

CALLING ON YOUNG ADULTS IN THEIR 20's and 30's...

A Night of Food, Friends and Faith
Wednesday, March 9
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Rapsallions Table and Tap
5 Strawberry Hill Road in Acton

Come join us for dinner, beverages, reflection and discussion. (pay your own way)
Jackie Baldino - Coordinator of Faith Formation at Holy Family in Concord will be our presenter.

For more information - please contact Jim Flanagan at jim@applevalleycatholic.org or
Alicia Giannotti at Alicia.giannotti@verizon.net

Sponsored by the Apple Valley Catholic Young Adult Community.



Food, Friends, Faith

Also, join us after the first and third Sunday 5:00 p.m. Masses at St. Isidore's or St. Elizabeth's for dinner and informal scripture study based on the readings from the Mass that week.

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.



Third Sunday of Lent—February 28, 2016

Jesus preaches a lesson on repentance.



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,

This week we will observe the "24 Hours for the Lord," which is an important part of the Jubilee Year of Mercy. In our collaborative, the 24 hours begins with a simple meal at 6 p.m. on Friday, March 4 and runs until 6 p.m. on Saturday, March 5. There is a rich offering of activities which are detailed in the brochure is available online (via the home pages of our parish websites) or in hard copy. Of course, nobody is expected to be on hand for the entire 24 hour period. But I invite and encourage everyone to participate in some of it. You might choose an activity that you are familiar with plus another that is new to you—and do more as seems helpful. In any case, please join with the rest of the church community to receive, celebrate, and share God's mercy.

Many of you have begun to read Matthew Kelly's Rediscover Jesus. If you have, you know how extraordinarily enlightening and helpful it is. If you haven't, now is a good time to pick it up. But it gets better. Kelly also offers the "Best Lent Ever" program. This comprises two very short video reflections that are emailed to participants every day. These reflections correspond to the 40 chapters in Rediscover Jesus. I have been following them, and find them to be really quite good. So I'm encouraging you to sign up at <http://dynamiccatholic.com/bestlentever/>.

Finally, this weekend the archdiocese formally announces the 2016 Catholic Appeal, with the launch scheduled for next weekend, March 5 & 6. As you consider this year's appeal, please keep in mind that the appeal supports many necessary and unique ministries, including those that benefit our two parishes along with other worthy activities and organizations that count on proceeds from the annual appeal. I intend to contribute myself, and whole-heartedly invite you to do the same.



24 HOURS FOR THE LORD THIS WEEK—MARCH 4-5

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.

The schedule for the planned events offered at both parishes can be found on the website or at <http://www.stisidorestow.org/Schedule/2016-24hoursofthelord.pdf>

There are 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 one or any number of events during the 24 hours. Mark your calendars and make it a priority! You will be glad you did!

LENTEN MOMENTS OF MERCY

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

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
(andreg@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:



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)

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

READINGS NEXT SUNDAY (Cycle C)
Jos 5:9a, 10-12; 2 Cor 5:17-21; Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

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.

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: 2/21/16:	\$ 6,097
Mail backs for Week Ending 2/20/16:	\$ 1,972
EFT for Week Ending 2/20/16:	\$ 731
Total Parish Support for Week Ending 2/20/16:	\$ 8,800
Total Parish Support since 7/1/2015:	\$ 469,402
Target Parish Support since 7/1/2015:	\$ 458,953
Over (Under) Target since 7/1/2015:	\$ 10,449
*Target is \$705,000 for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2016.	
Thank you very much!	

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK:

St. Isidore:

Sunday, February 28, 8:00 a.m.—
Elise and William Monahan

Sunday, February 28, 10:30 a.m.—
Dick Cotter

Wednesday, March 2, 9:00 a.m.—
Juliane and Tam Shanley and Family

Thursday, March 3, 9:00 a.m.—
MaryLee and Eric Smith and Family

Friday, March 4, 9:00 a.m.—
Paul and Deidre York and Family

St. Elizabeth:

Wednesday, March 2, 9:15 a.m.—
Loretta Gaeta, Memorial Mass

Thursday, March 3, 9:15 a.m.—
Melinda Samperi, Anniversary Mass

Friday, March 4, 9:15 a.m.—
John B. Walsh, Memorial Mass

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR PARISH SUPPORT ST. ISIDORE	
Total Offertory last Sunday 2/21/16:	\$ 3,166
Total EFT for week ending 2/21/16:	\$ 1,977
Total Parish Support for Week Ending 2/21/16:	\$ 5,143
Total Parish Support since 7/1/15:	\$ 148,340
Target Parish Support since 7/1/15:	\$ 156,400
Over (Under) Target since 7/1/15	(\$8,060)
Grand Annual (121% of \$30,000 goal from 76 parish families):	\$ 36,231
St. Vincent DePaul collection:	\$ 45
Thank you for your generous support!	

THIS WEEK AT ST. ELIZABETH

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

Sunday, February 28
GIFT, 5:00 p.m.

