

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

Theme: Come home. God's forgiveness is always there.
God forgives before we even ask for forgiveness.

Breaking Open the Word

Suggested text for faith sharing: Today's Gospel

Step One: Listen to the Word

You have heard this parable many times. When you listened to it today, what word or phrase or image really struck you? What feeling does this story leave you with?

Step Two: Look into Your Life

Question for Children: The father in this story welcomed his son home, even after he ran away and did bad things. How do you know God welcomes you after you do that?

Question for Youth: The prodigal son was welcomed home even though he had sinned. How hard is it for you to ask for forgiveness? Is it hard for you to believe that you are still loved even when you have sinned?

Question for Adults: When you wander away from being true to your faith, how do you know God will take you back? What signs do you see?

Pastoral Leadership Team

Fr. Walter Woods
Diahne Goodwin
Deacon Charlie Cornell
Janice Howes

Collaborative Pastoral Council

Fr. Walter Woods
Fr. Paul Sughrue
Deacon Charlie Cornell
Diahne Goodwin
Steve Ryan
Paul McMahan
JoAnn Witek
Jan Ketonen
Dan Armstrong
Janet Moroney
Mary Ellen Johnson
David Winders
Kim Tocci
Kevin Henry

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

Collaborative CAP Team Leader

(Child Abuse Protection)
Jack Deasy

*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.



Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 11, 2016

This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.



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 is the 15th anniversary of that terrible day known simply as 9/11, when Islamic militants belonging to Al-Qaeda successfully attacked the Twin Towers in New York and the Pentagon near Washington, DC. Besides the destruction inflicted on those buildings, these attacks killed several thousand people, including the passengers and crew of the hijacked jets, people in the targeted buildings, and first responders. Two members of our own community were among the dead. On this occasion, we prayerfully remember the deceased, those who mourn them, and all who were injured on 9/11. As we pray God's blessing on all who were directly or indirectly impacted, we do well to reflect also on the mystery of evil in human life, and people's capacity to embrace and spread it by their own guilty decisions and actions. May the Lord protect us from such evil, and especially from any complicity with it. May we ask and accept the grace to walk always along the way of virtue, mutual respect, and upright living—and do all things in charity.

On October 1, our two parishes will inaugurate a new, collaborative-based Mass schedule for Saturday evening and Sunday. It reflects the still declining number of priests available for parish service and the bonds of friendship and cooperation that have developed among us in the past several years. But more than that, this schedule will allow us to use the various liturgical ministries more effectively and continue to improve the depth and quality of our Eucharistic celebrations. I am also happy to tell you that this coordinated schedule will open the way for other important pastoral initiatives that are detailed elsewhere in this bulletin.

A reminder: I will give a major presentation to parishioners this Wednesday, Sept. 14 at 7:30 p.m. in St. Isidore Church. Light refreshments will be served in the church hall starting at 7 p.m. Beginning promptly at 7:30, the presentation will review our current situation and discuss the meaning, temptations, grace and call of the current moment. I will set forth quite clearly how we are called to respond—as persons, as a community, and with respect to our parishes. I hope to see you on Wednesday evening.

Fr. Walter

NEW COLLABORATIVE MASS SCHEDULE

(Effective October 1, 2016)

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday

9 a.m. at St. Isidore
9:15 a.m. at St. Elizabeth

Saturday

4 p.m. at St. Elizabeth
5 p.m. at St. Isidore

Sunday

9 a.m. at St. Isidore
10:30 a.m. at St. Elizabeth
5 p.m. at St. Elizabeth

Note: We will continue to follow the present schedule until Oct. 1, including the summer schedule at St. Isidore.

PASTORAL INITIATIVES STARTING IN OCTOBER

The new weekend Mass schedule that begins on October 1 opens the door to several other pastoral initiatives to enhance the life and work of our parishes, and ultimately put us in a better position to do our mission. Beginning in October:

- Confessions on Saturday will be 3 – 3:30 p.m. at St. Elizabeth's, and 4 – 4:30 at St. Isidore's.
- We can now schedule Mass on five days per week in our collaborative: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at St. Elizabeth's and Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday at St. Isidore's.
- Members of our pastoral staff will now be routinely present and available in church before and after Sunday Mass in both our parishes (Saturday is TBD). They will be able to connect with parishioners, and take care of routine requests such as Mass cards and registrations. Given this added availability and to be fair to our staff members, both parish offices will be closed on Fridays.

