



SS. Isidore and Maria Parish

GLASTONBURY, CONNECTICUT



August 17, 2025

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

"There is a baptism with which I must be baptized, and how great is my anguish until it is accomplished!" - Luke 12:50

Inspiration for the Week *by Rev. Mark Suslenko*

There is a "great cloud of witnesses" found in the official saints of the Church and in ordinary people we meet every day. They are faith-filled inspirations who help us persevere in our faith by their example. It is easy to grow tired and get weary while living in a sea of conflict, change, challenge, and confusion. With so many things in competition for our attention, it is challenging to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus and the Kingdom of God. We have to keep running the race and continue proclaiming the Good News. This message is not always welcome. It can cause division, challenge accepted mindsets, ruffle people's feathers, and cause some folks to become defensive. God's ways are not always our ways. Even though often rejected by the world, the message of God in Jesus Christ must continue to be preached. We can rely on the examples of faith before us and around us and not lose heart. As Jesus endured the voices of opposition, so, too, can we.



This Weekend: Missionary Sunday Collection

This weekend (Aug. 16 & 17), SS. Isidore and

Maria Parish holds our annual Mission Appeal, with all proceeds benefiting the Diocese of St. Thomas. Please use the gold envelopes in your packet for this donation or simply place your donation in a regular envelope marked "St. Thomas 2025" and deposit it into the collection kiosk. Please make checks out to *SS. Isidore and Maria Parish*. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Facilitators needed for fall RENEW (small group program)



RENEW small groups are coming

to SS. Isidore and Maria Parish, and small-group faith sharing facilitators are needed! The core of the RENEW Method is small-group faith sharing. Groups of 6-10 people, led by a facilitator, gather for about 90 minutes once per week for six weeks to reflect on Scripture, pray together, and share their thoughts and points of view. Some might remember these groups from years ago. Meetings typically follow a format, starting with an opening prayer, and including scripture, sharing in response to open-ended topical questions, and a commitment to put faith into action. Facilitators are needed for our fall and spring sessions, with facilitator training provided starting Sept. 10. For more information, please visit the parish website:

<https://isidoreandmaria.org/renewsept2025>, or email ted@isidoreandmaria.org.



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

Our Sponsor Spotlight this week:

MARGARET WILCOX
WILLIAM RAVEIS REALTOR
860-916-3517

Parish Support

Collections and Parish Finance

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



Report for the week of 8/10/2025:

Weekly collection: \$ 8,718.05
Online Giving: \$ 6,248.00
Total: \$ 14,966.05

14,966.05

Annual Chancery Assessment for fiscal year 2023:
\$ 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.



PODCAST: Finding God in a Fractured World

In a world marked by both breathtaking acts of kindness and heartbreaking violence, how do we make sense of it all? In this episode of Living in Faith,

Hope & Love, Father Mark reflects on the growing crisis of faith in our culture, not simply a loss of religious tradition, but a more profound disconnection from the presence of God within each of us. Listen now:

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

Sept. 15: Catholic Vocations Q & A Night



Join us for a special Catholic Vocations Q & A Night, an open and welcoming evening designed for anyone curious about God's call in their life. It's happening Mon., Sept. 15 from 7-9 p.m. at St. Dunstan Parish, Father Bannon Hall, 1345 Manchester Road, Glastonbury.

Whether you're discerning a vocation to the priesthood, religious life, marriage, or a life of dedicated singlehood, this event offers a safe space to ask questions, share thoughts, and hear from those who've walked the path of discernment. 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. For more information or to register, please visit <http://isidoreandmaria.org/vocationssept2025>.



Aug. 24: The Return of the Pop-up Choir! The Summer Pop-Up Choir is back!

The Summer Pop-up Choir is a spontaneous gathering of parishioners wishing to sing together

in the choir loft during Mass. No experience or RSVP required. Just bring your joy-filled voice for a brief rehearsal before the 11:15 a.m. Mass on Sun., Aug 24 (rehearsal is 10:45 a.m.), then sing along with us at 11:15!

This event is for ANYONE who wants to try or resume choral singing in a fun, low-pressure community event! Questions? Email david@isidoreandmaria.org.



UPDATE: Fall Festival Update on Sept. 21

The Roman Catholic Parishes of Glastonbury 2025 Fall Festival takes place on Sun., Sept. 21, 2025, at the Elks Club, 98 Woodland St., South Glastonbury, from 1 to 4 p.m.

