



May 25, 2025
Sixth Sunday of Easter

“The Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all that I told you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.”
— John 14:26-27a

Inspiration for the Week by Rev. Mark Suslenko

Everyone wants to experience peace. We can easily get disappointed when we look to the world to provide this. We associate peace with an absence of war and conflict, good relationships between neighbors and coworkers, the achievement of success, and even the lack of noise! While all of these are worthy endeavors, pursuing them exclusively as a path to experiencing peace sets us up for failure. It will never be found when we look for peace outside of ourselves. True and lasting peace comes from within. It is not something we can produce or receive from others. Peace is discovered when we experience inner wholeness and harmony. It is born of a sense of connectedness with a God larger and more significant than us, gifting us His presence. It is the only peace offered by the Risen Christ that can settle our hearts and calm our fears. Regardless of the degree of turmoil around us, this sense of completeness that Jesus gives anchors our boats and prevents us from sinking.



**May 26:
Annual
Memorial
Day Mass**

Join us on Mon., May 26 at 11 a.m. for the **Annual Memorial Day Mass at St. Augustine Cemetery**, 136 Hopewell Rd., South Glastonbury.

This Mass is offered for the more than 350 Veterans for whom the cemetery is the final resting place, for the souls of nearly 3,000 others who are buried there, and for all men and women who have died while serving in the U.S. military.

Those attending are asked to bring a lawn or folding chair. In the event of inclement weather, the Mass will be held at nearby St. Augustine Church, 55 Hopewell Rd., South Glastonbury. Please visit the parish website and social media channels on Memorial Day for updates.

Please note: there is NO 7:30 a.m. Mass on Mon. May 26 (Memorial Day)



**May 29 is the
Ascension of
the Lord, a holy
day of obligation**
for all Catholics.

SS. Isidore and Maria Parish will

hold Masses at St. Paul Church:

- **Wed., May 28 (vigil) at 6 p.m.**
- **Thurs., May 29 at 12:15 p.m.**

Please note: there is NO 7:30 a.m. Mass on Ascension Thursday (May 29).

When I trust deeply that today God is truly with me and holds me safe in a divine embrace, guiding every one of my steps I can let go of my anxious need to know how tomorrow will look, or what will happen next month or next year. I can be fully where I am and pay attention to the many signs of God's love within me and around me.

~ Henri Nouwen

Parish Support

Collections and Parish Finance

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



Report for the week of 5/18/2025:

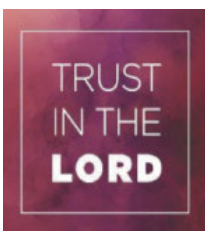
Weekly collection: \$ 7,627.00

Online Giving: \$ 3,886.50

Total: \$ 11,513.50

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.



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/>.



High School Seniors: Apply for a 2025 Melzen Memorial Scholarship

SS. Isidore and Maria Parish is awarding two (2) scholarships for graduating high school seniors in memory of **Joseph J. Melzen, Sr.** Each scholarship awarded will be \$500.00 per year for up to four

years of college education. Any high school senior graduating in spring 2025 and having a parent registered as a member of SS. Isidore and Maria Parish are welcome to apply. Scholarship payments will be sent directly to the learning institution that the student will attend. For more information or to apply, visit www.isidoreandmaria.org/scholarship2025. **Deadline for application is midnight on May 31, 2025.**



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

Our Sponsor Spotlight this week:

**RELIABLE
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PODCAST: The Journey of Love and Suffering

In his latest podcast, Father Mark explores the idea of love through the lens of suffering, and the idea that they are not really opposites, but are, in fact, companions on a journey, bound together in Christ's life, death, and resurrection.

Listen now at <https://isidoreandmaria.org/podcasts>.



Branches on the Vine May 24 – May 30, 2025

Father Ajesh Ouseph has prayed the rosary every day since he was a child. He even learned the skill of rosary making from a family in his

hometown in India. Now, it's a skill he's sharing with others in our Archdiocese. Read about it in the latest edition of **Branches on the Vine** from the Archdiocese of Hartford: <https://isidoreandmaria.org/category/branches-on-the-vine>.

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.



Regina's Writings: Just a Wannabe Saint

Though she writes about faith, M. Regina Cram is the first to admit she is as far from saint-hood as the rest of us. Get to know Regina even better in her latest column:

<https://isidoreandmaria.org/category/reginas-writings/>.

