

2577 Main Street - Glastonbury, CT 06033 | 860-633-9419 | www.isidoreandmaria.org

December 26, 2021

#### Clergy

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

#### **Weekend Masses**

All Masses celebrated at St. Paul Church

Sat. Vigil: 4 p.m.
Sun: 8 a.m.
Sun: 9:30 a.m.
Sun: 11:15 a.m.

#### **Daily Mass**

Daily Mass at St. Paul Church: Mon., Tues., Wed. - 7:30 a.m. Fri. - 12:15 p.m.

## Live streaming of weekend Masses

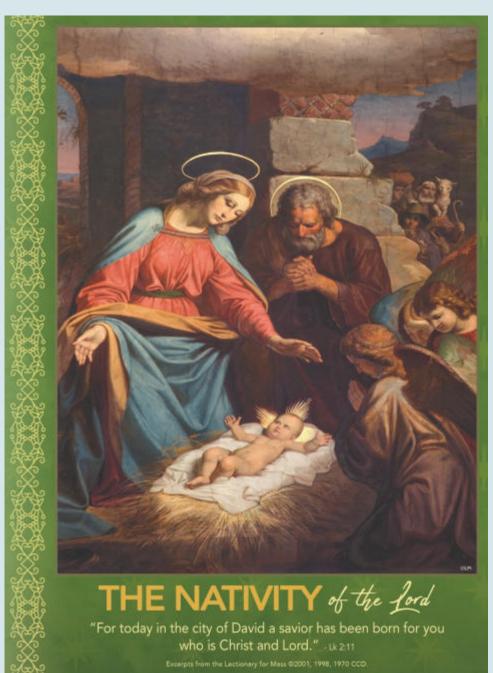
from St. Paul Church takes place each Sat. at 4 p.m. and Sun. at 11:15 a.m., with rebroadcasts of the 4 p.m. Vigil streamed at 8 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. Please visit our Facebook page, YouTube channel or the parish website to worship remotely.

# Sacrament of Reconciliation

Confessions at St. Paul Church: Sat. at 2:30 p.m. *Masks are requested.* 

# Exposition and Adoration of the Holy Eucharist

Mondays, 6 p.m. to 7 p.m at St. Augustine Church



#### A CHRISTMAS BLESSING

God grant you the light of Christmas, which is faith; the warmth of Christmas, which is love; the radiance of Christmas, which is purity; the righteousness of Christmas, which is justice; the belief in Christmas, which is truth; the all of Christmas, which is Christ.

#### Collections and Parish Finance

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

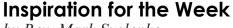


Due to the advance print deadline for the bulletin, the offertory collection will be published next week.

#### Annual Chancery Assessment for 2021: \$76,927.00

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*.



by Rev. Mark Suslenko

It was the best of times and it was the worst of times. Our families can bring out the best and the worst in us. This is true of our families of origin, the current family of which we are a part, the family of our church, our society, and the like. In all of our family experiences, what stands out as our most challenging memory? Everything human can be found on the pages of family life. But there is also a Divine story to be discovered as well. When life gets difficult and perplexing, today's Feast of the Holy Family stands to remind us that it is not just by human effort that we tread treacherous waters. We have to remember and learn from the Divine effort too. We need this perspective if our love lessons are going to be learned completely and well. We are all works in progress and we all come from homes that are broken by imperfection. In whatever life brings us and in whatever family we find ourselves, may the promptings we feel toward faith and hope lead us to greater love.



#### Christmas Message 2021

Something wants our attention. It's a light that has been shining since God first created it thousands and thousands of years ago. God gave it a singular

distinction and purpose, just as he did when he made you and me. That holy light, shining from the beginning of time, illuminated the path to and for Christ. Its radiance exploded one dark, quiet night and brought holy, curious, lost, hurting,

confused people where they needed to be. Beneath its light, they found three precious gifts: faith, hope, and love. The world changed.

But, there is more. The story continues! Time has passed, and Bethlehem has come and gone. Jesus grew up. He's not a baby anymore! Now, He is the Christ of the Living God reigning in the cosmic splendor of heaven! Today that same star continues to shine. It now illuminates our paths so that WE can see. Wow! It's incredible how much clearer things are when we have light!

