



# SS. Isidore and Maria Parish

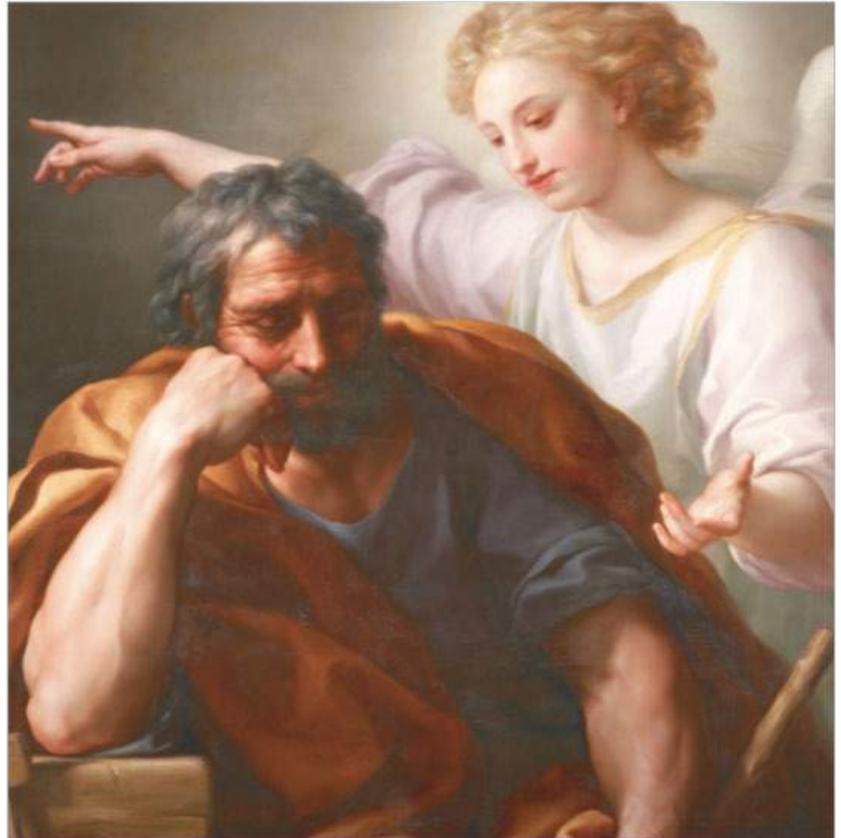
GLASTONBURY, CONNECTICUT

December 18, 2022

## Inspiration for the Week

by Rev. Mark Suslenko

“God is with us.” This is the one constant in the unpredictability of life. The particulars of our lives can change, not only instantly but dramatically. People experiencing a time of peace can easily find themselves at war. Times of prosperity can rapidly become times of want. Our vision for the future can be destroyed, and our securities placed in jeopardy. These final days of Advent allow us to make final preparations. The true safety and security we seek can only come from God. The rest, harmony, and peacefulness we desire are found in God alone. How do we know this to be true? God Himself gave us a sign: Emmanuel, God with us. Do not be afraid, and do not be unbelieving. Hold fast to what God has done in giving us His only begotten Son. We do not have to attempt to control life’s unpredictability anxiously. We must simply ensure that our hearts are in the proper place and seeking the right things!



## This Weekend Dec. 17 & Dec. 18: Bless the Baby Jesus

On this Fourth Sunday of Advent, 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 St. 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.

**4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

“She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” - Mt 1:21

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



## Oplatek (Christmas wafer) now available.

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

“Optimism and hope are radically different attitudes. Optimism is the expectation that things — the weather, human relationship, the economy, the political situation, and so on — will get better. Hope is trust that God will fulfill God’s promises to us in a way that leads us to true freedom. The optimist speaks about concrete changes in the future. The person of hope lives in the moment with the knowledge and trust that all of life is in good hands.” ~ *Henri Nouwen*

## Collections and Parish Finance

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



Report for the week of 12/11/2022:

Weekly collection: \$ 8,541.00  
Online Giving: \$ 2,815.50  
Total: \$ 11,356.50

Immaculate Conception: \$ 1,123.00  
Retired Religious: \$ 1,729.00

Annual Parish Collection: \$ 101,368.00

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.



## 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

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.

