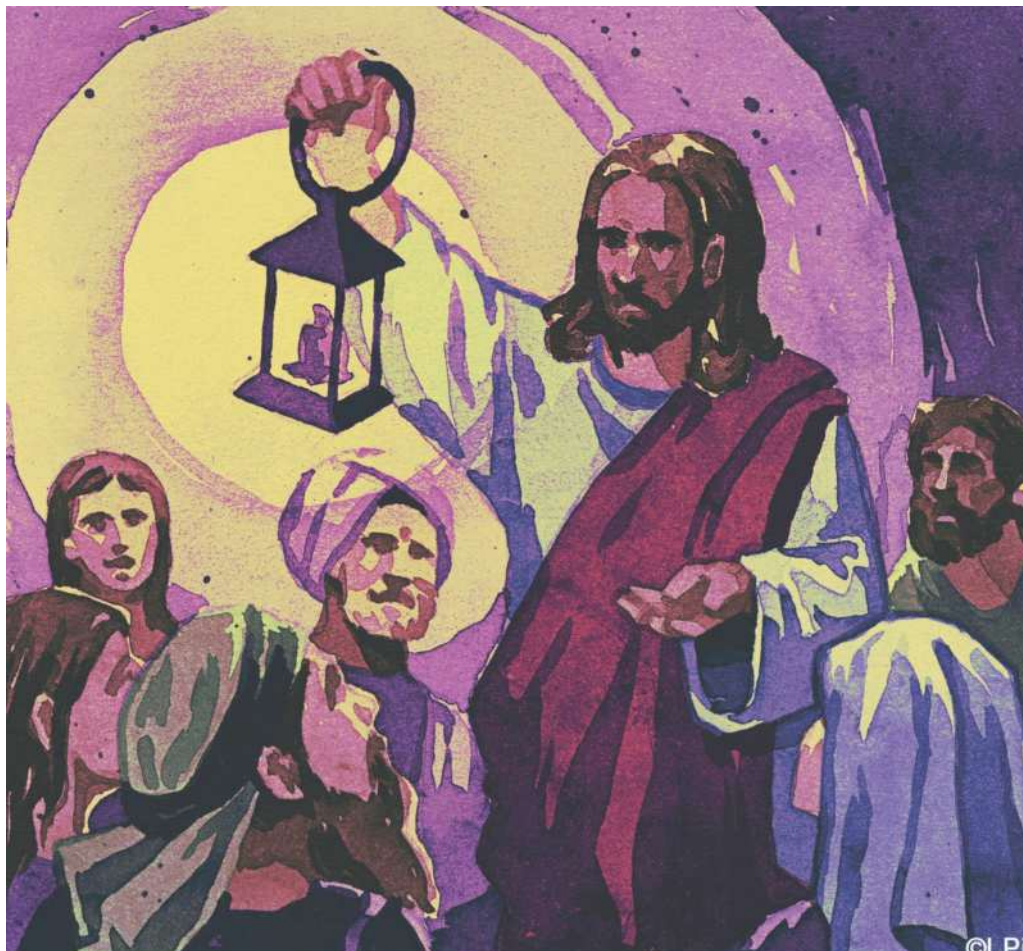


# SS. Isidore and Maria Parish

GLASTONBURY, CONNECTICUT



November 30, 2025

First Sunday of Advent

"Stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come." - Matthew 24:32



## Nov. 29 – Dec. 14: Coats for Kids

SS. Isidore and Maria Parish is holding its annual Coats for Kids Drive. We'll be collecting NEW children's coats, hats, scarves, mittens, and gloves from Nov. 29 – Dec. 14. 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 may also be made by placing cash or checks (made out to SS. Isidore and Maria Parish, with a note in the memo saying ("Coats for Kids") in a plain envelope and depositing them in the donation kiosks. Please mark the envelope "Coats for Kids." Thank you for your help keeping our community warm this winter!