Our lives are so sadly broken. Our world is hurting. There are so many who are struggling to get through each day. We've lost so much and have gained so little, so it seems. God accepts our blindness. We stumble. We need light.

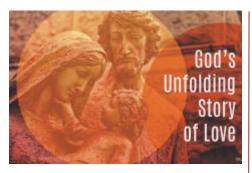
We get tired of trying to fix things ourselves. It's so complicated at times, especially when we feel so alone. But, we are not alone. That's the message of Christmas! It's all about those three precious gifts! It's all about Christ! We HAVE the fix!

We are meant to BECOME Christ. This is what the star shows us. Something more significant, more perfect is yet to come. God is not yet done. We are meant to become the God we seek.

Imagine a world in which all Christians truly had the mind, heart, and actions of Christ. It would be a much kinder place. There is something more real ahead of us. All will be well. All will be one.

The gentle tenderness of a human soul is where faith, hope, and love are born. It is where Christ is born. In us. We are instruments. We are vessels. Let God use you. Let God change you. Let the star guide you. Life can be joyful, even amidst its struggles and brokenness. Laugh. Play. God delights in you and loves you. The star's light is still burning. Follow it. Merry Christmas!

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



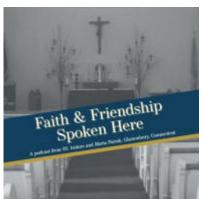
Families can be challenging things to negotiate. This is true not only of our families of origin, the current family of which we are a part, the family of our Church, our society, and our global family as well. Everything human can be found in family stories. Those stories speak of wonderful life-giving successes and painful spirit-robbing abuses. Our greatest joys and most significant wounds are usually connected with the family experience.

Our needs, experiences, and unresolved baggage often color what we bring to our familiar relationships. They contribute to our level of defensiveness, how guarded and protected we become, and what prejudices we believe.

To break the cycle of dysfunction, we must remember that it is not only by human effort that we negotiate our lives' challenging events. There is a Divine Effort at work as well. The human effort can surely create quite a mess and easily destroy lives. This is true of any family with which we are associated. Today's Feast of the Holy Family serves to help us understand that a Divine Story is being told as well. It is a story of perseverance in the face of hardship, determination in the face of despair, healing when we see nothing but wounds, and light where there is darkness.

Do we believe that God is always working, guiding, restoring, and leading? Unless we do, we will never be free from the imperfections and wounds that bind us and never be able to understand what it means to forgive. Pope Francis tells us that the "light which comes from the Holy Family encourages us to offer human warmth to other families." While this is most certainly true, we can only really begin to do this when we realize that we are still works in progress, not anchored to the wounds and sins of our past, and still a leading star in God's continually unfolding story of love. The Holy Family persevered and radiated warmth because they knew they were not alone. We can too.

©LPi ~ Rev. Mark Suslenko



# **NEW PODCAST:** Faith and Friendship Spoken Here

Faith and Friendship Spoken Here is the new podcast from the SS. Isidore and Maria Parish Mental Health and Communications ministries. It features two parishioners in conversation about the struggles and joys faced daily by everyone on the journey of faith.

This first episode introduces the podcast hosts and their Advent reflections as they look forward to Christmas and the year ahead. To listen, visit: https://isidoreandmaria.org/faith-friendship-pod

#### March 2022: Faith, Hope, and Love Revealed: A Night of Sharing and Personal Reflection.

Do you struggle with faith? Do you ask yourself questions like:

Who is God? Who am I? Where am I going? What is my purpose?

To fully explore these and other faith questions, we substitute our parish's long -planned Made for More appearance with a locally developed evening of story-telling and reflection. It will take place on Tues., Mar. 8, 2022, at 7 p.m. at St. Paul Church. This program is now free of charge.

If you have already purchased tickets for the Made for More program and have not yet received a refund please contact donna@isidoreandmaria.org.

#### SECOND COLLECTION



Jan. 8 & 9: Kentucky disaster relief.

On Dec. 10, 2021, a series of tornados brought heartbreaking destruction and

devastation to the state of Kentucky and other portions of the South and Midwest. An appeal has been made nationally from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops for a collection to be taken up in each diocese for the relief efforts now underway in this area.

