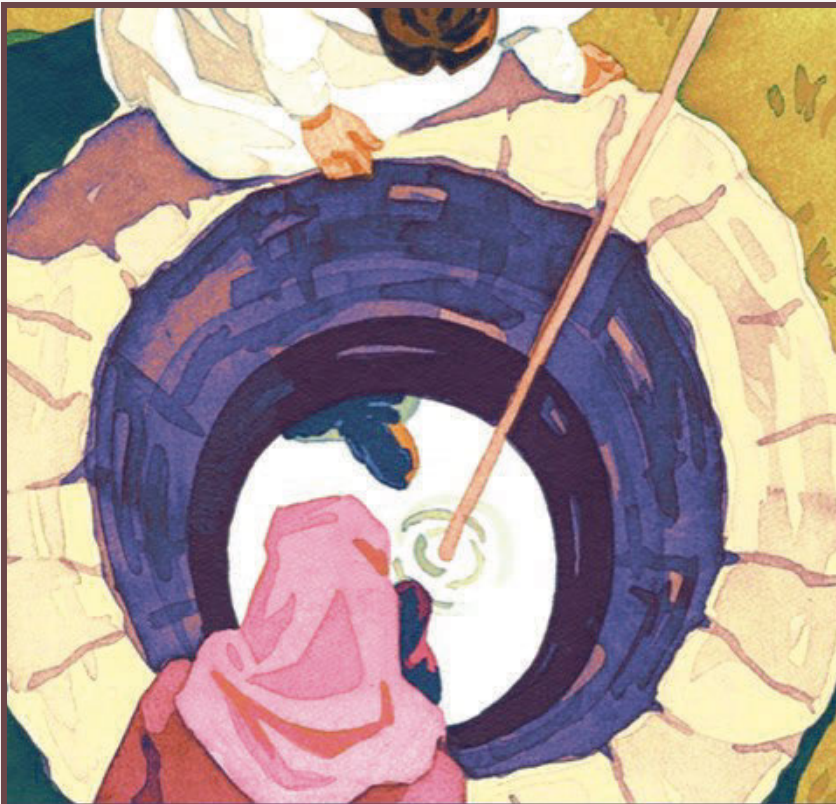




SS. Isidore and Maria Parish

2577 Main Street - Glastonbury, CT 06033



March 23, 2025
Third Sunday of Lent



"Lord, you are truly the Savior of the world;
give me living water, that I may never thirst again." - John 4:42, 45

— ANNUAL —
**MEN'S
Retreat**
GATHER · CONNECT · REVIVE

March 28-30: Men's Retreat - *In my Love, Abide*

Jesus wishes peace and love for us. Jesus prayed often and taught his disciples to do the same. Pope Francis has named this year a "Year of Prayer". He described it as "a year

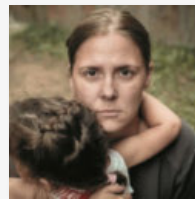
dedicated to the great value and absolute need for prayer in one's personal life and in the world today". We invite you to come and explore the depths of prayer and learn ways to maintain the sacred connection to God through Christ. The retreat begins with a buffet dinner from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Fri. evening and concludes Sun. with the celebration of Mass at 10:45 a.m. followed by a hot brunch at noon. Families of retreatants are most welcome to attend the Sunday Mass and brunch at no extra charge. For more information and registration, please contact the Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center at HolyFamilyRetreat.org, or 860-521-0440.



Inspiration for the Week

by Rev. Mark Suslenko

Is the Lord in our midst or not?" Have you ever found yourself asking this question? Finding God's presence and truly encountering God are not always easy tasks. When we seek God only with our minds, we risk reducing God to simply an idea rather than meeting him as Someone real and present to us. We all must wrestle with who we are and what gives our lives purpose and meaning. We can often get confused and misunderstand who we are and who God is. Even the disciples and the Samaritan woman at the well missed the point Jesus was trying to make. Only one Person can satisfy the deepest yearnings and longings of our hearts. Only Jesus can lead us to truth and provide the water to quench our thirst. We must come to see that Jesus is the world's savior, not only with our heads but with our hearts. We know that God is truly present only when we can honestly make this confession.



Mar. 29: Faces of Homelessness

Have you ever thought about what it's like to be without a home – nowhere to sleep, eat, or bathe; no place to be warm; no one to

care for you? Jesus experienced homelessness during his life on earth, as a newborn, and during his ministry.

