

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.

This trip is now filled. Applications are now waitlisted.

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 McMahan
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. Vincent DePaul Society—Barbara Winders

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

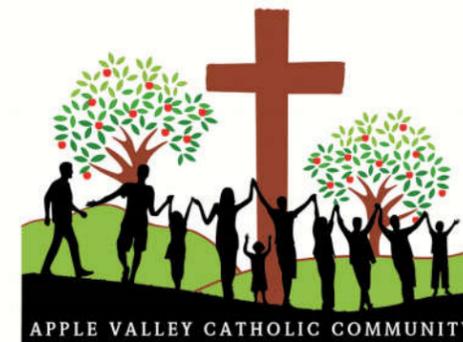
Celebrating God's love in Jesus Christ. Going forth to share it with all.



Palm Sunday Of The Passion Of The Lord

March 20, 2016

From the cross, Jesus speaks words of forgiveness and promises that the good thief will be with him in paradise.



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 want to thank everyone who helped to plan and implement our collaborative's observance of the 24 Hours for the Lord on March 4 & 5. It was a wonderful offering of activities and prayer, a scattering of good seeds that, with God's grace, cannot fail to bring forth good fruit for persons, our community, and the mission of the Church. And speaking of gratitude, I would like to thank all who have supported or pledged to support the 2016 Catholic Appeal. Proceeds go toward many worthy ministries and organizations that rely on us for support. If you have not yet participated, I would encourage you to do so as soon as you can.

We now begin Holy Week and look forward to the Sacred Triduum, when we celebrate God's great act of salvation in Christ with one celebration that spreads across three days. Please plan to participate, especially in the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Thursday, the Solemn Liturgy of Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil on Saturday.

Fr. Walter

EASTER COLLECTION: CLERGY HEALTH & RETIREMENT TRUST

Next week, at all our Easter Masses, our only collection will be to support the retirement, medical and financial needs of priests of the Archdiocese of Boston. On behalf of all of our priests, thank you in advance for your generosity. For more information, please visit www.clergyfunds.org.

THE COLLABORATIVE PASTORAL COUNCIL

At this time we need to replenish the membership of our collaborative pastoral council (CPC). The principal tasks of the CPC are to enhance communication and make suggestions concerning pastoral work; review the draft collaborative pastoral plan and assist with a reconsideration of parish activities in light of the pastoral plan once it becomes official. The normal term of service is 3 years, but a shorter period is possible. Please speak to Deacon Charlie, Diahne Goodwin, or Fr. Walter if you have questions or wish to serve on the council.

IT'S TIME TO TALK! You are invited to a "Town Meeting" of parishioners

The Collaborative Parish Council is hosting two town meeting-style gatherings for parishioners.

- Sunday, April 3, at 11:45 a.m. in St. Elizabeth's church hall.
- Thursday, April 14, at 7:00 p.m. in St. Isidore's church hall. (Handicap accessible)

The principal agenda is the pastoral plan that we are required to submit and the collaborative process in general. Parishioners are welcome to raise other topics as well. Light refreshments will be served.

Over the last 10 months, staff members and parishioners from both St. Elizabeth and St. Isidore Parishes have been developing a pastoral plan to guide the work of our collaborative over the next three years. Required of all collaboratives, the pastoral plan sets specific priorities, goals, activities, and benchmarks to help us stay focused on our mission and use our resources more effectively to accomplish it. Our draft pastoral plan is almost ready for submission to Cardinal Sean for his approval. These town meetings will be an opportunity to hear more about the plan and its importance, and engage in conversation about it. We encourage all to review the draft of the collaborative parish plan prior to the meeting. Hard copies are available in each parish. You can also access it through the parish websites, which also include a feedback form. Questions can also be sent to pastoralplan@applevalleycatholic.org.

SHARE THE LOVE OF CHRIST TO OUR VISITORS THIS EASTER!

