



SS. Isidore and Maria Parish

G L A S T O N B U R Y , C O N N E C T I C U T

December 11, 2022

Inspiration for the Week

by Rev. Mark Suslenko

We can often feel parched, desolate, lifeless, and dark. Even though we still engage in the business and demands of life, we find ourselves somewhat detached, disengaged, and removed. We lack joy, wonder, awe, and zest. Rather than being an experience of freedom and excitement, life holds us captive. We are tethered to systems, agendas, protocols, regulations, and expectations that go against what it means to be God's child. We find ourselves in a desert. Jesus came to release us from all this negativity and desolation. John the Baptist announced the arrival of the One who embodies healing, reconciliation, freedom, and life. Stop complaining about what you don't have. Prepare for the arrival of the remedy to life's despair. Be strong. Fear not! Christ will save us from life's distortions, illusions, and disappointments. Be patient. With proper time and care, all will be well.



Today: Music for Christmas with the New England Chamber Choir

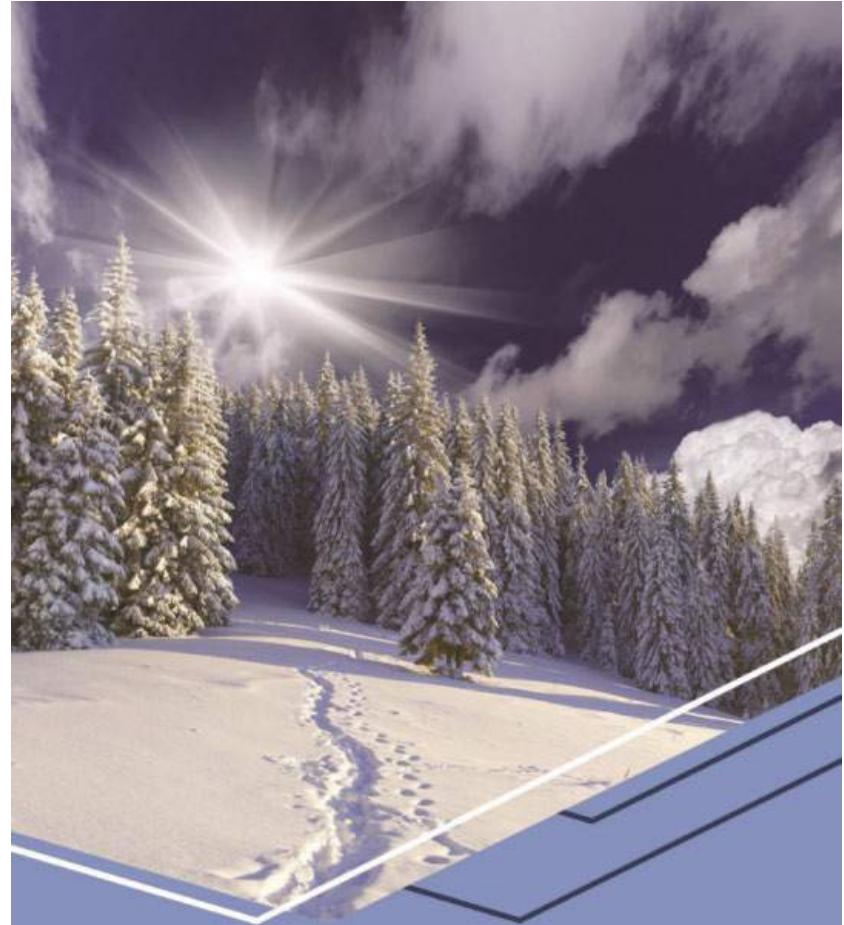
Today (Sun., Dec. 11) at 4

p.m., SS. Isidore and Maria Parish welcomes the New England Chamber Choir (NECC) and Instrumental Ensemble under the direction of Richard Wm. Donohue to St. Paul Church for a program of "Music for Christmas." Masks are required. A free-will offering will be collected.



Oplatek (Christmas wafer) now available.

Christmas wafer (oplatek) is now available at the entrances of St. Paul Church or on the altar rail.