SS. Isidore and Maria Parish partners with **Hands On Hartford** to present "*Faces of Homelessness*," during which two individuals who have experienced homelessness will share their journeys — both their struggles and their triumphs. It's happening on **Sat., Mar. 29, from 1 to 3 p.m. in St. Augustine Hall, 55 Hopewell Rd. in South Glastonbury.**

RSVPs are requested. For more information: <https://isidoreandmaria.org/faceshomelessness>

Response to the Mar. 6 Glastonbury Citizen Article

Father Mark is setting the record straight about a Mar. 6 front page article in the Glastonbury Citizen concerning the parking lot agreement between the town and the parish. Read his point-by-point rebuttal at <http://isidoreandmaria.org/citizenmarch2025>

Parish Support

"As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace." +++ 1 Peter 4:10

Collections and Parish Finance

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



Report for the week of 3/16/2025:

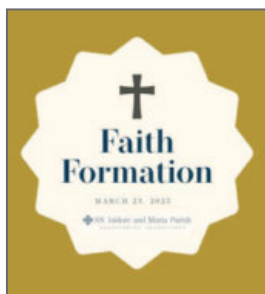
Weekly collection: \$ 6,441.00
Online Giving: \$ 3,520.50
Total: \$ 9,961.50

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.

Faith Formation



Faith Formation Schedule for the Week of Mar. 23, 2025

Sun., Mar. 23

- Grades 9 & 10 Mass: 9:30 a.m. at St. Paul Church — Children, please bring your donation of boxes of mac and cheese 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 Classrooms.
- Grade 3: 10:45 a.m.-12 p.m. Meet in the Library.
- Grades 4-8 Online Program – Regular weekly submissions are due by Friday.
- Grades 4-6 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.-5:45 p.m. Meet in the South Wing.
- Grade 10/Year 2 – 6 p.m.-7:15 p.m. Meet in the South Wing.
- Tues., Mar. 25 or Thurs., Mar. 27
- Grades 7 & 8 Family Program – Tues. at 4:30 p.m.- 5:45 p.m. OR Thurs. 5:30 p.m.-6:45 p.m. Children only meet in the Library

Fri., Mar. 28

- **Stations of the Cross** – 6:30 p.m. at St. Paul Church. **Families should attend two prayer services throughout Lent and submit their reflections afterward.** The reflection form may be found here: <http://isidoreandmaria.org/reflectionform>



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.

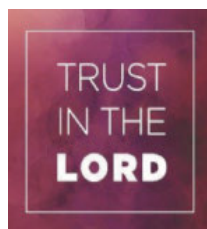
"Only by Giving are you able to receive More than you already have." ~ JIM ROHN



Branches on the Vine

Mar. 21 –28

Read about the three men from the Archdiocese of Hartford who are studying in Rome thanks to the generosity of donors to the Archbishop's Annual Appeal! It's in the latest edition of Branches on the Vine, available here: <https://isidoreandmaria.org/category/branches-on-the-vine/>



NOW UNDERWAY:

2025 Archbishop's Annual Appeal

The 2025 Archbishop's Annual Appeal is now underway in our parish. Our goal is to engage our entire parish family in this year's Appeal and to pray for the success of the Appeal!

All funds contributed are used exclusively for the purposes outlined in the Appeal literature. No Appeal funds are ever used for legal fees or settlements. Please respond as generously as your means allow at <https://archdioceseofhartford.org/appeal/>.



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

Our Sponsor Spotlight this week:
Glastonbury Hills Country Club

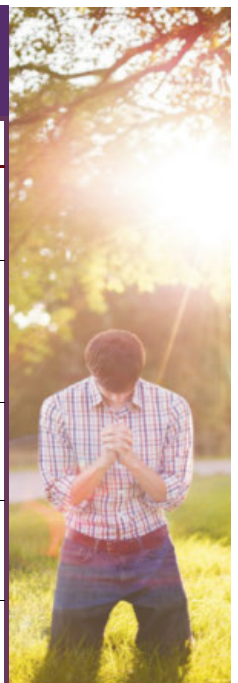
"As Lent is the time for greater love, listen to Jesus' thirst... 'Repent and believe' Jesus tells us. What are we to repent? Our indifference, our hardness of heart. What are we to believe? Jesus thirsts even now, in your heart and in the poor -- He knows your weakness. He wants only your love, wants only the chance to love you."