Anyone wishing to donate **gift cards** for the raffle is asked to

please drop them at the parish office of either SS. Isidore and Maria or St. Dunstan. You may also place them in an offertory kiosk (labeled "Fall Festival"). *Gift cards are needed on or before Sept. 16.*

Anyone wishing to provide a **dessert** item for the festival should contact Dottie Horan at 813-695-7339 or email dhoran750@gmail.com.

The Fall Festival would not be possible without our wonderful volunteers, who assist with set up, clean up, greeting, cooking, serving, activities for the kids, and parking. Please contact Erin Sullivan eireann21@hotmail.com or Damien Walsh (860-430-9608) for more information or if you would like to join the volunteer team.



Branches on the Vine for Aug. 16 - 22

A Catholic parish in Plainville is taking its message to the people at the town's annual Balloon Festival! Learn more in the latest edition of Branches on the Vine from the Archdiocese of Hartford, now available at

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

"God's love for us is not greater in heaven than it is now." ~St. Thomas Aquinas

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, August 16 <i>20th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i> <i>Mission Appeal Weekend</i>	4 p.m.	Cecilio, Rose, Don Giles & Joy Flores	Family
Sunday, August 17 <i>20th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i> <i>Mission Appeal Weekend</i>	8 a.m.	Angelo Barresi	Jeanette & Sal
	9:30 a.m.	Manuel Falcon (Birthday)	Family
	11:15 a.m.	Lee Leniart & Walter J. Leniart	Family
Monday, August 18 Weekday	7:30 a.m.	Alice Lynch	Pulito Family
Tuesday, August 19 St. John Eudes, Priest	7:30 a.m.	Jane Lane	Pulito Family
	7 p.m.	Pray the Rosary (St. Augustine Church)	
Wednesday, August 20 St. Bernard, Abbot & Doctor of the Church	7:30 a.m.	Bradley Harder	
Thursday, August 21 St. Pius X, Pope	No Mass		
Friday, August 22 Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary	12:15 p.m.	John Quigley	Henry Family
	After Mass until 2 p.m. Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament		
Saturday, August 23 <i>21st Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	4 p.m.	Dennis Wall	Temple Family
Sunday, August 24 <i>21st Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	8 a.m.	Dr. William Henry	Elaine Henry
	9:30 a.m.	Patricia Bussa (1 yr. Anniv.)	Family
	11:15 a.m.	Linda Daniels	Family

I have come to set the earth on fire. . .

Luke 12:49

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.

Lord, Hear Our Prayer



Ellona Bilotta	Julia Miller
James Bilotta	Gilbert Morin
Diane Varni Caisse	Stephen O'Brien
Sandra Cavanna	George Pappas
Thomas Cavanna	Peter Savidge
Chris Delissio	Frank Schultz
Robin DiTarando	Garland Taylor
Brian Faxon	Bill Vassar, Jr.
Jennifer Graham	Andrea Villegas
Dan Hebert	Mary E. Wallace
Rita Henson	Glyn Wellum
Michele Messier	Roger Yost

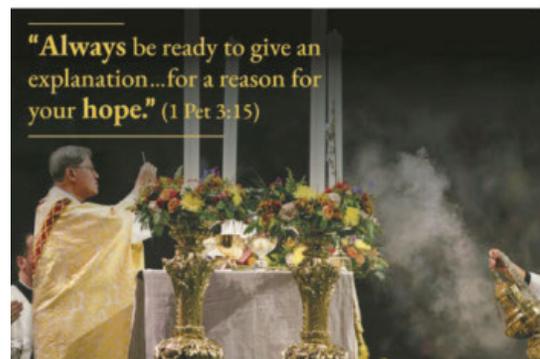
Beverly Czepiel Zadroga

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.

Sept. 21: Catechetical Sunday

Catechetical Sunday is celebrated nationwide on Sept. 21 and takes place this year during the Jubilee of Hope. The theme this year is "Always be ready to give an explanation...for a reason for your hope" 1 Pet 3:15.

All parents along with their family members are invited to join us on Sept. 21 for the 9:30 a.m. Mass to be recognized and blessed along with our parish catechists and aides.





