

# SS. Isidore and Maria Parish

2577 Main Street - Glastonbury, CT 06033



February 9, 2025

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time



"Jesus said to Simon, 'Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men.' When they brought their boats to the shore, they left everything and followed him." - Luke 5:10-11

**THIS WEEKEND** Feb. 8-9, 2025

## Hospitality Weekend

Join your fellow parishioners at our all-parish Hospitality Weekend events next weekend! We'll have a wine and cheese social following the 4 p.m. Mass on Sat., Feb. 8, and a noon get-together on Sun., Feb. 9, after the 11:15 a.m. Mass. Both events are held in the south wing of St. Paul Church.

## Blood Pressure Screenings

The Parish Wellness Ministry is conducting its monthly FREE blood pressure screenings after the 4 p.m. Mass on Sat., Feb. 8, and after the 8 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. Masses on Sun., Feb. 9. Screenings are held in the conference room in the south wing at St. Paul Church.

World  
Marriage  
Day

Feb. 9, 2025

This year's theme is:  
"Marriage:  
Source of Hope,  
Spring of  
Renewal.  
Pursue a Lasting  
Love!"

Almighty and eternal God,  
You blessed the union of  
married couples  
so that they might reflect the union of  
Christ with his Church:  
look with kindness on them.  
Renew their marriage covenant,  
increase your love in them,  
and strengthen their bond of peace  
so that, with their children,  
they may always rejoice in the gift of  
your blessing.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

[www.usccb.org/prayers/prayer-married-couples](http://www.usccb.org/prayers/prayer-married-couples)



## BRANCHES ON THE VINE

Check out the latest edition of **Branches on the Vine** from the Archdiocese of Hartford, which discusses the importance of praying regularly for our priests and deacons.

<http://isidoreandmaria.org/category/branches-on-the-vine/>.



## A Guide on Wintry Weather and Daily Mass

Does wintry weather have you wondering whether to journey out to attend daily Mass? Here's an easy way to decide: check the school closings on TV or online. If the Glastonbury Schools are cancelled (or even delayed), daily Mass is cancelled, too! Remember, your safety is paramount when traveling to and from Mass.



February is Black History Month, an annually observed commemorative month originating in the United States, where it is also known as African-American History Month.

~ Wikipedia ~

## Collections and Parish Finance

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



### Report for the week of 2/2/2024:

**Weekly collection:** \$ 8,700.18  
**Online Giving:** \$ 5,082.50  
**Total:** \$ 13,782.68

**Annual Chancery Assessment for fiscal year 2024:**  
\$ 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.



### Requesting 2024 Year-End Tax Statements

If you would like to receive a tax statement with your total donations to SS. Isidore and Maria in 2024, please get in touch with Melissa by phone (860) 633-9419 or

by email. Please specify if you would like your statement mailed or emailed to you. There will not be an automatic mailing of statements. You must request it.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Online Giving users may print their



### Nurturing Seedlings Program Seeks Facilitators!

Plans are underway to establish the Nurturing Seedlings Program at our parish. The first step is to assemble the ministry facilitator team. The only requirements to serve as a facilitator are a love of our faith and a desire to share that with our younger families. If you have children, they should be older than 5 years of age.

Facilitators must attend a one-day training session (9:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.). There are three dates to choose from:

- **Thurs., Feb. 13:** Pastoral Center, Bloomfield
- **Sat., Mar. 8:** Saint Rita/Donnelly Parish Center, Hamden

If interested, please contact **Donna Berger** [donna@isidoreandmaria.org](mailto:donna@isidoreandmaria.org) for training registration information. Once the team is fully assembled and trained, the program details will be shared with the parish community.

## Inspiration for the Week by Rev. Mark Suslenko

When we encounter or even ponder God's magnificence, power, and awesomeness, we easily begin to feel our smallness and perceived insignificance. After all, who can compete with eternal greatness, seraphim, or the ability to catch great numbers of fish? Unfortunately, we think that God's presence somehow overrides us, reduces our importance, and only seeks to judge our inadequacies and doubts. Things change a bit when we realize that what we may have seen as overwhelming and frightening is only unconditional, unmerited love. Love has tremendous majesty and power. Our fear dissipates when we listen to this power and stop seeing it as threatening or dooming, and Divine friendship takes root. Remaining close to what we once preferred at a distance, we can journey to places we never thought possible and do things we never thought we could do. Strengthened by Divine friendship and encouraged by its life-giving power, we can say, "Here I am, send me!" when God asks, "whom shall I send?" Sin and fear no longer concern the one who remains close to God in a bond of trust.



