

Christmas 2024



SS. Isidore and Maria Parish

GLASTONBURY, CONNECTICUT

The Awesome Mystery of Christmas

“He so loved us that for our sake, He was made man in time, although through Him all times were made. He was made man, who made man; was created of a mother, whom He created; was carried by hands which He formed; nursed at the breasts He had filled. He cried in the manger in wordless infancy, He the Word, without whom all human eloquence is mute (St. Augustine, Sermon 188).”



*Rev. Mark S. Suslenko,
Pastor*

The miracle of what happens at Christmas is truly an awesome mystery. God’s intimate love for humanity and all he made is revealed in the silent ordinariness of life. The Word, existing for all time, comes and dwells among us. God kisses us. We can seek and soar with playful delight as a joy never known before fills our hearts.

Joy is best expressed through dance. There is just something truly wonderful about the self-abandoned carefreeness a beautiful melodic dance reveals. If we can let go and be free, it celebrates life in a way few other experiences can. With the birth of Jesus Christ, God takes the Divine Dance to a deeper and more tangible level. We can now see what we believe and believe what we see! This perfect dance is a call to beauty, innocence, truth, purpose, hope, faith, and love. Today, beyond doubt, we know that we are a necessary part of God’s beautifully choreographed masterpiece of life, not just a random happening without real intent or purpose. We are loved, treasured, and blessed.

Accepting the truth of God’s birth in time, we also receive an invitation to dance with God. We can leave behind what tethers us to anxious concerns and superficial securities. Throw caution to the wind and go with God. We have been blessed with talents, gifts, and life eternal. Trust! Let go! Follow the rhythm of the dance with joy, and listen to what the Word who became flesh tells us about the next steps. Today, heaven remains the same, but earth has profoundly changed.

With Christmas Blessings,

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Father Mark".

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



**Coming June 22, 2025:
Corpus Christi procession**

Welcome and Merry Christmas to all our friends celebrating with us the Incarnation of Jesus Christ.

*We invite you to join with all of us at **SS. Isidore and Maria Parish** as we journey through the year, uncovering the significance of the Gospel and its impact on our lives. Our faith community is united in prayerful mutual support, led by our Pastor, Father Mark, as we embrace our sacramental life.*

If you are searching for a faith community** that provides spiritual support for you and your family, Faith Formation for your children, comfort in times of pain and loss, and accompaniment on your personal faith journey, please **come and join our parish.

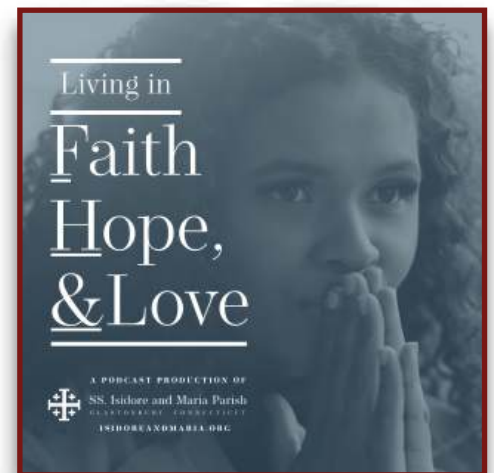
Here are some thoughts shared by current parishioners about what SS. Isidore and Maria Parish means to them:

Father Mark and the SS. Isidore and Maria community draw our family all the way from Westport. His sermons are remarkably polished, enlightened, and tailored for all. The inclusivity of his interpretations of the Gospel ground our family in a sturdy sense of faith and hope. We love making the one-hour drive because we know what awaits us: a chance to reflect and rejoice. - **Scott L.**

I enjoy the Hospitality Weekends. It is wonderful to get a chance to share a bite to eat and talk with fellow parishioners. - **Mike S.**

The **Corpus Christi procession** is a tremendous experience. Our incredible procession walks through town to the green, singing joyously the whole way. As Father held up the monstrance before the fountain, hundreds of people stood and prayed reverently. I felt tears at the beautiful witness of faith and community. We were so grateful that our girls had a new and tangible experience of our faith. - **Sarah J.**

What I love about SS. Isidore and Maria are the many ways to worship through Mass, Adorations, and other special services, which foster a closer relationship with God. Another important aspect is the opportunity to serve through the various ministries, which uplifts and gives an overwhelming sense of gratitude. Being able to worship and serve God brings many blessings and joy to my soul. - **Beverli C.**



*Listen to Father Mark's homilies by subscribing to his podcast, **Living in Faith, Hope, & Love**, on your favorite podcast app or our website: isidoreandmaria.org/podcasts.*

Parish Ministries: Our Community In Action



To live as a Christian is to live a life of service. At SS. Isidore and Maria Parish, the opportunity to minister to others and to serve God are numerous. As you take a moment this Christmas season to reflect upon how you use your time, talents and treasures in service to others, know that there is a place within our parish for you to serve and grow in your faith as a volunteer with one or more of our parish ministries.

Learn more about the work of our parish ministries at isidoreandmaria.org/ministries, or by scanning the QR code (right), and please 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.



Upcoming at our Parish

Festival of Lessons and Carols: Tues., Jan. 7 at 6:30 p.m. at St. Paul Church

Solemn Celebration of Evening Prayer with Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament: Feb. 4, Mar. 11, Apr. 1, and May 6 at 6:30 p.m. at St. Paul Church

Hospitality Weekends: Join us at St. Paul Church after 4 p.m. Mass for wine & cheese or 11:15 a.m. Mass for a coffee social on any of the following weekends: Jan. 11/12, Feb. 8/9, Mar. 8/9, and May 10/11.

Holy Thursday Mass: Thurs., Apr. 17 at 6 p.m.
Good Friday Service: Fri., Apr. 18 at 3 p.m.
Easter Vigil Mass: Sat., Apr. 19 at 8 p.m.
Easter Masses: Sun., Apr. 20 at 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m., and 11:15 a.m.

Corpus Christi Procession: Sun., Jun. 22 beginning at St. Paul Church following the 11:15 a.m. Mass.

Parish Mass Schedule

Weekend Mass Schedule: Sat. at 4 p.m., Sun. at 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:15 a.m.

Daily Mass Schedule: Mon., Tues., Wed. at 7:30 a.m., and Fri. at 12:15 p.m.

Scan this QR code to stay current on what's happening at SS. Isidore and Maria Parish, or to register as a parishioner.

