



SS. Isidore and Maria Parish

GLASTONBURY, CONNECTICUT



October 26, 2025

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

- Luke 18:14

Inspiration for the Week *by Rev. Mark Suslenko*

To be humble means to see ourselves as we are. It comes with recognizing that we are never perfect, better than another, or free of sin. The humble person knows their faults and failings as well as their successes and triumphs. They also realize they are nothing without God, especially God's mercy. The humble one knows who they are, who they can be, and how they have fallen short. Being desperately in love with God, they know how they have sometimes given in to their desires rather than God's will, almost with a sense of embarrassment. Being justified in our relationship with God is not about a list of the good things we do and the bad things we don't. We are vindicated when we realize how dependent we are upon God's gratuitous, abundant, and unconditional love. It is a gift we often take for granted and is often unappreciated.



Nov. 12: Wake Me Up Wake Me When It's Over

*How to Get Through the Holidays
When You're Grieving*

The holidays can be especially difficult when you're grieving the loss of a loved one. Join **Karen Carney-Pilkington, RN, LCSW**, and **Bill Pilkington, MA, STM, Ed.D.**, at St. Paul Church on **Tues., Nov. 12** at **6:30 p.m.** for an evening of comfort, understanding, and hope.

Karen and Bill are compassionate professionals with deep expertise in death, dying, and bereavement. Together, they'll lead an interactive presentation and discussion designed to help you — or someone you love — find ways to navigate this tender season with gentleness and care.

Presented by our **Wellness** and **Bereavement Ministries**. Refreshments will be served. All are welcome. **No RSVP required**. Questions? Contact Lorraine at jacobsloiraine23@comcast.net.

THANKSGIVING
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AVAILABLE



Thanksgiving Meal Assistance Available

If you or some-
one you know is
having difficulty

providing a Thanksgiving meal this year, please contact Melissa in the Parish Office at 860-633-9419, or by email. Baskets filled with food items will be available for pickup during Thanksgiving week, with specific pick-up details to follow.

DAYLIGHT
SAVINGS
ENDS



Turn clocks **BACK 1 hour**
Next Weekend — **Nov. 2**

Parish Support

Collections and Parish Finance

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



Report for the week of 10/19/2025:

Weekly collection: \$ 7,275.19
Online Giving: \$ 4,129.00
Total: \$ 11,404.19

World Mission \$ 2,230.06
Parish Appeal \$ 88,235.00

Annual Chancery Assessment for fiscal year 2025: \$ 131,798.00

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.

SS. Isidore and Maria Parish
2025 Annual Collection



**NOW
UNDERWAY**

2025 Parish Annual Collection Now Underway

The 2025 Parish Annual Collection is now underway. Visit <http://isidoreandmaria.org/annualcollection25> to make your donation today. Your generosity is appreciated!



PODCAST: Desire, Motivation, and the Love of God

In the latest episode of Living in Faith, Hope, & Love, Father Mark explores the powerful connection between desire, motivation, and our relationship with God. Too often, our prayers and expectations focus on what God can do for us rather than on who God is for us and reminds us that true peace is found not in getting what we want, but in resting in God's loving presence. Listen today at <https://isidoreandmaria.org/podcasts>.



Branches on the Vine

Oct. 25 - Oct. 31, 2025

Catholic education returns to Hartford in 2026! Get the full story in the latest edition of Branches on the Vine from the Archdiocese of Hartford:

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

UPDATE: Mass RSVPs for Nov. 9 Mass

Just a quick reminder that RSVPs continue to be open for Father Mark's retirement Mass on Sun., Nov. 9 at 11:15 a.m. If you previously encountered issues with this form, please try again.

The RSVP list for his afternoon reception in Bolton is FULL. To get on the waitlist, please email contact@isidoreandmaria.org, or call the office at 860-633-9419.

Do you have a spare room?