This collection, administered by Catholic Charities U.S.A., takes place at SS. Isidore and Maria Parish the weekend of Jan. 8 and Jan. 9. If you would like to participate, please place your donation in a separate envelope marked "Kentucky" and place it in the offertory kiosk.



#### LITURGICAL SCHEDULE AND INTENTIONS

| Date   | Time                                | Intention   | Requested by     |
|--|-------------------------------------|---|------------------|
| Saturday, Dec. 25 Nativity of the Lord Christmas Day                                 | 9 a.m.                              | Parishioners of SS. Isidore and Maria Live Stream at 11:15 a.m. No Confessions/No Vigil Mass  |                  |
| Sunday, Dec. 26 Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph                                | 9:30 a.m.<br>11:15 a.m.             | No 8 a.m. Mass Amelia and Lucien Daignault Russell Erickson (1st Anniv.) Live Stream at 11:15 a.m.  | Family<br>Family |
| Monday, Dec. 27 St. John, Apostle and Evangelist                                     | 6 -7 p.m.                           | No Morning Mass Exposition and Adoration of the Holy Eucharist  |                  |
| Tuesday, Dec. 28 The Holy Innocents, Martyrs   | 7:30 a.m.                           | Alex Nobel  | Lynn Hackett     |
| Wednesday, Dec. 29 St. Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr                              | 7:30 a.m.                           | Robert Maloney  | Family           |
| Thursday, Dec. 30 Sixth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord            |                                     | No Mass   |                  |
| Friday, Dec. 31 St. Sylvester I, Pope  | 4 p.m.                              | No 12:15 p.m. Mass Parishioners of SS. Isidore and Maria Vigil Mass for Solemnity of Mary Mother of God   |                  |
| Saturday, Jan. 1, 2022 Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God Not a Holy Day of Obligation | 2:30 p.m.<br>4 p.m.                 | Confessions Nancy Heley Vigil Mass for Epiphany of the Lord Live Stream at 4 p.m.   | Husband, Skip    |
| Sunday, Jan. 2, 2022 Epiphany of the Lord  | *8 a.m.<br>*9:30 a.m.<br>11:15 a.m. | Parishioners of SS. Isidore and Maria<br>Parishioners of SS. Isidore and Maria<br>Renato Catubig, Satornina Catubig<br><i>Live Stream at 11:15 a.m.</i> | Family           |

<sup>\*</sup>Rebroadcast of 4 p.m. Vigil Mass



**Susan Bowhall Bob Caisse** Diane Varni Caisse Ellery Eberhardt Sandra Cavanna **Thomas Cavanna Donna Chapman** 

**Ashley Chapman Keith Chapman Patricia Feeney Richard Giguere** 

**Dan Hebert Keith Henson** Julia Krawiec **Roger Morin Lilly Sinnamon Roger Yost** 

To add a prayer intention, please contact our parish office and their name will be listed for ONE month. We cannot publish names of friends. Thank you for your understanding.



#### Altar flower offerings Dec. 26 - Jan. 2, 2022

In Honor of: Fran and Dick Geary (3rd Wedding Anniversary)

In Honor of: Jack and Emily Garrity (Happy 16th Birthday) as requested by Nonnie Geary

#### Reminder:

There will be no Confessions and no vigil Mass on Sat. Dec. 25.



#### 2022 New Year Mass Schedule

Sun., Dec. 26:

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

9:30 a.m. (no live stream) 11:15 a.m. (with live stream)

Please note: There is no 8 a.m. Mass on Dec. 26.

Fri., Dec. 31:

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

4 p.m. Vigil (no live stream)

Please note: There is no 12:15 p.m. daily Mass on Dec. 31. This is NOT a holy day of obligation this year. (2021/2022)

Sat., Jan. 1: The Epiphany of the Lord

4 p.m. vigil (with live stream)

Sun., Jan 2: The Epiphany of the Lord

8 a.m. (streamed REBROADCAST of 4 p.m. vigil) 9:30 a.m. (streamed REBROADCAST of 4 p.m. vigil) 11:15 a.m (with live stream)

