



SS. Isidore and Maria Parish

2577 Main Street - Glastonbury, CT 06033



December 22, 2024

Fourth Sunday of Advent



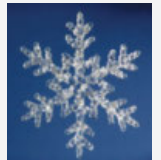
"Blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of your womb." - Luke 1:42



ENDS DEC. 22: Parish Advent Giving Program

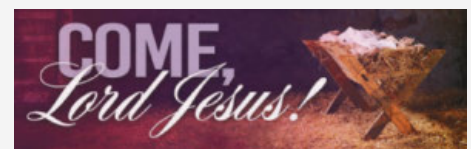
The 2024 SS. Isidore and Maria Parish Advent Giving Program ends today (Sun., Dec. 22). Money collected will be distributed to organizations to support their community outreach efforts both locally and globally. Visit <https://isidoreandmaria.org/adventgiving24> to learn about the organizations you'll be supporting and to make your online donation. You may also place your donation in an envelope marked "Advent Giving 2024," and place it in the collection kiosks at the church entrances. Please make any checks out to SS. Isidore and Maria Parish. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

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.



O Come Let Us Adore Him...Together: The 2024 Christmas Mass Schedule

Tues., Dec. 24 - *Masses for Christmas Eve:*

- **3:30 p.m.** (with the Parish Children & Youth Choir)
- **5:30 p.m.**
- **10 p.m.** (with pre-mass **Christmas Concert** featuring the Gallery Choir and carol sing-along beginning at 9:30 p.m.)

Wed., Dec. 25 - *Mass for Christmas Day:*

- **9:00 a.m.**

All Masses take place at St. Paul Church, 2577 Main St., Glastonbury.
All are welcome!

Collections and Parish Finance

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



Report for the week of 12/15/2024:

Weekly collection: \$ 13,186.69
Online Giving: \$ 3,483.50
Total: \$ 16,670.19

Parish Annual Collection: \$123,772.00

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.

**DONATE TO THE
ARCHBISHOP'S
ANNUAL APPEAL**

Archbishop's Annual Appeal: *Closer Than Ever!*

As the year draws to a close, the 2024 Archbishop's Annual

Appeal also nears its end. The generosity of the parishioners of SS. Isidore and Maria has brought us to 98.6% of our financial target for this year's Appeal. We need just over \$2,400 to go to reach our goal! If you haven't yet donated, or wish to donate again, please prayerfully consider a donation today. You can help us meet and exceed this target! Visit <https://archdioceseofhartford.org/appeal/>.



PHOTO GALLERY: HOSPITALITY WEEKEND DECEMBER 2024

Check out the photos from our most recent hospitality weekend on Dec. 7 & Dec. 8!

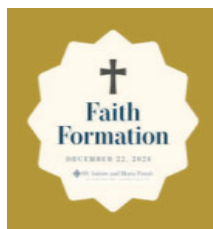
Photos: Diane Sereduck

Visit <http://isidoreandmaria.org/hospitalitydec2024>



Inspiration for the Week by Rev. Mark Suslenko

Did you ever wish that God would step in and fix everything wrong with the world? After all, how much longer can all of this go on? There is so much inequity in life. Our world's political, economic, and environmental systems do not always serve people's best interests. We read stories about injustice, disregard for human life, greed, heartache, and people being hurt and deprived every day. People are still starving, and there is often little regard for human life. This is not the way God intended it to be. Realizing that we have caused most of these problems ourselves, we look to God for an answer and a way out of the difficulties we have created. Taking responsibility for our actions is not something that comes easily. We fail to see that God has already sent the answer in the person of Jesus Christ. God did fix our problem! Mary had to set her needs aside for the Son of Justice to come into the world. We need to do the same. Only by believing in, listening to, and acting upon what God has spoken will true peace come, and God's fix be made known.



Faith Formation Schedule for the Week of Dec. 22

Sun., Dec. 22

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

Thank you to our Grades 9 & 10 Faith Formation students

Thank you to the children in Grades 9 & 10 of our parish Faith Formation program for boxes of macaroni and cheese at the December 15 Mass. Your generosity will go a long way toward feeding the hungry in our community.