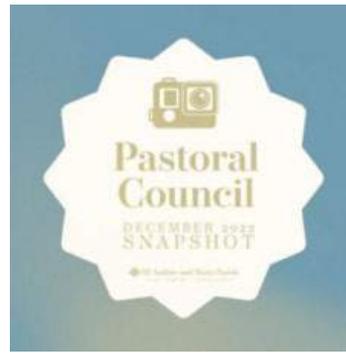
## SAVE THE DATES: Hospitality Weekends Begin in Jan. 2023

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.

*Thank You* to our sponsors

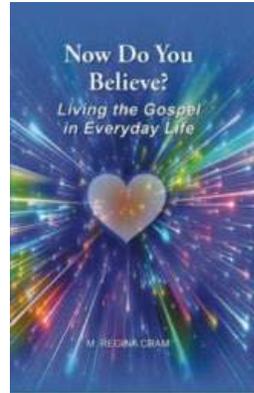
SS. Isidore and Maria Parish sincerely thanks the sponsors whose generosity makes our bulletin possible.

Our Sponsor Spotlight this week is:  
**All Ways There Home Care**



## December 2022 Pastoral Council Snapshot

The SS. Isidore and Maria Pastoral Council met on Mon., Dec. 5, 2022. Visit <http://isidoreandmaria.org/snapshotdec2022> to get the latest Pastoral Council Snapshot.



## 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](mailto:contact@isidoreandmaria.org) or be calling the parish office at 880-633-9419. Snow date is Jan. 29.



## Faith Formation Sessions for the week of Dec. 18

### Sunday, December 18:

Grade 1 - Small Group Sessions in the Classrooms  
10:45 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.

Grade 3 - Large Group Session in the Library  
10:45 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.

Year 1/Grade 9 Confirmation - South Wing (5:00-6:00)\*

Year 2/Grade 10 Confirmation - South Wing (6:30-7:30)\*

\*Confirmation candidates should be accompanied by one adult. Please refer to the email from Mr. Shea for specific details.

### Monday, December 19:

Grades 4 & 5 - South Wing 4:45 p.m. - 5:45 p.m.

Grade 6 - Library 5 p.m. - 6 p.m.

### Tuesday, December 20:

Grades 4 & 5 - South Wing 6 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Grade 6 - Library 6 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Children in grades 4-6 have the option of attending either the Monday session or the Tuesday session.



A fire wipes out an entire town. A tornado rips through several neighborhoods. A bomb claims a maternity hospital. A sudden heart attack takes the life of a soul mate. Life is unpredictable and dramatic. Many buy

into the sad illusion that the securities and familiarities we see around us today will remain forever: our homes, our friends, our spouses, our churches, and even our health. We are stunned and shaken by a sudden change, finding ourselves bewildered, mortified, and even embittered. We do not like change, especially driven by sources beyond our control. Are there any guarantees in life? We often live as if our lives come with lifetime warranties. When they break, they can be fixed or replaced. Such is not the case. Many things are irreplaceable and unable to be fixed. During life's inevitable chaos, God says: "Do not be afraid." Seriously? How can one not be afraid when things are falling apart?

Fear is normal, and it has a purpose. It is unrealistic and somewhat unhealthy to strive to live without any fear. Fear teaches us lessons and can catalyze us to discover more profound things. What we do with fear and how we understand it is critical. Fear can either cripple us or move us forward. God does not want fear to cripple us. If we look around at all that can change in our lives and consider what we might have to do, we can easily wallow in the mire of self-misery. Or we can step up to the challenge, as Mary did, and do what needs doing! We can stand tall, as did Joseph, and do the right and just thing! What gives us this courage? Faith.

God is with us. This is the focus of our Advent preparations. We need to be reminded that we are not in this alone. God not only made us and loves us, but God keeps us! In the person of Jesus Christ, God is the sign we need to persevere! Do not be afraid, and do not be unbelieving! Hold fast to what God has done in giving us His only begotten Son. We do not have to attempt to control life's unpredictability anxiously. God has blessed us with the birth of His Son. Trust that He is with us and will not abandon us, even in death.