### Faith Formation Schedule for the Week of Feb. 9, 2025

#### Sun., Feb. 9

- Grades 4-8 Online Program – regular weekly submissions due by Friday.

#### Tues., Feb. 11 or Thurs., Feb. 13

- Grades 4-6 Family Program – Tuesday at 4:30 p.m.-5:45 p.m. OR Thursday 5:30 p.m.-6:45 p.m. children only meet in the Library.

### Thank you to our Faith Formation students in Grades 4 - 6

We would like to express our gratitude to the children in Grades 7 and 8 of our parish's Faith Formation program for their generous donations during the 9:30 a.m. Mass on Feb. 2. These contributions will be delivered to the Glastonbury Food Bank to support those in need within our community. Thank you for your kindness!



### Registration Underway for Vacation Bible School 2025!

Attention parents: June will be here before you know it, and now's the time to register for the 2025 edition of the SS. Isidore and Maria Parish Vacation Bible

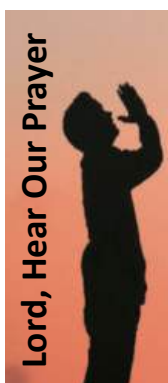
School (VBS). It's happening June 16 - June 20, 2025 from 9 a.m. - 12 noon at St. Paul Church. This year's theme is Come to the Table.

Children from age 4 to grade 5 are welcome to take part. Teen volunteers are also needed. The cost is \$30 per child. To learn more or to register, please visit <http://isidoreandmaria.org/vbs2025>.

Most of us were taught that God would love us if and when we change. In fact, God loves you so that you can change. What empowers change, what makes you desirous of change is the experience of love. It is that inherent experience of love that becomes the engine of change. ~ Richard Rohr

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by
<b>Saturday, Feb. 8</b> <i>Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i> Hospitality Weekend	4 p.m.	Lisa Franklin <b>Wine &amp; Cheese Social following 4 p.m. Mass</b>	Family
<b>Sunday, Feb. 9</b> <i>Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i> World Marriage Day Hospitality Weekend	8 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 11:15 a.m.	Ruth Fumal Joan Daloni Bill Evans <b>Coffee Social following 11:15 a.m. Mass</b>	Catherine McCarthy Candiloro Family Dotty & Walter Twachtman
<b>Monday, Feb. 10</b> <i>St. Scholastica, Virgin</i>	7:30 a.m.	Shirley Cyr	Family
<b>Tuesday, Feb. 11</b> <i>Weekday</i> <i>Our Lady of Lourdes</i>	7:30 a.m. 7 p.m.	Maureen Hallisey <b>Pray the Rosary (St. Augustine Church)</b>	Mary Kate Hallisey
<b>Wednesday, Feb. 12</b> <i>Weekday</i> Lincoln's Birthday	7:30 a.m.	Mary Tricka	Family
<b>Thursday, Feb. 13</b> <i>Weekday</i>		<b>No Mass</b>	
<b>Friday, Feb. 14</b> <i>Sts. Cyril, Monk &amp; Methodius, Bishop</i>	12:15 p.m. <b>After Mass until 2 p.m.</b>	Pamela DiTomaso <b>Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament</b>	Family
<b>Saturday, Feb. 15</b> <i>Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	4 p.m.	Peter Bisi (41st Anniv.)	Family
<b>Sunday, Feb. 16</b> <i>Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	8 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 11:15 a.m.	Lisa Gauches (2nd Anniv.) Peggy Haas Joseph & Lilla Franzo	Mother Elaine Henry 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.*

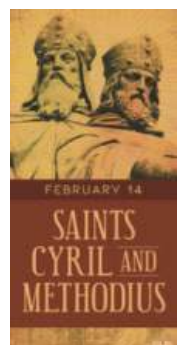
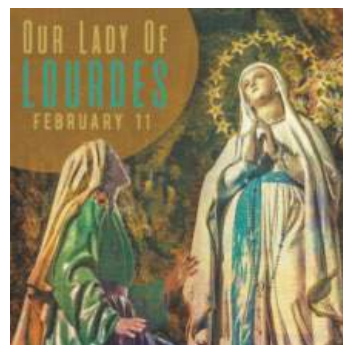


