



SS. ISIDORE AND MARIA

GLASTONBURY, CT



March 8, 2026

Third Sunday of Lent

"Whoever drinks the water I shall give
will never thirst." - John 4:14

MARCH 8, 2026

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT



**MAR. 21:
LENTEN DAY
OF
REFLECTION**

All adults and teens of the parish are invited to a **Lenten Day of Reflection: The Parable of the Fig Tree and More...** on **Sat., Mar. 21**, from a.m. to 2 p.m. at **Saint Augustine Church and Hall**.

The day will include prayer, a presentation, Mass, lunch, and time for discussion and personal reflection. The FREE program will be led by **Very Rev. Joseph R. Gibino, STM, Ph.D., Diocese of Brooklyn Vicar for Evangelization and Catechesis**. Father Gibino is a gifted local, national, and international presenter known for his engaging stories and meaningful insights, especially suited to the Lenten season. Learn more: isidoreandmaria.org/lentenreflection26

A NOTE OF THANKS AND AN UPDATE FROM FATHER MARK

Dear friends:

I am moved by all the inquiries into my health and how things are going now that I am fully retired. Fr. Anthony suggested, and I am grateful, that I compose a short note for the bulletin. Although I reluctantly ventured into it at first, the move into retirement was both necessary and beneficial. I am doing great! The removal of stress and full-time responsibilities has made a tremendous difference. My only regret and disappointment is not being able to connect with all of you on a regular basis and hear your stories. You don't realize how important people are in your life until a major change occurs. I remain extremely grateful for all your cards, beautiful notes, and gifts. They all touched me deeply and came from the heart. As with you, I am sure, spring cannot come fast enough! This winter has been a challenge all around, and we cannot leave it too soon. May your Lenten time be one that bears great fruit in your spiritual lives so that the celebration of Easter joy can be experienced in all its fullness. You continue to remain in my thoughts and prayers. Keep me in yours. Promise to see you soon! By the way, Harry and Oliver love their big yard and Harry has actually dropped a few pounds....lots of squirrels!!

Love, Father Mark, Harry, and Oliver

02 WELCOME!

March 8, 2026 | Third Sunday of Lent

REFLECTION: Sacred Illusions by Rev. Mark Suslenko

We hand over the definition of ourselves to many things. We let society, friends, family, work, social groups, and institutions define and color how we see ourselves. When we listen mainly to others' voices, we lose touch with what is happening within. If we listen carefully, we discover our own need and incompleteness. Loneliness, sadness, and distorted self-images can drive us outward, trying to fill those gaps. We can become victims of our prejudices and overly self-indulgent in things that satisfy only briefly, if at all.

It is no wonder money and power are so fervently pursued. As long as the supply seems steady, the illusion of fulfillment can persuade us like a master magician's act. We live with illusion rather than truth. It is no surprise that some of the wealthiest are also among the unhappiest. Illusions are lies, and the lies we defend eventually expose our superficiality. We all must wrestle with who we are and what gives our lives meaning. Learn to listen more deeply—not to the secular world, but to what God is echoing in your heart.

We easily misunderstand who we are and who God is. Even the disciples and the Samaritan woman at the well missed Jesus' point. Only one Person can satisfy the deepest longings of the heart: Jesus the Messiah. Corporate success will not lead to lasting happiness, but the work of the soul can. We resist this truth, preferring our world of smoke and mirrors. The life-giving water we need does not come from a well, but from the Source of Life. Only God reveals the truth of our sinfulness and the superficiality of our pursuits. Only Jesus can save us from ourselves and give us what we truly need. When our heads finally align with what our hearts already know, we will find real contentment and life.