Our new music director is on his way to us (full announcement to follow) and is looking for housing. If you or someone you know has a spare room that can serve as temporary housing while he begins his new life in our parish and seeks permanent housing, please contact carol@isidoreandmaria.org



Answering the Call to Serve Monthly Hospitality Socials

These gatherings offer a wonderful opportunity for a few families to come together and host a parish social event. All responsibilities are clearly outlined, and even the youngest parishioners can lend a hand. It's a fun and meaningful way to build community while giving back. For more information, please visit the Hospitality Ministry page on the parish website.



Regina's Writings: God Works Together for Good

After 15 years of chauffeuring kids and clutter in a trusty gray minivan, a fender-bender and a husband's surprising act of love turn Regina's frustration into joy on four wheels, and a reminder that God's blessings often come wrapped in unexpected packages (sometimes with a keychain attached!). Read her latest column at <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, Oct. 25 <i>30th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	4 p.m.	Anthony P. Pagliughi	Family
Sunday, Oct. 26 <i>30th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	8 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 11:15 a.m.	Sister Theresa Curley Thomas McGrath Marc Pomerleau	Bill Curley Rich & Trish Ehrhardt Wife & Children
Monday, Oct. 27 <i>Weekday</i>	7:30 a.m.	Esmeralda Boavida	Friends at CT Mutual
Tuesday, Oct. 28 <i>SS. Simon & Jude, Apostles</i>	7:30 a.m. 7 p.m.	Alan Abramowke Pray the Rosary (St. Augustine Church)	Pat & Children
Wednesday, Oct. 29 <i>Weekday</i>	7:30 a.m.	Florence Pitruzzello	Daughter
Thursday, Oct. 30 <i>Weekday</i>	No Mass		
Friday, Oct. 31 <i>Weekday</i>	12:15 p.m. After Mass until 2 p.m.	Fred L. Nemecek Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	Rosemary Nemecek
Saturday, Nov. 1 <i>All Souls Day</i>	4 p.m.	Gregory J. Pagliughi	Family
Sunday, Nov. 2 <i>All Souls Day</i>	8 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 11:15 a.m.	Commemoration of All Faithful Departed Commemoration of All Faithful Departed Commemoration of All Faithful Departed	

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.



Remember in Your Prayers

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

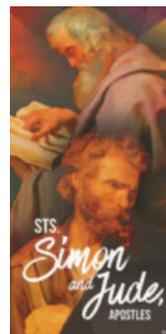
Pray for peace in the Holy Land



Who is the other priest in this photo?

They are BOTH Father Mark. At left is a photo of him taken just after his ordination in 1986. At right, is his most recent headshot, taken in 2023.

Do you have digitized photos of Father Mark you'd like to share with us? We'll put together a special collage for him based on your contributions. Email them to carol@isidoreandmaria.org by **Oct. 31!**



“Forgiveness is the name of love practiced among people who love poorly. The hard truth is that all people love poorly. We need to forgive and be forgiven every day, every hour increasingly. That is the great work of love among the fellowship of the weak that is the human family.”

~ Henri J.M. Nouwen ~



There is a thing called false piety. It is found when we wear a religious disguise of devotion, attend to our obligations, and outwardly abide by rules while being inwardly unkind, uncharitable and

exclusive. Wearing the right clothes, saying the proper prayers, being in sacred places and reading devotional books, those exhibiting false piety craftily try to control others using the pretense of love. The Pharisees, consistently criticized by Jesus, are prime examples. Thinking they are superior to others, they foolishly believe they are better positioned with God and more worthy of God's attention. Forming an exclusive "club," they divide things between "mine" and "yours" and "us" and "them." They quickly criticize and point out flaws and errors in rituals and thinking. Conformity becomes the first commandment and control is the game's name.

The requirements for "club membership" are clear: do what we do, think what we think, and believe what we believe. Attempting to control others using the lure of

"status" or "salvation", they seduce others into thinking that conformity is the only way to holiness. Clinging to "my beliefs," "my parish," "my way of thinking," they fail to see the more significant relationship with God that is veiled in all of these superficial rules and practices. Shallow, hollow and empty vessels, they gloss over the more important virtues of justice, mercy, faithfulness, and forgiveness. Sparkling clean on the outside, but dirty on the inside. Spiritual arrogance is a grave sin. It alienates and hurts the little ones, those considered "least" in the kingdom.