~ Rev. Mark Suslenko



## Coats for Kids Concludes this weekend

The annual "Coats for Kids" drive, sponsored by the SS. Isidore and Maria Health Care Ministry and the Glastonbury Knights of Columbus, concludes this weekend. Please leave any donations of NEW

children's coats, hats, scarves, mittens, and gloves in the bins at the entrances to St. Paul Church or St. Augustine Church. All sizes are needed, with a particular need for larger sizes. Monetary donations are still being 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 Dec. 22 in coordination with the Town of Glastonbury Social Services Department.



## Father Mark's Day of Reflection 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. (REBROADCAST of the 10 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass, with concert)

**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

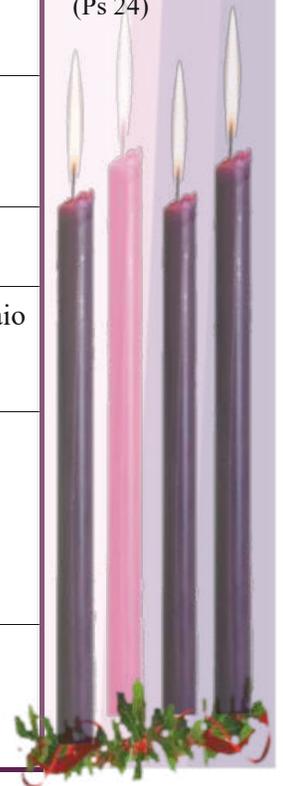
- 8 a.m. Mass - Mary, the Holy Mother of God *(with Rebroadcast of 4 p.m. vigil)*
- 9:30 a.m. Mass - Mary, the Holy Mother of God *(with Rebroadcast of 4 p.m. vigil)*
- 11:15 a.m. Mass - Mary, the Holy Mother of God *(with live stream)*



Date	Time	Intention	Requested by
<b>Saturday, Dec. 17</b> <i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i>	2:30 p.m. 4 p.m.	<b>Reconciliation (Confession)</b> Melinda and George Upton <i>Live Stream at 4 p.m.</i>	Family
<b>Sunday, Dec. 18</b> <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
<b>Monday, Dec. 19</b> <i>Late Advent Weekday</i>	7:30 a.m.	Jennie Cassarino	Family
<b>Tuesday, Dec. 20</b> <i>Late Advent Weekday</i>	7:30 a.m. 7 p.m.	Patrick Troy <b>Rosary (St. Augustine Church)</b>	Sue and Dick Inman
<b>Wednesday, Dec. 21</b> <i>St. Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church</i>	7:30 a.m.	Rev. John Karash	Fran Juda
<b>Thursday, Dec. 22</b> <i>Late Advent Weekday</i>		<b>No Mass</b>	
<b>Friday, Dec. 23</b> <i>Advent Weekday St. John of Kanty, Priest</i>	12:15 p.m. After Mass until 2 p.m.	Mary and Anthony Bisceglione <b>Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament</b>	Debra and Vincent DeMaio
<b>Saturday, Dec. 24</b> <i>Nativity of the Lord</i>	4 p.m. 6 p.m. 9:30 p.m. 10 p.m.	<b>No Confessions</b> <i>Intention available</i> <i>Intention available</i> Christmas Concert and Sing-along <i>Intention available</i>	<i>With Live Stream</i> <i>With Live Stream</i> <i>With Live Stream</i> <i>With Live Stream</i>
<b>Sunday, Dec. 25</b> <i>Nativity of the Lord</i>	9 a.m.	Russell Erickson (2nd Anniv.) <i>(REBROADCAST of the 10 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass, with concert)</i>	Wife and Family

“ Let  
the  
Lord  
enter;  
He is the  
King of  
glory. ”

(Ps 24)



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

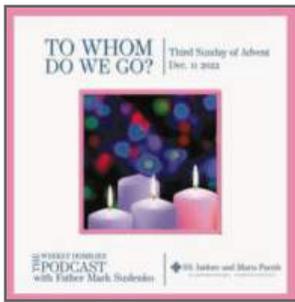
To add a prayer intention, please contact our parish office and their name will be listed for ONE month. We cannot publish names of friends. Thank you for your understanding.

**PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH**

TO YOU GOD ENTRUSTED HIS ONLY SON;  
IN YOU MARY PLACED HER TRUST;  
WITH YOU CHRIST BECAME MAN.  
OBTAIN FOR US GRACE, MERCY AND COURAGE.  
AMEN.

