paul Church. It concludes at 2 p.m.

### Rosary

Pray the Rosary each Tues. evening at 7 p.m. at St. Augustine Church.

**Bulletin submission deadline is Friday.** All submissions must be received in advance by Friday to be published in the following week's bulletin. Send notices to: [theresa@isidoreandmaria.org](mailto:theresa@isidoreandmaria.org)

### Live streaming of weekend Masses

*St. Paul Church*

Sat. at 4 p.m. and Sun. at 11:15 a.m., with rebroadcasts of the 4 p.m. Vigil streamed at 8 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. Please visit our Facebook page, YouTube channel or the parish website to worship remotely.

### How to Report an Incident of Sexual Abuse to the Archdiocese of Hartford

If you have knowledge or suspect that a minor or vulnerable adult (an adult with an intellectual disability) has been sexually abused, in any manner, by personnel of the Archdiocese of Hartford, you are urged to report this information to:

**Kathleen D. Nowosadko**

*Victim Assistance Coordinator*  
860-541-6475

[kathleen.nowosadko@aohct.org](mailto:kathleen.nowosadko@aohct.org)



Looking to update your parish registration?

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[www.catholiccruisesandtours.com](http://www.catholiccruisesandtours.com)

## Holy Land Discovery Tour

Land Tour Dates:  
March 10, 2023 - March 17, 2023  
April 14, 2023 - April 21, 2023 | May 5, 2023 - May 12, 2023  
Land tour starting at \$1819 per person  
(based on double occupancy)

## Fatima, Lourdes & Shrines of Spain Pilgrimage

Land Tour Dates:  
May 12, 2023 - May 23, 2023 | July 7, 2023 - July 18, 2023  
Special Journey with Fr. Tomasz Wilk April 17-29, 2023  
Land tour starting at \$1969 per person  
(based on double occupancy)  
CST# 2117990-70

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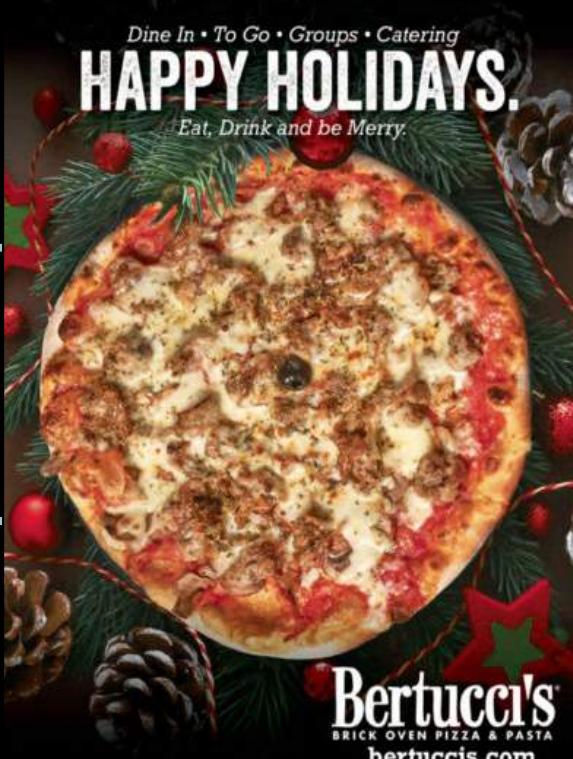
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## FACETS COUNSELING

Laura Zeppieri, Parishioner  
- Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselor  
- Advanced Alcohol and Drug Counselor  
- Grief counselor-certified  
- International Co-Occurring Gambling Specialist  
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