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

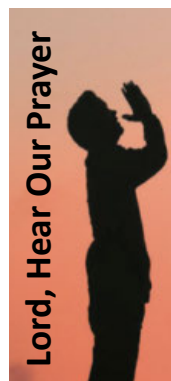
Date	Time	Intention	Requested by
Saturday, May 24 Sixth Sunday of Easter	4 p.m.	Shirley Cyr	Gallery Choir
Sunday, May 25 Sixth Sunday of Easter	8 a.m.	Helene LaCroix	Jim & Margaret LaCroix
	9:30 a.m.	Ken Bayman	John & Mary Ann Kuschman
	11:15 a.m.	Edward McGuiness	Family
Monday, May 26 St. Philip Neri, Priest Memorial Day	No Morning Mass 11 a.m. Mass at St. Augustine Cemetery		
Tuesday, May 27 St. Augustine of Canterbury, Bishop	7:30 a.m.	Mary Begley	Marisa Howard
	7 p.m.	Pray the Rosary (St. Augustine Church)	
Wednesday, May 28 Easter Weekday	7:30 a.m.	Alan Abramoske	Wife Pat
	6 p.m.	Donald Chomick	Rich & Trish Ehrhardt
	Vigil Mass for the Ascension		
Thursday, May 29 Ascension of the Lord (Holy Day of Obligation)	12:15 p.m.	Madeline Agin	Fran Juda
Friday, May 30 Easter Weekday	12:15 p.m.	Joseph & Amelia Juda	Fran Juda
	After Mass until 2 p.m. Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament		
Saturday, May 31 Seventh Sunday of Easter	4 p.m.	Rose Maria Braun	Elaine Henry & Family
Sunday, June 1 Seventh Sunday of Easter	8 a.m.	D. Joon Yoo	Family
	9:30 a.m.	Thomas McGrath	Berger Family
	11:15 a.m.	Mathias Ngang & Family	Kenta-Bibi Family

O GOD,
LET
ALL THE
NATIONS
PRAISE
YOU!

(PS 67)

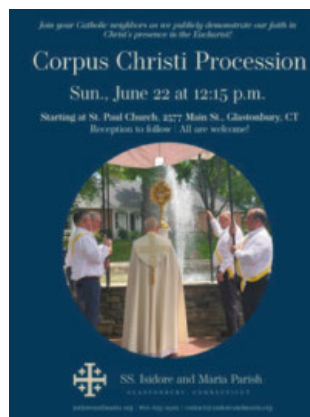


If you are offering a Mass Intention and you and your loved ones would like to bring up the gifts, please see the greeters prior to the start of Mass. One of them will be happy to assist you.



Ellona Bilotta
James Bilotta
Diane Varni Caisse
Sandra Cavanna
Thomas Cavanna
Chris Delissio
Robin DiTarando
Brian Faxon
Jennifer Graham
Dan Hebert
Rita Henson
Sheila Kimball
Julia Miller

Gilbert Morin
Stephen O'Brien
George Pappas
Peter Savidge
Frank Schultz
Garland Taylor
Barbara Thurz
Bill Vassar, Jr.
Andrea Villegas
Mary E. Wallace
Glyn Wellum
Roger Yost



Jun. 22: Corpus Christi Procession

Join us following the 11:15 a.m. Mass on **Sun., June 22** - Corpus Christi Sunday - to experience the magnificence and grandeur of the Procession of the Feast of Corpus Christi. We'll go forth from St. Paul Church, bringing Christ to the streets, witnessing to our faith, and giving due honor and glory to God in the Eucharist.

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.





It's all out of control. Inflation, the economy, violence, oppression, greed, morality, and tensions are all escalating as people scurry about for a sense of stability and well-being. Power

seems to win the game, and self-aggrandizement appears to be the order of the day. Love gets watered down to tolerance and accepting whomever and whatever is presented. The axis around which meaning and truth are found is twisted. Human beings appear to be engaged in an identity crisis of vast proportion, and they are not sure whether standard, acceptable, and appropriate protocols any longer exist. We are lost. When one nation feels entitled to the goods of another and feels justified using any means possible to obtain them, we are in trouble. While this is happening most explicitly in Ukraine, there are other parts of the world where greed, exploitation, and violence are regular occurrences. Even in the United States, violent carjacking and general theft are becoming commonplace, and a blatant disregard for human life seems more evident. We often act as if our life journey is simply a random occurrence, that we are here on this planet for no known reason and accountable to no one. Norms and protocols catering to personal preferences become a matter of what protects each other's rights and space. Benchmarks and standards for growing, maturing, perfecting, and refining human thought and behavior no longer exist.