3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"This is the one about whom it is written: Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way before you." - Mt 11:10

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass © 2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

©LPN

Blood pressure screenings

This weekend (Sat., Dec. 10 and Sun., Dec. 11), the parish Health Care Ministry conducts its free monthly blood pressure screenings. Screenings will take place in the South Wing conference room as follows:

- **Dec. 10** after the 4 p.m. Mass
- **Dec. 11** after the 8 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. Masses.



Screenings will take place in the South Wing conference room. *Masks are required.*

"I used to pray that God would feed the hungry, or do this or that, but now I pray that he will guide me to do whatever I'm supposed to do, what I can do. I used to pray for answers, but now I'm praying for strength. I used to believe that prayer changes things, but now I know that prayer changes us and we change things." ~ St. Teresa of Calcutta

Collections and Parish Finance

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



Report for the week of 12/4/2022:

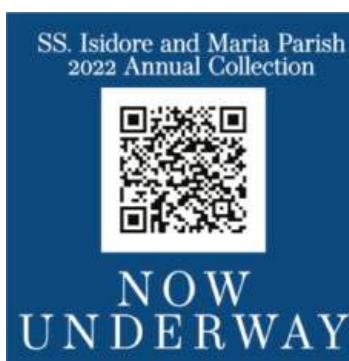
| | |
|--------------------|--------------|
| Weekly collection: | \$ 8,374.96 |
| Online Giving: | \$ 2,765.50 |
| Total: | \$ 11,140.46 |

Annual Parish Collection: \$ 94,318.00

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.*



QR code or by sending your check to SS. Isidore and Maria Parish, 2577 Main St., Glastonbury, CT 06033. Please make checks payable to SS. Isidore and Maria Parish. Thank you for your kind consideration.

2022 Parish Collection Continues

The 2022 Parish Annual Collection remains open for your donation.

A letter from Father Mark about this collection has been sent to homes of all parishioners. Make your donation by scanning this



Dec. 17 & Dec. 18: Bless the Baby Jesus

On the Fourth Sunday of Advent (Dec. 17 and Dec. 18), we invite families from our parish to bring the Baby Jesus figurine from their home nativity scene to be blessed!

Bless the Baby Jesus, also known as **Bambinelli Sunday**, is a tradition started by Saint John Paul II to bring to the heart and mind that Christ is the center of our Advent preparations. Both Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis have continued the tradition, and in recent years it has started to expand to other places outside of Rome - including right here at SS. Isidore and Maria Parish, where the blessing will occur during Mass immediately following Father Mark's homily. Simply bring the baby Jesus from your manger to Mass that weekend and hold it with you in your pew for the blessing.



Dec. 12: A Solemn Celebration of Evening Prayer with Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

SS. Isidore and Maria Parish invites the community to take part in a Solemn Celebration of Evening Prayer with Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament on Mon., Dec. 12 at 6:15 p.m.

This evening of traditional prayer and music is being held at St. Paul Church, 2577 Main St., Glastonbury, and coincides with the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. This is a wonderful opportunity for all to take time from the busy holiday season and prepare our minds and hearts for Christmas.

No registration is required. If you have additional questions, please call the parish office at 860-633-9419.



Dec. 14: NAMI Family Support Group Meets

Are you an adult caring for a loved one who has experienced symptoms of a mental health condition? Join us Wed., Dec. 14 at 7 p.m. in the main classroom of the educational wing of St. Paul Church for a free, confidential, peer-led family support group facilitated by volunteers from the Connecticut Chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI). Get more information at isidoreandmaria.org/namisupport



Faith Formation Sessions for the week of Dec. 11

Sunday, December 11:

Grade 2 - Large Group Session in the Library
10:45 a.m.-11:45 a.m.

Grade 3 - Small Group Sessions in the Classrooms
10:45 a.m.-11:45 a.m.

Monday, December 12:

Grades 7 & 8 - Library - moved from the South Wing
5 p.m.- 6 p.m.

Evening Prayer with Exposition and Adoration - Main Body of the Church (6:15 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend.

Tuesday, December 13:

Grades 7 & 8 - South Wing - 6 p.m.-7 p.m.

Children in grades 7 & 8 have the option of attending either the Monday session or the Tuesday session.

Faith Formation families may bring their Advent donations to any of their sessions now through December 13. Please refer to the email dated November 21 for specific details.



