



SS. Isidore and Maria Parish

GLASTONBURY, CONNECTICUT

# Ministries



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## Definitions

- **Ministry:** An organized group of parishioners with a purpose to support and enhance the life of the parish and the greater mission of the Church with the help of volunteers.
- **Volunteers:** Parishioners who contribute their time, talents, and skills to the activities associated with one or more ministries.

## A Note from the Pastor

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It is with great joy and gratitude that I present to you this Ministries Booklet, a testament to the vibrant and diverse ways in which the Spirit of God is moving within our parish community. In these pages, you will find descriptions of the various ministries that are at the heart of our church's mission to serve one another, our neighbors, and our world.



The call to ministry is a call to service, love, and transformation. Each ministry described here is an opportunity to live out the Gospel message, to be the hands and feet of Christ in the world. Our faith asks us to reflect upon how we use our time, talents and treasures, and there is a place within our parish for you to serve and grow in that faith.

As you read through this booklet, I invite you to prayerfully consider where God may be leading you to contribute your gifts. Remember, no act of service is too small, and every effort is valuable in the building of God's Kingdom.

May this booklet inspire you to join with others in our community, united in purpose and love, as we seek to follow Christ's example of humble service.

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Father Mark". The ink is dark and the signature is written in a fluid, personal style.

Rev. Mark S. Suslenko, Pastor  
SS. Isidore and Maria Parish  
Glastonbury, Connecticut

***"We cannot do everything and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that. This enables us to do something, and to do it very well. It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for God's grace to enter and do the rest."***

*Saint Oscar Romero (1917 - 1980)*

# Altar Care

## **PURPOSE:**

Reflect the sanctity of the sacraments by presenting a clean and beautifully decorated altar.

## **ACTIVITIES:**

Dust the altar and areas in the main body of the Church; clean door windows, brass door plates, door handles, candle chimneys, and brass holders; replace holy water in fonts and refill the large holy water font.

Care of all linens used on the altar and tabernacle, including cleaning, occasional washing, ironing, folding, and storage.

## **TIME COMMITMENT:**

One to two hours every six weeks. Volunteers can work in teams of two or three. Great opportunity for families!

## **CONTACT:**

Carla Rice

Phone: 860-808-4115

Email: [cjrice@cox.net](mailto:cjrice@cox.net)

# Altar Servers

## **PURPOSE:**

Enhance the celebration of the Mass by assisting the priest and deacons with the consecration and distribution of Holy Communion, the handling of sacramental vessels, and the carrying of the Cross down the aisle.

## **ACTIVITIES:**

For **children** who received the sacrament of Holy Eucharist – assist priests and deacons during Sunday Mass. For **adults** – assist at Masses of Christian Burial, Nuptial Masses, and other ecclesiastical services.

## **TIME COMMITMENT:**

Based on parish need and desired level of commitment.

## **CONTACT:**

Rich Ehrhardt

Phone: 860-508-5030

Email: [ctehrhardt@cox.net](mailto:ctehrhardt@cox.net)

# Bereavement

## **PURPOSE:**

Support parishioners and their families during the grieving process after the loss of a loved one, including: the **Lazarus group** (funeral preparation), the **New Day program** (small group grief support), **Widowed Helping Others (WHO)** (socialization and group activities for widows/widowers), and the **Prayer Shawl** group (creation of handcrafted shawls and lap blankets for those needing comfort).

## **ACTIVITIES:**

For **Lazarus group** volunteers, assist in coordinating funeral services—speak with family members about the wishes of the deceased, work with the parish office and any external providers to schedule the services, and follow up with family members after the funeral/burial to determine interest in the New Day program. For the **New Day program**, trained facilitators meet with interested grieving parishioners to provide group support, consolation, and healing guidance.

## **TIME COMMITMENT:**

For the **Lazarus group**, volunteers can expect to spend 8 - 15 hours on funeral preparation with a grieving family. For the **New Day program**, facilitators train one full day and implement an 8 - 10 week program, 2 hours per week.

## **CONTACT:**

General Information

Email: [bereavement@isidoreandmaria.org](mailto:bereavement@isidoreandmaria.org)

Kimberly Franklin

Email: [smfranklin@outlook.com](mailto:smfranklin@outlook.com)

Elaine Henry

Email: [dr.henry1@cox.net](mailto:dr.henry1@cox.net)

Lorraine Jacobs

Email: [jacobslorraine23@comcast.net](mailto:jacobslorraine23@comcast.net)

Dorothy Twachtman

Email: [detwatjr@aol.com](mailto:detwatjr@aol.com)

# **Eucharistic Ministers**

## **PURPOSE:**

Distribute Holy Communion to the faithful. *Participation in this ministry is by invitation from the Pastor.*

## **ACTIVITIES:**

Eucharistic ministers serve at Holy Mass and bring Holy Communion to those unable to attend Mass.