## Oplatek Available Dec. 6 & 7

Starting next weekend (Dec. 6 & 7), Christmas wafer (oplatek) will be available at the entrances of St. Paul Church and on the altar rail.

## Inspiration for the Week *by Rev. Mark Suslenko*

Whether it is the surgeon operating or the pilot directing a flight, one expects them to be alert. When we entrust our lives to someone, we presume they will attend to these tasks with the utmost care and vigilance. If we have this expectation of others, why would we not have it of ourselves? Our lives are precious vessels on an eternal journey. We can only stay afloat and on the course because of God's love and mercy. It is easy to get distracted, lazy, preoccupied, and tired. Apathy can wreak havoc on the most dedicated of souls. God's Word transforms all that it touches, even a luke-warm heart. Let us seek God's grace this Advent season so we can walk more fully in His light. Then, finding ourselves more attentive, focused, alert, and watchful, we will be eager and well-prepared to meet our Lord when He comes. Why would we not want to be ready, awake, and attentive for the One we have waited for so long?



## Parish Support

### Collections and Parish Finance

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



Due to the advance print deadline for the bulletin, the offertory collection for Nov. 23, 2025 will be published next week.

**Annual Chancery Assessment for fiscal year 2025:**  
\$ 131,798.00

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.

### PODCAST: Where God's Light Shines

In this episode of his podcast, Father Mark reflects on where God's true power is revealed — not just in the dramatic miracles of salvation history, but in the quiet, vulnerable moments where love breaks through our cracks. From the cross to our daily

struggles, Father Mark invites us to trust that God's light shines most brightly in our brokenness, leading us always toward resurrection, hope, and enduring love. Listen now: <https://isidoreandmaria.org/podcasts>.



### Branches on the Vine

**Nov. 29 - Dec. 5, 2025**

If your family is looking for a way to make the Christmas season more meaningful and joyful,

the Blessed Michael McGivney Pilgrimage Center in New Haven offers a free, faith-filled, and fun outing. Learn more in the latest edition of Branches on the Vine from the Archdio-



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

Our Sponsor Spotlight this week:  
**CityWide Homes**  
860-836-0297



Archbishop Christopher Coyne has appointed **Father Anthony J. Smith** from Holy Disciples Parish, Watertown, CT, as pastor of SS. Isidore and Maria Parish, starting Jan. 3, 2026. Father Anthony was ordained in 2011 by Archbishop Henry Mansell and served as the Archdiocesan Director of Vocations before being

assigned to St. John the Evangelist Church (now part of Holy Disciples Parish). Please keep both parishes, as well as Father Anthony and Father Mark, in your prayers during this time of transition.

### Nov. 2 - Jan. 3: Vocations Prayer Drive

During **National Vocations Awareness Week** (Nov. 2 - 8), the parish **Vocations Ministry** kicks off its first-ever prayer drive! The ministry asks parishioners to pledge any amount of time to pray for more vocations for the Catholic Church. Pledge any amount of time per day, week, or month by visiting the link below. The prayer drive continues **through Jan. 2, 2026**. Make your pledge here:

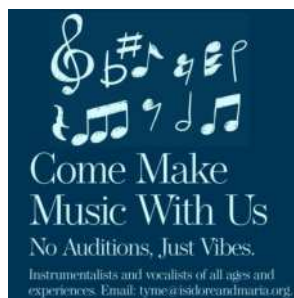
<https://isidoreandmaria.org/vocationsprayerdrive>.



### A Moment of Faith and Gratitude

Parishioner Frank Schultz (left) and Father Mark reminisced recently about several of treasured devotional items that Frank has given to Father Mark over the years, including a six-foot wooden rosary, a 125-year-old depiction of

Moses parting the waters, a hand-stitched rendering of the Last Supper, and the vestments worn at the anniversary Mass marking Frank's wife's passing. Sadly, Frank was unable to attend Father's farewell event, but wanted to express his deep gratitude to his pastor for his guidance and pastoral presence. Thank you, Frank, for sharing these meaningful pieces of faith.