Life can leave us feeling dark and desolate. Sandy was just twenty-eight when her husband, Rob, died, leaving her to raise their two young children. She was without paid employment. Rob went to work one morning

and never returned home. Sandy, though, had faith and trusted that somehow God would help her through, even though most days brought deafening, piercing loneliness. She persevered, and the darkness gave way to light. Remarking one day to a friend hesitant to commit to a relationship, Sandy shared her wisdom. Even if she knew the outcome would be the same, she would marry Rob again. She assured her friend that she would even do this if eight years could only be eight minutes. God is leading us, and God transforms the darkness into light.

"Be strong. Fear not!" Those are easy words to say. Putting them into practice is a challenge. When our paths are dark and

life's roads treacherous, we can easily complain about life's unfinished nature. When will the pain go away? Will the loneliness ever cease? Will I experience happiness again? As the farmer needs to exercise patience with the soil, we must do the same with our lives. We must wait for the early and late rains to come, properly tend to our gardens, and ensure that the rich nutrients of God's merciful and tender presence continue to enrich us. God is not done. God has only just begun his work in us.

We cannot allow life to hold us captive. The systems, agendas, protocols, regulations, expectations, and unfinished business can distract us from what it means to be God's child. Life can leave us feeling cheated, negative, and parched. All times and seasons of our spiritual and liturgical lives lead us to three virtues: faith, hope, and love. Stop complaining about what is wrong, and look to what God can make right! Joy flows from the Baptist's message: in Jesus - the one mightier than he - are found healing, reconciliation, and freedom. Christ will save us from life's distortions, illusions, and disappointments. Do you believe this?

~ Rev. Mark Suslenko



Dec. 4 - Dec. 17: Coats for Kids

The SS. Isidore and Maria Health Ministry and the Glastonbury Knights of Columbus will be holding their annual Coats for Kids drive from Dec. 4 through Dec. 17.

We'll collect NEW children's coats, hats, scarves, mittens, and gloves from Dec. 4 through Dec. 17. All sizes are needed, with a particular need for larger sizes. Please place your donations in the "Coats for Kids" bins at either St. Paul Church or St. Augustine Church.

Monetary donations are also accepted. Please place cash donations or checks (made out to SS. Isidore and Maria Parish) in an envelope marked "Coats for Kids" and deposit them in the offertory kiosk at St. Paul Church. The distribution of these items happens on December 22 in coordination with the Town of Glastonbury Social Services Department.



Father Mark's Day of Recollection trip to Enders Island takes place on Oct. 14, 2023. We are limited to 60 participants. If you are interested in attending, please check the parish website for the current status of available seats. When the threshold of 60 has been reached, we will begin and maintain a wait list through the main office at 860-633-9419, or contact@isidoreandmaria.org.



SS. Isidore and Maria Parish Christmas Mass Schedule *All Masses are celebrated at St. Paul Church*

Christmas Eve: Sat., Dec. 24

Please note: No Confessions on Sat. Dec. 24

- 4 p.m. Vigil Mass - Nativity of the Lord (*with live stream*)
- 6 p.m. Vigil Mass - Nativity of the Lord (*with live stream*)
- *10 p.m. Nativity of the Lord (*with live stream*)

***9:30 p.m.** Please join us before the Christmas Eve Mass for a Christmas Concert and Carol sing-along presented by our SS Isidore and Maria Gallery Choir and guests.

Christmas Day: Sun., Dec. 25

- 9 a.m. (*no live stream*)

Please note: There is no morning Mass on Mon. 12/26.

Sat., Dec. 31

- 4 p.m. Vigil Mass - Mary, the Holy Mother of God (*with live stream*)

Sun., Jan. 1

- 8 a.m. Mass - Mary, the Holy Mother of God (*with Rebroadcast of 4 p.m. vigil*)
- 9:30 a.m. Mass - Mary, the Holy Mother of God (*with Rebroadcast of 4 p.m. vigil*)
- 11:15 a.m. Mass - Mary, the Holy Mother of God (*with live stream*)



