

## QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

**Theme:** Jesus commands us to love one another!

### 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:** How do you make obvious that you love your family and friends?

**Question for Youth:** The world is full of examples of people who don't love others. What are the results of hate that you see in the world? How would the world be different if we followed Jesus' commandment?

**Question for Adults:** Jesus' commandment to love another is a challenge. What will you do this week to deepen the love you have for those around you in life?



#### 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.*



*Fifth Sunday of Easter  
April 24, 2016*

*"I give you a new commandment:  
Love One Another."*



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 ASCENSION OF THE LORD

The Ascension of Christ, which traditionally falls on a Thursday, may be celebrated on a Sunday in certain parts of the world.

The Ascension originated as a Thursday celebration because of the story of the event from the opening of the Acts of the Apostles. There, Luke says that Jesus rose from the dead, appeared to believers for 40 days and then ascended to the heavens. Even though the accounts of the ascension in the Gospels suggest it took place after a shorter period of time, the liturgy of the church has honored the chronology from Acts by celebrating the Ascension on Thursday of the sixth week of Easter.

The Solemnity of the Ascension is one of 10 days that may be a holy day of obligation. Not all countries have the same holy days. In those countries where the Ascension is not a holy day, the solemnity is transferred to the following Sunday. The United States is so large and its needs so varied that Rome has granted it permission to decide by region on the date of this one solemnity. It is possible within the United States for Ascension to be on a Thursday in one state and on a Sunday in another. Travelers are expected to honor the custom of the place where they are that week.

Those celebrating Ascension on Sunday will miss the Mass texts of the Seventh Sunday of Easter, filled with anticipation for the Spirit of Pentecost. The second reading and the Gospel of the Seventh Sunday of Easter may replace those usually heard on the Sixth. Those attending weekday Masses may notice that the responsorial psalm on Friday and Saturday of the Sixth Week of Easter is a seasonal psalm for the Ascension, even if their community will not celebrate the solemnity until Sunday.

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### THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD MASS SCHEDULE—THURSDAY MAY 5 (Holy Day of Obligation)

9:00 a.m. Mass at St. Isidore  
7:00 p.m. Mass at St. Elizabeth



### YOUTH MINISTRY—OMAHA NEBRASKA MISSION TRIP JUNE 26—JULY 2

#### OPEN TO ALL YOUTH PRESENTLY IN GRADES 9 THRU 12

We are very excited to have the opportunity to work with Young Neighbors in Action (YNIA) in Nebraska this year! We will be the only parish working alongside them during this week participating in a mix of different Christian service opportunities (working with Habitat for Humanity, families in the community, agencies in the area that are in need of assistance). Young neighbors in Action offers teens a week of participating in mission, growing in faith, joining in prayer and serving those in need. *Please feel free to invite your friends to join us—whether they are from the parish or not.* We are also still in need of adult leaders—especially women.

The cost is \$850 covers the cost of flight, meals, room and board. If the reason that you can't go on this trip is financial—there is scholarship available. Please get your \$100 deposit and [reservation form](#) into the youth ministry office by , Thursday, April 28 which will be our first mission trip gathering. This will give you an opportunity to hear more about the trip. For more information about Young Neighbors in Action, check out [www.cmdnet.org/ynia-home](http://www.cmdnet.org/ynia-home).

**Deposit and reservation form due by  
this Thursday, April 28!**



**SAVE THE DATE—Taize  
Friday, May 13, 7:30 p.m., Church**

**OUR COLLABORATIVE STAFF:**  
Pastor: Rev. Walter J. Woods, STD  
([wjw@applevalleycatholic.org](mailto:wjw@applevalleycatholic.org)), (978) 263-4305 ext. 15

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

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

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

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

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

Administrative Assistant: Janice Howes  
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Business Manager: John Morris  
([john@applevalleycatholic.org](mailto:john@applevalleycatholic.org)), (978) 263-4305 ext. 11

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

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

Director of Faith Formation: Barbara Dane  
([barbara@applevalleycatholic.org](mailto: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](mailto:carmen@applevalleycatholic.org)), (978) 263-4305 ext. 17  
(Baptism - Grades K-4, First Eucharist)