## **TIME COMMITMENT:**

Training is conducted in the parish. Schedules are developed for each minister.

## **CONTACT:**

Parish Main Office

Phone: 860-633-9419

Email: [contact@isidoreandmaria.org](mailto:contact@isidoreandmaria.org)



## **Faith Formation**

### **PURPOSE:**

Support our children's Catholic education and preparation for First Communion and Confirmation.

Support the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) for those wishing to enter the Catholic Church through Baptism or celebration of the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist, and/or Confirmation. Organize the Mission Trip for high schoolers.

### **ACTIVITIES:**

Adult parishioners can serve in various roles, e.g., instructors, event coordinators, and chaperones.

### **TIME COMMITMENT:**

For instructors, a year-long commitment is generally based on the catechetical schedule and approximately 2 - 3 hours per week.

### **CONTACT:**

Donna Berger, Director of Faith Formation

Phone: 860-633-9419

Email: [donna@isidoreandmaria.org](mailto:donna@isidoreandmaria.org)

# Greeters

**PURPOSE:**

Enhance the faithful's Church experience during Mass and serve as an integral part of Mass preparation.

**ACTIVITIES:**

Greet parishioners at the church doors with a friendly and welcoming demeanor; distribute worship aids and bulletins; answer any questions regarding the Church facilities; arrange for medical assistance, if needed; inspect pews before and after Mass.

**TIME COMMITMENT:**

Greeters arrive 30 minutes before the start of Mass and remain a few minutes after the conclusion of Mass to tidy the pews and secure offertory kiosks. Meetings are held as needed, and most communications are via group email.

**CONTACT:**

George Jachimowski, Coordinator of Greeters

Phone: 860-568-7274

Email: [shadownell@comcast.net](mailto:shadownell@comcast.net)

# HOPE

**PURPOSE:**

Enhance the quality of life and help build self-sufficiency for those in our community who need financial and social services. The current focus is on assisting Glastonbury families facing food insecurity.

**ACTIVITIES:**

Coordinate with the Town of Glastonbury Social Services to supplement the support to families who currently receive services from the organization. Assemble weekly backpacks filled with nutritious items for eligible children in Glastonbury's elementary schools. Coordinate and manage fundraising efforts for the backpack program. Manage relationship and support services with the Glastonbury Food Bank.

**TIME COMMITMENT:**

1-2 hours every other week, as needed

**CONTACT:**

Donna Berger, Director of Faith Formation

Phone: 860-633-9419

Email: [donna@isidoreandmaria.org](mailto:donna@isidoreandmaria.org)

# Hospitality

## **PURPOSE:**

Promote goodwill and fellowship among parishioners.

## **ACTIVITIES:**

Volunteers act as "hosts" for the Parish's monthly social events -- arrange for food and drink through the Parish, facilitate the flow during the event, and clean up afterward. Events include:

- Hospitality Weekends -- first weekend of each month from September to May -- Wine and Cheese Social (after 4 pm Mass) and the Coffee Social (after the 11:15 am Mass);
- Receptions following the monthly Solemn Celebrations of Evening Prayer with Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament (October - May).

The coordinators (listed in Contacts) will meet with volunteers to walk them through what needs to be done to ensure a successful event.

## **TIME COMMITMENT:**

3 – 4 hours per month

## **CONTACT:**

Lori Goodwin, Wine and Cheese Social coordinator

Email: [lgoodwin4@live.com](mailto:lgoodwin4@live.com)

Kate Chomick, Coffee Social coordinator

Email: [kjchoms@gmail.com](mailto:kjchoms@gmail.com)

## **ImmaCare Homeless Outreach**

### **PURPOSE:**

Reflect the love of Christ through outreach to the homeless and support for our poorest neighbors.

### **ACTIVITIES:**

Through ImmaCare Inc., a Hartford-based organization dedicated to helping people experiencing homelessness and those less fortunate, volunteers from the Parish provide and/or serve meals to residents of the ImmaCare emergency shelter in Hartford. Dinners are prepared for distribution to ImmaCare shelter residents on the first and second Friday of each month. Individuals, families, workplace associates, and Parish groups may participate.

Another related but distinct ImmaCare program is the Outreach Program, which helps to provide nourishment five days each week to people experiencing homelessness living on the streets, in abandoned buildings, or wherever shelter can be found.

