

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

Theme: How do we use what God has given us?

Breaking Open the Word

Suggested text for faith sharing: Today's Gospel

Step One: Listen to the Word

Again today, the Gospel is demanding. When you heard it proclaimed, how did you feel? What word or phrase struck you? What is most memorable about this reading?

Step Two: Look into Your Life

Question for Children: Clothes, food, toys all cost money. How do you keep your faith more important than money?

Question for Youth: The Gospel tells us that money can get in the way of serving God. How can you use all that you have (possessions, money, time, talent) to serve God?

Question for Adults: Money is an important part of modern life. Suggest one or two ways you can keep the need for money in balance with your faith.

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
Hayley Reynolds
Dan Armstrong
Janet Moroney
Carolyn 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*

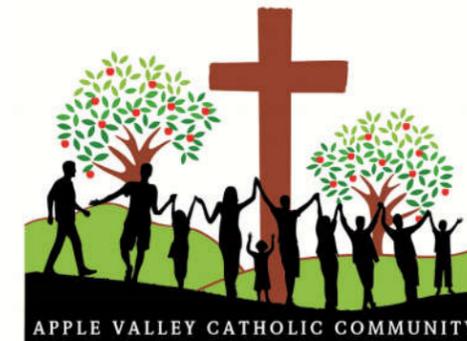
Celebrating God's love in Jesus Christ. Going forth to share it with all.



Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 18, 2016

You cannot serve both God and mammon.



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 Pastor's corner

My presentation in St. Isidore Church on Wednesday evening considered the situation of our two parishes at this time and what it means. I spoke about the "maintenance" concept of a parish's purpose and our urgent responsibility to reorient ourselves (persons, community, parishes) to the mission of Jesus Christ. These two sentences do not begin to capture the extraordinary event that unfolded on Wednesday evening. Along with other participants I continue to process the whole experience, including the questions and feedback that have been presented and the heightened interest in where we go from here.

Here are a few very initial thoughts and reflections. First, the Q&A cards handed in were numerous and covered a very wide range of topics. Time did not allow me to offer more than a few brief comments to a couple of the questions. But the rest of them deserve attention. So we will publish them once we figure out how best to do that. Although this will take more time, I would like to find a way to raise up and respond to the substantive issues that the Q&A cards raise. Second and while still on the topic of publishing, the entire event was video-recorded and I have the slides used in the presentation. We will make these available as soon as we can. Third, Fr. Paul Soper, Archdiocesan Secretary for Evangelization and Discipleship, and others at the Pastoral Center are most interested in what we're doing and wish to work with us as we go forward. I welcome their interest and look forward to collaborating with them. Finally (at least for now), I am giving a great deal of thought to the "Where do we go from here?" question. The presentation dealt with that in some detail, but it requires ongoing attention and follow up. That will have to be a principal concern for us all—persons, community, and parishes—as we go forward. Everyone please join the conversation, and let us all walk together on the road from maintenance to mission.

Fr. Walter



AN IMPORTANT NOTE TO ST. ELIZABETH PARISHIONERS

The combined Mass schedule to begin in October requires us to resolve an inconsistency in liturgical posture, one that occurs during the Rite of Communion. When St. E's implemented the new Instruction for the celebration of Mass some years ago, it did not include a change in the assembly's posture during the prayer, "Behold the lamb of God ...".

The assembly at St. Isidore's has been following the correct posture all along, and now St. Elizabeth's needs to do so as well. Following the same correct posture will avoid the awkwardness that occurs when worshipers do different things at the same time. To be specific: the assembly kneels right after the words "... Grant us peace" and remains kneeling until the priest receives holy communion. Then everyone stands for the reception of holy communion—as both parishes have correctly been doing all along. We normally remain on our feet until the last person to receive holy communion has finished receiving.

I will speak about this next weekend when I am at St. E's. We'll make the changeover on October 1.

Fr. Walter

NEW COLLABORATIVE MASS SCHEDULE (Effective October 1, 2016)

Monday, Wednesday, Friday
9 a.m. at St. Elizabeth

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
9 a.m. at St. Isidore

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

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.

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)
Am 8:4-7; 1 Tim 2:1-8; Lk 16:1-13

READINGS NEXT SUNDAY— Sept. 18 (Cycle C)
Am 6:1a, 4-7; 1 Tim 6:11-16; Lk 16:19-31

**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://bostondiocconate.org/news.html> or contact Deacon Charlie at cac@applevalleycatholic.org.

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

**CONTRIBUTIONS FOR PARISH SUPPORT
ST. ELIZABETH**

Total Offertory Last Sunday: 9/11/16:	\$	4,203
Mail backs for Week Ending 9/10/16:	\$	626
EFT for Week Ending 9/10/16:	\$	4,652
Total Parish Support for Week Ending 9/10/16:	\$	9,481
Total Parish Support since 7/1/2016:	\$	134,710
Target Parish Support since 7/1/2016:	\$	137,541
Over (Under) Target since 7/1/2016:	\$	(2,831)

Preliminary target is \$715,000 for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2017.
Thank you very much!

In last weekend's second collections, parishioners donated \$2,236 towards the support of relief efforts to those devastated by the flooding in Louisiana. Thank you for your outreach to those affected.

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK:

St. Isidore:

Saturday September 17, 5:00 p.m.
Ken Jones, Memorial Mass

St. Elizabeth:

Wednesday, September 21, 9:15 a.m.
William Farrell, Anniversary Mass

Thursday, September 22, 9:15 a.m.
Timothy J. Fitzgerald, Anniversary Mass

Friday, September 23, 9:15 a.m.
Betty and John Saganich, Memorial Mass

Prayers for the Deceased: Joseph Saganich

**THE ACTON FOOD PANTRY
NEEDS VOLUNTEERS**

The Acton Food Pantry, serving Acton, Boxboro, and surrounding communities is short staffed with volunteers on many crews. The summer is always a problem when volunteers are on vacation, but it is not straightening out even this far into September. The Pantry is in need of volunteers and asking anyone interested to call Kathy Casselletto at 978-635-9295 if they'd like to help. Help is needed in various capacities and hours at the Pantry on Wednesdays and Thursdays, and for truck unloading on Tuesdays around noon. Please call for more details regarding times and responsibilities. Thank you!