As usual, we are interested in your feedback, and will pay attention to how these initiatives work out in practice. Let's keep in touch.

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

Parochial Vicar: Rev. Paul Sughree
(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.

St. Isidore Parish:
Vigil Mass: Saturday 5 p.m.
Sunday 9:30 a.m.

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)

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



READINGS THIS SUNDAY— Sept. 11 (Cycle C)
Ex 32: 7-11, 13-14; 1 Tm 1:12-17; Lk 15:1-32

READINGS NEXT SUNDAY— Sept. 18 (Cycle C)
Am 8:4-7; 1 Tim 2:1-8; Lk 16:1-13

ST. ISIDORE PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Please join us for the First Prayer Shawl meeting of the season on Monday, Sept 12, at 7 p.m. in the rectory.

**PERMANENT DIOCONATE
INQUIRERS PROGRAM
IS CHRIST CALLING YOU?**

If you are discerning God’s possible call to serve the Church as a minister of Charity, Word, and Sacrament as an ordained deacon in the Archdiocese of Boston, you and your wife are invited to take part in the upcoming Inquirer program. The program consists of four sessions:

Session I: Who is the Deacon and am I one who is called?

Session II: How does diaconate ministry fit into marriage and family life?

Session III: Application process, Canon Law, Formation from the wives perspective Session.

Session IV: Half-day discernment retreat Saturday.

For more information go to <http://bostondiaconate.org/news.html> or contact Deacon Charlie at cac@applevalleycatholic.org.

**CONTRIBUTIONS FOR PARISH SUPPORT
ST. ELIZABETH**

Total Offertory Last Sunday: 9/4/16:	\$	4,628
Mail backs for Week Ending 9/3/16:	\$	1,440
EFT for Week Ending 9/3/16:	\$	711
Total Parish Support for Week Ending 9/3/16:	\$	6,779
Total Parish Support since 7/1/2016:	\$	125,254
Target Parish Support since 7/1/2016:	\$	127,519
Over (Under) Target since 7/1/2016:	\$	(2,265)

Last week, parishioners also donated \$1,023 towards the support of The Catholic University of America. Thank you very much!

When you write or review your Will or Trust, please consider leaving a charitable bequest to St. Elizabeth of Hungary Parish.

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK:

St. Isidore:

Sunday, September 11, 9:30 a.m.
James Cummings, Memorial Mass

St. Elizabeth:

Wednesday, September 14, 9:15 a.m.
Myron Liskiewicz, Memorial Mass

Thursday, September 15, 9:15 a.m.
Leo O’Halloran
11th Anniversary Mass

Friday, September 16, 9:15 a.m.
Mary, George, Marie and Theresa Allen
Memorial Mass

**SECOND COLLECTION FOR
HEALTH AND RETIREMENT TRUST**

Next week’s second collection supports the retirement and medical 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.

**CONTRIBUTIONS FOR PARISH SUPPORT
ST. ISIDORE**

Total Offertory Last Sunday 9/4/16:	\$	2,598
Total EFT for Week Ending 9/4/16:	\$	1,983
Total Parish Support for Week Ending 9/4/16:	\$	4,581
Total Parish Support since 7/1/16:	\$	41,833
Target Parish Support since 7/1/16:	\$	46,000
Over (Under) Target since 7/1/16:	\$	(4,167)
St. Vincent DePaul Collection:	\$	165
Catholic University Collection	\$	660

Thank you for your generosity.

FALL BOOK DISCUSSION GROUPS

Beautiful Mercy:

*Experiencing God’s Unconditional Love
so we can Share it with Others*

Dynamic Catholic and Matthew Kelly have enlisted the help of twenty-six incredible authors who witness to the power of God’s mercy, provide simple, practical tips on how to be an instrument of that mercy, and bring hope to anyone searching for deeper meaning in life. *The first session will cover the Introduction and Chapters 1-3.*

Free copies will be available in September. Please Contact Diahne Goodwin, diahneg@applevalleyCatholic.org if you would like to participate.