Youth Auction Planning Meeting
7:30 p.m., Parish Center Hall, Room 1

Monday, February 29
Book discussion Group
9:45 a.m.-11:30 a.m., Parish Center Hall

Wednesday, March 2
Children's Choir Rehearsal
6:00-6:45 p.m., Parish Center Hall

Music Ministry Rehearsal
7:30-9:00 p.m., Parish Center Hall

Thursday, March 3
Youth Choir Rehearsal
7:00-8:15 p.m., Church

Friday and Saturday, March 4 & 5
24 Hours For The Lord
9:00 a.m. Friday— 11:00 p.m. Saturday

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES RICE BOWL

**THIRD WEEK OF LENT
HUNGERING FOR A HEALTHY START**

The next stop on our CRS Rice Bowl journey is the African nation of Rwanda, where we're reminded to care for the unborn. This week we pray for pregnant mothers, that they may have the medical and nutritional support they need to raise healthy, thriving children. Visit crsricebowl.org for more.

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

**2016 CATHOLIC APPEAL
ANNOUNCEMENT WEEKEND**

Next week, Catholics across the Archdiocese will be invited to pledge their support to the ministries and programs supported by the Catholic Appeal that directly benefit the St. Isidore and St. Elizabeth of Hungary parishes. Thank you for your prayers and support for a successful 2016 Catholic Appeal.

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!

**CAN YOU HELP WITH ST. ELIZABETH
HOLY THURSDAY SUPPER?**

We are in need of a coordinator and additional volunteers to come forward to help us continue with our past tradition of having this annual supper which provided the opportunity for all to come together to begin these most important day of the church year.

The coordinator would help organize the volunteers that would be helping to sell the tickets, help with set-up, serving and the clean-up. If you are willing to help out so that we can offer this supper, please call Janice in the office, 978 263-4305 x10 or email janice@applevalleycatholic.org before Wednesday of this week.

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 or older 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 or older in the Fall of 2016.

YOUTH MINISTRY AUCTION PLANNING MEETING

February 28, 7:30 p.m., Parish Center Hall, Room 1
(Immediately following GIFT)

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

WHY BOTHER PRAYING?

Book Discussion

Mondays March 7—April 11, 10:00 -11:30 a.m.
St. Elizabeth Parish Center Hall

Written by the bestselling author Richard Leonard, SJ, this accessible book is for everyone who wonders how to pray, everyone who wonders what happens when you pray, and everyone who wonders if God hears our prayers. This book is less about how to pray, and more about why we pray and what it does for us, for God, and for the world. Richard Leonard SJ is a visiting professor at the Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome, and directs the Australian Catholic Office for Film & Broadcasting. Sign up with Diahne Goodwin, diahneg@applevalleycatholic.org. Copies are available on Amazon and Paulist Press. If you would like a book purchased for you for \$14, please let Diahne know by February 29th.

PARDON OUR DUST, BUT MAINTAIN THE HANDICAPPED RAMP WE MUST

Work on St. E's handicapped ramp will begin, hopefully this weekend, weather permitting, now that, again hopefully, the worst of winter is past us. Thank you for your patience during the winter. Mark Chudik, the Eagle Scout candidate and driver of this project, will work Jim Harrington, his sponsor, and scout, family and other volunteers to complete the project in small stages. Be alerted that he will avoid times with activities scheduled in the church. But, on ramp working days, with no activities scheduled in the church, the accessibility ramp may not be accessible. Also for your information, at this point, due to generous donations to Mark for the project, it is fully funded. Thank you for your forbearance.

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.

CALLING ALL MUSICIANS!

If you have always wanted to sing during Holy Week services and/or Easter Sunday, it is not too late to join the music ministries at St. Elizabeth and St. Isidore Parishes. Please join us during the following times:

Rehearsals at St. Elizabeth's will be on Weds., March 2, 9, 16, and Tues., March 22 at 7:30 p.m. in the Parish Center Hall.

Rehearsals at St. Isidore's will be announced in next week's bulletin.

Please contact Andrea Goodrich, Music Director for the Apple Valley Collaborative for more information: andreag@applevalleycatholic.org or 978-263-4305, ext.12.

SUNDAY HOSPITALITY
ST. ISIDORE



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

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The next meeting of the Prayer Shawl Ministry held at St. Isidore's will be on Tuesday, March 8 at 7:00 p.m. in the rectory. All are welcome to attend.

ST. ISIDORE—CARDS OF CARE

Anna Lopez is ill and has been admitted to Mass General Hospital for a lengthy stay. Anna would benefit greatly from some cheery cards from parishioners to this address:



Ms. Anna Lopez
Massachusetts General Hospital
Lunder 10
45 Fruit Street
Boston, MA 02114

Parishioners who also wish to visit should call the hospital first to be sure Anna is feeling well enough that day.

THIS WEEK AT ST. ISIDORE

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 you 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!

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.