### Music Notes from Tyme

Our parish Music Ministry is gearing up for a beautiful season of music, and I would love to welcome you — and your Children — into one of our ensembles.

**There are no auditions for any group.** Everyone is warmly

invited to make music in joyful service to the Lord. Click the button below for a complete list of musical opportunities, or reach out to me directly at [tyme@isidoreandmaria.org](mailto:tyme@isidoreandmaria.org).

# Eucharist

"There is nothing so great as the Eucharist. If God had something more precious, He would have given it to us."

+++ St. John Maria Vianney

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by
<b>Saturday, Nov. 29</b> <i>First Sunday of Advent</i>	4 p.m.	Nunzi Maio	Family
<b>Sunday, Nov. 30</b> <i>First Sunday of Advent</i>	8 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 11:15 a.m.	Peter & Jennie Tyczkowski Richard Ehrhardt John Dzialo	Family Patrice & Richard Ehrhardt Family
<b>Monday, Dec. 1</b> <i>Advent Weekday</i>	7:30 a.m.	Pro Populo	
<b>Tuesday, Dec. 2</b> <i>Advent Weekday</i>	7:30 a.m. 7 p.m.	Father Mark Suslenko <b>Pray the Rosary (St. Augustine Church)</b>	
<b>Wednesday, Dec. 3</b> <i>St. Francis Xavier, Priest</i>	<b>No Mass</b>	Convocation of Priests for the Archdiocese of Hartford	
<b>Thursday, Dec. 4</b> <i>St. John Damascene, Priest &amp; Doctor of the Church</i>	<b>No Mass</b>		
<b>First Friday, Dec. 5</b> <i>Advent Weekday</i>	12:15 p.m. <b>After Mass until 2 p.m.</b>	Marjorie & Frederic Barber <b>Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament</b>	Family
<b>Saturday, Dec. 6</b> <i>Second Sunday of Advent</i> <i>Hospitality Weekend</i>	4 p.m.	Ruth Sheehan	Sally Willard
<b>Sunday, Dec. 7</b> <i>Second Sunday of Advent</i> <i>Hospitality Weekend</i>	8 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 11:15 a.m.	D. Joon Yoo Catherine Barrera (11th Anniv.) Jonathan Stienan	Family Daughter Pat & Family Marge Clisham

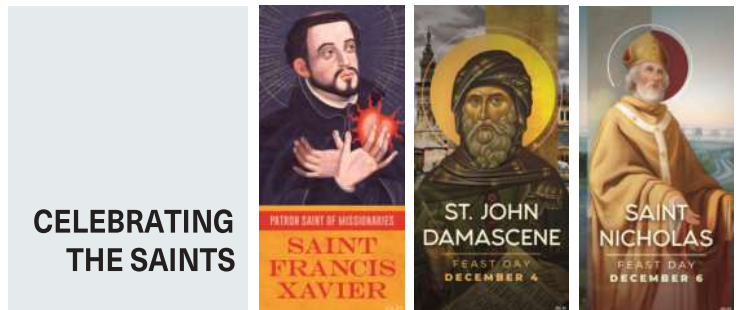
*If you are offering a Mass Intention and you and your loved ones would like to bring up the gifts, please see the greeters prior to the start of Mass. One of them will be happy to assist you.*



## Remember in Your Prayers

Ellona Bilotta	Jennifer Graham	Garland Taylor
James Bilotta	Dan Hebert	Doreen Thurz
Diane Varni	Keith Henson	Bill Vassar, Jr.
Caisse	Julia Miller	Andrea Villegas
Sandra Cavanna	Gilbert Morin	Mary E. Wallace
Thomas Cavanna	Stephen O'Brien	Glyn Wellum
Robin DiTarando	George Pappas	Beverly Czepiel
Brian Faxon	Peter Savidge	Zadroga
	Frank Schultz	

***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.***



## Altar Flower Offerings



Donations may be made toward floral arrangements:

- **Honoring** a family member or individual
- **Celebrating** a birthday, anniversary or special occasion
- **In memory** of a loved one

Only 3 requests will be accepted for each week. Donation is \$35.00. Please contact the parish office 860-633-9419 to arrange a date.