Parishioners Sean and Timothy Zdrojeski Win Academic Recognition from Xavier High School

Congratulations to parishioners Sean and Timothy Zdrojeski, the sons of Kara and Robert Zdrojeski, on receiving the prestigious

Brother Celestine Medal at Xavier High School for academic excellence. Learn more about the award and their achievements by visiting

<http://isidoreandmaria.org/xavieraward24>.



Oplatek (Christmas wafer) now available.

Christmas wafer (oplatek) is now available at the entrances of St. Paul Church or on the altar rail.

Liturgical Schedule and Intentions

December 22, 2024

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by
Saturday, Dec. 21 <i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i>	4 p.m.	Russell Erickson (4th Anniv.)	Wife & Children
Sunday, Dec. 22 <i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i>	8 a.m.	Patrick J. Humphrey	Family
	9:30 a.m.	Vivien Iloeje	Iloeje Family
	11:15 a.m.	Bernadette Kasunic, Maureen Flanagan, & Billy Hannon	Reynard Family
Monday, Dec. 23 <i>Late Advent Weekday</i> <i>St. John of Kanty, Priest</i>	7:30 a.m.	Casimira Guardia	Children
Tuesday, Dec. 24 <i>Late Advent Weekday</i> <i>Christmas Eve</i>	PLEASE NOTE: no daily Mass at 7:30 a.m. on Tues., Dec. 24 (Christmas Eve)		
	3:30 p.m.	Robert Shepard	Family
	5:30 p.m.	Dante Sassi	Mary Walsh
	9:30 p.m.	<i>Pre-Mass Christmas Concert & Carol Sing</i>	
	10 p.m.	Peter & Charlotte Suslenko	Family
Wednesday, Dec. 25 <i>Nativity of the Lord</i> <i>(Christmas)</i>	9 a.m.	Kenneth Ray Ely (2nd Anniv.)	Children
Thursday, Dec. 26 <i>St. Stephen, First Martyr</i>		No Mass	
Friday, Dec. 27 <i>St. John, Apostle & Evangelist</i>	12:15 p.m.	Joseph Cavallo	John & Mary Ann Kuschman
	After Mass until 2 p.m.	Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	
Saturday, Dec. 28 <i>The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph</i>	4 p.m.	Amelia & Lucien Daignault	Family
Sunday, Dec. 29 <i>The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph</i>	8 a.m.	Mary Acunto (<i>Birthday Remembrance</i>)	Matt Acunto
	9:30 a.m.	Emil Ostrowski	Family
	11:15 a.m.	Maryane & Peter Jiovo	Family

LORD,
MAKE US
TURN
TO YOU;
LET US
SEE
YOUR
FACE
AND WE
SHALL BE
SAVED.
(Ps 80)



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	John Vroblick
Rita Henson	Mary E. Wallace
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. We cannot publish the names of friends. Thank you for your understanding.

PHOTO GALLERY: 2024 CHRISTMAS PAGEANT



Photos from the 2024 Christmas Pageant held on Sat., Dec. 15 are now available on the parish website. (see below)
Congratulations to all the children on a job well done.
Special kudos to the parents, staff, and volunteers who supported this event, particularly David-Garrido-Cid and Kimberlee Algiere.

<http://isidoreandmaria.org/pageant2024>



CHRISTMAS 2024

My friends, I am pleased to share with you this first Christmas pastoral letter as your Archbishop. Many of you are regular Mass goers. Some of you come occasionally, once a month or so. Some come once or twice a year on the major holidays of Christmas or Easter. For others, this may be the first time you have been in a church for years or maybe even for the first time. To all of you, I say, "Welcome and merry Christmas."