Liturgical Coordinator: Mary Ryan  
([mgr@applevalleycatholic.org](mailto: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](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 at 5 p.m. (Oct-April)

St. Isidore Parish:  
Vigil Mass: Saturday 5 p.m.  
Sunday 8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.  
Third Sunday of the Month at 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:  
Saturday, 4:00-4:30 p.m. (both parishes)

### ST. ELIZABETH PRAYER LINE

Are you looking for a way to give back? Do you have 10-15 minutes a week to pray? We have an email prayer line that generates a few emails per week requesting prayer. It is amazingly comforting to know that a group of people are praying for you. We would love for you to join us! And, if you need a prayer, you can use the same email. We only use first names, or no name, to protect your privacy. Please email Cathy Griffin at [cathleengriffin@comcast.net](mailto:cathleengriffin@comcast.net).

**READINGS THIS SUNDAY—April 24 (Cycle C)**  
Acts 14:21-27; Rv 21:1-5a; Jn 13:31-33a, 34-35

**READINGS NEXT SUNDAY— May 1 (Cycle C)**  
Acts 15:1-2, 22-29; Rv 21:10-14, 22-23; Jn 14:23-29

**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 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade. *This trip is now filled. Applications are now waitlisted.*

**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.*

**CONTRIBUTIONS FOR PARISH SUPPORT ST. ELIZABETH**

Total Offertory Last Sunday: 4/17/16:	\$ 3,649
Mail backs for Week Ending 4/16/16:	\$ 520
EFT for Week Ending 4/16/16:	\$ 731
Total Parish Support for Week Ending 4/16/16:	\$ 12,308
Total Parish Support since 7/1/2015:	\$ 575,740
Target Parish Support since 7/1/2015:	\$ 563,432
Over (Under) Target since 7/1/2015:	\$ 12,308

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

Thank you very much!

**MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK:**

**St. Isidore:**

Saturday, April 23, 5:00 p.m.

For All Parishioners of our Collaborative

Sunday, April 24, 8:00 a.m.

Marianna & Joseph Melone, Memorial Mass

Sunday, April 25, 10:30 a.m.

Virginia Taylor, 1st Anniversary Mass

Wednesday, April 27, 9:00 a.m.

Ruth & Richard Miano, Memorial Mass

**St. Elizabeth:**

Wednesday, April 27, 9:15 a.m.

Patricia Ann Ford, Memorial Mass

Thursday, April 28, 9:15 a.m.

Deceased Members of the Cornell Family, Memorial Mass

Friday, April 29, 9:15 a.m.

Norman Houle, Anniversary Mass

**Prayers for the Departed:**

Joseph Galvin

Mary Lou Duggan LeBert

**CONTRIBUTIONS FOR PARISH SUPPORT ST. ISIDORE**

Total Offertory last Sunday 4/17/16:	\$ 2,440.75
Total EFT for week ending 4/16/16:	\$ 1,983.00
Total Parish Support for Week Ending 4/16/16:	\$ 4,423.75
Total Parish Support since 7/1/15:	\$ 187,666.81
Target Parish Support since 7/1/15:	\$ 193,200.00
Over (Under) Target since 7/1/15:	\$ (5,533.19)
St. Vincent DePaul collection:	\$ 27.00

Thank you for your generous support!

**APPLE VALLEY COLLABORATIVE CATHOLIC APPEAL UPDATE THANK YOU!**

The Catholic Appeal team has a **heartfelt and special thank you** to all of you who have supported the 2016 Catholic Appeal. Both parishes have met and exceeded our financial and participation goals and are eligible for rebates for donations in excess of our financial targets.

Currently, over \$60,000 at St. Elizabeth and over \$22,000 at St. Isidore have been pledged to the Appeal. This is a most wonderful result by any measure!

Your generous support will profoundly impact the ministries of mercy throughout the Archdiocese as well as in our parishes.

If you have not had a chance to do so, gifts can still be made online at the Appeal site <http://www.bostoncatholicappeal.org> Alternatively the blue pledge cards are still available at our churches' entrances. Simply fill it out and give to a Parish Staff member or place in the collection basket at your next opportunity.

