

Pastoral Leadership Team

Fr. Walter Woods  
Diahne Goodwin  
John Morris  
Robin Ulichney

Collaborative Pastoral Council

Fr. Walter Woods  
Fr. Paul Sughrue  
Deacon Charlie Cornell  
Diahne Goodwin  
Steve Ryan  
Paul McMahon  
JoAnn Witek  
Jan Ketonen  
Joan Grund  
Amy Alexander  
Dan Armstrong  
Janet Moroney

St. Elizabeth Committee Contacts:

Finance Council—John Morris  
Building & Grounds—Bill Hart  
Liturgy Committee—Mary Ryan  
Consolation Ministry—Deb Lundquist

St. Isidore Committee Contacts:

Finance Council—Bill Oberlies  
Buildings & Grounds—Robin Ulichney  
Social Committee—Al DeBenedetto  
St. Vincent DePaul Society—Rick Connelly

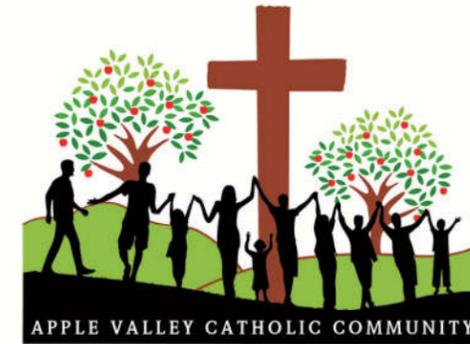


*St. Isidore Parish, Stow  
St. Elizabeth of Hungary Parish, Acton & Boxborough*

*Celebrating God's love in Jesus Christ. Going forth to share it with all.*



*Third Sunday in Ordinary Time  
January 24, 2016*



*A warm welcome to our visitors.  
We are glad to have you among us!*

*If you are new to the parish, please let us know so  
that we can welcome you personally!*

The parish is the presence of the Church in a given territory, an environment for hearing God's word, for growth in the Christian life, for dialogue, proclamation, charitable outreach, worship and celebration. In all its activities the parish encourages and trains its members to be evangelizers. It is a community of communities, a sanctuary where the thirsty come to drink in the midst of their journey, and a center of constant missionary outreach (Pope Francis, *Joy of the Gospel*, 28).



Dear Parishioners,

I am pleased to introduce this re-designed bulletin, which is meant to serve both our parishes. This new bulletin reflects the closer relationship that continues to develop between St. Isidore and St. Elizabeth of Hungary parishes, and the fact that an increasing number of events and other items pertain to the two parishes. Even matters that are specific to one parish should nonetheless be made known in both, especially since general awareness and neighborly interest tend to strengthen the bonds of community. On a personal note, I have long chafed at the early deadlines required by the Pilot, which had been printing the bulletins for St. Isidore Parish. These deadlines often precluded me from writing to St. Isidore parishioners. That had a spillover effect: if I could not speak to matters of common concern to St. Isidore parishioners, then it would not be right for me to address them only to those of St. Elizabeth's. As a result, parishioners heard from their pastor much less than they should have. Going forward, the later deadlines and greater control offered by in-house production of a common bulletin should benefit us all.

As we begin publishing it, please know that the staff and I are ready to learn from experience and make whatever adjustments are called for. Nothing is set in stone, and we welcome your suggestions and feedback (to any of us, but especially to Robin Ulichney and Janice Howes). Also, please use this common bulletin as another way to build community, multiply the bonds of friendship among us, and enhance our ability to work together in charity, all in the name of Jesus Christ and his Gospel.

On another note: Arrangements for five mission trips in the summer of 2016 are now being finalized. If you don't find the details in this bulletin, please look for a notice on the two parish websites and in next Sunday's bulletin.

Finally, today I am leaving for a week's vacation and then a 5-day retreat that Bishop Hennessey offers to priests. I am to return late on Friday, Feb. 5. As always I will carry you and your families in my heart and in prayer, and would be most grateful if you'd do the same for me.

### PARISH PRAYER

My parish is composed of people like me.

I help make it what it is. It will be friendly, if I am.

It will be Holy, if I am.

Its pews will be filled, if I help fill them.

It will do great work, if I work.

It will be prayerful, if I pray.

It will make generous gifts to many causes, if I am a generous giver.

It will bring others into its worship if I invite and bring them.

It will be a parish of loyalty and love, of fearlessness and faith, of compassion, charity and mercy, if I, who make it what it is, am filled with these same things.

Therefore, with the help of God, I now dedicate myself to the task of being all the things that I want my parish to be.

Amen.