Whatever your relationship with the Church may be, I invite you to consider how the moment of the Incarnation – God becoming man in Jesus Christ – has graced all of creation with the saving power of God. Throughout the course of the Church’s history, great saints and poets have authored heartfelt praise to the mystery of the Incarnation in which they tried to capture what it meant that God, the Supreme Creator of all that is, became one like us. Writing in the 4th c., St. Gregory Nazianzen came close to offering a perfect blend of the poetic and the theological when he wrote:

"The very Son of God, older than the ages, the invisible, the incomprehensible, the incorporeal, the beginning of beginning, the light of light, the fountain of life and immortality, the image of the archetype, the immovable seal, the perfect likeness, the definition and word of the Father: he it is who comesto take to himself all that is

human, except for sin... ..He who makes rich is made poor; he takes on the poverty of my flesh, that I may gain the riches of his divinity. He who is full is made empty; he is emptied for a brief space of his glory, that I may share in his fullness."

But, while St. Gregory’s words may transport us into the Mystery of the Divine Majesty of God made manifest, the greeting of the angels to the shepherds that we hear proclaimed in the Gospel of Luke lead us deeply into Christ’s humanity:

"Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a Savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger."

In this Christmas celebration, we recall the mystery of Christ, true God and true man, and offer thanksgiving that "God so loved the world, that he gave us his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but have eternal life," and remember that every time we celebrate the Mass we encounter the same Christ present among us in the Church gathered, in the Word proclaimed, and in the Sacrament of the Eucharist - and what a Christmas gift that is!

** Christopher J. Coyne*
Most Reverend Christopher J. Coyne
Archbishop of Hartford



PODCAST: Finding Joy

There’s a theme throughout the readings for Gaudete Sunday - the Third Sunday of Advent - and that theme is joy. We hear it in various forms (joy, joyfully, rejoice) no less than eight times in the readings! Even St. Paul tells us to live in joy always. Yet finding joy in life is

no easy task. What keeps us from discovering joy? That’s the theme Father Mark explores in this episode of Living in Faith, Hope, & Love, available now on your favorite podcast app, or at <https://isidoreandmaria.org/podcasts>.



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

Our Sponsor Spotlight this week:

FACETS Counseling — Laura Zeppieri, Parishioner



The New Day: A 10-Week Bereavement Support Program

The SS. Isidore and Maria Bereavement Ministry begins offering a new program this January. The

New Day is a faith-based, small-group support program coordinated by volunteers who act as facilitators and accompany participants on their journey from grief to healing. If you are experiencing the loss of a loved one and are struggling with your grief, this may be the program for you. The 10-week program will be held each Thursday on the first floor of the Parish Center, 2533 Main St., Glastonbury (next to St. Paul Church) from 10 a.m. to 12 noon, starting Jan. 16. *Registration is required.* Register online at <http://isidoreandmaria.org/newdayspring2025>, or fill out a registration form available at the entrances to St. Paul Church, and return it via the collection kiosks or directly to the parish office. Questions? Contact Bereavement@isidoreandmaria.org or the parish office at 860-633-9419.

Pray for peace in the Holy Land





The schedule of ImmaCare events for January is as follows::

- Thurs., Jan. 2: ImmaCare Outreach Program pick-up
- Fri., Jan. 3: ImmaCare Dinner Night
- Fri., Jan. 10: 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> to sign up 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. For a list of needed items, please visit

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

NEW PROGRAM: Nurturing Seedlings

We are looking for a few people to join a new parish initiative called Nurturing Seedlings, a community for young parents. This program is specifically designed for parishioners to walk alongside parents of children ages 0-5.

To learn more or volunteer for Nurturing Seedlings, please email Donna Berger.



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:

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Tammy Breiner | Peter Kamianowski |
| Oliver Carey | Madeline Lanzi |
| Beau Douglas | Mark J. Lord |
| Celia Fajardo | Samuel MacDonald |
| Brandon Farrell | Alexis Maher |
| Gabe Forthofer | Michael Scott Mullin |
| Kevin Gamache | John W. Murphy |
| Chris Gibb | Drew Scarfone |
| Michael Hitzer | Timothy Sullivan |
| | Jack M. Zaremba |



St. Stephen | Feast Day December 26

The Acts of the Apostles tells the story of St. Stephen, the first Christian martyr. A man filled with grace and power, he worked great wonders among the people. Some Jews debated with St. Stephen but could not match his wisdom

and spirit. Eventually, a charge of blasphemy was brought up against him, and the local population demanded that he be tried and sentenced. He was seized and carried before the Sanhedrin.