It is a joy to see the church filled with extended families, friends, and neighbors, all gathered together to celebrate the Risen Savior! Please join us in making an extra effort to welcome our visitors with a smile, a warm greeting and even a seat during our Easter Masses. A great sign of welcome is to move to the center of the pew so that others may easily find a place to sit. Your kind gesture or words of welcome may be just what someone needs to feel at home here and feel encouraged to come again.

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
sjryan@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:



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.

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.
St. Elizabeth—9:15 a.m., Wednesday.

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

Sacrament of Reconciliation:
Wednesday 4/23, 6:30-8:00 p.m.
Saturday, 4/26—No Confessions today (both parishes)

HOLY THURSDAY SUPPER AT ST. ELIZABETH'S TICKETS ON SALE THIS WEEKEND!

The dinner will be served in the parish center hall from 6:00-7:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 24 followed by the Mass of Lord's Supper at 7:30 p.m. The full buffet meal will include ziti and meatballs, salad, bread, desserts and beverages. The cost of the tickets will be \$8.00/person, with a cap of \$30 for a family of 4 or more, children under 5 free. Tickets will be sold after all Masses this weekend and in the office during the week.

READINGS THIS SUNDAY (Cycle C)
Lk 19:28-40; Is 50:4-7; Phil 2:6-11, Lk 22:14-23:56

READINGS NEXT SUNDAY (Cycle C)
Acts 10:34, 27-43; Col 3:1-4; Jn 20:1-9

COME HANG OUT AT VBS!

CaveQuest

Save the date: August 8-12
 Monday-Friday 9 a.m. -12 p.m.
 St. Elizabeth of Hungary Church
 and Parish Center
 Games, Bible drama, music and dancing
 science fun - we've got it all!



**VBS 2016 PREVIEW AND HOSPITALITY
 EVENT**

Sunday, April 3
 9 a.m. -10:30 a.m., St. Elizabeth Church Hall
 Preregistration available!

**2016 CATHOLIC APPEAL
 ST. ELIZABETH UPDATE**

Many thanks to all of you who have made contributions to the 2016 Catholic Appeal. As of March 15 we have pledges of \$20,830 which represents 36% of our goal of \$58,175, so we are off to a very good start, but still have a ways to go.

If you have not yet submitted your **blue** 2016 Pledge Card, you can get one at the entrances to the church. Please complete the card and place it in next week's collection basket. You can also make your pledge online at <http://www.bostoncatholicappeal.org/> Simply click on the **DONATE NOW** button at the top of that page.

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR PARISH SUPPORT ST. ELIZABETH	
Total Offertory Last Sunday: 3/13/16:	\$ 6,470
Mail backs for Week Ending 3/12/16:	\$ 956
EFT for Week Ending 3/12/16:	\$ 4,972
Total Parish Support for Week Ending 3/12/16:	\$ 12,400
Total Parish Support since 7/1/2015:	\$ 519,925
Target Parish Support since 7/1/2015:	\$ 505,994
Over (Under) Target since 7/1/2015:	\$ 13,931

*Target is \$705,000 for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2016.
 Thank you very much!

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK:

St. Isidore:
 Saturday March 19, 5:00 p.m.
 For the People or our two Parishes

Sunday, March 20, 8:00 a.m.
 Theresa Finnerty, 4th Anniversary Mass

Sunday, March 20, 10:30 a.m.
 Mary DeCoursey

St. Elizabeth:
 Wednesday, March 23, 9:15 a.m.
 Regina Johnson, Anniversary Mass

SAVE THE DATE!

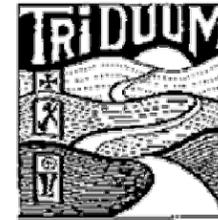


**St. Elizabeth's Church on
 Friday, April 8 at 7:30 p.m.
 All are welcome!**

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR PARISH SUPPORT ST. ISIDORE	
Total Offertory last Sunday 3/13/16:	\$ 2,784.60
Total EFT for week ending 3/12/16:	\$ 1,976.75
Total Parish Support for Week Ending 3/12/16:	\$ 4,761.35
Total Parish Support since 7/1/15:	\$ 165,022.60
Target Parish Support since 7/1/15:	\$ 170,200.00
Over (Under) Target since 7/1/15	(\$5,177.40)
Grand Annual (122% of \$30,000 goal from 76 parish families):	\$ 36,481.23
St. Vincent DePaul collection:	\$ 50.30

Thank you for your generous support!

