

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
Amy Alexander Jussaume
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
Liturgical Arts Committee—Alicia Bunnell, Cathy Rose Hill
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.



*Second Sunday of Lent
February 21, 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).

THE LIGHT IS ON FOR YOU!

This Lenten season, each Catholic parish in the Boston Archdiocese will have confessions available every Wednesday from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. If you have been reluctant to come to the sacrament, have been away for some time, or just find it difficult to get to a Saturday afternoon confession time, this is a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with Christ and his Church. Haven't been to confession in a while? Interested, but worry you don't remember how to give a good confession? No problem. A simple guide is available on the back cover of our Lenten 24 Hours for the Lord guide or at <http://www.bustedhalo.com/wp/wp-content/uploads/2009/02/how-to-confess.pdf> And, our priests are always happy to gently guide you through the experience. Come experience the joy of our Lord's mercy!

REDISCOVER JESUS *Book Discussion*

We invite you to come to a discussion on Matthew Kelly's inspiring book on Monday, February 22, 7:00 -8:30 p.m., St. Isidore Parish Rectory. Please sign up with Carmen at carmen@applevalleycatholic.org.

'REDISCOVER JESUS' **EVERY DAY DURING LENT!**

Matthew Kelly, author of "Rediscover Jesus," is sending out a short video each of the 40 days of Lent based on chapters of the book. Enroll your email at dynamiccatholic.com to receive a daily email reflection video. Anyone can sign up even to receive these even if you are not reading the book. This is a great way to nourish your Lenten journey.

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES **RICE BOWL**

SECOND WEEK OF LENT HUNGERING TO GIVE BACK

This week, CRS Rice Bowl takes us to Laos, where Hongkham is using her love of cooking to provide for her family—and feed an entire school. How do we use our passions and gifts for the betterment for those we meet? Visit crsricebowl.org for more.

24 HOURS FOR 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 3rd 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!

If you are interested in helping us, we need assistance in the following areas:

- Participation in Adoration, which will be offered late Friday evening in both parishes.
- Participation in the overnight vigils in both churches.
- Greeting people at the door throughout the event.
- Kitchen support in both parishes helping to prepare, serve, and clean up meals throughout the weekend.
- Helping out with the Food Pantry projects in both parishes. We need people to help deliver groceries on Saturday, March 5.

If you are interested in being part of the 24 Hours for the Lord Team, please contact Barbara Dane at barbara@applevalleycatholic.org

OUR COLLABORATIVE STAFF:

Pastor: Rev. Walter J. Woods, STD
(wjw@applevalleycatholic.org), (978) 263-4305 ext. 15

Parochial Vicar: Rev. Paul Sughrue
(frpaul@applevalleycatholic.org), (781) 718-9433

Deacon: Charles A. Cornell
(cac@applevalleycatholic.org), (978) 562-7447

**Personal Assistant to the Pastor/
St. Isidore Business Manager:**
Robin Ulichney
(robin@applevalleycatholic.org), (978) 897-2710

Pastoral Associate/Collab. Dir. Pastoral Ministries:
Diahne Goodwin (diahneg@applevalleycatholic.org),
(978) 263-4305 ext.13, (adult formation, pastoral care,
RCIA, pastoral ministries)

Pastoral Associate: Steve Ryan
(siryan@applevalleycatholic.org), (978) 263-4305
ext. 21 (Bible Study, Funeral Planning)

Administrative Assistant: Janice Howes
(janice@applevalleycatholic.org), (978) 263-4305 ext. 10

Business Manager: John Morris
(john@applevalleycatholic.org), (978) 263-4305 ext. 11

Collaborative Director of Music: Andrea Goodrich
(andreag@applevalleycatholic.org), (978) 263-4305 ext. 12

Coordinator of Youth Ministries: Jim Flanagan
(jim@applevalleycatholic.org), (978) 263-4305 ext. 23
(High school ministry, Confirmation)

Director of Faith Formation: Barbara Dane
(barbara@applevalleycatholic.org), (978) 263-4305 ext. 16
(Faith Formation for Grades 5-8 and GIFT)