Lord, Hear Our Prayer

- |                    |                    |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| Ellona Bilotta     | Julia Miller       |
| James Bilotta      | Gilbert Morin      |
| Diane Varni Caisse | George Pappas      |
| Sandra Cavanna     | Peter Savidge      |
| Thomas Cavanna     | Frank Schultz      |
| Chris Delissio     | Garland Taylor     |
| Robin DiTarando    | Barbara Thurz      |
| Brian Faxon        | Bill Vassar, Jr.   |
| Jennifer Graham    | Andrea Villegas    |
| Dan Hebert         | Mary E. Wallace    |
| Rita Henson        | <b>Glyn Wellum</b> |
| Sheila Kimball     | Roger Yost         |

**We welcome parishioners to add prayer intentions for family members free of charge in the bulletin for one (1) month. To do so, please contact the parish office at 860-633-9419 or [contact@isidoreandmaria.org](mailto:contact@isidoreandmaria.org). We cannot publish the names of friends. Thank you for your understanding.**

IN THE SIGHT OF THE ANGELS I WILL  
SING YOUR PRAISES, LORD. (PSALM 138)



**Celebrating the Saints This Week**

**Altar Flower Offerings:** Donations may be made toward floral arrangements honoring a family member or individual, celebrating a birthday, anniversary, or special occasion, or in memory of loved ones. Only three requests will be accepted for each week. Donation is \$35.00. Contact the parish office 860-633-9419 to arrange a date.



**"Depart from me, O Lord, for I am a sinful man."** These words, uttered by Simon Peter, can be found on our lips. What real significance do I have in the big picture of God's Divine plan?

Even though we try our best to hide it, we all suffer from a lack of faith. We get tired and confused and often lack any sincere desire to put anything into our relationship with God. It's easier to reap whatever benefits the world offers and call it a day. Floating along on the superficial currents of life doesn't require much effort and gets us through the day. Confronting our infidelity, apathy, weakness of spirit, and doubt in God's providence, how can we even remotely be considered worthy vessels of God's presence or credible voices for his message?

This is an irony of faith. God doesn't seek the perfect vessels. He likes the broken ones. There is something to be said about living honestly and sincerely and wrestling

with sin, imperfection, and weakness rather than skipping through the peripheries of life with pretension, arrogance, and mendacity. If we believe ourselves to be our own "god" and serve only ourselves, we close the door to ever being used by the real and only True God. But, if we at least acknowledge that there is One greater than ourselves, then God can enter even in our most profound poverty and lowliness.

Lessons are best learned from those who suffer. Only someone lonely and lost can attest to the beauty of the Divine and human friendship. Only those who have lost their way know what happens when they are found. Only those afraid understand what it is to be calmed by God. The Gospel is messy because life is messy. There are no black-and-white solutions to problems and challenges that are hazy and gray. When our hesitancy to encounter God gets replaced by friendship with God, we become more aware of our dignity and the fact that we are loved just as we are. We cannot be afraid to share our struggles, reservations, fears, and sinfulness with others. Our genuineness and sincerity will speak of the God who blesses us in our weakness.

~ Rev. Mark Suslenko



**PODCAST:  
The Gift of Light**

We live in a world where there is no shortage of despair, hurt, pain, loneliness, and brokenness. It's a complicated and confusing world where so many struggle to find their way through its darkness. Yet through our baptism, we are called to be light to those in the

dark and help them wherever and whenever they come into our lives. According to Father Mark, our Christian light is a gift to be given to others! Listen to his latest podcast for more: <https://isidoreandmaria.org/podcasts>.



**News from the Pews:  
Flying with Purpose**

When Hartford Hospital's LIFE STAR flies overhead, more than a few people are known to bow their heads, do the sign of the cross, and say a prayer for the patients and staff aboard this moving air ambulance.

One of those staff is SS. Isidore and Maria parishioner Patricia "Trisha" Margarido, a respiratory therapist by training and experience, who serves as co-director for the LIFE STAR program.



