

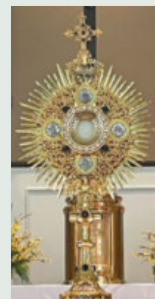


February 2, 2025

Feast of the Presentation of the Lord



"Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel." - Luke 2:34



Feb. 4: Solemn Celebration of Evening Prayer with Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

Join us on **Tues., Feb. 4 at 6:30 p.m.** at St. Paul Church for the next Solemn Celebration

of Evening Prayer and Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. This service is an hour of traditional prayer and music. It includes the recitation of The Liturgy of the Hours and the Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. It is a wonderful opportunity to focus on Jesus Christ and his presence in the Eucharist.

PLEASE NOTE: Tuesday night Rosary will not be held on Feb. 4 at St. Augustine Church so the parishioners may attend this special evening of prayer.

Feb. 8 & Feb. 9: Blood Pressure Screenings

The Parish Wellness Ministry is conducting its monthly FREE blood pressure screenings after the 4 p.m. Mass on Sat., Feb. 8, and after the 8 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. Masses on Sun., Feb. 9. Screenings are held in the conference room in the south wing at St. Paul Church.

Ministry Highlight: Altar Care

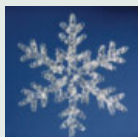
Have you ever wondered who keeps the altar areas of our churches looking so clean and beautiful? That's the work of our Altar Care ministry. This group of volunteers is tasked with reflecting the sanctity of the sacraments by presenting a clean and beautifully decorated altar. They dust the altar and areas in the main body of the Church and clean door windows, brass door plates, door handles, candle chimneys, and brass holders. They also replace holy water in fonts, refill the large holy water font, and care for all linens used on the altar and tabernacle. The ministry requires just one or two hours of volunteer time every six weeks. Volunteers can work in teams of two or three, and it's a great opportunity for families! To learn more about the Altar Care Ministry, contact **Carla Rice** at 860-808-4115 or by email at cjrice@cox.net.



BRANCHES ON THE VINE

Read the latest edition of **Branches on the Vine** from the Archdiocese of Hartford here: This week it features an article about the 2025 Respect Life Masses and marches underway throughout the Archdiocese.

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



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.

Collections and Parish Finance

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



Report for the week of 1/26/2024:

Weekly collection: \$ 8,779.17
Online Giving: \$ 3,792.50
Total: \$ 12,571.67

School Support \$ 1,403.00

Parish Annual Collection: \$ 140,832.00

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.



Requesting 2024 Year-End Tax Statements

If you would like to receive a tax statement with your total donations to SS. Isidore and Maria in 2024, please get in touch with Melissa by phone (860) 633-9419 or

by email. Please specify if you would like your statement mailed or emailed to you. There will not be an automatic mailing of statements. You must request it.

PLEASE NOTE: Online Giving users may print their statements from the Online Giving dashboard.



Nurturing Seedlings Program Seeks Facilitators!

Plans are underway to establish the Nurturing Seedlings Program at our parish. The first step is to assemble the ministry facilitator team. The only requirements to serve as a facilitator are a love of our faith and a desire to share that with our younger families. If you have children, they should be older than 5 years of age.

Facilitators must attend a one-day training session (9:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.). There are three dates to choose from:

- **Sat., Feb. 8:** Saint Matthew Catholic School, Bristol
- **Thurs., Feb. 13:** Pastoral Center, Bloomfield
- **Sat., Mar. 8:** Saint Rita/Donnelly Parish Center, Hamden

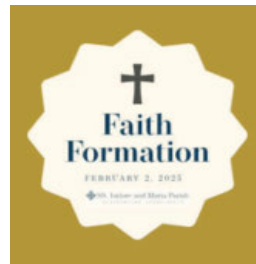
If interested, please contact **Donna Berger** donna@isidoreandmaria.org for training registration information. Once the team is fully assembled and trained, the program details will be shared with the parish community.

Canceled: Summer Mission Trip 2025

Plans to participate in a summer 2025 mission trip will not take place due to a lack of interest. Opportunities to serve the local community will be shared as they become available.

Inspiration for the Week by Rev. Mark Suslenko

Today's celebration can be seen as another "epiphany" of sorts whereby Jesus is recognized as the One who will fulfill the Jewish people's messianic expectations. Jesus is the one who comes to purify and refine humanity and provide us with proper direction and focus. Jesus also presents himself to each one of us. Will we accept him as he is or only as we want or need him to be? The Gospel message is meant to be heard in its entirety. When it is, it is always a challenging, table-turning experience that can make even the holiest among us feel slightly uncomfortable. Being purified and refined never comes easily and requires giving ourselves entirely to God and his design. Are we willing to do so?