We can embrace and relish each moment of our lives as a sacred sacrament, or we can nonchalantly and robotically attend to what life presents. We have our feet in two worlds. One is holy and sacred, and the other is profane and

secular. Which one has the greater claim on us? To what do we devote most of our energy? We can easily be consumed with the particular demands and essentials of daily life: family, work, obligations, and the like, that we don't really notice anything more than what is right before us. We become masters at "doing" and neglect our need to "savor." Jesus reminds his friends that "as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. In those days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark. They did not know until the flood came and carried them all away."

While certain things require our daily attention, we cannot become so consumed with them that we fail to see the larger picture of what is coming. For the Christian, Advent is the time to pause, reflect, and savor. It is a time to see life as a sacrament of the moment (Jean Pierre de Caussade) and not just an investment in secular interests and pleasures and personal obligations. It is easy to get distracted, lazy, preoccupied, and tired. Apathy can quickly wreak havoc on the most dedicated of souls. Whatever we can do this Advent season to be more attentive, focused, alert, and watchful will serve us well. It will make us eager and well-prepared to meet our Lord when he comes. He will undoubtedly come.

Who made me? What is my purpose? What will happen to me when I die? These are pivotal questions that, in life's busyness, we hardly find time to ask and answer. They define who we are, and the answers we provide serve as guideposts and anchors in the seas of our lives. Advent is the perfect time to make friends with our souls. It is a time to perk ourselves up, open our eyes, ears, and hearts, and seek God's presence in the simple moments of our lives. God is with us. Ask God to grant you a deeper appreciation for his presence and the gift of attentiveness.

## WHY DO WE DO THAT? - CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

### Strike our Chest: Penitential Act

**Question:** When we say the Penitential Act at Mass, why do we strike our chest three times?

**Answer:** Our rituals and liturgical celebrations are filled with a variety of symbols, some of which also relate to our gestures and physical postures (e.g. kneeling, sitting, processing, making the Sign of the Cross). The custom of striking our breast three times during the "I Confess" of the Penitential Act of the Mass is one of those gestures that is loaded with symbolism.

The tradition of Christian's striking the breast (above the heart) is rooted in the image of Sacred Scripture, especially texts like Psalm 51 which speak of a "humbled contrite heart" or how God heals broken hearts, binding up our wounds (see Psalm 147:3). Early Christian writers like Saint Augustine of Hippo and Saint Jerome also refer to this custom in their writings.

Ultimately, this practice is an expression of our sorrow for those times when we have been guilty of faults and a sign that we are willing to take responsibility for our sins and failings. That we all perform this gesture together is also an act of solidarity, recognizing that none of us, regardless of where we are on our journey of faith, is without fault and the need for grace and forgiveness.



## New to the Parish? Welcome!

Are you new to SS. Isidore and Maria Parish? If you are, we welcome you!

To register as a member of our parish, please visit:

<https://isidoreandmaria.org/parish-registration>, or scan the QR code on the back of the bulletin.

Looking to receive donation envelopes? Contact the parish office at 860-633-9419.



## 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:

- |                         |                          |                             |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Connor Blomstrom</b> | <b>Kevin Gamache</b>     | <b>Samuel MacDonald</b>     |
| <b>Tammy Breiner</b>    | <b>Chris Gibb</b>        | <b>Alexis Maher</b>         |
| <b>Aaron Bryant</b>     | <b>Darius Gittens</b>    | <b>Michael Scott Mullin</b> |
| <b>Beau Douglas</b>     | <b>Michael Hitzer</b>    | <b>John W. Murphy</b>       |
| <b>Celia Fajardo</b>    | <b>Peter Kamianowski</b> | <b>Drew Scarfone</b>        |
| <b>Brandon Farrell</b>  | <b>Madeline Lanzi</b>    | <b>Timothy Sullivan</b>     |
| <b>Gabe Forthofer</b>   | <b>Mark J. Lord</b>      | <b>Jack M. Zaremba</b>      |
|                         | <b>Gannon Lynch</b>      |                             |



**ImmaCare Inc.**

UPDATE

ImmaCare's Outreach Program continues throughout the month. To see the full list of items needed (and picked up on the first Thurs. of each month), visit the parish web site. Items collected go to supplement ImmaCare's 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.