St. Elizabeth Parish Center

Monday Mornings 10 – 11:30 a.m.:
Sept. 12, 19, 26 & Oct 3
OR

Sunday Evenings 7 – 8:30 p.m.:
Sept. 18, 25, Oct. 9 & 1
OR

St. Isidore Rectory

Thursday Mornings 9:45 – 11:15 a.m.:
Sept 15, 22, 29 & Oct 6

CHILD ABUSE PROTECTION TRAINING

Child Abuse Protection (Virtus) training is required for all volunteers, staff, and ministers 18 and older who will have direct contact with children or teens in the collaborative. You only need to take Virtus once and it can be completed in a single 2 ½ hour class. This year’s Virtus sessions will be offered on a bi-monthly basis.

September Sessions:

Thursday, September 22, 7:00 p.m.
St. Elizabeth Parish Center

Tuesday, September 27, 6:30 p.m.
St. Isidore, Rosemary Corley

To register contact Jack Deasy at jw.deasy@gmail.com

**GROWING IN FAITH (GIFT)
THIS WEEKEND**

September 10

St. Isidore Church Hall
6:15 a.m.—8:45 p.m.

September 11

St. Elizabeth Church Hall
11:45 a.m.—2:15 p.m.
6:15 p.m.—8:45 p.m.

**JUST WONDERING ...
ARE YOU SOMEONE OR
DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO...**

- Has expressed an interest in becoming Catholic?
- Has a child over the age of seven who has not been baptized?
- Was baptized Catholic as a child, but has not celebrated the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist?

We offer an opportunity to come together in a small group to learn more about our faith. Sessions focus getting to know Jesus Christ and the teachings and experience of Church and prepare individuals to celebrate the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist during the Easter season. You are welcome to participate in the process with your questions, your insights and your faith story in a warm, accepting setting. For information please contact Diahne Goodwin at diahneg@applevalleycatholic.org, or 978-263-4305, x13.

**UPCOMING BAPTISMS
AT ST. ELIZABETH**

Sunday, September 18, 10:30 a.m.
Saturday, September 24, 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, October 2, 10:30 a.m.

THIS WEEK AT ST. ELIZABETH:

Sunday, September 11

Growing in Faith Together (GIFT)
11:45 a.m.—2:15 p.m., Church Hall
6:15—8:45 p.m., Church Hall

Monday, September 12

Book Discussion Group
9:45—11:30 a.m., Parish Center Hall

Homebound Ministry Meeting
7:00—8:30 p.m., Parish Center Room 1

Thursday, September 15

Apple Valley Teen Choir Rehearsal
7:00—8:15 p.m., Church

Parish Finance Councils
7:00—9:00 p.m., Parish Center Hall

ST. ELIZABETH MUSIC MINISTRY ENSEMBLES

Come sing at the Saturday 5 p.m. Mass and the 10:30 a.m. Sunday Mass. Rehearsals are on Wednesday evenings from 7:30 – 9 p.m. in St. Elizabeth's Parish Center Hall. Adults and High School students are welcome to join. Rehearsals begin September 21.

ST. ELIZABETH OF HUNGARY CHILDREN'S CHOIR

St. Elizabeth of Hungary Children's Choir rehearsals are on a new night: Thursdays from 5:45 –6:30 p.m. in the Parish Center Hall. Children in grades 2 – 6 are invited to join this choir that will sing once a month at the 10:30 Sunday Mass. Rehearsals will begin on September 29.

While learning pieces for Sunday Mass, the choir members learn about the parts of the Mass, the liturgical seasons, scripture readings, and the ministry of sung prayer. The children will play musical games that teach singing fundamentals: breath support, tone production, blend, dynamics, rhythm and note reading. The Choir will celebrate monthly birthday parties and seasonal pizza parties. For more information, contact Andrea Goodrich andre-ag@applevalleycatholic.org 978-263-4305, ext.12.

ST. ELIZABETH EUCHARISTIC MINISTRY TO THE HOMEBOUND

Meeting Monday, September 12, 7:00 p.m.
St. Elizabeth Parish Center, Room 1

For current and prospective members

Important meeting for current members to reconnect, reflect on the future of the ministry and share ideas. Those who are interested in learning more about the ministry are invited to come to come and explore and discern if they are called to this important ministry.