Faith Formation Schedule for the Week of Feb. 2, 2025

• Sun., Feb. 2

◇ Grades 7 & 8 Mass: 9:30 a.m. at Paul Church - Children, bring your nation of **coffee or tea** for the Glastonbury Food Pantry to Mass.

- ◇ Grade 1: 10:45 a.m.-12 p.m. Meet in the Parish Center.
- ◇ Grade 2: 10:45 a.m.-12 p.m. Meet in the Library.
- ◇ Grade 3: 10:45 a.m.-12 p.m. Meet in the Classrooms.
- ◇ Grades 4-8 Online Program – regular weekly submissions due by Friday.
- ◇ Grades 7 & 8 Family Program – (4:30 p.m.-5:45 p.m. or 6 p.m.-7:15 p.m.) Meet with a parent at your designated time and location.
- ◇ Grade 9/Year 1 – 4:30 p.m.-5:15 p.m. Meet in the South Wing
- ◇ Grade 10/Year 2 – 6 p.m.-7:15 p.m. Meet in the South Wing

Thank you to our Faith Formation students in Grades 4 - 6

We would like to express our gratitude to the children in Grades 4, 5 & 6 of our parish's Faith Formation program for their generous donations during the 9:30 a.m. Mass on January 26. These contributions will be delivered to the Glastonbury Food Bank to support those in need within our community. Thank you for your kindness!



Registration Underway for Vacation Bible School 2025!

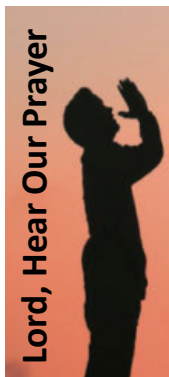
Attention parents: June will be here before you know it, and now's the time to register for the 2025 edition of the SS.

Isidore and Maria Parish Vacation Bible School (VBS). It's happening June 16 - June 20, 2025 from 9 a.m. - 12 noon at St. Paul Church. This year's theme is Come to the Table.

Children from age 4 to grade 5 are welcome to take part. Teen volunteers are also needed. The cost is \$30 per child. To learn more or to register, please visit <http://isidoreandmaria.org/vbs2025>.

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by
Saturday, Feb. 1 <i>Presentation of the Lord</i>	4 p.m.	Kenneth J. Williams	Sheila Hummel & Family
Sunday, Feb. 2 <i>Presentation of the Lord</i> World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life	8 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 11:15 a.m.	Helen Sciarra Peter & Louise Fliss Blessing of Candles at 9:30 a.m. Mass Lucy Spezzano	Dragotta Family Deborah Blagusesky Pulito Family
Monday, Feb. 3 <i>Weekday</i> <i>St. Blaise, Bishop & Martyr</i>	7:30 a.m.	Lydia Gonzalez	Daughter
Tuesday, Feb. 4 <i>Weekday</i>	7:30 a.m. 6:30 p.m.	Stacey Crutchfield (living) Solemn Celebration of Evening Prayer with Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament	Bereavement & Wellness Ministries
Wednesday, Feb. 5 <i>St. Agatha, Virgin & Martyr</i>	7:30 a.m.	Maria Dos Anjos Agular (10th Anniv.)	Brother & Family
Thursday, Feb. 6 <i>St. Paul Miki & Companions, Martyrs</i>		No Mass	
First Friday, Feb. 7 <i>Weekday</i>	12:15 p.m. After Mass until 2 p.m.	Nicholas Naples Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	Elaine Henry
Saturday, Feb. 8 <i>Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i> Hospitality Weekend	4 p.m.	Lisa Franklin Wine & Cheese Social following 4 p.m. Mass	Family
Sunday, Feb. 9 <i>Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i> World Marriage Day Hospitality Weekend	8 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 11:15 a.m.	Ruth Fumal Joan Daloni Bill Evans Coffee Social following 11:15 a.m. Mass	Catherine McCarthy Candiloro Family Dottie & Walter Twatchman

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.