**CONTRIBUTIONS FOR PARISH SUPPORT
ST. ISIDORE**

Total Offertory Last Sunday 9/11/16:	\$	2,581
Total EFT for Week Ending 9/11/16:	\$	1,983
Total Parish Support for Week Ending 9/11/16:	\$	4,564
Total Parish Support since 7/1/16:	\$	46,397
Target Parish Support since 7/1/16:	\$	50,600
Over (Under) Target since 7/1/16:	\$	(4,203)
St. Vincent DePaul Collection:	\$	9
Catholic University Collection	\$	820

Thank you for your generosity.



*Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs.
Michael and Susanna (Chudik) Holmquist
who were united in the Sacrament of Marriage
at St. Elizabeth of Hungary Church
on September 17th.
May their lives be blessed with many years
of happiness as husband and wife.*

**SECOND COLLECTION FOR CLERGY
HEALTH AND RETIREMENT TRUST**

This week's second collection supports the retirement, medical and financial needs of priests of the Archdiocese of Boston. These priests have given their lives to faithfully serve Christ, the Church and you. Please be generous to this important collection. For more information, please visit www.clergyfunds.org.

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.

Free copies are available

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. 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. 22, 29 & Oct 6

**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.

**APPLE VALLEY CATHOLIC COMMUNITY
CONFIRMATION PREPARATION
PROGRAM GATHERING**

Sunday, September 25

7:00-8:30 p.m.,

St. Elizabeth Parish Center Hall

**APPLE VALLEY CATHOLIC
YOUNG ADULT GROUP**

3rd Annual Barbecue

Saturday, September 24, 6:15 p.m.

Join us for the 5:00 p.m. Mass & barbecue! Bring your friends & family! We look forward to meeting new faces. Meet us in the parish center hall at St. Elizabeth of Hungary.

THIS WEEK AT ST. ELIZABETH:

Sunday, September 18

Nebraska Mission Trip Reunion
6:30—8:00 p.m., Parish Center Hall

Beautiful Mercy Book Discussion
7:00—8:30 p.m., Parish Center Room 3

Monday, September 19

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

Tuesday, September 20

Building and Grounds Meeting
7:00—9:00 p.m., Parish Center Room 3

Wednesday, September 21

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

Thursday, September 22

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

ST. ELIZABETH BAPTISM THIS WEEKEND

This weekend we welcome Abigail Michelle DelPaine, daughter of Robert and Kristen in the sacrament of Baptism.



Please join us in keeping her in prayer as well as her parents and godparents as they continue to nurture her in a life of faith.

UPCOMING BAPTISMS AT ST. ELIZABETH

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

ST. ELIZABETH COFFEE & COMMUNITY “SUNDAY CAFÉ”

We are thrilled and grateful to those who have signed up to help with our Sunday morning gatherings after Mass, newly dubbed, “Sunday Café.” Our goal is to be able to begin this on a regular basis beginning October 9 and be able to offer this time every week, (except those weeks there are GIFT programs running). We cannot kick this off until we have a chairperson or two willing to take on the coordination of the volunteers. The chairperson/people coordinates and schedules volunteers, makes sure enough food and supplies are on hand and is the general liaison with staff. Once things are up and rolling, and a schedule in place, this should not take up too much time. With enough volunteers in place, the chair person will not have to attend every “Sunday Café.” This could be a great role for a couple or a family looking to get involved. Please contact Diahne Goodwin or Janice Howes if you can help. Thank you!!

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. For more information, contact Andrea Goodrich andre-ag@applevalleycatholic.org 978-263-4305, ext.12.

THIS WEEK AT ST. ISIDORE:

Collaborative Pastoral Council Meeting
Wednesday, October 21, 7:30 p.m.
Upper Room

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 andre-ag@applevalleycatholic.org 978-263-4305, ext.12.

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:

Tuesday, September 20, 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



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

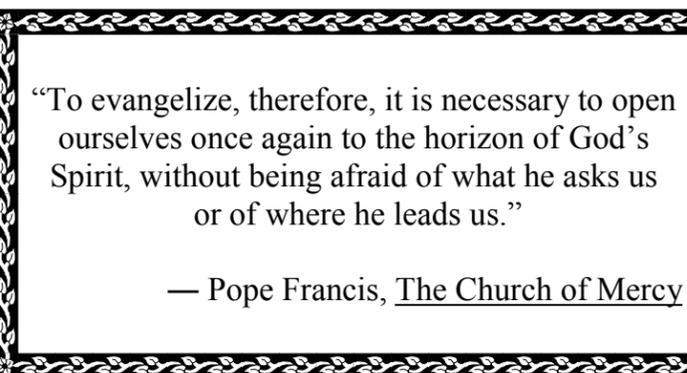
Children in grades 2 – 6 are invited to join this group that will sing once a month at the 9 a.m. Sunday Mass. Rehearsals are Wednesday afternoons from 3:30 – 4:15 p.m. in the Parish Hall beginning on September 28. A snack will be provided after school. While learning pieces for Sunday Mass, the choir 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.

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.

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.



“To evangelize, therefore, it is necessary to open ourselves once again to the horizon of God’s Spirit, without being afraid of what he asks us or of where he leads us.”

— Pope Francis, *The Church of Mercy*