Liturgical Schedule and Intentions

December 11, 2022

| Date | Time | Intention | Requested by |
|--|--|--|---|
| Saturday, Dec. 10 <i>Third Sunday of Advent</i> | 2:30 p.m. 4 p.m. | Reconciliation (Confession) Amelia and Lucien Daignault <i>Live Stream at 4 p.m.</i> | Family |
| Sunday, Dec. 11 <i>Third Sunday of Advent Gaudete Sunday</i> | *8 a.m. *9:30 a.m. 11:15 a.m. | Bouchard and Kozlak Family Maureen McGovern Danny Coyle <i>Live Stream at 11:15 a.m.</i> | Family Rooney Family Kevin Coyle |
| Monday, Dec. 12 <i>Our Lady of Guadalupe</i> | 7:30 a.m. | Dr. John Raycroft | Elaine Henry |
| Tuesday, Dec. 13 <i>St. Lucy, Virgin and</i> | 7:30 a.m. 7 p.m. | Zulmira Nunes Rosary (St. Augustine Church) | Son and Family |
| Wednesday, Dec. 14 <i>St. John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church</i> | 7:30 a.m. | Maureen Schecher (1st Anniv.) | Rosemary Nemecek |
| Thursday, Dec. 15 <i>Advent Weekday</i> | | No Mass | |
| Friday, Dec. 16 <i>Advent Weekday</i> | 12:15 p.m. After Mass until 2 p.m. | Ron Clisham Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament | June Gillis |
| Saturday, Dec. 17 <i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i> | 2:30 p.m. 4 p.m. | Reconciliation (Confession) Melinda and George Upton <i>Live Stream at 4 p.m.</i> | Family |
| Sunday, Dec. 18 <i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i> | *8 a.m. *9:30 a.m. 11:15 a.m. | Thomas Moorcroft Joe and Dorothy Magnano Luke McConville <i>Live Stream at 11:15 a.m.</i> | Kathy Gauches Lori, Kristen and Shane Howley Family |

*Rebroadcast of 4 p.m. Vigil Mass

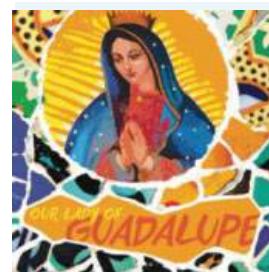


Tim Blomstrom
Susan Bowhall
Bob Caisse
Diane Varni Caisse
Sandra Cavanna
Thomas Cavanna
Kathy Cerne
Ashley Chapman
Donna Chapman
Keith Chapman

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
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.



Dec. 12 is the feast day of Our Lady of Guadalupe, also called the Virgin of Guadalupe. She is the Patroness of the Americas and of Mexico. During the 16th century, she appeared to St. Juan Diego and asked for a church to be built in her honor. However, the local bishop did not believe Juan Diego, and asked him to provide proof of the Virgin's appearance. At the Virgin's urging, Juan Diego returned to the site where she first appeared to him, finding there roses in full bloom despite the cold winter weather. Juan Diego gathered the roses in his cloak, and released them before the bishop. When he did so, an image of the Virgin appeared on the cloak. A basilica on the site was built. It houses Juan Diego's venerated cloak, woven from cactus fibers, which remains miraculously preserved. Over 20 million people visit the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe each year, now situated on the very same hill on which she appeared. Get the full story of Our Lady of Guadalupe here: www.isidoreandmaria.org/guadalupe

“The Lord God keeps faith forever. Lord, come and save us.”

(Ps 146)





PODCAST: The Gift of Sacred Scripture

"St. Paul tells us by endurance and the encouragement of scripture, we might have hope. And isn't that what we ultimately look for when we struggle with faith?"

~ Father Mark

From the Israelites' 40-year journey through the desert to the intense suffering endured by Jesus as he opened the doors of salvation, Father Mark encourages us to find our hope and inspiration this Advent season in the stories of sacred scripture. Listen now to Father Mark's podcast, "The Gift of Sacred Scripture," at isidoreandmaria.org/podcasts.

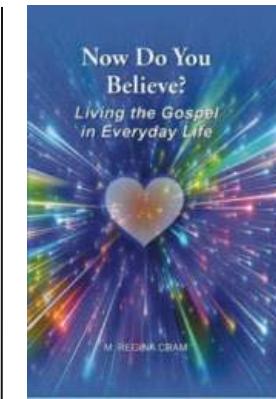
ADVENT GIVING PROGRAM

Thank you for your support of the 2022 Advent Giving Program

The Advent Giving Program 2022 has brought joy to many children and families over the years. Thank you to all of the parishioners who contributed to this year's program.