### CHURCH IN LATIN AMERICA

This week's second collection supports the Church in Latin America (CLA). The CLA provides support for pastoral projects in financially poorer dioceses in Latin America and the Caribbean. CLA funds catechetical and lay leadership programs, youth ministry, evangelization programs, and formation programs for religious, priests, and deacons. CLA is making it possible for the Catholic faithful in the Western hemisphere to help each other. Please visit [www.usccb.org/catholic-giving/opportunities-for-giving/latin-america/index.cfm](http://www.usccb.org/catholic-giving/opportunities-for-giving/latin-america/index.cfm) for more information.

**OUR COLLABORATIVE STAFF:**  
Pastor: Rev. Walter J. Woods, STD  
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pastoral ministries)

Pastoral Associate: Steve Ryan  
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ext. 21 (Bible Study, Funeral Planning)

Administrative Assistant: Janice Howes  
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(High school ministry, Confirmation)

Director of Faith Formation: Barbara Dane  
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(Faith Formation for Grades 5-8 and GIFT)

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(Baptism - Grades K-4, First Eucharist)

Liturgical Coordinator: Mary Ryan  
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Catholic Chaplain - Emerson Hospital  
Timothy Duff - 978-287-3015

### St. Elizabeth Parish:



### OUR PARISHES:

**St. Elizabeth of Hungary**  
89 Arlington St.  
Acton, MA 01720  
Phone (978) 263-4305  
Fax: (978) 263-9014  
[www.seoh.org](http://www.seoh.org)

**St. Isidore**  
429 Great Rd.  
Stow, MA 01775  
Phone (978) 897-2710  
Fax: (978) 461-0577  
[www.stisidorestow.org](http://www.stisidorestow.org)

### LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

St. Elizabeth Parish:  
Vigil Mass: Saturday 5 p.m.  
Sunday 8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.  
First Sunday of the Month 5 p.m. (Oct-March)

St. Isidore Parish:  
Vigil Mass: Saturday 5 p.m.  
Sunday 8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.  
Third Sunday of the Month 5 p.m. (Oct-March)

**Daily Eucharist this week:**  
St. Isidore-9:00 a.m., Wednesday & Thursday.

For current information check the parish website or call the parish telephone number .

Sacrament of Reconciliation:  
Saturday, 4:00-4:30 (both parishes)

### MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK:

There will be no weekday Mass celebrated at St. Elizabeth's this week. All are welcome to attend weekday Mass at St. Isidore at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday and Thursday. *There will be no weekday Mass on Friday, January 29 at either parish.*

### St. Isidore:

Saturday, January 23, 5:00 p.m.—Maria Rodriguez  
Memorial Mass

Sunday, January 24, 10:30 a.m.—David Gavin  
Memorial Mass

Wednesday, January 27, 9:00 a.m.—Jenna Agule  
5th Anniversary Mass

**QUESTION OF THE WEEK:**

**Theme:** Jesus is the one sent by God to save us.

**Breaking Open the Word**

Suggested text for faith sharing: Today's Gospel

**Step One: Listen to the Word**

As you hear this reading, what words or phrases strike you? What in this reading touches your heart? What lingers in your memory?

**Step Two: Look into Your Life**

**Question for Children:** Jesus is present to each of us in a different way. Tell about a time that you knew Jesus was with you.

**Question for Youth:** Name a moment or situation in your life where Jesus was present. What are some situations or places where you wish that Jesus was more visible?

**Question for Adults:** Jesus came to bring glad tidings to the poor and set free the enslaved. How has this mission of Christ in the world affected you personally?

**ST. ELIZABETH**

Hearing Loop Receivers are available for those who wish to listen through the Hearing Loop. Please see Mary Ryan before Mass, if you would like to try one.

**READINGS THIS SUNDAY (Cycle B)**

Neh 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10; 1Cor 12:12-30; Lk 1:1-4, 4:14-21

**READINGS NEXT SUNDAY (Cycle B)**

Jer 1:4-5, 17-19; 1 Cor 12:31-13:13; Lk 4:21-30

**CONTRIBUTIONS FOR PARISH SUPPORT  
ST. ELIZABETH**

Total Offertory Last Sunday: 1/17/16:	\$ 4,410
Mail backs for Week Ending 1/16/16:	\$ 2,027
EFT for Week Ending 1/16/16:	\$ 731
Total Parish Support for Week Ending 1/16/16:	7,168
Total Parish Support since 7/1/2015:	\$ 402,367
Target Parish Support since 7/1/2015:	\$ 394,877
Over (Under) Target since 7/1/2015:	\$ 7,490

\*Target is \$705,000 for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2016.

We also collected \$1,464 for Catholic elementary schools in the Archdiocese of Boston last week. St. E's, the schools and the kids are grateful for your support.