The world needs the good news of the Ascension of Jesus Christ. Pope Francis states, "The Ascension does not point to Jesus' absence, but tells us that he is alive in our midst in a new way. He is now in the Lordship of God, present in every space and time, close to each one of us." If God is present in every space and time, then he is actively involved in what is happening in our lives. He works through our positive and negative experiences, bringing us to a renewed and more focused place. The Ascension allows us to see this truth about ourselves, enlightening our hearts. Christ, who was most perfectly, vividly, and brilliantly transfigured before the very eyes of the disciples will be our destiny.

Faith brings resolution to humanity's identity crisis. Faith corrects our misunderstandings of love. Faith seeks non-violent solutions to humanity's many conflicts. Faith removes our self-focus and deepens our vision. Faith provides the benchmarks we need to grow and mature properly. Faith offers the centering axis we need to order our lives. And only faith can give us real hope. Perhaps

the cause of humanity's identity crisis is nothing other than an absence of faith. How can we believe that God takes a genuine interest in our lives if we do not believe in God in the first place?

The answer to what plagues us is not easily found. However, before we can even think of repairing and constructing, we must have solid plans and build a secure foundation. The Ascension reminds us of who God is, who we are, and who we are meant to be. All we have to do is believe in what God promises. In this way, we acquire our anchor for proper self-knowledge and a benchmark for judging actions.

When people are angry, hurting, displaced, confused, and broken, it is hard to convince them there is a better way. The rise in addiction and mental health issues indicates social structures that are failing. When the inability of society to care for an unwanted child justifies the right to take that child in its mother's womb, something is incredibly wrong. Only faith tells us, without doubt, who we are. Any decisions made without that secure and foundational reference point are subject to serious error. There is no doubt that our lives can become unsettled and empty. When we rely too much on the things of this world to please us, we can easily lose our excitement, enthusiasm, wonder, and joy. No worldly thing, no matter how great, can satisfy the longing of a human heart. Only God does that.

Imagine how different life would be if everyone approached each moment as a creative opportunity to see what God would do. When encountered with faith, even darkness has great potential to become light. The neighbor who gets under our skin, the demanding coworker we see every day, the person at the supermarket who is rude to us, the older person we met on our daily walk who seemed so disheveled, the perfect sunrise that greeted us in the morning, and the wonderful aroma and taste of our first cup of coffee can all be used by God to awaken us, humble us, and bring us to a heightened sense of his presence.

If people understood the power of faith, they would better understand who they are and where they are going. It would be harder to take something that doesn't belong to us, strike out in vengeful violence when we are hurt, allow greed to override the fundamental sanctity of human life, justify behaviors that are blatantly sinful and wrong, give in to the whims of desire and passion, and live life as if we are the only ones that matter. The world needs the good news of the Ascension of Jesus Christ. Why are we so reluctant to preach and accept the truth? Christ is our destiny and our hope. It's that simple. Alleluia!



Jun. 9: Discover Your Calling: Exploring Catholic Vocations

Join us for **Discover Your Calling: Exploring Catholic Vocations** on Mon., Jun. 9 from 7 - 9 p.m. in Father Bannon Hall at St. Dunstan Church, 1345 Manchester Road, Glastonbury. This evening will offer presentations and discussions

about discerning God's call to:

- **Priesthood:** Serving the Church through sacraments, preaching, and pastoral care.
- **Religious Life:** Living a consecrated life of prayer, community, and service as a sister, brother, or nun.
- **Marriage:** Building a holy family and witnessing God's love through lifelong commitment.
- **Diaconate:** Serving the Church through liturgy, charity, and the Word.
- **Lay Ministry:** Using your gifts in service within the parish and the wider community.

Whether you are just beginning to wonder or are well along on your discernment journey, this event will offer guidance, inspiration, and community support. Refreshments will be served. Registration is required. To register, please visit <https://isidoreandmaria.org/vocationsjun2025>, or scan the QR code.