~ St. Teresa of Calcutta ~

Eucharist

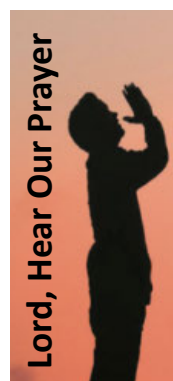
"There is nothing so great as the Eucharist. If God had something more precious, He would have given it to us."
+++ St. John Maria Vianney

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by
Saturday, Mar. 22 <i>Third Sunday of Lent</i>	4 p.m.	Eugene Nowacki (12th Anniv.)	Christine Knight
Sunday, Mar. 23 <i>Third Sunday of Lent</i>	8 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 11:15 a.m.	D. Joon Yoo Ann Panek (1st Anniv.) Marie Neuman (living)	Family Family Bucior Family
Monday, Mar. 24 <i>Lenten Weekday</i>	7:30 a.m. 12-1 p.m.	Wanda Urbansky Confession	Fran Juda
Tuesday, Mar. 25 Annunciation of the Lord	7:30 a.m. 7 p.m.	Kathleen Price Pray the Rosary (St. Augustine Church)	John Price
Wednesday, Mar. 26 <i>Lenten Weekday</i>	7:30 a.m.	Judy Graziano	Bob McCarthy
Thursday, Mar. 27 <i>Lenten Weekday</i>		No Mass	
Friday, Mar. 28 <i>Lenten Weekday</i> Day of Abstinence	12:15 p.m. After Mass until 2 p.m.	James Rice (4th Anniv.) Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	Family
Saturday, Mar. 29 <i>Fourth Sunday of Lent</i> <i>Laetare Sunday</i>	4 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Angelo Casanelli Stations of the Cross (St. Paul Church)	Aaron Pinto
Sunday, Mar. 30 <i>Fourth Sunday of Lent</i> <i>Laetare Sunday</i>	8 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 11:15 a.m.	Kara Nealon LaPlante Henry A. Barrera (32nd Anniv.) Patricia Randall Taylor	Paul & Sharon Hesler Daughter Pat & Family The Tennis Ladies



IF TODAY
YOU HEAR
HIS VOICE,
HARDEN
NOT YOUR
HEARTS.
(PSALM 95)

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	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	Mary E. Wallace
Rita Henson	Glyn Wellum
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.



The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary. And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with Thee; Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, Pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen

Behold the handmaid of the Lord. Be it done unto me according to thy Word.

"Lent stimulates us to let the Word of God penetrate our life and in this way to know the fundamental truth: who we are, where we come from, where we must go, what path we must take in life..." *Pope Benedict XVI*

SACRED ILLUSIONS

It all really boils down to whether we believe the Lord is in our midst. A simple response of "yes" creates the seedbed for faith and paves the way for dismantling some of the illusions we desperately cling to. We harbor illusions that inhibit our pathways not only to God but to one another. Illusions of separateness, superiority, and self-sufficiency are but a few. We all too easily forget what water we need to drink, where to find God's presence, what we need to grow in faith and how God acts in the lives of those he loves.

The illusions we cling to keep our eyes focused on the things of this world, causing us to believe that we are somehow responsible for our own happiness and independent contractors negotiating our way through life. These illusions, that veil the greater truth of who we are, cause us to live with dichotomies and separateness. We find ourselves falsely believing that God is here and not there, what is mine is not yours, that more is better than less, and that I have some kind of "earned" privilege over you. An illusion of arrogance makes us believe we are creators of our own destiny and better than others who may look and live differently than we do.

What we need is living water. If we listen carefully, as our Lenten season directs, we can easily discover that we are in

want and need. We know our incompleteness and also know that loneliness, sadness, and distorted self-images can propel us outward in attempts to fill those gaps, those thirsts. We can become not only victims of our own prejudices but can find ourselves overly self-indulgent in things that can only satisfy for a short time if at all. It is no wonder that money and power are things that are so fervently sought after and defended. As long as we can keep a steady supply going, the illusion of fulfillment and satisfaction can falsely persuade us as craftily as a master magician's act. We live with illusions not truth.

As long as we continue to live in the boxes the illusion of separateness brings, we will never discover the life-giving water we truly need. God can be found in the most amazing and unsuspecting of places and in the least likely of people and circumstances. But, if we limit where we look to discover the truth of God and of who we are, we will miss so many opportunities and moments of grace. It is so easy to fall victim to the world's illusion that we can handle this human journey without God. This distorts our relationships and removes us from the true axis of our lives.