An inward transformation occurs in a person who decides to follow Jesus Christ. Things change. They see the world differently, understand their journey more deeply and

profoundly, have their sights fixed on eternity and union with God, and hold themselves to higher standards and virtues. It requires a conscious choice to be a Christian. It's a choice that must be renewed at least daily. While the basic premise of Jesus' message may appear heartwarming and straightforward: love of God, neighbor, and self, the implications of doing so are challenging. The true disciple is called to live radically and often finds themselves at odds with the world or those in their own homes.

Holding ourselves to higher standards comes with a price. We have to leave other things behind. It is challenging to be people of faith, hope, and love in a world often fixated on its fulfillment and self-absorption. Justice, temperance,

prudence, and fortitude require sacrifice if they are to be lived with integrity. God's ways are not ours. This becomes crystal clear to those with enough courage to stand against the tide. Putting love into action requires we challenge accepted modes of doing business and fight complacency. This is what makes the saints stand out as witnesses. They are sinners, just like us, who persevere.

People do not want to be told they're sailing their ships in the wrong direction. Clinging to their insistence and need to be correct, they can become defensive when challenged. This can happen even with those closest to us. As much as the Gospel calls us to unity, it also easily creates division. When we love seriously, we encounter more than feelings of warmth and acceptance. "What does love look like? It has the hands to help others. It has the feet to hasten to the poor and needy. It has eyes to see misery and want. It has the ears to hear the sighs and sorrows of men. That is what love looks like (St. Augustine)." Love also has the courage and honesty to tell people what they may not want to hear but what they need to hear and model, without wavering, a life of humble, loving, and faithful service. Don't lose heart! There are many examples of faith before us and around us. If Jesus endured the voices of opposition, so, too, can we.



Sept. 7: World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly

The Fifth World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly is to be held in the U.S. on Sun., Sept. 7. This year's theme is "*Blessed are those who have not lost hope*" (cf. Sir 14:2).

Established by Pope Francis in 2021, the World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly is intended to be an opportunity to reflect on how the presence of grandparents and the elderly can become a sign of hope in every family and church community.

Visit <http://isidoreandmaria.org/grandparents2025> to learn more about it, and how you can celebrate with your loved ones!



A New Day Bereavement Program Begins Sept. 9

Are you or someone you know hurting from the grief of losing a loved one?

A New Day is a faith-based program and offers the best message for healing from such pain and suffering. It is offered to both men and women. Beginning Sept. 9, the parish Bereavement Ministry will be offering another 10-week session of this program. We will meet on Tuesday evenings in classroom four from 6:30 – 8 p.m. Attendance is free, but registration is required. Please visit <https://isidoreandmaria.org/newdayfall2025> for more information or to register.



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



Oct 14: The 2025 SS. Isidore and Maria Golf Tournament

Sign-ups are now underway for golfers, sponsors, and dinner-only guests for the 2025 SS. Isidore and Maria Golf Tournament takes place

on Tues., Oct. 14 at Glastonbury Hills Country Club. For more information or to register, visit <http://isidoreandmaria.org/golf2025>.



Scripture Readings for the Week

- SUN 8/17/25** Jer 38:4-6, 8-10/Ps 40:2, 3, 4, 18 (14b)/Heb 12:1-4/Lk 12:49-53
- MON 8/18/25** Jgs 2:11-19/Ps 106:34-35, 36-37, 39-40, 43ab and 44/Mt 19:16-22
- TUES 8/19/25** Jgs 6:11-24a/Ps 85:9, 11-12, 13-14/Mt 19:23-30
- WED 8/20/25** Jgs 9:6-15/Ps 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Mt 20:1-16
- THR 8/21/25** Jgs 11:29-39a/Ps 40:5, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Mt 22:1-14
- FRI 8/22/25** Ru 1:1, 3-6, 14b-16, 22/Ps 146:5-6ab, 6c-7, 8-9a, 9bc-10/Mt 22:34-40
- SAT 8/23/25** Ru 2:1-3, 8-11; 4:13-17/Ps 128:1b-2, 3, 4, 5/Mt 23:1-12
- SUN 8/24/25** Is 66:18-21/Ps 117:1, 2 (Mk 16:15)/Heb 12:5-7, 11-13/Lk 13:22-30

Ministry Highlight — Walking with Purpose



The SS. Isidore and Maria Parish Walking with Purpose Ministry supports women as they explore the transforming power of God's unconditional love through small group discussion and study of the Scriptures and their application in everyday life.