For more information on the Outreach Program, visit <https://isidoreandmaria.org/immacare>.

### **TIME COMMITMENT:**

3 – 4 hours per month

### **CONTACT:**

Bill Curley, First Friday Coordinator  
Phone: 860-944-3350

Marisa Howard, Second Friday Coordinator  
Phone: 860-205-7139

# Music

## **PURPOSE:**

Through the work of musicians, both professional and amateur, assist assembled believers to express and share the gift of faith that is within them during weekend Masses, weddings, funerals, major feast days, and other celebrations; to elevate our Parish liturgies to a higher form of praise through quality music; to promote full conscious and active participation in public prayer. Adults, young adults, and children with various abilities and skill levels are welcome.

## **ACTIVITIES:**

Participate in weekend Masses and other liturgical celebrations as needed; attend scheduled rehearsals for singers and instrumentalists; share the joy of Christ in music and fellowship.

## **TIME COMMITMENT:**

3 –4 hours per week, flexible.

## **CONTACT:**

David Garrido-Cid, Director of Music Ministries

Phone: 860-633-9419

Email: [david@isidoreandmaria.org](mailto:david@isidoreandmaria.org)

# Readers

## **PURPOSE:**

Bring to life the Liturgy of the Word during the celebration of the Mass by delivering the words of the Sacred Scriptures to the faithful with clarity, engagement, and reverence.

## **ACTIVITIES:**

Practice the readings to ensure accurate pronunciation and appropriate tempo, inflection, and pitch. For correct pronunciation and cadence, use the daily Mass reading podcasts on the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops website ([usccb.org](http://usccb.org)).

If there are choices for reading passages (e.g., long or short versions), ask the celebrant or assisting deacon for the preferred version.

Ask God to help you prepare, understand, and proclaim the Word as God's servant. Readings include the Mass introduction and the First and Second Readings. If a cantor or deacon is not present, be prepared to read the Responsorial Psalm and/or the Universal Prayers.

Complete the introduction script with the names of the celebrant, assisting deacon, cantor, Eucharistic ministers, and altar servers.

Place the introduction, universal prayers, and lectionary open to the correct page on the ambo (lectern) before Mass. Ensure the proper placement of the reading materials during and after Mass.

## **TIME COMMITMENT:**

One hour of training is required. Approximately two hours per week thereafter.

## **CONTACT:**

Parish Main Office

Phone: 860-633-9419

Email: [contact@isidoreandmaria.org](mailto:contact@isidoreandmaria.org)

# Sacramental Support

## **PURPOSE:**

Prepare individuals and families to receive the holy sacraments – Baptism, Eucharist, Confirmation, and Marriage. Note: Preparation for children to receive the Sacraments of the Holy Eucharist and Reconciliation for the first time and Confirmation for teens is through our Faith Formation ministry. For adults who have stepped away from their Catholic faith or are new to it, our Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) program prepares individuals/couples to receive the sacraments and support them and their families in their educational and spiritual journey. These classes begin in September and culminate with receiving the sacraments at the Easter Vigil Mass. Initial support for Holy Orders is through our Vocations ministry.

## **ACTIVITIES:**

**Baptism:** Provide parents of every baby baptized at St. Paul with a handmade, cotton batiste baptismal robe. With instructions provided, volunteers cut out the pattern and sew robes at home.

**Marriage:** Help engaged couples prepare for marriage and the wedding ceremony, including Mass with the Holy Eucharist. Couples are asked to individually complete a confidential assessment of their views on their relationship, communication styles, problem-solving approaches, religious beliefs, finances, and approaches to parenting. Ministry leaders use the results of that assessment to develop a customized curriculum for each couple to discuss critical areas where they are aligned and where they may be misaligned. Wedding Rehearsal Coordinators assist the celebrant by walking the wedding party through the procession and reviewing the main elements of the wedding Mass on the evening before the wedding. Rehearsals take about one hour; the number of rehearsals depends on the number of scheduled weddings.

## **TIME COMMITMENT:**

Time is dependent on the number of baptisms and weddings planned for any given month. Generally, each baptismal robe requires approximately 8 – 10 hours to create. Time varies and is flexible for volunteers involved in marriage preparation, RCIA, and Anointing of the Sick.

## **CONTACT:**

Parish Main Office

Phone: 860-633-9419

Email: [contact@isidoreandmaria.org](mailto:contact@isidoreandmaria.org)



## **Social Justice**

### **PURPOSE:**

Provide an educational forum for social justice issues, including food insecurity, poverty, climate change, racism, health care, etc.

### **ACTIVITIES:**

Facilitate and participate in educational programs to increase awareness of social justice issues (mentioned above).