Together may we walk in faith with Christ's blessings. Thank you, again, for your generosity in sharing yours.

**ST. ELIZABETH NEW PARISH AV MINISTRY**

Audio Visual (AV) Ministry: We are forming a new liturgical ministry in our parish! We hope to provide audio-visual support at all Masses and liturgies that take place in the church and over time expand the scope to include gatherings in the church or parish center halls. We need enough team members (teens and adults) to serve at a Mass about once a month. Training will be provided for anyone who has an interest in this type of technology and volunteer work. If you want to be part of this new ministry or have any questions, please contact Dave Sacra at [dsacra@verizon.net](mailto:dsacra@verizon.net) or speak to Mary Ryan after Mass.

**THIS WEEK AT ST. ELIZABETH:**

**Wednesday, April 27**

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

Music Ministry Rehearsal  
7:30 p.m., Church

**Thursday, April 28**

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

**Nebraska Mission Trip Gathering**

7:00—8:30 p.m., Parish Center Hall

**Easter is the season of new life. May our joyful celebration of the sacraments with the young people and families of our parishes lead us all to a fuller commitment to live the life they, and we, have received.**

**UPCOMING SACRAMENTS AT ST. ELIZABETH'S**

Saturday, April 30, 5:00 p.m.— First Communion  
Sunday, May 1, 10:30 a.m.—First Communion  
Sunday, May 8, 2:00 p.m. – Confirmation  
Saturday, May 14, 5:00 p.m.—First Communion  
Sunday, May 15, 10:30 a.m.—First Communion  
Saturday, May 21, 5:00 p.m. – Baptism  
Sunday, May 22, 2:00 p.m. – Confirmation  
Sunday, June 12, 10:30 a.m. – Baptism  
Sunday, June 25, 5:00 p.m.—Baptism

**YOUTH MINISTRY AUCTION QUILT RAFFLE UPDATE**

We are happy to announce the winner of the quilt is Sheila Bauer. Thank you to all parishioners who supported this raffle. We would like to acknowledge the talented woman who designed and created this beautiful work of art. We are grateful to Suzanne Fuller, Barbara Winders, Patty Fraser, Mary Nadwairki, and Janet Richards for their generosity to the Youth Ministry Auction.

## THIS WEEK AT ST. ISIDORE:

**Tuesday, April 26**  
Choir Practice  
6:30 p.m., Church

**Thursday, April 28**  
Parish Finance Councils  
7:00 p.m.

**Friday, April 29**  
Confirmation Rehearsal  
7:00 p.m., Church

**Saturday, April 30**  
5:00 p.m., Confirmation

**Friday, May 6**  
5:00 p.m. First Communion Rehearsal for:  
Saturday, May 7, 5:00 p.m. and  
Sunday May 8, 10:30 a.m.

## UPCOMING SACRAMENTS AT ST. ISIDORE

Saturday, April 30, 5:00 p.m.—Confirmation  
Saturday, May 7, 5:00 p.m.—First Eucharist  
Saturday, May 21, 5:00 p.m.—First Eucharist  
Sunday, May 22, 10:30 a.m.—First Eucharist



## 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.



## THANK YOU!

A huge Thank You to all who helped us on our annual Parish yard clean-up day: Scott & Cole Dru-gotch; Dave Goulet; Allan Jussaume; Nancy Milligan; Michele, Matthew & Brian Sinopoli; and Joseph, Dorothy, Steven & Anna Vacaro.

We appreciate all your help and could not have done this without you - the parish grounds and gardens look wonderful!



## CALLING ALL YOUTH ALTAR SERVERS NEEDED!

A lot happens to help our worship during Mass. The service provided by altar servers contributes to this greatly. We often don't notice their impact unless they are not there! Thank you to our faithful and dedicated servers! Let us show our appreciation to them and commitment to our community by adding to their numbers! We invite youth age 10 and up to consider participating in this wonderful ministry. It is a great way to learn about and get more from liturgy, to get involved, share your gifts with the community and have some fun! Hey, you're coming to Mass anyway, why not make the most of it and get involved! The more we have the less of a burden of commitment it is for everyone! Parents, talk to you kids about this - it is a great way to grow caring, committed, responsible and faith-filled young people! Please talk to Diahne Goodwin, Fr. Walter, Fr. Paul or Deacon Charlie for more information. We'd love to get a few on board soon so that we can hold a training before the end of the school year.

