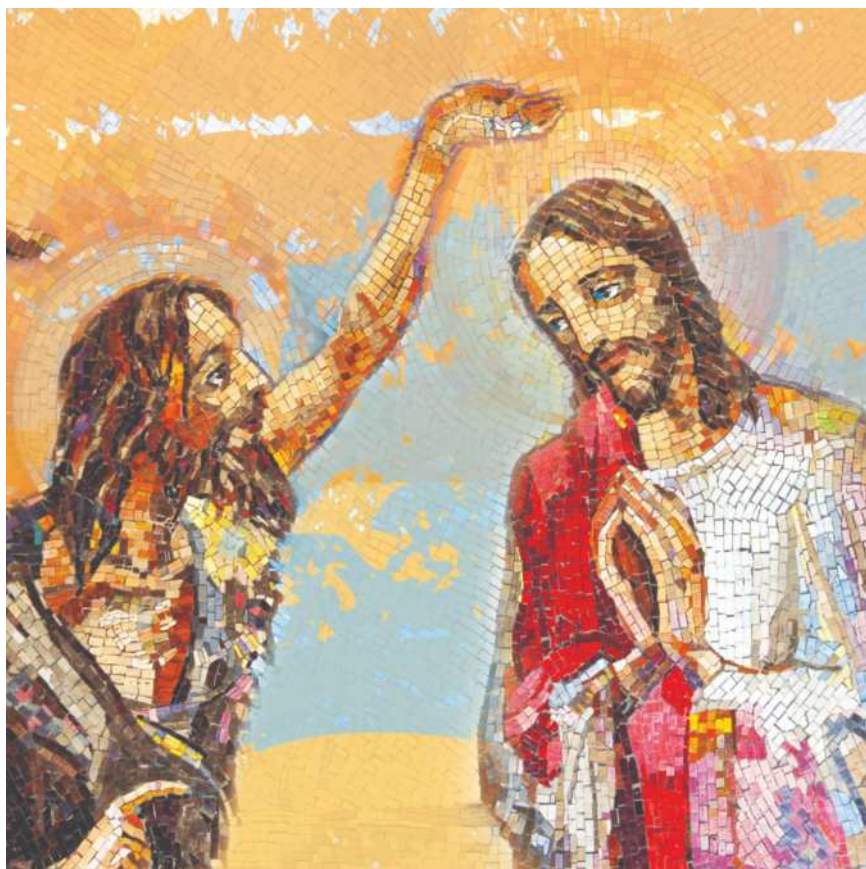


SS. Isidore and Maria Parish

GLASTONBURY, CONNECTICUT



January 11, 2026

The Baptism of the Lord

"This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." - Matthew 3:17

Inspiration for the Week

Our relationships ground and define us. Understanding where we come from, who matters to us, and to whom we have an allegiance all frame and direct our lives. God formed us in our mother's womb. That is an unchangeable fact. Unless our understanding of ourselves begins with this solid fact, our knowledge will always be incomplete. John the Baptist and Jesus knew who they were and where they came from. This allowed them to understand their purpose and express their identity. To whom do you matter? If your primary answer is "to God," you are on your way to knowing who you are. Each of us has a purpose and mission to fulfill. See God as your strength and get about meeting life's challenges.

~ Rev. Mark Suslenko



Jan. 10 & 11: Blood Pressure Screenings

The **Parish Wellness Ministry** conducts its

monthly blood pressure screenings, provided free of charge, after the 4 p.m. Mass on Sat., Jan. 10, and after the 8 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. Masses on Sun., Jan. 11. Screenings are held in the conference room of the South Wing of St. Paul Church. All participant names and results are confidential.



Jan. 17 & 18: Catholic High Schools Collection

Jan. 17 & 18 is the annual Catholic High Schools Collection. Funds from this special collection provide vital support to our Archdiocesan Catholic high schools. Proceeds

enable our high schools to provide tuition assistance, technology enhancements to protect student privacy, curricular improvements, marketing and so much more. This collection is the primary way that every parish can truly make Catholic high school education a mission of the Universal Church. Please use the envelope in your packet to make your donation, or deposit your donation into the collection kiosk marking "**Catholic High School Collection.**" Thank you for your generosity.