MASS INTENTIONS

DATE/TIME	INTENTION	REQUESTED BY
Third Sunday of Lent		
Sat. March 7 † 4 p.m.	Peter & Louise Kiebish	Family
Sun., March 8 † 8 a.m.	David Benoit	John and Donna Ruggiero
Sun., March 8 † 9:30 a.m.	Anna Kump	Daughter
Sun., March 8 † 11:15 a.m.	Veronica Stechlinski	Family
Mon., March 9 † 7:30 a.m.	Tom McGrath	Parish Staff
Tues., March 10 † 7:30 a.m.	Joseph Salvia	Mary Lou Tanski
Wed., March 11 † 7:30 a.m.	Fernando Mesquita	Family
Thurs., March 12 † 7:30 a.m.	For the parishioners of SS. Isidore and Maria (St. Augustine Church)	
Fri., March 13 † 12:15 p. m.	Pat and Richard Gagnon	The Gagnon Family
Fourth Sunday of Lent		
Sat., March 14 † 4 p. m.	Eugene Nowacki (13 th anniversary)	Family
Sun., March 15 † 8 a. m.	Linus Ezinwoke	Iloeje Family
Sun., March 15 † 9:30 a. m.	Alan F. Abromoske (21 st anniversary)	Wife & children
Sun., March 15 † 11:15 a. m.	Gaylord Bell	The Pulito Family

As of Jan. 1, the Mass stipend (offering) has been standardized throughout all the dioceses in Connecticut and Rhode Island. Learn more at <https://isidoreandmaria.org/massstipends26>

COLLECTIONS AND PARISH FINANCE REPORT FOR THE WEEK OF MAR. 1, 2026

Weekly Collection: \$ 14,476.36
Online Giving: \$ 5,516.00
Total: \$ 19,992.36

Annual Chancery Assessment for fiscal year 2026: \$131,798.00

For a more detailed report, please visit our website under the ABOUT tab. The monthly accountability report is available in the Financial Accountability folder.

Check donations should be made payable to SS. Isidore and Maria.

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

ONLINE GIVING

Online giving makes it easy to support the life and mission of our parish—every day of the year. Thank you for your continued generosity and faith-filled support. **Donate today!**



REQUEST 2025 YEAR-END TAX STATEMENTS

If you would like to receive a tax statement with your total donations to SS. Isidore and Maria in 2025, please get in touch with Melissa by phone (860) 633-9419 or by email: contact@isidoreandmaria.org.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

FRIDAYS AT 6:30 P.M.

Come with us as we meditate on Jesus' journey to Calvary each Friday night at 6:30 p.m. during Lent.

- Mar. 6: St. Paul Church
- Mar. 13: St. Paul Church
- Mar. 20: St. Paul Church
- Mar. 27: St. Paul Church
- Apr. 3: St. Augustine Church



2026 ARCHBISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL NOW UNDERWAY

PARISH GOAL: \$180,000

The 2026 Archbishop's Annual Appeal is now underway in our parish. This year's theme is "We Are One," and our parish goal is to raise \$180,000.

If you would like to make a gift today, please visit the parish website: <https://isidoreandmaria.org/aaa26>. Thank you in advance for your generosity.



THURSDAY DAILY MASS ADDED FOR LENT

Join us each Thursday in Lent at 7:30 a.m. for daily Mass at **St. Augustine Church**.

ST. GERARD'S THANKS YOU!

St. Gerard's Center for Life in Hartford thanks our parishioners for donations totaling \$3,063.98 during our most recent baby bottle drive!

LENTEN RECONCILIATION

In addition to weekly Saturday reconciliation at 2:30 p.m. at St. Paul Church, our Lenten reconciliations with exposition will take place each Monday during Lent at 6 p.m., alternating between churches as follows:

- Mar. 9: St. Augustine Church
- Mar. 16: St. Paul Church
- Mar. 23: St. Augustine Church
- Mar. 30: St. Paul Church

MAR 15: MUSIC FOR WINTER'S END WITH NECC

On **Sun., Mar. 15 at 4 p.m.**, SS. Isidore and Maria Parish welcomes the **New England Chamber Choir (NECC)** under the direction of Richard Wm. Donohue to St. Paul Church for a program of music by Bach, Byrd, Handel, Joaquin, Stanford, and more. All are welcome to attend. A free-will offering will be collected.