## ST. ISIDORE CORI FORMS AVAILABLE

**Available after every Mass in April**

All St. Isidore volunteers must fill out 2016 CORI forms. Personnel will be on hand after every Mass in April, beginning with the 5:00 p.m. Mass on April 9, in the work sacristy with the forms you need to fill out. Please remember to stop by and fill out a new CORI form.

## FORMING DISCIPLES IN MISSION

**Workshop in Parish-Based Evangelization**  
Saturday, June 11, 9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.  
Braintree, MA

The archdiocesan Pastoral Center is excited to offer the next Forming Disciples in Mission workshops and would be happy to have you join in! Learn more and register by June 4 at [www.disciplesinmission.com/formingdisciplesForming](http://www.disciplesinmission.com/formingdisciplesForming). Disciples in Mission provides a comprehensive exploration of six core areas:

- The New Evangelization: Teaching the Art of Living
- Disciples: Embracing the Call to Holiness
- Witness: Sharing Personal Testimony
- Forming Disciples: Living the Great Commission
- Evangelizing Parishes: Becoming Centers for the New Evangelization
- Gateway Moments: Evangelizing through Parish Life

The day also includes time together in prayer, as well as lunch and a light breakfast. This workshop is free for any and all collaborative participants. This workshop is free for any and all collaborative council and committee members. All are welcome!

## WHEN YOUR BROTHER OR SISTER DIES

When a brother or sister dies everything changes in your family, in your life, and your dreams. Know you are not alone in your grief and loneliness. A Surviving Sibling Support Group is now offered at Saint John the Evangelist Old Parish Hall, 115 Middlesex Street, North Chelmsford, MA on the last Saturday each month for surviving siblings of all ages and for any reason. All are welcome to a safe place to share their story, find comfort, hope and encouragement as you continue a new path in life. Meetings will begin: Saturday, April 30 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and will continue to meet on the last Saturday of each month.

**SACRED THREADS PRESENTS  
WISE AND HOLY WOMEN**  
**Art and Stories with Bro. Mickey McGrath**  
Saturday, May 21, 10:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.  
St. Julia's Parish Hall, Weston

Join with artist and author Bro. Mickey as he shares images and stories from his award winning books. You will laugh, cry and get reacquainted with great women from across the ages in church history. From Mary and Elizabeth, through the four Doctors of the church to Dorothy Day and Thea Bowman in our own time, we will encounter women as sources of hope and inspiration from our church and world. The cost is \$50 and lunch is included. Register on-line at [www.SacredThreadsCenter.org](http://www.SacredThreadsCenter.org). Contact Rosemary Mulvihill at [rosemary@sacredthreadscenter.org](mailto:rosemary@sacredthreadscenter.org) or 617-894-0119 for more information.

## ENRICH YOUR MARRIAGE

Saturday, May 21, 6:00 p.m.  
Christ the King Parish, Concord, NH

What's the most important word in a marriage? What do you wish your spouse knew about you? What are the key ingredients to a healthy and happy marriage? Come listen to Dr. Allen Hunt from Dynamic Catholic answer these questions at the Passion & Purpose for Marriage event. Co-sponsored by Worldwide Marriage Encounter. All are welcome! To register contact Debbie and Doug Sousa at 508-646-3902 or at [enrichment@wwmema.org](mailto:enrichment@wwmema.org).

## SPRING CLEANING?

Donations Needed at Household Goods

Household Goods, 530 Main Street, Acton on Rte. 27, is currently in need of donations, especially blenders, food processors, coffee makers, lamps (not halogen), microwaves (countertop models only), slow cookers, toasters, toaster ovens, and televisions manufactured in 2000 or later. Also: sewing kit items (threads, including partial spools; small scissors, sewing needles); comforters, blankets and sheets - especially Queen size, and crib-size baby sheets. Donations are gratefully accepted on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday mornings from 9 a.m. to noon. For more information, visit their website: [www.householdgoods.org](http://www.householdgoods.org).