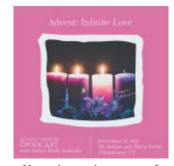


#### **Pray for Those Who Are Serving**

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          | <b>Brandon Farrell</b> |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| Paul Carbonell         | Samuel David Hovanec   |
| Oliver Cary            | Peter Kamianowski      |
| <b>Liam Connelly</b>   | Samuel MacDonald       |
| <b>Daniel Conrad</b>   | Alexis Maher           |
| <b>Charles Edwards</b> | Michael McHale         |
| Steven F. Egan         | Michael Scott Mullin   |
| Celea Fajardo          | John W. Murphy         |
| -                      | Jack M. Zaremba        |

Do you know someone who is currently on active duty with the U. S. Armed Forces for whom our community prayers would bring comfort, please email the person's name, rank and military branch to: contact@isidoreandmaria.org, or call the parish office at 860-633-9419.



#### PODCAST: Infinite Love

"When was the last time you experienced joy?"

"How we understand the word 'joy' and what it means to us will determine whether we experience it or not. Many times, we define joy in terms

of happiness, in terms of a sense of wellbeing, a sense of completeness. Yet the reality of joy itself is far greater and far deeper." ~ Father Mark Suslenko

Check out Father Mark's latest podcast, Infinite Love, to learn about the true source of joy.

It's available at isidoreandmaria.org/podcasts.



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

#### **Gravers Tree Care**



# Readings for the Week

| SUN | 12/26  | Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1]/<br>Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Lk 2:41-52 or<br>1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/Ps 84:2-3, 5-6,<br>9-10 [cf. 5a]/1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/Lk 2:41-52 |
|-----|--------|---|
| MON | 12/27  | 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 [12]/Jn 20:1a, 2-8   |
| TUE | 12/28  | 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8 [7]/<br>Mt 2:13-18   |
| WED | 12/29  | 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6 [11a]/<br>Lk 2:22-35   |
| THR | 12/30  | 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10 [11a]/<br>Lk 2:36-40  |
| FRI | 12/31  | 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13 [11a]/<br>Jn 1:1-18   |
| SAT | 1/1/22 | Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 [2a]/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21   |
| SUN | 1/2/22 | Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 [cf. 11]/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12   |

Not finding [Jesus], they returned to Jerusalem to look for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions, and all who heard him were astounded at his understanding and his answers. ~ Lk 2:45-47

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.



### Woofing you a Merry Christmas!

Harry and I wish all our friends at SS. Isisdore and Maria, a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Parishioner George Upton sent us this photo of his manger. This one is special as includes a little figure looking like his border collie, Olive. Wow! Hey Harry. . . we share the same name!

Olive says there must have been dogs there; how would the shepherds been able to handle all those sheep? Harry and I think she is right!





Harry and I
are sure that
our stockings
will be filled to
the brim with
"Twizels".
We have been
"very, very
good" this year!
Just ask
Fr. Mark!

Harry & Oliver's Corner

#### SS. Isidore and Maria Parish Directory

#### Clergy

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

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Director of Communications

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David Garrido-Cid

Director of Music Ministries
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faith formation@isidoreand maria.org

Donna Berger

Interim Faith Formation Director donna@isidoreandmaria.org

Ann Poker, *Program Coordinator* ann@isidoreandmaria.org

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Sean Walstedt, Facilities Manager sean@isidoreandmaria.org

Mary Lou Tanski, *Pastoral Minister* Kim Franklin,

Bereavement/Lazarus Ministry

Theresa Scalia, *Bulletin Editor* theresa@isidoreandmaria.org

# How to Report an Incident of Sexual Abuse to the Archdiocese of Hartford

If you have knowledge or suspect that a minor 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: Kathleen D. Nowosadko, Victim Assistance Coordinator, 860-541-6475 kathleen.nowosadko@aohct.org

#### Altar flower offerings

Requests are now being accepted to donate toward floral arrangements for the sanctuary.

Donations may be made 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. Please contact the parish office 860-633-9419 to arrange a date.



#### Looking to update your parish registration?

Or register with SS. Isidore and Maria Parish? Scan this handy QR code to begin the process.



**Bulletin submission deadline is** *Friday***.** All submissions must be received in advance by Friday to be published in the following week's bulletin. Send notices to: theresa@isidoreandmaria.org

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