God knows no favorites. Everyone belongs regardless of whether you are an official, bona fide member. Sometimes membership may be a detriment to actually living the Gospel if you're joining the team for the wrong reasons. The genuinely humble one may not appear to be overly "pious." They may not know all of the proper prayers or abide by all of the correct rituals, but they know that they are broken and need mercy. There is no shame in being broken. In fact, many things need to be broken in order to be what they truly are! There is a reason Jesus told us to pray in private. It's only between you and God. It is nobody else's business.



ImmaCare Inc.

UPDATE

ImmaCare has indicated that they need specific items currently. These include:

- Short-Sleeve T-Shirts
- Long-Sleeve T-Shirts
- Hoodies/Sweatshirts
- White crew and athletic socks
- Cases of bottled water
- Plastic Forks (can be bulk)
- Plastic Spoons (can be bulk)

This is part of ImmaCare's Outreach Program, which continues throughout the month. To see the full list of items needed (and picked up on the first Thurs. of each month), visit the parish web site. Items collected go to supplement ImmaCare's 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.

The schedule of ImmaCare events for Nov. is as follows:

Thurs., Nov. 6: ImmaCare Outreach Program pickup
Fri., Nov. 7: ImmaCare Dinner night
Fri., Nov. 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. To volunteer, please visit <https://isidoreandmaria.org/immacare>.

The Guardian Angel Prayer, Explained!

The Guardian Angel Prayer, also known as the Angel of God Prayer, invokes the protection of one's guardian angel. Often one of the first prayers taught to children, it consists of two rhyming couplets: "*Angel of God, my guardian dear, to whom God's love commits me here, ever this day be at my side, to light and guard, to rule and guide.*"

The exact authorship of this prayer is unknown. Scholars previously attributed it to St. Anselm of Canterbury, though many now believe a version composed by Reginald of Canterbury in his "Life of Malchus" serves as the prayer's inspiration.

Guardian Angels are referred to in Scripture in the Book of Daniel (Dan. 12:1), the Gospel of Matthew (Matthew 18:10) and the Psalms (91:10-13). "From its beginning until death, human life is surrounded by their watchful care and intercession," says the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC 336).

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	

Why Kneel?

Question:

Why do we kneel at Mass?

Answer:

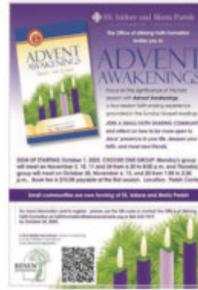
Since the beginnings of the Church, kneeling has been a key posture of prayer. We see Sts. Peter and Paul in the Acts of the Apostles kneeling in prayer. Early in the 4th century, the Council of Nicea prohibited kneeling on Sundays and special feasts. Kneeling began more as a posture of penance for our sins, but in the history of the Church, it has become more a posture of reverence and solemn prayer.

You will notice that the times we kneel at Mass are tied to the consecration of the holy Eucharist. We kneel in both anticipation of what will occur and then in awe of what has taken place: Jesus Christ becomes truly present to us under the guise of bread and wine. The profoundness of this event has over time led the Church to mandate in the current General Instruction of the Roman Missal that kneeling is the only posture allowed during this time. The sheer awesomeness of the holy Eucharist leads us to fall to our knees in wonder and thanksgiving.