Coordinator Of Young Family Ministries:
Carmen Giombetti
(carmen@applevalleycatholic.org), (978) 263-4305 ext. 17
(Baptism - Grades K-4, First Eucharist)

Liturgical Coordinator: Mary Ryan
(mgr@applevalleycatholic.org), (978) 263-4305 ext. 35

Catholic Chaplain - Emerson Hospital
Timothy Duff - 978-287-3015

St. Elizabeth Parish:



PARDON OUR DUST, BUT WIRE THE CHURCH WE MUST

For the next few weeks, you may notice work going on in the church at St. Elizabeth's - speakers in different places, ladders, tools, new wires not yet tucked away. Our sound system team and vendor are installing our new system. We think you'll find the temporary inconvenience will be well worth it when we're done.

OUR PARISHES:

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

St. Isidore
429 Great Rd.
Stow, MA 01775
Phone (978) 897-2710
Fax: (978) 461-0577
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-Friday.
St. Elizabeth—9:15 a.m., Wednesday-Friday.

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

Sacrament of Reconciliation:
Wednesdays during lent, 6:30-8:00 p.m.
Saturday, 4:00-4:30 (both parishes)

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK:

St. Isidore:
Sunday, February 21, 10:30 a.m.—Jeremy Gulleto
Sunday, February 21, 5:00 p.m.—Irma Florio

St. Elizabeth:
Friday, February 26, 9:15 a.m.—Helen &
Miah Kearney, Memorial Mass



TWELFTH ANNUAL FORUM ON FAMILY HOMELESSNESS

Sunday, March 13, 2:30-4:30 p.m.
Trinity Episcopal Church, Concord

Meet with leaders from homelessness and housing organizations

Over 200,000 families in Massachusetts spend more than 50% of their income on housing. In Massachusetts, 64% of the homeless population is families, as opposed to 36% nationally. These statistics speak to the strain put on families all around us by the high housing costs in our state. It is so simple to advocate on behalf of these families and the impact you can have is real.

Speakers will include Chrystal Kornegay, **Undersecretary, Department of Housing and Community Development**, Deborah Goddard, noted authority on housing and community acceptance and James Eldridge, State Senator and legislative leader on low-income housing. Mass Coalition for the Homeless and The Advocacy Network to End Family Homelessness will provide recommendations for advocacy for the 2016 budget season. This free forum, organized by The Advocacy Network to End Family Homelessness, is open to all. Refreshments will be served. See www.endfamilyhomelessness.net.

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR PARISH SUPPORT ST. ELIZABETH	
Total Offertory Last Sunday: 2/14/16:	\$ 5,046
Mail backs for Week Ending 2/13/16:	\$ 5,422
EFT for Week Ending 2/13/16:	\$ 4,972
Total Parish Support for Week Ending 2/13/16:	\$ 15,440
Total Parish Support since 7/1/2015:	\$ 460,602
Target Parish Support since 7/1/2015:	\$ 452,306
Over (Under) Target since 7/1/2015:	\$ 8,296
*Target is \$705,000 for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2016.	
Through your generosity last week at Ash Wednesday Masses, we also collected \$1613 going towards the renewal of the Church in Africa and Central and Eastern Europe. Thank you very much!	

DISCERNMENT ABOUT THE RELIGIOUS LIFE FOR WOMEN

Fiat is a discernment group for single women in the Archdiocese of Boston who are considering a vocation to religious life. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 24, 2016, from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. at St. Clement Eucharistic Shrine, 1105 Boylston St., Boston. Mother Olga of the Sacred Heart, Foundress of the Daughters of Mary of Nazareth, will be the speaker. If you are interested in attending, please respond to Sister Marian Batho, CSJ, Delegate for Religious, Sr_Marian_Batho@rcab.org or call 617-746-5637.