**ImmaCare Inc.  
UPDATE**

The schedule of ImmaCare events for February/March is as follows:

- Fri., Feb. 14: ImmaCare Dinner night
- Thurs., Mar. 6: ImmaCare Outreach Program pickup
- Fri., Mar. 7: ImmaCare Dinner night
- Fri., Mar. 14: ImmaCare Dinner night

For **ImmaCare Dinner Nights**, anyone is welcome to participate by preparing food or helping to deliver and serve our meals at the shelter. Please visit <https://isidoreandmaria.org/immacare> for the dinner service of your choice.

**ImmaCare's Outreach Program** continues throughout the month. The program seeks food to supplement its street outreach program, which provides nourishment five days each week to the unhoused living on the street, in abandoned buildings, or wherever shelter can be found. Visit <https://isidoreandmaria.org/immacare> for a list of needed items.

For the comfort of our congregation,  
Please NO fragrances.



**IMPORTANT NOTICE:**

Out of respect for our church community, we kindly ask that you refrain from wearing perfumes, colognes, or any scented products while attending services and events. Some members have sensitivities that can cause

discomfort or health issues. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated in helping us create a welcoming and inclusive environment for all. Thank you for your understanding and support.



**The World Day of the Sick** is an awareness day, or observance, in the Catholic Church intended for "prayer and sharing, of offering one's suffering for the good of the

Church and of reminding everyone to see in his sick brother or sister the face of Christ." ~ Wikipedia

## Feb. 12: NAMI Family Support Meeting

The SS. Isidore and Maria Wellness Ministry and the Connecticut Chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) welcome all to a free, confidential, peer-led family support group for any adult with a loved one who has experienced symptoms of a mental health condition. The group will take place on Wed., Feb. 12, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the classroom wing of St. Paul Church.



## Feb. 13: Parish Book Club Meeting

The Parish Book Club meets on Thurs., Feb. 13, at 1 p.m. in the education wing of St. Paul Church. The discussion will center on the book *Counting Miracles* by Nicholas Sparks. *Registration is required.*

<http://isidoreandmaria.org/bookclubfeb25>



## Regina's Writings: Why I Hate Valentine's Day

For Regina, Valentine's Day is a poor substitute for true romance, lulling us into ignoring the other 364 days of the year when romance really counts. Read more about how she came to this conclusion in the latest

edition of Regina's Writings, now available at <https://isidoreandmaria.org/category/reginas-writings/>.



## Scripture Readings for the Week

- SUN 2/9/25** Is 6:1-2a, 3-8/Ps 138:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 7-8 (1c)/1 Cor 15:1-11 or 15:3-8, 11/Lk 5:1-11
- MON 2/10/25** Gn 1:1-19/Ps 104:1-2a, 5-6, 10 and 12, 24 and 35c//Mk 6:53-56
- TUES 2/11/25** Gn 1:20—2:4a/Ps 8:4-5, 6-7, 8-9/ Mk 7:1-13
- WED 2/12/25** Gn 2:4b-9, 15-17/Ps 104:1-2a, 27-28, 29bc-30/Mk 7:14-23
- THR 2/13/25** Gn 2:18-25/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5/ Mk 7:24-30
- FRI 2/14/25** Gn 3:1-8/Ps 32:1-2, 5, 6, 7/Mk 7:31-37
- SAT 2/15/25** Gn 3:9-24/Ps 90:2, 3-4abc, 5-6, 12-13/ Mk 8:1-10
- SUN 2/16/25** Jer 17:5-8/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4, 6, (40:5a)/1 Cor 15:12, 16-20/Lk 6:17, 20-26



## Ministry Highlight: Altar Care

Have you ever wondered who keeps the altar areas of our churches looking so clean and beautiful? That's the work of our Altar Care ministry. This group of volunteers is tasked with reflecting the sanctity of

the sacraments by presenting a clean and beautifully decorated altar. They dust the altar and areas in the main body of the Church and clean door windows, brass door plates, door handles, candle chimneys, and brass holders. They also replace holy water in fountains, refill the large holy water font, and care for all linens used on the altar and tabernacle. The ministry requires just one or two hours of volunteer time every six weeks. Volunteers can work in teams of two or three, and it's a great opportunity for families! To learn more about the Altar Care Ministry, contact **Carla Rice** at 860-808-4115 or by email at [cjrice@cox.net](mailto:cjrice@cox.net).