Only God can reveal the truth of our sinfulness, the superficiality of many of our pursuits and the illusions we hold so dear. Only Jesus can save us from ourselves and give us what we really need. St. John Paul II reminds us that: "The greatest deception and the deepest source of illusion is the illusion of

continued on page 5

Lenten Activities

For more information please visit
isidoreandmaria.org/lentschedule2025

Lenten Confessions

For Lent, SS. Isidore and Maria Parish will conduct the Sacrament of Reconciliation each **Monday** from **12 noon to 1 p.m.** at St. Paul Church. This is in addition to reconciliation on Saturdays at 2:30 p.m. The dates are as follows:

- **Mon., Mar. 24** • **Mon., Apr. 7**
- **Mon., Mar. 31** • **Mon., Apr. 14**



Stations of the Cross

Each Friday in Lent at 6:30 p.m. at St. Paul Church as follows:

- Mar. 28 • Apr. 11
- Apr. 4 • April 18*

**Stations of the Cross take place at St. Augustine Church on Good Friday, Apr. 18.*

Catholics in good health ages 18 to 59 are required to fast and to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

Fasting consists of eating only one meal, with the possibility of two smaller snacks that do not add up to a single full meal.

Catholics age 14 and older are to abstain from meat on all Fridays in Lent.



2025 CRS Rice Bowls Available

SS. Isidore and Maria Parish is coming together with more than 13,000 Catholic communities

across the United States to help feed the hungry nationwide with Catholic Relief Services (CRS) Rice Bowl. Pick up your family's CRS Rice Bowl now at the entrances of the church or make your online donation at <https://www.crsricebowl.org/>.



2025 Lenten Giving Program is here!

The Lenten Giving Program for 2025 is here, with donations supporting the parish **HOPE Ministry**. HOPE works to enhance the quality of life and help build self-sufficiency for those in our community who need financial and social services.

*Donations close on Easter Sunday - April 20, 2025. Visit <http://isidoreandmaria.org/lentengiving2025> to make your online Lenten Giving Program donation to the parish HOPE Ministry. You may also place a cash or check donation (checks payable to SS Isidore and Maria) in an envelope labeled **HOPE Ministry** into the collection kiosks.*



Mar. 29 & 30: Catholic Relief Services Collection

On Mar. 29 & 30, SS. Isidore and Maria Parish join parishes across the U.S. in taking up a collection to support the work of six Church-related entities that all aid the vulnerable in carrying out Christ's mandate in Matthew's Gospel to care for the "least of these." These include six entities include:

- Catholic Relief Services (CRS) provides disaster relief and economic development initiatives among the developing world's poorest people.
- Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church at the USCCB helps the Church address the pastoral needs of U.S. Catholics across many cultural boundaries.
- The Secretariat of Justice and Peace at the USCCB advocates for and engages in outreach for the poor and works for peace.
- Migration & Refugee Services at the USCCB welcomes and assists newcomers to the U.S., especially victims of war and persecution.
- Catholic Legal Immigration Network (CLINIC) provides legal aid to refugees and migrants, including immigrant Catholic clergy, religious sisters, and brothers who need help navigating United States immigration law.
- The Holy Father's Relief Fund enables the Pope to assist disaster victims quickly.

We thank you for your prayerful consideration of making a donation to this second collection. Please use the specially marked envelope in your packet or place your donation in an envelope marked "Catholic Relief Services Collection" and place it in any donation kiosk. Please make any check out to SS. Isidore and Maria Parish with a note in the memo line that it is for the **Catholic Relief Services Collection**.



Scripture Readings for the Week

SUN 3/23/25

Ex 3:1-8a, 13-15/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8, 11 (8a)/1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12/Lk 13:1-9
Scrutiny: Ex 17:3-7/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9 (8)/Rom 5:1-2, 5-8/Jn 4:5-42 or 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42

MON 3/24/25

2 Kgs 5:1-15b/Ps 42:2, 3; 43:3, 4/Lk 4:24-30

TUES 3/25/25

Is 7:10-14; 8:10/Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 11/Heb 10:4-10/Lk 1:26-38

WED 3/26/25

Dt 4:1, 5-9/Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20/Mt 5:17-19

THR 3/27/25

Jer 7:23-28/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9/Lk 11:14-23

FRI 3/28/25

Hos 14:2-10/Ps 81:6c-8a, 8bc-9, 10-11ab, 14 and 17/Mk 12:28-34

SAT 3/29/25

Hos 6:1-6/Ps 51:3-4, 18-19, 20-21ab/Lk 18:9-14

SUN 3/30/25

Jos 5:9a, 10-12/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7 (9a)/2 Cor 5:17-21/Lk 15:1-3, 11-32
Scrutiny: 1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 (1)/Eph 5:8-14/Jn 9:1-41 or 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38

Sacred Illusions continued from page 4

finding joy by excluding God, of finding freedom by excluding moral truths and personal responsibility." Our technological world allow us access to a tremendous amount of information and stimulations, to possess and accumulate things, and to accomplish many tasks. We have become less the stewards God intended us to be and more the consumers we were warned not to be. It is difficult for us to face our illusions and dependencies. They are so engrained in daily life and popularly held by so many around us.