READINGS THIS SUNDAY (Cycle B)
Gn15:5-12, 17-18; Phil 3:17-4:1; Lk 9:28b-36

READINGS NEXT SUNDAY (Cycle B)
Ex 3:1-8, 13-15; 1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12; Lk 13:1-9

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR PARISH SUPPORT ST. ISIDORE	
Total Offertory last Sunday 2/14/16:	\$ 2,681
Total EFT for week ending 2/13/16:	\$ 1,976
Total Parish Support for Week Ending 2/13/16:	\$ 4,657
Total Parish Support since 7/1/15:	\$ 143,196
Target Parish Support since 7/1/15:	\$ 151,800
Over (Under) Target since 7/1/15:	(\$8,603)
Grand Annual (119% of \$30,000 goal from 76 parish families):	\$ 35,706
St. Vincent DePaul collection:	\$ 72
Thank you for your generous support!	

GIFT

February 24
5:30 p.m., St. Elizabeth

February 27
6:15 p.m., St. Elizabeth

February 28
Noon, St. Isidore
5:00 p.m., St. Elizabeth

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The next meeting of the Prayer Shawl Ministry held at St. Elizabeth's will be on Friday, February 26 from 10 – 11:30 a.m. in Room 4 of the Parish Center. All are welcome to attend.



THIS WEEK AT ST. ELIZABETH

Wednesday, February 24
GIFT, 5:30 p.m.

Thursday, February 25
Youth Choir Rehearsal
7:00-8:15 p.m., Church

Music Ministry Rehearsal
7:00 p.m., Parish Center Hall

Friday, February 26
10:00 a.m., Prayer Shawl

Saturday, February 27
GIFT, 6:15 p.m.

THE EMMAUS MINISTRY FOR GRIEVING PARENTS

A Spiritual Retreat for Parents Who Have Experienced the Death of a Child of Any Age, By Any Cause

Saturday, April 23, 9:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m.
St. John the Evangelist Parish, North Chelmsford

Losing a child under any circumstances is horrific. Focusing on the spirituality of the grieving process can help tremendously. Just as He comforted His grieving disciples on the road to Emmaus, Jesus comforts us and we comfort each other in this very special ministry. Join other Emmaus Parent Companions and St. John's retreat team in a warm and loving place—to think, to talk, to feel, and to pray. Find compassion, rest and peace ... at least for a time. Retreat agendas includes prayer services, group presentations, spiritual reflections, breakout sessions. Emmaus Walk, and Mass.

The purpose of the retreat is to give yourself the gift of time to focus on your own individual spiritual journey, to focus on questions, such as ... *Where is God in my pain ... Where is my child now ... How can my faith help me through this horrible, new reality of life without my child.*

All are welcome! For more information, call Diane or Charley, parents of Paul, at The Emmaus Ministry, 800 919-9332.

COLLABORATIVE SERVICE PROJECT

We are excited to be doing our first collaborative wide service project this Lent. St. Isidore will be collecting personal items for the Stow Food Pantry. St. Elizabeth will be collecting food items for the Acton Food Pantry and St. Martha's Food Pantry in Lawrence. We invite everyone to take a bag at the end of Mass and fill it with the items on the list. These may be returned at all GIFT sessions or at all next weekend Masses. These will be delivered as part of the 24 Hours for the Lord project. **We need many drivers to assist in both parishes. Please contact Barbara Dane if you are able to help!**

MISSION TRIPS— SUMMER OF 2016

Olancho Aid Foundation
Juticalpa, Olancho – Honduras
June 13 to June 21
Cost - \$1200

Open to all graduating high school seniors, college young people and young adults.

Our Own Mission Trip Co-Sponsored with Young Neighbors in Action
Omaha, Nebraska
June 26 to July 2
Cost - \$850

Open to all young people presently in high school.

Catholic Heart Workcamp – Next Level
Champaign, Illinois
July 3 to July 9
Cost - \$850

Open to all young people entering high school in the Fall of 2016.

Just5Days – Center for Ministry Development
Springfield, Massachusetts
July 18 to July 22
Cost - \$400

Open to all young people presently in 7th and 8th grade.