Do you have questions before you register? Please contact **Jack Harrington** (SS. Isidore and Maria Parish) at vocations@isidoreandmaria.org, or by phone at 860-931-1855, or **Romina Italia** (St. Dunstan Parish) at vocationsct@gmail.com, or by phone at 860-337-3013.



Scripture Readings for the Week

SUN 5/25/25	Acts 15:1-2, 22-29/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 (4)/ Rv 21:10-14, 22-23/Jn 14:23-29
MON 5/26/25	Acts 16:11-15/Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b/Jn 15:26—16:4a
TUES 5/27/25	Acts 16:22-34/Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8/ Jn 16:5-11
WED 5/28/25	Acts 17:15, 22—18:1/Ps 148:1-2, 11-12, 13, 14/Jn 16:12-15
THR 5/29/25	<i>Ascension:</i> Acts 1:1-11/Ps 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9 (6)/Eph 1:17-23 or Heb 9:24-28; 10:19-23/ Lk 24:46-53
FRI 5/30/25	Acts 18:9-18/Ps 47:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/ Jn 16:20-23
SAT 5/31/25	Zep 3:14-18a or Rom 12:9-16/Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6/Lk 1:39-56
SUN 6/1/25	Acts 7:55-60/Rv 22:12-14, 16-17, 20/ Jn 17:20-26

Upcoming Women's Retreats

May 30 - Jun. 1: Welcoming the women of our parish to attend a weekend retreat at **Holy Family Retreat Center** in West Hartford. **In My Love, Abide** is dedicated to rediscovering the great value and absolute need for prayer in one's personal life, in the life of the Church, and in the world. Retreat offering is \$350 per person, with scholarships available. For more information or to register, visit <https://www.holyfamilyretreat.org/themed-retreats>. If you have questions or wish to coordinate carpooling, contact Vivien at 203-260-3693, or by email at Vivtota93@gmail.com. Scholarship inquiries may be made to the parish office at contact@isidoreandmaria.org

May 31 from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.: Morning Marian Retreat for Women!

This retreat celebrates the Feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and includes light breakfast, Mass, Rosary, and talks by a priest from the Legionaries of Christ. You'll also learn how to make a Marian Garden, and leave with a starter plant! This retreat takes places at the LC Cheshire Seminary, 475 Oak Ave., Cheshire. Offering is \$15. For more information or to RSVP, email suzip@snet.net.

June 5-8: St. Philip The Apostle Church will be sponsoring a **Women's ACTS Retreat** June 5-8, 2025, at the Immaculate Conception Center, in Putnam, CT. This is a simple, reverent, Catholic retreat with goals of renewing yourself spiritually, strengthening your faith in your daily life, and creating lasting and supporting friendships within your church community. All women are invited to attend. For more information contact the retreat director: Maureen Fleming at 860-338-1392.



Jun. 12: Parish Book Club Meeting

The next Parish Book Club meeting will be on Thur., Jun. 12, at 1 p.m., in the education wing of the St. Paul campus. The book selection is *"The Extraordinary Life of Sam Hell"* by Robert Dugoni. For more information or to register, visit <http://isidoreandmaria.org/bookclubjune2025>.



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:

Connor Blomstrom
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
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This Day in History: May 26, 2025

Memorial Day is set aside on our calendars to honor those who have died in our nation's wars. It originated during the Civil War as Decoration Day, when citizens placed flowers on the graves of those killed in battle. After World War I, the day came to be observed for those who died in all U.S. wars.

Since 1971, Memorial Day has been celebrated on the last Monday in May. It is marked by the laying of a wreath on the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington National Cemetery, religious services, parades, and speeches across the nation, and flags, insignia, and flowers placed on the graves of veterans in local cemeteries. The day has also signaled the beginning of summer in the U.S.



Heavenly Father, inscribe their sacrifices into our hearts so we may never forget the loss of these heroes.



Harry & Oliver's Corner

www.history.com/topics/holidays/memorial-day-history

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SS. Isidore and Maria Parish Directory

www.isidoreandmaria.org

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

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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.

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Ted Musco
Faith Formation Director
ted@isidoreandmaria.org

Ann Poker
Program Coordinator
ann@isidoreandmaria.org

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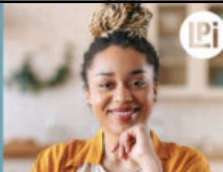
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