SUN 10/26/25	Sir 35:12-14, 16-18/Ps 34:2-3, 17-18, 19, 23 (7a)/2 Tm 4:6-8, 16-18/Lk 18:9-14
MON 10/27/25	Rom 8:12-17/Ps 68:2 and 4, 6-7ab, 20-21/Lk 13:10-17
TUES 10/28/25	Eph 2:19-22/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5/Lk 6:12-16
WED 10/29/25	Rom 8:26-30/Ps 13:4-5, 6/Lk 13:22-30
THR 10/30/25	Rom 8:31b-39/Ps 109:21-22, 26-27, 30-31/Lk 13:31-35
FRI 10/31/25	Rom 9:1-5/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/Lk 14:1-6
SAT 11/1/25	Rv 7:2-4, 9-14/Ps 24:1bc-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/1 Jn 3:1-3/Mt 5:1-12a
SUN 11/2/25	Wis 3:1-9/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/Rom 5:5-11 or Rom 6:3-9/Jn 6:37-40

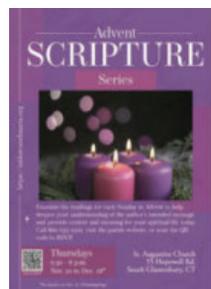
UPDATE from the Office of Lifelong Faith Formation



Advent Awakenings Small Faith Sharing Groups Begin Oct. 30 and Nov. 3

Advent Awakenings is a small, faith-sharing community to reflect on Jesus' presence in your life, deepen your faith, and meet new friends. This Renew International program is being offered on Thursdays at 1 p.m. from Oct 30 – Nov. 20, and again on Mondays at 6:30 p.m. from Nov. 3 – Nov. 24 in the Parish Center. A nominal materials fee of \$10 is

being charged. Registration is required. For more info or to register visit <http://isidoreandmaria.org/adventawakenings25>



Nov. 20: Advent Scripture Series Begins

Similar to the highly successful Lenten Scripture series from earlier this year, parishioner Walter Twachtman will lead an Advent Scripture Series designed to help parishioners deepen their understanding of each Sunday reading during Advent. You'll examine the author's intended message, the relationship between the weekly readings,

and their meaning for today's spiritual life. This series is being offered FREE on Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. from Nov. 20 – Dec. 18 (no meeting on Thanksgiving, Nov. 27) at St. Augustine Church. Registration is requested at <http://isidoreandmaria.org/adventscriptureseries25>.

Donation Bins in the St. Paul Church South Wing

There are **two** donation bins located at the back of the South Wing of St. Paul Church:

1. **ImmaCare Mobile Outreach Program (Monthly Collection):** This bin is for **new clothing items** and **non-perishable food donations**. A detailed list of requested items is available both on the bin and on the parish website for your convenience.
2. **Cathedral of St. Joseph:** This bin is designated for **gently used clothes** and **household items**.

Please ensure that donations are placed in the correct bin, as misplacement creates additional work for our volunteers. Your generosity is deeply appreciated, and your cooperation helps us serve those in need more effectively. **Thank you for your continued support!**

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



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Reflect and Respond to Scripture

First Reading:

Sirach teaches us that God cares deeply about our desire for justice. *Can you think of a time when you fought against an unjust situation?*

Second Reading:

As Paul nears the end of his life, he shares with Timothy how he fought hard for the faith, ever grateful for the Lord's support. *As you look back on your life, can you see where God has been present?*

Gospel:

Jesus teaches the crowds about the importance of humility. *Does humility come to you naturally or do you have to work at it?*



This Day in History — Oct. 31

Halloween is thought to have roots in Christian beliefs and practices. The name "Halloween" comes from "All Hallows' Eve," the evening before the Christian holy days of All Hallows' Day (All Saints' Day) on November 1 and All Souls' Day on Nov. 2. These days are collectively called Allhallowtide and are a time for honoring the saints and praying for recently departed souls who have yet to reach Heaven.

Halloween activities include trick-or-treating, attending Halloween costume parties, and carving pumpkins into jack-o'-lanterns. For some people, the Christian religious observances of All Hallows' Eve, including attending church services and lighting candles on the graves of the dead, remain popular. However, for others, it is a secular celebration.

Happy Halloween to all our friends!

Wow, Oliver, Dad won't recognize us in these costumes so he'll give us lots of treats. We do like berries but maybe we'll get our favorite. . . Twizzells!



Harry & Oliver's Corner

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lazlo_Biro

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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Ted Musco, Director

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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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St. Isidore & Maria Parishioner



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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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