Catholic Heart Workcamp
N. Arlington, New Jersey
July 24 to July 30
Cost - \$650

Open to all young people entering high school in the Fall of 2016.

INFORMATIONAL MISSION TRIP MEETING

There will be another Mission Trip Information Meeting on Thursday, February 25 at 7:00 p.m., St. Isidore's Parish Hall. This meeting is for those that could not attend the meeting on February 11.

SAVE THE DATE

Annual Youth Ministry Auction
April 2, 6:00 —10:00 p.m.
More details coming soon!

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH MINISTRY UPCOMING EVENTS

All High School Youth Welcome!

Friday Morning Lenten Breakfast & Prayer
6:15 a.m., St. Elizabeth Parish Center Hall.

LENTEN MOMENTS OF MERCY

Another terrific resource for daily inspiration and reflection during Lent. Sign up at www.loyolapress.com/lenten-moments-of-mercy.htm for this e-mail series and be inspired by the Scriptures of Lent and the words of Pope Francis.

PUBLICITY & COMMUNICATIONS MINISTRY

A new opportunity for you to share your gifts! We are seeking to form a small team consisting of people from both parishes to help our communities stay on top of written, electronic and social media so that the community, within and beyond our doors, can stay well connected and informed. This is a great behind-the-scenes activity and a fun way to contribute to your parish! Please see Diahne Goodwin if you are interested and we can discuss more details.

ST. ELIZABETH LITURGY OF THE WORD FOR CHILDREN

Upcoming dates at the Sunday 10:30 a.m. Mass:
March 6
April 1
May 8

THIS WEEK AT ST. ISIDORE

Thursday, February 25, 7:00 p.m.
Mission Trip Meeting, Parish Hall

Sunday, February 28
GIFT, Noon

ST. ISIDORE ST. PATRICK'S DINNER MARCH 19

Bring your family, invite your friends for a fun-filled night of fellowship with your parish family! Mark your calendars for Saturday, March 19 from 6-9 p.m. for a traditional Irish dinner (your choice of roast beef, corned beef or vegetarian) along with music from our friend and bagpiper Douglas Moffat. There will also be our IRISH SODA BREAD CONTEST which results in some truly amazing breads. We hope you will share yours with us! Irish trivia and music will be played all evening.

Reservations will go on sale beginning February 27 following all weekend Masses at St. Isidore's through Sunday, March 13. Reservations are \$13.00 each • Adult Couple is \$25.00 • Senior Citizen (over 60) is \$12.00 each • Children 5 & under are free • Family maximum is \$45.00.

Any questions, please email:
socialcommittee@stisidorestow.org.

Hope to see you there!



SUNDAY 5:00 P.M. MASS

This weekend, February 21
St. Isidore

All are welcome!

SUNDAY HOSPITALITY ST. ISIDORE

Come join us for coffee & donuts, March 6 following the 8:00 & 10:30 a.m. Masses.



YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

Are you a young adult in your 20s or 30s? Join us for each 5:00 p.m. Sunday Mass at St. Elizabeth of Hungary and St. Isidore's followed by an informal scripture study. We will be looking at the readings from that Mass. Join us at St. Isidore's Parish for our first scripture gathering on February 21. We will meet in the parish rectory for dinner and informal scripture study.

Save the date – Our next Food, Friends and Faith for all young adults (20's and 30's) will be on Wednesday, March 9 at Rapsallions in Acton at 7:00 p.m. Come join us for dinner, drinks, speaker and conversation. More details to follow!

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS ARE NEEDED AT THE EMERSON HOSPITAL

Eucharistic Ministers are needed to bring communion to the sick and recovering at the Emerson Hospital. The candidate does not have to be a Eucharistic Minister in a parish. We ask for a 2 hour commitment approximately once a month during weekday mornings. Communion is provided from the hospital chapel, and two ministers are scheduled each day. Timothy Duff, Catholic Chaplain at the Hospital, offers ongoing training and direction as well as a yearly dinner and retreat for all ministers. If you are interested in this ministry or need additional information please call Tim at (978) 287-3015 or email him tduff@emersonhosp.org.