Jan. 17 & 18: Hospitality Weekend

Join your fellow parishioners at our all-parish Hospitality Weekend events. We'll have a wine and cheese social following the 4 p.m. Mass on Sat., Jan. 17, and a noon get-together on Sun., Jan. 18, after the 11:15 a.m. Mass. Both events are held in the south wing of St. Paul Church.



Sign up to volunteer and help at our Hospitality events, visit the parish website.

Parish Support

Collections and Parish Finance

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



Report for the week of 1/4/2026:

Weekly collection: \$ 9,514.36

Online Giving: \$ 9,791.00

Total: \$ 19,305.36

Mary Mother of God \$ 4,531.00

Parish Appeal \$ 117,559.00

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.

Three new Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion Commissioned

Three parishioners were recently commissioned as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, answering the call to serve our parish in this essential ministry. In addition to assisting with the distribution of Holy Communion at Mass, they will also bring the Eucharist to those who are sick and home-bound, extending Christ's presence beyond the walls of our church. We are deeply grateful for their generous commitment to this work of faith and service. Congratulations to **Dolka Bianchi Erin Choquette Felix Menendez**



Branches on the Vine

Looking to pray the rosary with others online? Look no further than this group based at St. John Fisher Parish in Marlborough! Learn more in

the latest edition of Branches on the Vine from the Archdiocese of Hartford:
<https://isidoreandmaria.org/category/branches-on-the-vine>.



Jan. 15: Prayer Shawl Group Meeting

The parish Prayer Shawl Ministry meets on Thurs., Jan. 15, from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. in the classroom wing of

St. Paul Church. This meeting is open to anyone with the skills to knit or crochet or who would like to learn how to knit or crochet. Need a prayer shawl or lap blanket for yourself or someone else? Simply email contact@isidoreandmaria.org.

A Message of Thanks from Father Mark



I want to express my heartfelt thanks to all who have so generously shared cards, messages, prayers, and gifts with me. I am deeply moved by your kindness and care. Due to a number of unexpected changes I am navigating — retirement, my recent move, my ongoing health concerns, and a current bout of bursitis—I am unable to respond personally to each expression of support. This truly saddens me, as I value every note and gesture. Please know how profoundly grateful I am, and how much your prayers and good wishes mean to me.

In Christ,

Father Mark Suslenko

Jan. 13: Wellness Ministry Meeting

The Parish Wellness Ministry will meet on Tues., Jan. 13, at 6:30 p.m. in the education wing of St. Paul Church. All interested in the wellness of our community are invited to attend. For more information, please contact Sue Ryan wellness@isidoreandmaria.org, or visit the parish website.

Jan. 14: NAMI Support Group

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 meets on Wed., Jan. 14, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the classroom wing of St. Paul Church.



A New Day Bereavement Program:

Jan. 22 - Mar. 19

Are you or someone you know hurting from the grief of losing a loved one?

A New Day is a faith-based program offering a message for healing from pain, suffering, and grief. It is offered to both men and women of all ages, starting Jan. 22. This 10-week session meets on Thursday mornings in the Parish Center from 10 a.m. - 12 noon. Attendance is free. Registration is requested. Please visit <https://isidoreandmaria.org/newdaywinter2026> to register. If you have any questions or concerns, contact Bereavement@isidoreandmaria.org or the parish office at 860-633-9419.