04 PRAYER OFFERINGS

March 8, 2026 | Third Sunday of Lent

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR ACTIVE MILITARY

Connor Blomstrom, U.S. Air Force Pilot
Lieutenant Colonel Tammy Breiner, U.S. Air Force
Warrant Officer Aaron Bryant, U.S. Army
Emma Carbonell, U. S. Navy
Lt. Commander Bryan Coco, US Navy
Beau Douglas, 82nd Airborne Division, U.S. Army
Celia Fajardo, U.S. Air Force
Lieutenant Brandon Farrell, Navy, USS Gerald R. Ford
Second Lieutenant Gabe Forthofer, US Air Force
Kevin Gamache, U.S. Marines
Chris Gibb, U.S. Army
Lt. Commander Darius Gittens, U.S. Navy
Major Michael Hitzer, U.S. Army
First Lieutenant Peter Kamianowski, U.S. Air Force
HM3 Madeline Lanzi, U.S. Navy
Gannon Lynch, U.S. Marines
Sergeant Mark J. Lord, U.S. Army
SrA Alexis Maher, U.S. Air Force
Samuel MacDonald, U.S. Navy
Lieutenant Colonel Michael Scott Mullin, U.S. Air Force
1st Lt. John W. Murphy, U.S. Marines
Ensign Drew Scarfone, U.S. Navy
Timothy Sullivan, U.S. Air Force
RCT Jack M. Zaremba, U.S. Marines

We welcome parishioners to add prayer intentions for any active military member free of charge. Please contact the parish office at 860-633-9419, or contact@isidoreandmaria.org.

PODCAST: TO LIVE IS TO CHANGE

Father Mark is back with a brand new episode of the podcast "Living in Faith, Hope & Love," where he reflects on the spiritual truth that growth always requires change. Listen now at isidoreandmaria.org/podcasts.



2026 LENTEN EVENTS SCHEDULE



Scan the QR code for information on Lent and Holy Week Masses, services, and events.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK

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



We welcome parishioners to submit free of charge prayer intentions for family members 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.

SUBSCRIBE TO PARISH PULSE

Parish Pulse is our weekly e-newsletter, delivered to your e-mail each Thurs. Get ready for the weekend with the latest parish news and events by subscribing today: <https://isidoreandmaria.org/parishpulse>

MAR. 16: YOUTH MINISTRY PRAYER NIGHT: CONFESSION

All youth are invited to the Youth Ministry's **March Prayer Night** at St. Paul Church on Mon., Mar. 16, from 6-7 p.m., centered on the healing grace of the **Sacrament of Reconciliation**. Feeling nervous about going to Confession? Stop by the Library at St. Paul Church before heading into the church. **Refreshments will be served!**

BULLETIN SUPPORTER SPOTLIGHT

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

WYGANT CONSTRUCTION / MAINTENANCE
860-261-5561

BRANCHES ON THE VINE

MAR. 6-MAR. 13, 2026



Meet Sister Dolores Liptak, a member of the Sisters of Mercy, historian, and first archivist for the Archdiocese of Hartford, in the latest edition of **Branches on the Vine** from the **Archdiocese of Hartford**:

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

2026 LENTEN GIVING BENEFITS HOPE MINISTRY!

The 2026 parish **Lenten Giving Program** benefits the parish's **HOPE Ministry**. This ministry works to enhance the quality of life and build self-sufficiency among community members who need financial and social services. Donations close on Easter Sunday - April 5, 2026. To learn more or to donate, visit <https://isidoreandmaria.org/lentengiving26>

APR. 9: PARISH BOOK CLUB

The next **Parish Book Club** meeting will be on **Thurs., Apr. 9, at 1 p.m.**, in the education wing of the St. Paul campus. The book selection is ***The Five People You Meet in Heaven*** by Mitch Albom.

Synopsis: On his 83rd birthday, Eddie dies in a tragic amusement park ride accident in an attempt to save a little girl's life. He awakens in the afterlife, where he learns that heaven is a place where your earthly life is explained to you by both loved ones and distant strangers. Learn more/register: isidoreandmaria.org/bookclubapr26



MAR. 9

LENTEN LONGINGS EVENING SESSION

RENEW'S Lenten Longings is a six-week small group faith-sharing program. Learn more: <https://isidoreandmaria.org/renewmarsh26>.

MAR. 9

LENTEN RECONCILIATION WITH EXPOSITION

Monday Lenten reconciliation with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament takes place at St. Augustine Church on Mar. 9 from 6 - 7 p.m.

MAR. 10

WELLNESS MINISTRY MEETING

The Wellness Ministry meets at 6:30 p.m. in the education wing of St. Paul Church. Contact wellness@isidoreandmaria.org for details

MAR. 11

LENTEN LONGINGS AFTERNOON SESSION

RENEW'S Lenten Longings is a six-week small group faith-sharing program. Learn more: <https://isidoreandmaria.org/renewmarsh26>.