WHAT IS THE TRIDUUM?



Lent ends sometime on Holy Thursday. It fades away quite unremarkably. With sundown on Holy Thursday, we move into what is called the 'Triduum,' or the 'Three Days.' These three days are the most holy of all days. Many mistakenly think that Holy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil are three separate celebrations. The Triduum is one celebration that is so important, so full, so wonderful, that it takes us three days to celebrate it; one event spread over three days.

WHAT DO WE CELEBRATE?

We celebrate the paschal (Passover) mystery: that Christ has died, Christ is risen, and Christ will come again. We celebrate Christ's life, his passion and glorious conquering of death. Every year, on the Sunday after the first full moon of spring, we Christians keep the Lord's Day with all our might. In English we name this Sunday "Easter," from the ancient word for the first light of dawn. In most other languages, the word for Easter is based on the Hebrew word for Passover, Pesach. That's where we get the English word "paschal." On the Friday and Saturday before Easter Sunday we fast, rest and keep watch. We put aside meals, entertainment, our jobs, school and hobbies. We do what we can to come together with others in prayer. Then, in the night between Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday, our fasting ends and the feasting begins.

DON'T MISS THE BEST PART!

Don't miss the best part of our whole year. The liturgical services of the Triduum are among the very best things we do in the Church. Beginning with the opening procession on Holy Thursday night, we open the door to this most sacred of celebrations. Through the door of Holy Thursday, we hear echoed our call as Christ's anointed. By stepping over this sacred threshold, we come to experience the very redemption Christ won for us.



**THE SACRED TRIDUUM AT
 ST. ELIZABETH**

Holy Thursday—March 24
 7:30 p.m. Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper
 After Mass Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
 takes place in the Parish Center Chapel until
 11:40 p.m., when Night Prayer begins.

Good Friday—March 25
 9:15 a.m.—Morning Prayer
 12 Noon—Stations of the Cross
 7:30 p.m., Celebration of the Lord's Passion

Holy Saturday—March 26
 No confessions today
 9:15 a.m.—Morning Prayer with Blessing
 of Easter Food
 8:00 p.m.—Easter Vigil
 (Please assemble in the parking lot for the lighting
 of the Paschal Candle.)

Easter Sunday—March 27 (Special Schedule)
Masses—8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., Noon

**Join us for our celebration. Pray with our parish
 family. Let us together recall the blessings and
 graces God has and will pour down on us,
 his children.**

**YOUR HELP IS NEEDED
 AT ST. ELIZABETH'S**

- After the Holy Thursday Evening Mass to prepare for Good Friday.
- After the Good Friday Liturgy to prepare for Holy Saturday.
- On Saturday, March 26 at 10 a.m. after Morning Prayer to prepare for Easter.
- At Mass as cross bearer, gift bearer, usher, greeter, or Gospel Book bearer or as reader during Adoration on Holy Thursday night.

Please contact Mary Ryan at 089 263-4305 x35 or
mgr@applevalleycollaborative.org.

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES RICE BOWL

We follow Jesus this week on our Lenten journey as he enters Jerusalem, a community he knew well. CRS Rice Bowl asks us to prayerfully enter into our own communities, to find those who are hungry and thirsty, those who need our help. How does our Lenten journey motivate us to serve those we encounter in our daily lives? Visit crsricebowl.org for more.

Your Rice Bowl offering will be collected at St. Elizabeth's at our Holy Thursday Mass.

ST. ELIZABETH'S EASTER FLOWER FUND

We welcome your contribution toward the flowers and decorations that will adorn our church for the entire Easter Season. If you wish to help, please indicate on the appropriate line if you are making your donation in memory of a deceased loved one. If you wish to have your loved one's name/s published in our bulletin on the Feast of Pentecost, the end of the Easter Season, please check off the appropriate box on the form below. If you have any questions please contact Mary Ryan at mgr@applevalleycatholic.org or at 978-263-4305 X35.