Pray for Peace in the Holy Land

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
Saturday, Jan. 10 <i>Baptism of the Lord</i>	4 p.m.	Paul Cavanna	Patenaude Famiy
Sunday, Jan. 11 <i>Baptism of the Lord</i>	8 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 11:15 a.m.	Elaine Connors & Emily Condio Scott Pagliughi Marilyn Pugliese	Leslie Family Fran & Ron Dussault Margaret Clisham
Monday, Jan. 12 <i>Weekday</i>	7:30 a.m.	Anna & Joseph Yellen	Fran Juda
Tuesday, Jan. 13 <i>St Hilary, Bishop & Doctor of the Church</i>	7:30 a.m.	Bruce Berlet	Sheila Hummel
Wednesday, Jan. 14 <i>Weekday</i>	7:30 a.m. 7 p.m.	Chester Yaworsky, Jr. Pray the Rosary (St. Augustine Church)	Jim & Ida Shea
Thursday, Jan. 15 <i>Weekday</i>	NO MASS		
Friday, Jan. 16 <i>Weekday</i>	12:15 p.m. After Mass until 2 p.m.	Fred J. Nemecek Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	Rosemary Nemecek
Saturday, Jan. 17 <i>Second Sunday in Ordinary Time</i> <i>Hospitality Weekend</i>	4 p.m.	Mary Acunto (3rd Anniv.)	Matthew Acunto, husband
Sunday, Jan. 18 <i>Second Sunday in Ordinary Time</i> <i>Hospitality Weekend</i>	8 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 11:15 a.m.	Paul Cavanna Myron Klewicki, Jr. Tina Casini	Rob & Kara Zdrojeski 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	Robin DiTarando	Frank Schultz
James Bilotta	Brian Faxon	Garland Taylor
Ginny Blasko	Jennifer Graham	Doreen Thurz
Ron Blasko	Dan Hebert	Bill Vassar, Jr.
Gus Brodeur	Keith Henson	Andrea Villegas
Lorraine Brodeur	Julia Miller	Mary E. Wallace
Diane Varni	Gilbert Morin	Glyn Wellum
Caisse	Stephen O'Brien	Beverly Czepiel
Sandra Cavanna	George Pappas	Zadroga
Thomas Cavanna	Peter Savidge	

We welcome parishioners to add prayer intentions for family members free of charge in the bulletin. Please contact the parish office at 860-633-9419 or contact@isidoreandmaria.org. We cannot publish the names of friends. Thank you for your understanding.

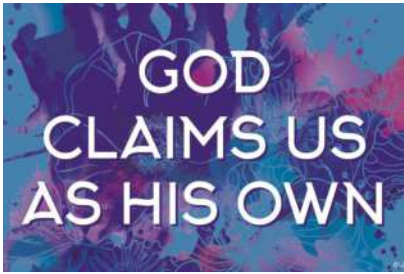


The **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** has a history of over 100 years, in which Christians worldwide have taken part in an octave of prayer for visible Christian unity. By annually observing the WPCU, Christians move toward the fulfillment of Jesus' prayer at the Last Supper "that they all may be one." (cf. John 17:21)

In preparation for the WPCU, ecumenical partners in a particular region were asked to prepare an introductory text on a biblical theme. Then an international group organized through the World Council of Churches (WCC) and The Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity edited this text, which the Pontifical Council jointly published for Promoting Christian Unity and WCC through their Commission on Faith and Order. The WCC accompanied the entire production process of the text. The final material was sent to member churches and Roman Catholic dioceses, and they were invited to translate the text and contextualize it for their use.

<https://www.usccb>.

Charity is the sweet and holy bond which links the soul with its Creator: it binds God with man and man with God.
St. Catherine of Siena



What reference point do you use when making decisions? Impulse often takes control, and decisions are based solely on emotion and desire. We all know that these kinds of decisions can get us into trouble.

When a person has a confident sense of who they are and a fundamental understanding of what is essential and valuable, the likelihood of kneejerk impulsive choices diminishes. Baptism gives us what we need to make well-informed and purposeful decisions. God claims us as His own by this simple gesture and provides us with the identity and purpose we need to live life properly.

It is tremendously reassuring when we truly embrace this revelation and realize that we no longer have to wonder about the purpose of our lives or struggle to find our way. The answer of who we are in God has been given to us. We no longer have to fumble around, trip over ourselves or wander. Issues surrounding the sacredness of life, the

meaning of death, the protection of those most vulnerable, care for the weak and the poor, offering hospitality to those in search of a home, the purpose and proper place of work, how to create a just social order, caring for creation, and understanding our roles as heralds and stewards are just a few of the wonderful gifts baptism brings. When we make decisions based on these core Gospel truths, we act as Christ himself, revealing to others the new creations that we are. This is how we live our baptism.