**CONTRIBUTIONS FOR PARISH SUPPORT  
ST. ISIDORE**

Total Offertory last Sunday 1/17/16:	\$ 2,544
Total EFT for week ending 1/16/16:	\$ 1,826
Total Parish Support for Week Ending 1/17/16:	\$ 4,370
Total Parish Support since 7/1/15:	\$130,277
Target Parish Support since 7/1/15:	\$133,400
Over (Under) Target since 7/1/15:	(\$ 3,123)
Grand Annual (118% of \$30,000 goal from 76 parish families):	\$ 35,406
St. Vincent DePaul collection:	\$ 18

**REDISCOVER JESUS**

We are offering opportunities to come together in small groups to discuss what unfolds in the book, *Rediscover Jesus* and discuss what it means for us. Dates and times are listed below. You are invited to attend any session that is convenient for you. **Pre-registration by emailing Diahne Goodwin is helpful for planning purposes, but drop-in participation is welcome!**

**Expanded Discussions: St. Elizabeth  
Jan. 24, 31 (Sundays), 9:15–10:15 a.m.**

(Between Masses),  
Discussion of Book and Sunday's Gospel in the Pope Francis Room, (located down the hall to the right of the Main church).

**Jan. 25, Feb. 1 & 8 (Mondays)  
10:00-11:30 a.m.**

St. Elizabeth Parish Center Hall.

**Two-Session Discussions:**

Part 2 (sections 21-40): **Thur.** Feb 4 at St. Isidore Parish

**(Feb. 15 & 22, 7 – 8:30 p.m.**

Part 1 (sections 1-20): **Mon.**, Feb. 15, St. Isidore Parish Rectory

Part 2 (sections 21-40): **Mon.**, Feb. 22, St. Isidore Parish Rectory

**Feb. 2, Tue., 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.**

St. Isidore Parish Rectory

Additional discussion sessions may be scheduled, especially during Lent. Please check the parish web site or the Sunday bulletin for any updates.

**“Find new ways to spread the word of God to every corner of the world.”**  
- Pope Francis -

**BURNING OF PALMS**

From now until Sunday, February 7, we ask that you bring palms which were blessed on Palm Sunday from your homes and leave them in the basket in the gathering space at St. Elizabeth. These palms will be burned to provide the ashes which will be used on Ash Wednesday.

Ash Wednesday Liturgies ~ February 10

**St. Elizabeth of Hungary Parish**

9:15 a.m. -Mass and Distribution of Ashes  
4:30 p.m. -Liturgy of the Word and Distribution of Ashes  
7:00 p.m. -Mass and Distribution of Ashes

**St. Isidore Parish**

9:00 a.m.-Mass and Distribution of Ashes  
12:00 p.m.-Liturgy of the Word and Distribution of Ashes  
7:30 p.m. - Mass and Distribution of Ashes



**CANCELLATION OF MASS  
DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER**

If you don't have internet access, closings can be found on TV on Channel 4, WBZ. The names of closed institutions scroll continuously across the screen. Cancellation of Masses on Saturday evening or Sunday will be posted on the home page of the parish web site <http://www.seoh.org/> or <http://www.stisidorestow.org/> at least one hour before Mass is scheduled to begin.

Weekday morning Masses on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday are canceled whenever the local high school cancels class or has a delayed opening. St. Isidore follows NRHS and St. Elizabeth follows ABRHS.



## 24 HOURS WITH THE LORD

On April 11, 2015, Pope Francis announced “an extraordinary jubilee, a Holy Year of Mercy that is to have God’s mercy at its center.” The season of Lent is an especially graced opportunity to celebrate and experience God’s abundant mercy. Therefore, Pope Francis has asked that Churches all around the world offer 24 Hours for the Lord on the Friday and Saturday of the weekend of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent, March 4-5.

The Apple Valley Catholic Collaborative liturgy, faith formation, and youth ministry teams have come together to offer a very special 24 Hours for the Lord experience. Our focus for the event is based on the theme “Merciful like the Father.” We have worked very hard to prepare events in both parishes that will offer prayer, reconciliation, adoration and praise, works of mercy, and community. We are offering events that will engage a variety of ages, interests, and spiritual needs.

There will be planned events and open times for prayer offered at St. Elizabeth and St. Isidore from Friday, March 4, 6:00 p.m. – Saturday, March 5, 6:00 p.m. Participate in any number of events during the 24 hours. Mark your calendars and make it a priority! You will be glad you did!

### SNOW SAFETY! DON'T FALL OUTSIDE OR INSIDE

We had more falls inside the building than outside last winter and this winter so far. The steps outside and the tile floors inside start out dry, but shoe and boot treads bring in snow from the parking lot, the snow then melts and people slide and fall on the water on the tile floors. Also, be aware outside of the clear ice as snow melts in the sun, turns to water, refreezes clear in the shade or darkness and you can't or don't see it. Slips result. Be aware of winter hazards. Keep an eye out ahead of you. Keep your center of gravity over your cautiously moving feet, outside and inside. Be safe. Thank you.



## HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH MINISTRY UPCOMING EVENTS

### All High School Youth Welcome!

Saturday, January 30, 5:00 p.m.  
Concert with PJ Anderson  
Permission slips and payment must be in by  
January 27.

Saturday, February 6, 6:00—10:30 p.m.  
Blankets and meals delivered to Boston.

Starting February 12, 6:15 a.m.  
Friday Morning Lenten Breakfast & Prayer

February 16-17  
Ski Retreat, 1:00 p.m.  
Permission Slips and payment due by February 10.

*All event details are on St. Elizabeth of Hungary Youth Ministry Facebook Page or stop by Jim's office or email [jim@applevalleycatholic.org](mailto:jim@applevalleycatholic.org) for additional information and permission slips.*

**The Annual Youth Ministry Auction is scheduled for Saturday, April 2, from 6:00–10:00 p.m., St. Elizabeth Parish Center Hall.**

### CUSTODIAL HELP WANTED AT SEOH PAID OR VOLUNTEER, PART TIME, SHORT TERM

Can you, somebody in your family or somebody you know help? St. Elizabeth Parish is looking for part time and likely short term custodial help. The position can be paid or volunteer. Prior experience is a plus, but not necessary. Please call the business manager, John Morris, at 978-263-4305 x11. We are especially interested in somebody with the flexibility to help with clearing snow. Please pass this on to people you know who could take advantage of this opportunity.

### ST. ELIZABETH UPCOMING BAPTISM

Sunday, February 7, 10:30 a.m. Mass

## ST. ISIDORE

### Alter Servers Needed— Youth and Adults

A sure way to learn more about the Mass, grow in your faith and become more connected to the community is to participate in the altar server ministry. The presence of servers is so important to the flow and success of quality liturgy for all. Young people grade 5 and up are invited to consider participating. We also need help in organizing and supporting current and future servers.

We also have a serious need for adult servers to assist at morning Masses and funeral liturgies. Training, guidance and support will be provided!

If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Diahne Goodwin at [diahneg@applevalleycatholic.org](mailto:diahneg@applevalleycatholic.org).

### Ushers Needed

St. Isidore is in need of ushers for all masses, but especially for the 5:00 p.m. mass on Saturdays and the once a month 5:00 p.m. Sunday mass. If you can help, please call Robin in the office at 978-897-2710.

## PROJECT RACHEL RETREATS

During the Year of Mercy, Project Rachel extends a special invitation to women suffering from the pain of abortion to experience God's Mercy at a one-day retreat for hope and healing. Three retreats will be held at confidential locations on Saturday February 20, March 19 and June 4. Referrals for sacramental reconciliation to specially trained priests are also available throughout the year. For more information, contact Project Rachel at [508.651.3100](tel:508.651.3100) or [help@projectrachelboston.com](mailto:help@projectrachelboston.com).

If you would like to have our weekly bulletin electronically sent to you, please email your request to: [janice@applevalleycatholic.org](mailto:janice@applevalleycatholic.org)



## THIS WEEK AT ST. ELIZABETH:

**Monday, January 25**  
Book Discussion Group  
Parish Center Hall  
10:30-11:30 a.m.

**Wednesday January 27**  
Confirmation Gathering  
Church  
7:00-8:30 p.m.

Children's Choir Rehearsal  
Parish Center Hall  
5:45-6:30 p.m.

Music Ministry Rehearsal  
Parish Center Hall  
7:30 p.m.

**Thursday January 28**  
Youth Choir Rehearsal  
Church  
7:00-8:15 p.m.

**Friday January 29**  
Created for Love  
Parish Center Hall  
5:00-9:00 p.m.

### AN OPPORTUNITY TO DEEPEN YOUR FAITH

Archdiocese of Boston – Men's and Women's  
Cursillo

Cursillo is a short course in Christianity. It is an encounter with Christ in a small community of the Church, in order to deepen your own faith and strengthen your ability to be witnesses of Christ in the world. The dates for the Cursillo Weekends are: Women: March 3-6, 2016 Men: April 21-24, 2016 The weekend runs from Thursday evening through Sunday afternoon and is held at the Campion Center in Weston MA. For information and registration, please check the Boston Cursillo Website: [www.bostoncursillo.org](http://www.bostoncursillo.org) or call the Office of Spiritual Life at 617-779-3640 or email [spiritual\\_development@rcab.org](mailto:spiritual_development@rcab.org).