**The schedule of ImmaCare events for Dec. is:**

ImmaCare Outreach Program Pickup: Thurs., Dec. 4

ImmaCare Dinner: Fri., Dec. 5

ImmaCare Dinner: Fri., Dec. 12

**For ImmaCare Dinner Nights**, anyone is welcome to participate by preparing food or helping to deliver and serve our meals at the shelter. To volunteer, please visit <https://isidoreandmaria.org/immacare>.



**Saint Nicholas Day**, also called the "Feast of Saint Nicholas", observed on Dec. 6 is the feast day of **St. Nicholas of Myra**; it falls within the season of Advent.

It is celebrated as a Christian festival with particular regard to Saint Nicholas' reputation as a bringer of gifts, as well as through the attendance of church services.

In the United States, one custom associated with Saint Nicholas Day is children leaving their shoes in the foyer on St. Nicholas Eve in hope that St. Nicholas will place some coins on the soles.



**Readings of the Week**

- SUN 11/30/25** Is 2:1-5/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9/  
Rom 13:11-14/Mt 24:37-44
- MON 12/1/25** Is 4:2-6/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7,  
8-9/Mt 8:5-11
- TUES 12/2/25** Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17/  
Lk 10:21-24
- WED 12/3/25** Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/  
Mt 15:29-37
- THR 12/4/25** Is 26:1-6/Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21,  
25-27a/Mt 7:21, 24-27
- FRI 12/5/25** Is 29:17-24/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/  
Mt 9:27-31
- SAT 12/6/25** Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:  
1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8
- SUN 12/7/25** Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17  
(see 7)/Rom 15:4-9/Mt 3:1-12

OFFICE OF LIFELONG FAITH FORMATION



**SS. Isidore and Maria Parish**

GLASTONBURY, CONNECTICUT

**UPDATE from the Office of Lifelong Faith Formation**

**Advent Evenings for All Faith Formation Families**

As we approach the season of Advent, the Office of Lifelong Faith Formation will sponsor four opportunities for families to spend time in prayer, activity, and conversation with other parish families. There will be four options to choose from, all in the South Wing of St. Paul Church, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. **Dates are (choose one) Tues., Dec. 2, Wed., Dec. 3, Tues., Dec. 9, Thurs., Dec. 11.** Visit [https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0F4DABAA29A4F49-60111816-faith#/?](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0F4DABAA29A4F49-60111816-faith#/) to sign up. **Families are to attend one of these evenings as part of their commitment to the family faith formation program. It is NOT optional.**

**Calling all first through sixth graders for the 2025 Family Faith Formation Christmas Pageant on Dec. 20!**

All students in grades one through six are invited to participate in this year's Christmas Pageant taking place on **Sat., Dec. 20, at 5:30 p.m. at St. Paul's Church.** The short, narrated play tells the basic story of the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ with some Christmas carols added throughout. If your son/daughter is interested, please attend the first rehearsal on **Wed., Dec. 10, from 5 to 6 p.m. in St. Paul's Church.** An additional rehearsal will be on **Tues., Dec. 16, from 5 to 6 p.m., and dress rehearsal on Sat., Dec. 20 from 10 to 11 a.m.** We are also in need of high school volunteers to assist with the production. Please contact [FaithFormation@isidoreandmaria.org](mailto:FaithFormation@isidoreandmaria.org) or call 860-633-9419 to sign up. *It will be fun!*