**PRAYER KNOCKS AT THE DOOR. FASTING OBTAINS, MERCY RECEIVES.**

~ St. Peter Chrysologus

**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:*  
**The RESIDENCE at Glastonbury**

**"We need Joy as we need air.  
We need Love as we need water.  
We need each other as we need the earth we share."**

~ Maya Angelou ~



## 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  
Beau Douglas  
Celia Fajardo  
Brandon Farrell  
Gabe Forthofer  
Kevin Gamache  
Chris Gibb  
Michael Hitzer  
Peter Kamianowski**

**Madeline Lanzi  
Mark J. Lord  
Samuel MacDonald  
Alexis Maher  
Michael Scott Mullin  
John W. Murphy  
Drew Scarfone  
Timothy Sullivan  
Jack M. Zaremba**



**Mar. 6:  
Lenten Scripture  
Series Launches**

Walk in faith with your fellow parishioners as we prepare our hearts for the joy of Easter with a FREE Lenten Scripture Series, taking place at St. Paul Church each Thursday at 6:30 p.m. starting Mar. 6. This transformative series is designed to deepen your understanding of each Sunday reading during Lent. We'll examine the author's intended message, the relationship between the weekly readings, and their meaning for today's spiritual life. Whether new to Scripture or a seasoned reader, this series offers a meaningful way to grow closer to God this Lenten season. All are welcome! RSVPs are requested. Visit <http://isidoreandmaria.org/category/welcome-home> for more information or to register.

**This Day in History — Feb. 14**

**Valentine's Day**, also called Saint Valentine's Day or the Feast of Saint Valentine, is celebrated annually on February 14. It originated as a Christian feast day honoring one or two early Christian martyrs named Saint Valentine. Through later folk traditions, it has become a significant cultural, religious, and commercial celebration of romance and love in many regions of the world.



Oliver, we are best buds, like brothers! Let's celebrate Valentine's Day but we can't eat chocolate, remember? Our Dad will pass up the chocolate too and have... yep, a salad!! I bet he shows us lots of love with bunches of doggie treats!

Happy Valentine's Day to all our friends! Who passes up sweets for a salad anyway??

**Harry & Oliver's Corner**

860-633-9419

**SS. Isidore and Maria Parish Directory**

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

**Clergy**

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

**Parish Staff**

**Elizabeth Cafarella**  
Office Assistant  
[elizabeth@isidoreandmaria.org](mailto:elizabeth@isidoreandmaria.org)

**David Garrido-Cid**  
Director of Music Ministries  
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**Mary Helmlinger**  
Ministry Coordinator  
[ministry@isidoreandmaria.org](mailto:ministry@isidoreandmaria.org)

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

**Theresa Scalia**  
Bulletin Editor

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

**Weekend Masses**

St. Paul Church  
Sat. Vigil: 4 p.m.  
Sun.: 8 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 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.

**Live streaming of weekend Mass**

SS. Isidore and Maria Parish live streams the 4 p.m. Vigil Mass each Saturday from St. Paul Church. Please join us on Facebook, YouTube or the parish website to view the stream. Rebroadcasts of the 4 p.m. Vigil may be found at <https://www.youtube.com/@SSIsidoreandMariaParish>.

Announcements about additional live streamed liturgies may be found on the parish website, e-newsletter, bulletin and/or St. Paul Church bulletin boards.

**Bulletin submission deadline is**

**Friday.** All bulletin submissions must be received no later than each Friday, nine days before the requested bulletin publication date. Please submit your request at <http://isidoreandmaria.org/commform>.

**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.

**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:

**Faith Vos Winkel, MSW**

Victim Assistance Coordinator  
860-541-6475  
[faith.voswinkel@aohct.org](mailto:faith.voswinkel@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.

**Faith Formation Office**

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

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

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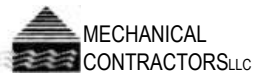
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(We encourage sharing this QR code with family, neighbors, and friends to maximize your church donation. This promotion ends October 31st, 2024.)



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