Interface with Archdiocesan and partner parishes to combine ministry community outreach efforts.

Coordinate the implementation of social justice programs.

### **TIME COMMITMENT:**

Time commitment is dependent on the programs to be implemented.

### **CONTACT:**

Parish Main Office

Phone: 860-633-9419

Email: [socialjustice@isidoreandmaria.org](mailto:socialjustice@isidoreandmaria.org)

# Vocations

**PURPOSE:**

Create and foster a culture of vocations in cooperation with several other local parishes and the Archdiocese of Hartford's Office of Seminarians and Vocations. Provide encouragement and direction through resources and education to inspire people to respond to God's call – Catholic marriage and family, the diaconate, priesthood, religious and single life.

**ACTIVITIES:**

Activities that help raise awareness of different vocations and their importance; encourage prayer for vocations to help individuals discern their calling; provide direction through events and materials related to vocations; and create a vocation-friendly environment.

**TIME COMMITMENT:**

5 -- 6 hours/month

**CONTACT:**

Jack Harrington

Phone: 860-931-1855

Email: [vocations@isidoreandmaria.org](mailto:vocations@isidoreandmaria.org)

Parish Main Office

Phone: 860-633-9419

Email: [contact@isidoreandmaria.org](mailto:contact@isidoreandmaria.org)

## Walking with Purpose (WWP)

### **PURPOSE:**

Help women, whatever their knowledge and experience of our faith, explore the transforming power of God's unconditional love through studying Scripture and how it applies to their everyday lives.

### **ACTIVITIES:**

Many women join a weekly small group, working through the lessons independently and participating in discussions. Additionally, each group has two small group facilitators who help guide the discussions.

No special Catholic knowledge is needed—just good communication skills. We also have a leadership team that helps with planning, logistics, hospitality, and special events.

### **TIME COMMITMENT:**

WWP season is typically 22 weeks, between October and April, with breaks for holy weeks and holidays. It is optional to be able to make every meeting. The meetings are about 2 hours long, with in-person and virtual options. The "homework" is 10-15 minutes of scripture and reflection five days a week.

Small group facilitators typically spend 20 minutes each week preparing for the meeting or communicating with their group. The leadership team time requirements vary with the season. For example, more time is required during registration and kickoff. Our leaders typically have an hour or two extra per month during the season.

### **CONTACT:**

Sarah Johnson, Program Director  
Email: [sastiger@gmail.com](mailto:sastiger@gmail.com)

Parish Main Office  
Phone: 860-633-9419  
Email: [contact@isidoreandmaria.org](mailto:contact@isidoreandmaria.org)

# Welcome Home

**PURPOSE:**

Encourage and provide support for Catholics who want to return to the practice of their faith.

**ACTIVITIES:**

Develop, plan, and execute events to reconnect and welcome Catholics who may have stepped away from the faith.

Reach out to individuals and families who have expressed an interest in returning to the faith and encourage them to continue on the journey through various programs and resources.

**TIME COMMITMENT:**

Support occasional gatherings, events, and opportunities for returning Catholics to participate in various faith-based programs.

**CONTACT:**

Email: [welcomhome@isidoreandmaria.org](mailto:welcomhome@isidoreandmaria.org)

# Wellness

## **PURPOSE:**

The Wellness Ministry is dedicated to nurturing the physical, mental, and spiritual well-being of our parishioners and the community. Grounded in faith, compassion, and love, we strive to provide resources, support, and education that empower individuals and families to lead balanced, healthy lives. Through prayer, fellowship, and practical guidance, we seek to create an environment where everyone can thrive and find the strength to serve God and one another with joy and vitality.

## **ACTIVITIES:**

Coordinate educational programs and provide counseling and referrals for promoting our community's physical, emotional, and spiritual health; establish connections with internal and external partners to work together to address the social determinants of health, thereby improving community wellness in our parish, town, and beyond. These programs are continually evaluated and include/have included monthly blood pressure screenings and National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) support meetings; diaper and food collections for local at-need populations; seminars on affordable medical insurance options and the risks of social media usage in youths; and providing coping strategies and support for those experiencing grief and loss around the holidays.

## **TIME COMMITMENT:**

1-3 hours per month

## **CONTACT:**

Suzanne Ryan, Wellness Ministry Coordinator

Email: [wellness@isidoreandmaria.org](mailto:wellness@isidoreandmaria.org)

## **Notes**

(Please use this to write any questions, ideas, and/or comments about our parish ministries.)

For general questions about our parish ministries:  
[ministry@isidoreandmaria.org](mailto:ministry@isidoreandmaria.org).