Our Homebound Ministry is for those called by compassion to be the presence of Christ to the most vulnerable. We are blessed to be able to offer this beautiful outreach in our community but *we need more ministers in order to respond well to the great need that exists.* By reasons of our baptism, all Christians have a special share in the ministry to the sick and aging. Through the giving of the Eucharist, attentive listening, sharing prayer, offering reassurance and being present, ministers will bring the Body of Christ to those who cannot join us physically in worship (weekends or weekdays). Serving as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion at Mass is not a requirement. Ongoing training will be provided. If you think you may be called to this ministry and would like to learn more please attend this meeting and/or contact Diahne Goodwin.

CALLING TEEN MUSICIANS FROM ST. ISIDORE & ST. ELIZABETH

The Apple Valley Teen Youth Choir welcomes singers and instrumentalists in grades 7 – 12. This vibrant community of students from St. Isidore and St. Elizabeth of Hungary Parishes will share their musical talents as leaders of sung prayer at the 5 p.m. Sunday Mass on the first Sunday of the month at St. Elizabeth. Rehearsals are on Thursday evenings from 7 – 8:15 p.m. in St. Elizabeth Church. For more information, contact Andrea Goodrich dreag@applevalleycatholic.org 978-263-4305, ext.12.

ST. ISIDORE BAPTISMS THIS WEEKEND

This weekend we welcome in the sacrament of baptism Amelia Jane Sinopoli, daughter of Michelle and Anthony Sinopoli on Saturday, September 10 and Kiera Brooke Callahan, daughter of Nicole and Ryan Callahan on Sunday, September 11. Please join us in keeping Amelia and Kiera in prayer as well as their parents and godparents as they continue to nurture them in a life of faith.

ST. ISIDORE BAPTISMAL PREPARATION

Our next quarterly Baptismal Preparation meeting for parents of children to be baptized will be held in the work sacristy on Sunday October 16 following the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

ST. ISIDORE MUSIC MINISTRY ENSEMBLES

Come sing at the Saturday 5 p.m. Mass and the 9:30 a.m. Sunday Mass. Rehearsals are on Wednesday evenings from 7:30 – 9:00 p.m. in St. Elizabeth's Parish Center Hall. Adults and High School students are welcome to join. Rehearsals begin September 21.

A NEW CHILDREN'S CHOIR IS FORMING AT ST. ISIDORE

Children in grades 2 – 6 are invited to join this group that will sing once a month at the 9 a.m. Sunday Mass. Rehearsals are Wednesday afternoons from 3:30 – 4:15 p.m. in the Parish Hall beginning on September 28. A snack will be provided after school. While learning pieces for Sunday Mass, the choir members learn about the parts of the Mass, the liturgical seasons, the scripture readings, and the ministry of sung prayer. The children will play musical games that teach singing fundamentals: breath support, tone production, blend, dynamics, rhythm and note reading. The Choir will celebrate monthly birthday parties and seasonal pizza parties. For more information, contact Andrea Goodrich andre-ag@applevalleycatholic.org 978-263-4305, ext.12.

THIS WEEK AT ST. ISIDORE:

Saturday, September 10
(Growing in Faith Together (GIFT)
6:15 p.m., Parish Hall

Sunday, September 11
Hospitality Sunday, Parish Hall
After the 9:30 a.m. Mass

Monday, September 12
Prayer Shawl Ministry
7:00p.m., Rectory

Wednesday, September 14
Fr. Walter's Presentation to Parishioners
7:30 p.m., Church

COFFEE & COMMUNITY ST. ELIZABETH & ST. ISIDORE

We hope you enjoyed our gatherings after the Sunday morning Masses this summer! It is our goal to be able to offer this time of fellowship every Sunday in both parishes once the new Mass schedule begins in October. To make this happen we need your help! Many hands are needed:

Ministry chairperson(s): coordinates and schedules volunteers, makes sure enough food and supplies are on hand and is the general liaison with staff. Thank you to Jill and Gary Smith for offering to coordinate the effort at St. Isidore!! We still are looking for one or two people to step up to help at St. Elizabeth.

Ministry Support team: Runners/shoppers, Set up, servers and clean up: Thank you to those who have come forward to offer to help in this way. We could still use some more. This is a great way for a whole family to participate at one time. Many hands make light work – the more who sign up, the less of a burden of commitment it is for all!

If you have gifts you could share to help with this ministry in anyway, please let Diahne Goodwin or Janice Howes or Robin Ulichney know. The ideal would be to have enough people so that no one has to serve every week. This is a wonderful easy way to help our community grow; get to know each other better and to welcome visitors and newcomers!