It isn't easy to swim against the tide. Yet, that is precisely what baptism calls us to do. Although we are sinners, in need of mercy and far from perfection, we are called to order our lives and make decisions based upon the wisdom and guidance of Almighty God. He alone is the one who can claim us as His sons and daughters. Standing up for our principles will not make us popular, but who said Christianity is a popularity contest? Baptism calls us to stand up for that which goes against the grain of secularism. Standing in line with other sinners, we have our anchor to steady us in the tempests of life, and God is delighted. Forge ahead. There is nothing to fear.



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:

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



Readings of the Week

- SUN 1/11/26** Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10/ Acts 10:34-38/Mt 3:13-17
- MON 1/12/26** 1 Sm 1:1-8/Ps 116:12-13, 14-17, 18-19/Mk 1:14-20
- TUES 1/13/26** 1 Sm 1:9-20/1 Sam 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/Mk 1:21-28
- WED 1/14/26** 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20/Ps 40:2 and 5, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Mk 1:29-39
- THR 1/15/26** 1 Sm 4:1-11/Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25/Mk 1:40-45
- FRI 1/16/26** 1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a/Ps 89:16-17, 18-19/Mk 2:1-12
- SAT 1/17/26** 1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a/Ps 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Mk 2:13-17
- SUN 1/18/26** Is 49:3, 5-6/Ps 40:2 and 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10/1 Cor 1:1-3/Jn 1:29-34

Feb. 19: Parish Book Club



The next Parish Book Club meeting will be on **Thurs., Feb. 19, at 1 p.m.**, in the education wing of the St. Paul campus. The book selection is **"Thunder Dog"** by Michael Hingson. It is the true story of a blind man and his guide dog Roselle's incredible journey of survival as they escaped from the World Trade Center during the Sept 11 attacks. To learn more or to register, visit <http://isidoreandmaria.org/bookclubfeb26>

UPDATE from the Office of Lifelong Faith Formation

THE SACRED TABLE INITIATIVE AND YOUTH MINISTRY — WHERE PARISH LEADERS AND PARENTS MEET

Archbishop Coyne recently issued a memorandum regarding a call to unite efforts in raising disciples in the home. He writes that the Sacred Table initiative “is about listening to one another with empathy and sincerity.” The entire Church needs to support families by uniting ministry leaders and parents in the process of lifelong faith formation.

Special thanks to **Mrs. Nicole Hamilton**, a mom of five and active catechist, who has come forward to lead this Sacred Table initiative, with special emphasis on the establishment of outreach to youth in grades eight through twelve. She and I will work with an interested group of parents and young people as well as attend an Archdiocesan workshop in January to learn more about implementing the Sacred Table initiative. More details will follow.

GREAT NEWS FOR LIFELONG FAITH FORMATION — YOUTH GROUP FOR GRADES EIGHT THROUGH TWELVE — INITIAL GATHERINGS BEGIN IN FEBRUARY 2026

Planning is underway for a variety of opportunities for those teens in grades eight through twelve. These gatherings will help youth encounter Christ more deeply, grow both personally and spiritually, and enter fully into the mission and life of the Church. As I have mentioned previously, the youth group should meet the needs of our youth, and therefore those who are interested are invited to be involved in the planning. No special talent is required. All are welcome, including those who recently were Confirmed in 2023 and 2024.

If your teen is interested in joining this planning process or participating in a service project or activity, please send Mrs. Hamilton an email at faithformation@isidoreandmaria.org and we'll be in touch.