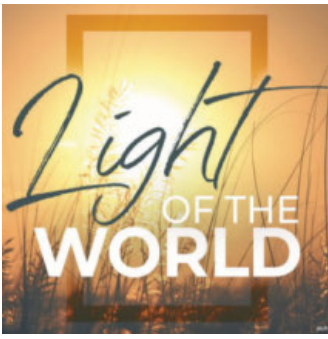
- | | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| Ellona Bilotta | Sheila Kimball |
| James Bilotta | Julia Miller |
| Diane Varni Caisse | Gilbert Morin |
| Sandra Cavanna | George Pappas |
| Thomas Cavanna | Peter Savidge |
| Chris Delissio | Frank Schultz |
| Robin DiTarando | Garland Taylor |
| Brian Faxon | Barbara Thurz |
| Jennifer Graham | Bill Vassar, Jr. |
| Dan Hebert | Andrea Villegas |
| Rita Henson | Mary E. Wallace |
| | Roger Yost |



In 1997, Pope Saint John Paul II instituted a day of prayer for women and men in consecrated life. This celebration is attached to the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord on February 2nd. This Feast is also known as Candlemas Day; the day on which candles are blessed symbolizing Christ who is the light of the world. So too, those in consecrated life are called to reflect the light of Jesus Christ to all peoples.

Please pray for all those who have made commitments in the consecrated life, and be sure to thank them on their special day. May they continue to be inspired by Jesus Christ and respond generously to God's gift of their vocation.

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.



"Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in the sight of all the peoples: a light for revelation to the Gentiles and glory for your people Israel." Very often, having more light is not something we desire, as it

forces us to confront things we do not want to see. There can be comfort found in darkness. It has an eerie sense of security to it. We do not have to challenge ourselves or be challenged and can exist in some fabricated state of self-protecting blissfulness. Jesus came to bring light, and it is a light that is resisted by many and hated by some. It is a light that causes us to see things as they really are and not as we would want or need them to be. It also clearly exposes the evils and injustices of our world.

It is no wonder then that Simeon boldly and honestly proclaims to Mary, "Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted and you yourself a sword will pierce so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed." We must take the Gospel message as it is and not just use those parts that are useful to us or more palatable. Taking Jesus at face value can and will lead to turmoil and dissension. Hearts will be pierced. Whether we like it, Jesus' proclamation of what God envisions for his world has real and absolute social implications.

In particular, it has much to say about how we treat our brothers and sisters spiritually, personally, economically, and globally. It has everything to do with the poor, the immigrant, the scared, the unborn, the vulnerable, the sick, and the broken. The light opens us to a challenging, table-turning experience that we may not want to see but must be illuminated.

~ Rev. Mark Suslenko



PODCAST: Trustworthy Hope

When people have hope, they also have faith because they hold a conviction that says, "I believe that the future will be better." There's no proof – there's just faith. That, in a nutshell, is trustworthy hope – which comes to us from God

himself and is the focus of this episode of Living in Faith, Hope, & Love, available on the parish website at <https://isidoreandmaria.org/podcasts>, and on your favorite podcast app.

PHOTO GALLERY: Weekday Hospitality January 2025



Check out the photos from the most recent Weekday Hospitality get-together at Join us next month when the Weekday Hospitality Weekend will be held following the 7:30 a.m. Mass on Tues., Feb. 18.

<https://isidoreandmaria.org/category/photo-galleries>.



Feb. 13: Parish Book Club Meeting

The Parish Book Club meets on Thurs., Feb. 13, at 1 p.m. in the education wing of St. Paul Church. The discussion will center on the book **Counting Miracles** by Nicholas Sparks. *Registration is required.*

<http://isidoreandmaria.org/bookclubfeb25>



The schedule of ImmaCare events for **February** is as follows:

- Thurs., Feb. 6: ImmaCare Outreach Program pick-up
- Fri., Feb. 7: ImmaCare Dinner Night
- Fri., Feb. 14: 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> 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. Visit <https://isidoreandmaria.org/immacare> for a list of needed items.

For the comfort of our congregation.



Please NO fragrances.

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

Out of respect for our church community, we kindly ask that you refrain from wearing perfumes, colognes, or any scented products while attending services and events. Some members have sensitivities that can cause

discomfort or health issues. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated in helping us create a welcoming and inclusive environment for all. Thank you for your understanding and support.

**WHO IS THIS KING OF GLORY?
IT IS THE LORD! (PS 24)**



Feb. 15: Marriage Anniversary Mass

On Sat., Feb. 15, The Most Reverend Christopher J. Coyne, Archbishop of Hartford, will be honoring couples celebrating milestone marriage anniversaries: first and five-year increments from 5 to 60 years, and every year beyond 60 years during 2024 – 2025. The Marriage Anniversary Mass will be at the Cathedral of Saint Joseph in Hartford at 4 p.m. Couples wishing to take part in this Mass are asked to register by Jan. 28 at <https://www.catholicedaohct.org/faith-formation/family-life-ministries/archdiocesan-anniversary-mass>.



UPDATED: Retreat, Rest, and Recover in 2025!