**Sat., Dec. 13: A Family Event!**

Mark Sat., Dec. 13 for a day at the Blessed Michael McGivney Pilgrimage Center in New Haven, CT. The Office of Lifelong Faith Formation invites you to join us for the annual Christmas Nativity exhibit at the Blessed Michael McGivney Pilgrimage Center in New Haven. This family-friendly museum, including a wonderful gift shop with religious items from around the world, should not be missed. Covered parking is readily available and there is no cost for museum entry. Make this "mini-pilgrimage" a highlight of the Advent/Christmas seasons. I hope to see you there! For more information or to register, contact **Ted Musco** at [Faithformation@isidoreandmaria.org](mailto:Faithformation@isidoreandmaria.org). *Let's "keep Christ in Christmas!"*



**Nov. 29 - Dec. 15: Advent Giving Tree**

The **Advent Giving Tree** is coming back! It will be up and decorated next weekend (Nov. 29/30), with ornaments made by our Faith Formation families. Each ornament lists a needed item for local charities serving those who are hungry, homeless, survivors of domestic violence, individuals in assisted living, and those facing mental health challenges. **Please consider taking one or more of these ornaments, purchasing the listed item, and returning the unwrapped item (with the ornament attached) under the tree by Dec. 15.** Thank you for your generosity and for helping continue the charitable legacy of SS. Isidore and Maria Parish. Special thanks to our Faith Formation families for their support.



Beginning the Church's liturgical year, Advent (from, "ad-venire" in Latin or "to come to") is the season encompassing the four Sundays (and weekdays) leading up to the celebration of Christmas.

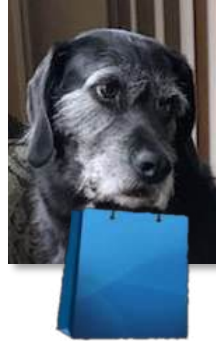
The Advent season is a time of preparation that directs our hearts and minds to Christ's second coming at the end of time and to the anniversary of Our Lord's birth on Christmas. From the earliest days of the Church, people have been fascinated by Jesus' promise to come back. But the scripture readings during Advent tell us not to waste our time with predictions. Advent is not about speculation. Our Advent readings call us to be alert and ready, not weighted down and distracted by the cares of this world. (Lk 21:34-36).

Like Lent, the liturgical color for Advent is purple since both are seasons that prepare us for great feast days. Advent also includes an element of penance in the sense of preparing, quieting, and disciplining our hearts for the full joy of Christmas.

## This Day in History — Black Friday



Black Friday is a colloquial term for the Friday after Thanksgiving in the United States. It traditionally marks the start of the Christmas shopping season in the United States. Many stores offer highly promoted sales at discounted prices and often open early, sometimes as early as midnight[2] or even on Thanksgiving. Some stores' sales continue to Monday ("Cyber Monday") or for a week ("Cyber Week").



Hey Oliver, wake up!  
We are going shopping  
for Dad's Christmas  
present. Hurry up!  
The lines at the fish  
market have started  
already!



## Harry & Oliver's Corner

860-633-9419

SS. Isidore and Maria Parish Directory

www.isidoreandmaria.org

### Clergy

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

### Parish Staff

#### Tyme Baez

Director of Music Ministries  
tyme@isidoreandmaria.org

#### Donna Berger

Director of Volunteers and Ministries  
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#### Elizabeth Cafarella

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#### Theresa Scalia, Bulletin Editor

#### Carol Vassar

Director of Communications  
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### Lifelong Faith Formation

#### Ted Musco, Director

Office of Lifelong Faith Formation  
ted@isidoreandmaria.org

#### Ann Poker

Program Coordinator  
ann@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



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handy QR code to begin the process.

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Mark Ostrowski is a parishioner, and Co-Chair of Shipman's Litigation Department. He has over 36 years representing businesses and individuals in the Connecticut Courts. Mark represents individuals and estates in all types of personal injuries and death cases ranging from fire injuries, aviation losses, auto accidents and product related injuries. There is no legal fee unless there is a recovery.



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