Feb. 17: Youth Ministry Mardi Gras Celebration

The new Parish Youth Ministry invites teens in grades 8–12 to kick off Lent with a Mardi Gras-style gathering on Tues., Feb. 17, from 6–8 p.m. in the Library of St. Paul Church. This evening of

community and celebration is the first of three Lenten gatherings offered for teens this season. Refreshments will be provided. ed. RSVPs are required. To register, visit <http://isidoreandmaria.org/mardigras26>. Questions? Contact **Nicole Hamilton** at FaiHFormation@isidoreandmaria.org



Thank you for your generosity in supporting the parish's ImmaCare Ministry ImmaCare has indicated they remain in need of the following specific items:

- Short-Sleeve T-Shirts
- Long-Sleeve T-Shirts
- Hoodies/Sweatshirts
- White crew and athletic socks
- Cases of bottled water
- Plastic Forks (can be bulk)
- Plastic Spoons (can be bulk)

This is part of ImmaCare's Outreach Program, which continues throughout the month. To see the full list of items needed (and picked up on the first Thursday of each month), visit the link below. 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 Feb. is as follows:

Thurs., Feb. 5: ImmaCare Pickup
Fri., Feb. 6: ImmaCare Dinner Night
Fri., Feb. 13: 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.

To volunteer, please visit <https://isidoreandmaria.org/immacare>.



Jan. 31: Lenten Children's Retreat (VBS style)

The Office of Lifelong Faith Formation invites children from age 4 through grade 3 to join us for a Lenten Children's Retreat (VBS style) on Sat.,

Jan. 31, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at St. Paul Church. This engaging morning will help children learn about and prepare for Lent through Bible stories, games, arts and crafts, and music—while enjoying time with friends. There is no fee to attend; a free-will offering with a suggested donation to the Glastonbury Food Bank will be accepted. RSVPs are required. Please visit <http://isidoreandmaria.org/vbsjan26> to register. For questions, please contact Kimberlee Algieri at vbs@isidoreandmaria.org. *Snow date is Feb. 7.*



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

Our Sponsor Spotlight this week:
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Are you wondering if your child is on track academically?

You are not alone. Perhaps you'd like to consider some other educational options. Corpus Christi School of Wethersfield, a National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence, will host a **Winter Open House** on **Sun., Jan. 25th** from 12:00 -1:30 p.m. at Corpus Christi School, 581 Silas Deane Highway. Corpus Christi students benefit from a structured environment, smaller class sizes and personalized instruction. *Imagine how your child could soar!!* Tours will be available; teachers, students, and parents will be on hand to answer questions. The school encompasses PreK - 8th grade. To register, please visit our website <https://corpuschristischoolct.org/> or call 860-529-5487.



Feb. 7: Wedding Anniversary Mass

On Sat., Feb. 7, 2026, The Most Reverend Christopher J. Coyne, Archbishop of Hartford, will honor couples celebrating milestone marriage anniversaries: first and five-year increments from 5 to 60 years, and every year beyond 60 years, during 2025 – 2026.

The Marriage Anniversary Mass is in conjunction with with National Marriage Week (Feb. 7-14), and will be at the Cathedral of Saint Joseph in Hartford at 4 p.m. Registration is requested and closes January 21. (Snow date if necessary - February 28). For more information or to register, visit <https://archdioceseofhartford.org/event/wedding-anniversary-mass/>. Questions? Contact **Valerie St. Jean**, Associate Director of Adult & Family Life Ministries at Valerie.StJean@aohct.org or 860-541-6491 ext. 2678

Blessing for Baptismal Graces

Dear God,
Through Baptism, You called and claimed us as Your own, chosen and loved.
Pour Your blessing upon us as we remember our Baptism.
Plant Your identity in our hearts.
Help us to live as Your beloved.
Amen.

860-633-9419

SS. Isidore and Maria Parish Directory

www.isidoreandmaria.org

Clergy

Rev. Anthony Smith, 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
donna@isidoreandmaria.org

Elizabeth Cafarella

Office Assistant
elizabeth@isidoreandmaria.org

Mary Helmlinger

Director of Social Justice
mary@isidoreandmaria.org

Melissa Lacafta

Admin. Assistant to the Pastor
melissa@isidoreandmaria.org

Theresa Scalia, Bulletin Editor

Carol Vassar

Director of Communications
carol@isidoreandmaria.org

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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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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