~POPE FRANCIS





**PODCAST:**  
**To Whom Do We Go?**

“As human beings, it is easy to take credit for our own work, to take credit for our own thinking. But is that really what is going on here?” ~ *Father Mark*

In his latest homily, Father Mark makes a powerful case that the abilities of human beings to think, create, discover and move forward together in community originates with God. Listen now at [isidoreandmaria.org/podcasts](http://isidoreandmaria.org/podcasts)



**I Am Here: Barb's Story**

“He had not abandoned me in my grief and sorrow.” ~ *Barb Penney*

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).

**Weekly Prayer**

**Scripture Readings for the Week**

- 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
- MON 12/19/22** Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17/Lk 1:5-25
- TUE 12/20/22** Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk 1:26-38
- WED 12/21/22** Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21/Lk 1:39-45
- THR 12/22/22** 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/ Lk 1:46-56
- FRI 12/23/22** Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14/Lk 1:57-66
- SAT 12/24/22** *Morning:* 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29/Lk 1:67-79
- SUN 12/25/22** *Vigil:* Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 (2a)/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25  
*Night:* Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14  
*Dawn:* Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3: 4-7/Lk 2:15-20  
*Day:* Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 [3])/ Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14



**Demand for ImmaCare services increases as parish ImmaCare Ministry strives to meet demand**

This month, the parish ImmaCare Ministry was notified by the shelter that they have experienced a 70% increase in the number of residents staying there. That's 35 more people to feed each evening! The ministry is immensely grateful to all of the parishioners and friends who have gone above and beyond to provide nourishing dinners at ImmaCare. The ministry provided two dinners this month: Fri., Dec. 2, with support from Widows Helping Others (WHO), and Fri., Dec. 9. The men at ImmaCare, as always, expressed their appreciation for the abundant and delicious assortment of food.

The next dinners provided by the ministry take place on Fri., Jan. 6, with support from the Glastonbury Knights of Columbus, and Fri., Jan. 13. Don't hesitate to get in touch with our dinner chairs if you'd like to volunteer or make a donation: George Jachimowski (first Fridays of the month) at: [shadownell@comcast.net](mailto:shadownell@comcast.net) or Marisa Howard (second Fri. of the month) at [howarrs@cox.net](mailto:howarrs@cox.net) or 860.633.0408.

In addition, a van full of food and clothing bound for ImmaCare was picked up on Thurs., Dec. 1. Your generosity to their Outreach program is greatly appreciated. This program provides weekday nourishment to unhoused person living on the street, in abandoned buildings, or wherever shelter can be found. Your donations supplement the sandwiches that are given out each day. Our next collection date is Thurs., Jan. 5. Visit [isidoreandmaria.org/immacare](http://isidoreandmaria.org/immacare) for a list of needed items.



**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](mailto:contact@isidoreandmaria.org), or call the parish office at 860-633-9419.*

## Reflect and Respond to Scripture

### First Reading:

Isiah prophecies to King Ahaz of Judah the coming birth of Emmanuel, meaning “with us is God.” *When do you feel God’s presence in your life?*

### Second Reading:

Written about twenty years after the death and resurrection of Jesus, Paul’s opening words in his Letter to the Romans provides one of the earliest testimonies to the divinity of Jesus Christ. And now as believers, Paul tells us we are “called to be holy.” *How has this season of Advent help you develop holiness?*

### Gospel:

In recounting the birth of Jesus, Matthew focuses on how Joseph came to terms with this miraculous event. *Can you name a time when you had to discern how God is working in your life?*

## This Day in History — Dec. 11, 2022

### Dec. 20, 1880

New York’s Broadway became known as the “Great White Way” when a stretch of the street was illuminated by lamps making it among the first electrically lighted streets in the United States.

### Dec. 21, 1937

Walt Disney debuted “Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs” the first full length animated feature.

### Dec. 22, 1990

Lech Walesa was sworn in as Poland’s first popularly elected president.

Say Harry, I think we celebrated our first snowfall in style!  
Great job with our snowman.  
I hope Dad won’t miss the carrot in his soup!



## Harry & Oliver's Corner

## SS. Isidore and Maria Parish Directory

### Clergy

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

Melissa Lacafta  
*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.

### 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?

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

**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)