As human beings, we do not like change. But, when it's all said and done what is it we really want to achieve? Is it greater status, financial wealth and security, more popularity or power? Do we measure ourselves purely with an earthly yardstick or is something deeper seeking our attention in the midst of life's busyness? Do you want to stay with the status quo of life or do you want to set sail into the wonderfulness of the surprises God has in store? Illusions keep us stuck and keep our eyes focused to what is below us.

When you are feeling unsettled, empty, a bit unfulfilled or frustrated, to what well do you journey to quench that thirst? Is it one constructed by human hands or by God's?

Ministry Highlight—Hospitality



Have you ever attended a Hospitality Weekend event or other reception at our parish? These events happen as a result of the hard work of our all-volunteer Hospitality Ministry! Volunteers act as "hosts" for many of the Parish's social events by arranging for food and drink through the Parish, facilitating

the flow during the event, and cleaning up afterward. Volunteers are always needed for this important and welcoming ministry. For more information or to volunteer, visit <https://isidoreandmaria.org/hospitality>



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

Darius Gittens

Michael Hitzer

Peter Kamianowski

Madeline Lanzi

Mark J. Lord

Gannon Lynch

Samuel MacDonald

Alexis Maher

Michael Scott Mullin

John W. Murphy

Drew Scarfone

Timothy Sullivan

Jack M. Zaremba

THE JUBILEE PRAYER

Father in heaven,
may the faith you have given us
in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,
and the flame of charity enkindled
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,
reawaken in us the blessed hope
for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us
into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.
May those seeds transform from within
both humanity and the whole cosmos
in the sure expectation
of a new heaven and a new earth,
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,
your glory will shine eternally.

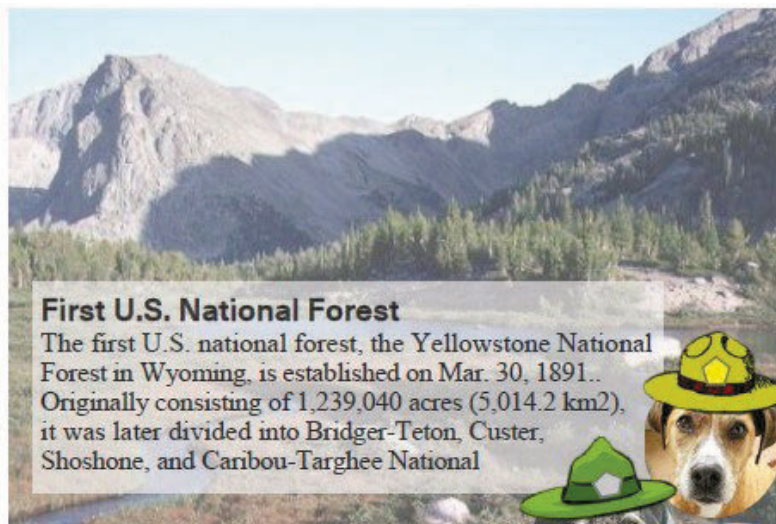
May the grace of the Jubilee
reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope,
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.
May that same grace spread
the joy and peace of our Redeemer
throughout the earth.

To you our God, eternally blessed,
be glory and praise for ever.
Amen

Francis



This Day in History — March 30, 1891



First U.S. National Forest

The first U.S. national forest, the Yellowstone National Forest in Wyoming, is established on Mar. 30, 1891.. Originally consisting of 1,239,040 acres (5,014.2 km2), it was later divided into Bridger-Teton, Custer, Shoshone, and Caribou-Targhee National

As Park Rangers we could meet all kinds of new friends! Small, furry critters and birds are nice but let's be careful Harry, asking Mr. Grizzly Bear to share our treats!



Harry & Oliver's Corner

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
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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



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Donna Berger
Faith Formation Director
donna@isidoreandmaria.org

Ann Poker
Program Coordinator
ann@isidoreandmaria.org

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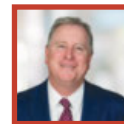
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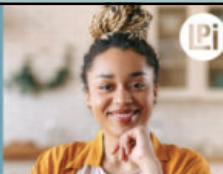
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