No special Catholic knowledge is needed — just good communication skills. There is also a leadership team that helps with planning, logistics, hospitality, and special events. Learn more about the Walking with Purpose Ministry at <http://isidoreandmaria.org/walkingwithpurpose>

Pray for peace in the Holy Land

- Is your child entering **first grade** this fall? Now's the time to enroll your first grader in the parish Faith Formation program! Questions? Email Ann Poker at ann@isidoreandmaria.org.
- **Following Archdiocesan policy**, we are in the process of transitioning the reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation to those in Grade 8. This is a gradual process that will take place over several years, as follows:
 - All current 10th graders will receive Confirmation in the Spring of 2026
 - All current 9th graders will receive Confirmation in the Fall of 2026
 - All current 8th graders will receive Confirmation in the Spring of 2027
 - All current 7th graders will receive Confirmation in the Fall of 2027
 - All current 6th graders will receive Confirmation in the Spring of 2028
- Preparation sessions for **adults needing the Sacrament of Confirmation** begin in late September. Please get in touch with Ted Musco (information below) if you or someone you know would like to participate.
- **SAVE THE DATE:** Join us on **Sat., Nov. 8**, for our first annual Fall Faith Formation Forum. This inaugural conference for adults of all ages celebrates the Jubilee of Hope through prayer, Mass, presentations by local and national speakers, and a time to enjoy our neighbors and friends. Details will be shared shortly, but don't miss out on this fantastic opportunity.
- The parish would like to send all school-age children and teens and their families off to a new school year with a special blessing. **Please bring your backpacks with you to Mass on Aug. 23 and 24** for your special blessing and a prayer card that will remind you that God is with you throughout the entire year.
- For more information or any questions on these topics or anything else related to faith formation, please contact **Ted Musco, Director of Lifelong Faith Formation** at Ted@isidoreandmaria.org, or 860-633-9419.



Regina's Writings: Getting in Touch with my Inner June Cleaver

From poison ivy moats to hurricane blackouts, Regina Cram's early Cape Cod "vacations" at the self-described Outhouse Cottage were anything but relaxing. Yet somewhere between romping in the rain with three preschoolers and pleading for wallboards, she discovered her inner June Cleaver - and why even the early television paragon of motherhood herself would likely have packed her pearls and fled. Read Regina's latest column at <https://isidoreandmaria.org/category/reginas-writings>.



ImmaCare Inc.

UPDATE

Thanks for your support of the parish ImmaCare ministry. The schedule of ImmaCare events for Sept. is as follows:

- Thurs., Sept. 4: ImmaCare Outreach Program pickup
- Fri., Sept. 12: ImmaCare Dinner night

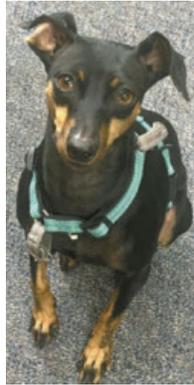
For **ImmaCare Dinner Nights**, anyone is welcome to participate by preparing food or helping to deliver and serve our meals at the shelter.

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 or to volunteer for an upcoming ImmaCare dinner, please visit <https://isidoreandmaria.org/immacare>.



We've invited our friend, Legacy, to take over our bulletin space this week for a very important message. Let's hear it, Legacy!



Thanks, Harry & Oliver. Did you know that we three dogs have a lot in common? We are all rescues! You found a great home with Father Mark, and I found a place with Carol Vassar and her family after someone abandoned me in the woods. I nearly starved to death until the good folks at **Spotty Dog Rescue** took me in, fostered me, helped me get better, and placed me in a good home.

Now I hear that Spotty Dog has dogs to take in, but *no people who can foster*. **Can you help?** Spotty Dog pays all the expenses for fosters, including food, vet bills, and toys! They'll even provide free weekend/vacation relief for anyone who fosters! Spotty Dog is small but mighty (like me) and run completely by volunteers (like Carol).

If you are interested, please contact Carol at contact@carolvassar.com, or **Spotty Dog** directly at info@spottedogrescue.org. You can check out the work they do at <https://spottedogrescue.org>.

Thanks for anything you can do to help! *Doggie love to everyone!*



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

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Lifelong Faith Formation

Ted Musco, Director

Office of Lifelong Faith Formation
ted@isidoreandmaria.org

Ann Poker

Program Coordinator
ann@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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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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