MAR. 11

NAMI FAMILY SUPPORT MEETING

Caring for someone experiencing mental health issues? Join us at 6:30 p.m. at St. Paul Church. Details: wellness@isidoreandmaria.org

MAR. 12

LENTEN SCRIPTURE SERIES

The Lenten Scripture series continues at St. Augustine's at 6:30 p.m. . Learn more: <https://isidoreandmaria.org/lentenscriptures2026>

MAR. 13

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Come with us at 6:30 p.m. at St. Paul Church as we meditate on Jesus's journey to Calvary.

MAR. 14/15

HOSPITALITY WEEKEND

Join us for a wine and cheese social after the 4 p.m. Mass, and a noon get-together following the 11:15 p.m. Mass.

MAR. 14/15

BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENINGS

Monthly blood pressure screenings take place after 4 p.m., 8 a.m., and 9:30 a.m. Masses. Free and confidential!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers are needed to help set up, serve, and clean up after our next Hospitality Weekend on Mar. 14 & 15. Sign up today: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0F4DABAA29A4F49-51847108-20242025>

IMMACARE UPDATE

The Parish ImmaCare Ministry thanks all who continue to support efforts to feed and care for Hartford's unhoused neighbors. ImmaCare currently needs short- and long-sleeve T-shirts, hoodies/sweatshirts, white crew and athletic socks, cases of bottled water, and bulk plastic forks and spoons. Donations supplement ImmaCare's outreach program, which provides nourishment to those living on the streets five days a week. Items are picked up on the first Thursday of each month. We also provide ImmaCare dinners twice each month. March dates are as follows:

- Fri., Mar. 13 - ImmaCare Dinner Night
- Thurs., Apr. 2 - ImmaCare Pickup
- Fri., Apr. 3 - ImmaCare Dinner Night
- Thurs., Apr. 10 - ImmaCare Dinner Night

Volunteers are always needed: isidoreandmaria.org/immacare.

06 LIFELONG FAITH FORMATION

March 18 2026 | Third Sunday of Lent

APR 11: FAMILY EASTER EGG HUNT A YOUTH MINISTRY EVENT

The **SS. Isidore and Maria Youth Ministry** invites children ages 3 to 10 to our **Family Easter Egg Hunt** on **Sat., Apr. 11**, at St. Augustine Church.

The morning begins at 11 a.m., with the Easter Egg Hunt starting promptly at 11:15 a.m., organized by age group to ensure fun for everyone. The St. Augustine Church Hall will be open for hospitality and a special meet-and-greet with the Easter Bunny.

Please register by Apr. 7, so we can plan accordingly: isidoreandmaria.org/egghunt26



Bring your baskets—and your Easter joy—we look forward to celebrating with your family!

MAR. 21: MARRIAGE RETREAT DAY

The Archdiocese of Hartford Office of Faith Formation & Parish Life invites all married couples to participate in a Marriage Retreat Day, presented by Worldwide Marriage Encounter on Sat., Mar. 21, at the Pastoral Center in Bloomfield. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m., and the day concludes with a vigil Mass at 4 p.m. Lunch is included! Registration is required, and the cost is \$60 per couple. Learn more or register at

<https://form.jotform.com/archdioceseofhartford/godchoseyouforme>.

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PARISH STAFF

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CLERGY

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Deacon Steven Weaver

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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

BULLETIN EDITOR

Theresa Scalia
theresa@isidoreandmaria.org

MASS SCHEDULE

WEEKEND MASS

at St. Paul Church
Sat Vigil | 4 p.m.
Sun | 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m., and 11:15 a.m.

WEEKDAY MASS

at St. Paul Church
(unless otherwise noted)
Mon., Tues., Wed. | 7:30 a.m.
Thurs. | 7:30 a.m. (at St. Augustine Church during Lent)
Fri. | 12:15 p.m.

RECONCILIATION

Sat | 2:30 p.m. - 3:15 p.m. at St. Paul Church, or by appointment

ROSARY

Tues. | 7 p.m. at St. Augustine Church

CONTACT US

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