Sometimes, you need a break from the secular world to become closer to Jesus. Consider embarking upon a Catholic retreat. Whether it's for a half-day, full-day, weekend, or longer, there are several local Catholic retreat centers,

each with a full schedule of ongoing day and overnight retreats for individuals and groups. Visit <http://isidoreandmaria.org/retreats> to check out the update information, which includes a list of weekend retreats for both men and women from now through Lent and Easter 2025!

In the Lord's hand there is an abundance of all things, because He is the Lord of powers and King of Glory. ~St. Callistus I~



Scripture Readings for the Week

- SUN 2/2/25** Mal 3:1-4/Heb 2:14-18/Ps 24:7, 8, 9, 10/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22-32
- MON 2/3/25** Heb 11:32-40/Ps 31:20, 21, 22, 23, 24/Mk 5:1-20
- TUES 2/4/25** Heb 12:1-4/Ps 22:26b-27, 28 and 30, 31-32/Mk 5:21-43
- WED 2/5/25** Heb 12:4-7, 11-15/Ps 103:1-2, 13-14, 17-18a/Mk 6:1-6
- THR 2/6/25** Heb 12:18-19, 21-24/Ps 48:2-3ab, 3cd-4, 9, 10-11//Mk 6:7-13
- FRI 2/7/25** Heb 13:1-8/Ps 27:1, 3, 5, 8b-9abc/Mk 6:14-29
- SAT 2/8/25** Heb 13:15-17, 20-21/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/Mk 6:30-34
- SUN 2/9/25** Is 6:1-2a, 3-8/Ps 138:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 7-8 (1c)/1 Cor 15:1-11 or 15:3-8, 11/Lk 5:1-11



Feb. 8 & Feb. 9: Hospitality Weekend

Join your fellow parishioners at our all-parish Hospitality Weekend events next weekend! We'll have a wine and cheese social following the 4 p.m. Mass on Sat., Feb. 8, and a noon get-together on Sun., Feb. 9, after the 11:15 a.m. Mass. Both events are held in the south wing of St. Paul Church.



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

Our Sponsor Spotlight this week is:
MDMed Alert



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
Beau Douglas
Celia Fajardo
Brandon Farrell
Gabe Forthofer
Kevin Gamache
Chris Gibb
Michael Hitzer
Peter Kamianowski

Madeline Lanzi
Mark J. Lord
Samuel MacDonald
Alexis Maher
Michael Scott Mullin
John W. Murphy
Drew Scarfone
Timothy Sullivan
Jack M. Zaremba

Reflect and Respond to Scripture

First Reading:

Malachi prophesied a coming messenger who will purify those making offerings to the Lord. *How do you prepare for Sunday worship?*

Second Reading:

Hebrews teaches that Jesus was tested and suffered so that he could be merciful and understanding with our struggles and challenges.

What are you facing this week that Jesus could help you with?

Gospel:

Mary and Joseph received incredible news from Simeon and Anna about the infant Jesus at his presentation in the Temple. *Who helps you process startling or unsettling information?*

This Day in History — Feb. 2



Candlemas is a Christian festival celebrated on Feb. 2 that commemorates when the Virgin Mary, in obedience to Jewish law, went to the Temple in Jerusalem both to be purified 40 days after the birth of her son, Jesus, and to present him to God as

her firstborn (Luke 2:22–38). The festival was once known in the Roman Catholic Church as the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is now known as the Presentation of the Lord.

Traditionally, the Western term "Candlemas" (or Candle Mass) referred to the practice whereby a priest on Feb. 2 blessed beeswax candles for use throughout the year. These were sometimes distributed to the faithful for use in the home.

Groundhog Day is a popular North American tradition observed in the United States and Canada on February 2. It derives from a Pennsylvania Dutch superstition that if a groundhog emerging from its burrow on that date sees its shadow, it will retreat to its den, and winter will persist for six more weeks. However, spring will arrive early if it does not see its shadow because of cloudiness.

Groundhog? Groundhog? Somebody say something about a Groundhog???
Oliver, you see a shadow?



Harry & Oliver's Corner

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Presentation_of_Jesus_at_the_Temple https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Groundhog_Day

860-633-9419

SS. Isidore and Maria Parish Directory

www.isidoreandmaria.org

Clergy

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William G. Dziatko, Deacon
Stephen L. Weaver, Deacon

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Director of Music Ministries
david@isidoreandmaria.org

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Ministry Coordinator
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Melissa Lacafta
Admin. Assistant to the Pastor
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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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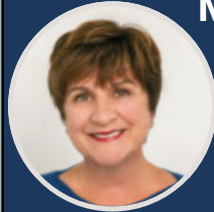
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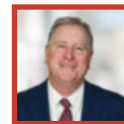
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