Enclosed is my donation of \$ _____ towards the 2016 Easter Season Flower Fund. I am making this donation in memory of

(please print clearly)

I would like the above name/s published in the bulletin on the Feast of Pentecost. Yes ___ No ___

My name is _____

Check here to donate anonymously _____

Mail to: John Morris, 89 Arlington St., Acton, MA. Or, put it in an envelope marked 'Flower Fund' and place it in the collection basket.

To ensure the safety of all children we ask that parents accompany their children who go to restrooms during Mass. The Church Hall is used by community at large, and the doors are open during Mass. Thank you.



PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE ST. ELIZABETH OF HUNGARY YOUTH AUCTION

St. Elizabeth of Hungary Youth Auction will be on Saturday, April 2. Tickets are \$25 per person and available after all Masses in the church gathering space. Come and enjoy a night of fun, and food and folly, support our youth, and take home a new treasure from the auction.

Wouldn't you love a new APPLE WATCH? You could win one in the raffle. Raffle tickets are 1 ticket for \$5.00, 3 tickets for \$10.00, and 8 tickets for \$20.00 and are on sale after all Masses. You do not need to be present to win.

We are still in need of auction items. Tickets to concerts, theater, and sports events are popular donations; also gift cards to local restaurants; weekends at vacation homes; homemade items; themed gift baskets; and personal services (yardwork, painting).

Hundreds of people could read your ad in the event book so please consider sponsoring an ad. Ads start at \$50/quarter page.

Auction items include tickets to Beyoncé, Billy Joel, Cold Play and James Taylor concerts; tickets to Red Sox, Patriots, and TPC Golf; Bauer Ice Hockey Skates; and Bose headphones!

For more information, contact JoJo Holton at jholton390@gmail.com or Jim Flanagan at jim@applevalleycatholic.org

THE SACRED TRIDUUM AT ST. ISIDORE

Holy Thursday—March 24

7:30 p.m. *Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper*
After Mass Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 11:00 p.m., when Night Prayer begins.

Good Friday—March 25

9:00 a.m.—*Morning Prayer*
7:30 p.m., *Celebration of the Lord's Passion*

Holy Saturday—March 26

9:00 a.m.—*Morning Prayer*
8:00 p.m.—*Easter Vigil*

Easter Sunday—March 27

Masses—8:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m.

ST. ISIDORE EASTER MEMORIAL DONATION



Envelopes are available at the church entrances or cut out this form for all who wish to make a donation for Easter flowers as a memorial for a loved one. All memorial forms **MUST** be received by March 24.

Flower Memorial requested by:

In Memory of:

There are flower envelopes also available at all church entrances.

2016 CATHOLIC APPEAL ST. ISIDORE UPDATE

Pledges as of 3/15/16 are \$6,635.00 (35% of goal) this does not include pledge cards collected March 13. Thank you to all who have already submitted pledge cards. More pledge cards are available in all pews for those who wish to pledge but have not yet done so. If you would like to make your pledge online go to: www.bostoncatholicappeal.org and click on 'Donate Now' but please be sure to also fill out a pledge card and check the box that indicates you have already given to the Catholic Appeal.

THE LIGHT IS ON FOR YOU!

This Lenten season, each Catholic parish in the Boston Archdiocese will have confessions available on Wednesday 3/23 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!

SUNDAY 5 P.M. MASSES TO END SOON

The arrival of spring heralds a busier schedule of celebrations in our parish churches and more schedule conflicts for our young musicians and others. That means its time to end our Sunday evening Masses for the season. The last Sunday evening Mass at St. Isidore's will be celebrated today, March 20. The last one at St. Elizabeth's will be on Sunday, April 3.

EASTER SUNDAY MASSES

The Masses on Easter Sunday are heavily attended, and all seats are usually taken well before Mass begins. If you wish a seat, plan to be here at least 20 minutes early.