Despite the danger he faced, in front of the Sanhedrin and his accusers, St. Stephen gave a long speech about the history of Israel and the blessings that God had given upon His chosen people. He talked about how Israel had become disobedient despite God's abundant mercy. This enraged his accusers, and eventually the crowd dragged him out of the city and stoned him to death.

Even in his final moments, St. Stephen displayed great forgiveness and even asked God not to hold the sins of his attackers against them. Hundreds of years after his death, he is still a role model for us to follow.

©LPi



Scripture Readings for the Week

- SUN 12/22/24** Mi 5:1-4a/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 (4)/ Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45
- MON 12/23/24** Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14/Lk 1:57-66
- TUES 12/24/24** Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/ Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29/Lk 1:67-79
- WED 12/25/24** *Vigil:* Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 (2a)/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/ Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25
Night: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 (Lk 2:11)/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14
Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/ Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20
Day: Is 52:7-10/Heb 1:1-6/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 (3c)/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14
- THR 12/26/24** Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17/Mt 10:17-22
- FRI 12/27/24** 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97: 1-2, 5-6, 11-12/ Jn 20:1a, 2-8
- SAT 12/28/24** 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8/ Mt 2:13-18
- SUN 12/29/24** 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10 (see 5a)/1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/Lk 2:41-52



Jubilee 2025 - Pilgrims of Hope

As the Universal Church looks toward the Jubilee Year 2025 (the 2,025th anniversary of the Incarnation of our Lord), the USCCB is thrilled to support the Holy Father in this "event of great spiritual, ecclesial, and social significance in the life of the Church."

Pope Francis stated in his February 2022 letter announcing the Jubilee 2025: "We must fan the flame of hope that has been given us and help everyone to gain new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an open spirit, a trusting heart and far-sighted vision. The forthcoming Jubilee can contribute greatly to restoring a climate of hope and trust as a prelude to the renewal and rebirth that we so urgently desire..."

Read more about the Jubilee Year at: <https://www.usccb.org/committees/jubilee-2025>

This Day in History — Dec. 22, 1882



First Christmas Tree With Electric Lights

Edward Hibberd Johnson (Jan. 4, 1846 – Sept. 9, 1917) was an inventor and business associate of American inventor Thomas Alva Edison. He was involved in many of Edison's projects and was a partner in an early organization that evolved into General Electric. When Johnson was Vice President of the Edison Electric Light Company, a predecessor of Con Edison, he created the first known electrically illuminated Christmas tree at his home in New York City in 1882,

thus making Mr. Johnson the Father of Electric Christmas Tree Lights. In the early 1900s, you could rent Christmas tree lights for the season for \$12 - equivalent to over \$300 in today's dollars.

Oliver. . .I see Dad has hung our stockings by the fireplace. Can't wait to see all the treats we will get. We have been very, very good this year!



Christmas is coming!!

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

Elizabeth Cafarella
Office Assistant
elizabeth@isidoreandmaria.org

David Garrido-Cid
Director of Music Ministries
david@isidoreandmaria.org

Mary Helmlinger
Ministry Coordinator
ministry@isidoreandmaria.org

Melissa Lacafta
Admin. Assistant to the Pastor
melissa@isidoreandmaria.org

Theresa Scalia
Bulletin Editor

Carol Vassar
Director of Communications
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



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

Ann Poker
Program Coordinator
ann@isidoreandmaria.org

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Saint Isidore & Maria Parish

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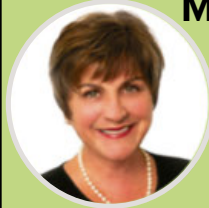
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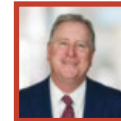
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Mark Ostrowski is a parishioner, and Co-Chair of Shipman's Litigation Department. He has over 36 years representing businesses and individuals in the Connecticut Courts. Mark represents individuals and estates in all types of personal injuries and 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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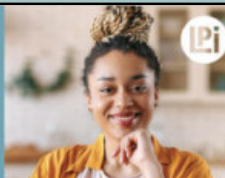
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