The Advent Giving Program 2022 supported the following agencies and groups this season: St. Joseph Residence, The Herbert T. Clark House, Gilmore Manor, The House of Bread, My Sister's Place, St. Elizabeth House and ImmaCare Homeless Shelter.

Again, thank you for your outstanding generosity and support.



SAVE THE DATE: Jan. 22 Book Discussion

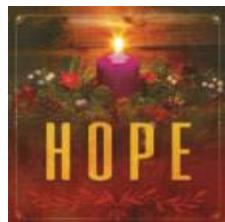
Join us on Sun., Jan. 22 at 2 p.m. at St. Augustine Church as we host a book discussion centering on "Now Do You Believe? Living the Gospel in Everyday Life," featuring the book's author and parishioner, M. Regina Cram.

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 or be 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:
Foxy Pizza



"I plead with you! Never, ever give up on hope, never doubt, never tire, and never become discouraged. Be not afraid."

~St. Pope John Paul II

Weekly Prayer

Scripture Readings for the Week

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| SUN 12/11/22 | Is 35:1-6a, 10/Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10/ Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-11 |
| MON 12/12/22 | Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/ Jdt 13:18bcde, 19/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47 |
| TUE 12/13/22 | Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23/Mt 21:28-32 |
| WED 12/14/22 | Is 45:6c-8, 18, 21c-25/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14/Lk 7:18b-23 |
| THR 12/15/22 | Is 54:1-10/Ps 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a and 13b/Lk 7:24-30 |
| FRI 12/16/22 | Is 56:1-3a, 6-8/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 7-8/Jn 5:33-36 |
| SAT 12/17/22 | Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17/ Mt 1:1-17 |
| SUN 12/18/22 | Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [7c, 10b]/ Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24 |

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

Peter Kamianowski

Oliver Cary

Samuel MacDonald

Charles Edward

Alexis Maher

Celia Fajardo

Michael Scott Mullin

Brandon Farrell

John W. Murphy

Chris Gibb

Drew Scarfone

Michael Hitzer

Jack M. Zaremba

Samuel David Hovanec

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, or call the parish office at 880-633-9419.

Reflect and Respond to Scripture

First Reading:

Isaiah encouraged his community to “be strong, do not fear!” since God has planned a future restoration of both the land and the people. *Who in your life needs to hear words of encouragement and support right now?*

Second Reading:

James urges his community to be patient and non-judgmental with each other as we wait for the coming of the Lord. *In what ways is this a challenge for you this Advent season?*

Gospel:

In today’s reading, Matthew offers a glimpse into the personal relationship between Jesus and John the Baptist. Jesus has great respect for John yet counts him “least” in the kingdom of heaven. *What do you think this tells us about those in the kingdom of heaven?*

This Day in History — Dec. 17, 1936



Happy Birthday Pope Francis!

Pope Francis, born Jorge Mario Bergoglio, Dec. 17, 1936 is the head of the Catholic Church and sovereign of the Vatican City State since 2013. Francis is the first pope to be a member of the Society of Jesus, the first from the Americas, the first from the Southern Hemisphere, and the first pope from outside Europe since Gregory III, a Syrian who reigned in the 8th century.

Born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Bergoglio worked for a time as a janitor before training to be a chemist and working as a technician in a food science laboratory. After recovering from a severe illness, he was inspired to join the Society of Jesus (the Jesuits) in 1958. He was ordained a Catholic priest in 1969. He became the archbishop of Buenos Aires in 1998 and was created a cardinal in 2001 by Pope John Paul II.

Following the resignation of Pope Benedict XVI on Feb. 28, 2013, a papal conclave elected Bergoglio as his successor on March 13. He chose Francis as his papal name in honor of St. Francis of Assisi.

Oliver and I wish Pope Francis a blessed birthday. We'll join our Dad in celebrating, not with a cake for sure! He can have salad but we want lots and lots of Twizzles treats for sure!



Harry & Oliver's Corner

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pope_Francis

SS. Isidore and Maria Parish Directory

Clergy

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

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Donna Berger

Interim Faith Formation Director
donna@isidoreandmaria.org

Ann Poker, *Program Coordinator*

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

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



Looking to update your parish registration?

Or register with SS. Isidore and Maria Parish? Scan this handy QR code to begin the process.