

## QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

**Theme:** God's kingdom is at hand - it is here.

### Breaking Open the Word

Suggested text for faith sharing: Today's 1st Reading from Isaiah

#### Step One: Listen to the Word

What image in Isaiah lingers in your memory? What in this reading touches your heart?

#### Step Two: Look into Your Life

**Question for Children:** Beyond toys and other things, what do you hope will happen in your family this Christmas?

**Question for Youth:** What are the greatest challenges you face as a young person today in terms of allowing Christ to be your teacher and following him?

**Question for Adults:** Name the one thing in your life which you must "move out of the way" in order to make more room for Christ – a grudge, a possession, a memory, hurt, or feeling.

#### 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 McMahon  
JoAnn Witek  
Hayley Reynolds  
Dan Armstrong  
Janet Moroney  
Kevin Henry  
Carolyn Johnson—Prayer Coordinator  
David Winders—Vice Chair  
Kim Tocci—Secretary

#### 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.*



## *Second Sunday of Advent*

*December 4, 2016*

*Welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomed you,  
For the glory of God.*



**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).

## DAILY ONLINE ADVENT REFLECTIONS

Embrace the Advent season as a sacred space from the ease of your e-mail inbox. *Sacred Advent* is a daily e-mail prayer break during a busy season. Each day invites you to a step-by-step progression of praying with a Scripture reading and related points of reflection. The messages also include suggestions for further exploration of Advent themes through additional online articles and prayers.

Based on the writings of *Sacred Space*—the trusted online prayer site by the Irish Jesuits—*Sacred Advent* will make this Advent a season filled with sacred moments. Sign up to receive the daily messages from the First Sunday of Advent through the Christmas season. <http://www.loyolapress.com/our-catholic-faith/liturgical-year/advent/sacred-advent-retreat>

### THE ANGELS ARE HARKING TO HEAR YOU SING IN THE CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL CHOIRS!

Have you thought about singing in the Music Ministry, but haven't had the time? You are welcome to join the Christmas Festival Choirs at St. Isidore and St. Elizabeth this Christmas season!

Christmas Festival Choirs will sing:

At St. Elizabeth for the 4:00 p.m., 6:30 p.m., and 10:00 p.m. Christmas Vigil Masses on December 24, and at the 10:30 a.m. Christmas Day Mass - *your choice*.

At St. Isidore for the 5:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. Christmas Vigil Masses on December 24 and the 9:00 a.m. Mass on Christmas Day -- *your choice*.

Rehearsals are open to all in grade 7 through adult this Wednesday December 7 from 7:30 – 9:00 p.m. in the St. Elizabeth Parish Center Hall.

If you play an instrument, we'd love to have you join us. For more information contact Music Director Andrea Goodrich at 263-4305, x12 or at [www.andreag@applevalleycatholic.org](http://www.andreag@applevalleycatholic.org)

## COLLABORATIVE MUSIC CALENDAR

### Wednesday, December 7:

4:00 - 4:45 p.m. - St Isidore Children's Choir Rehearsal, St. Isidore Church.

7 – 7:30 p.m. – Collaborative Cantor Rehearsal, St. Elizabeth's Parish Center Hall.

7:30 – 9 p.m. – Collaborative Music Ministry Rehearsal, St. Elizabeth's Parish Center Hall.

### Thursday, December 8:

No rehearsals due to the Holy Day Mass.



### LEARN HOW TO STUDY AND PRAY WITH THE BIBLE

Collaboratively, we will hold an "Introduction to the Bible" study starting January 31. You will gain comfort in finding your way around the Bible, develop a better understanding of its themes and writing styles, and gain insights about Catholic use and interpretation of the Bible. The study covers seven Tuesday evenings from 7:30 to 9:00. Please let me know if you are interested before January 19th so there will time enough to order materials. Contact Steve Ryan with questions or to sign up ([sjryan@applevalleycatholic.org](mailto:sjryan@applevalleycatholic.org))

### SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION MASS TIMES

Thursday, December 8 (Holy Day of Obligation)  
9:00 a.m.—St. Isidore  
7:00 p.m.—St. Elizabeth of Hungary

#### 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 Sughree  
([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  
([janice@applevalleycatholic.org](mailto:janice@applevalleycatholic.org)), (978) 263-4305 ext. 10

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

**Collaborative Director of Music:** Andrea Goodrich  
([andreag@applevalleycatholic.org](mailto:andreag@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

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 4 p.m.  
Sunday: 10:30 a.m. & 5:00 p.m.

St. Isidore Parish:  
Vigil Mass: Saturday 5 p.m.  
Sunday 9:00 a.m.

**Daily Eucharist this week:**  
St. Isidore—9:00 a.m., Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

St. Elizabeth—9:00 a.m., Monday, Wednesday, Friday

#### SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION MASS TIMES

*Thursday, December 8 (Holy Day of Obligation)*  
9:00 a.m.—St. Isidore  
7:00 p.m.—St. Elizabeth of Hungary

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

Sacrament of Reconciliation:  
3:00-3:30 p.m.—St. Elizabeth  
4:00-4:30 p.m.—St. Isidore

**READINGS THIS SUNDAY— Dec. 4 (Cycle A)**  
Is 11:1-10; Rom 15:4-9; Mt 3:1-12

**READINGS NEXT SUNDAY— Dec. 11 (Cycle A)**  
Is 35:1-6a,10; Jas 5:7-10; Mt 11:2-11

**FORMING DISCIPLES IN MISSION**

**A workshop in Parish-Based Evangelization coming to our collaborative!**

If you have not yet attended this workshop, please consider participating in the upcoming two-evening workshop: **Tuesday, January 31-Wednesday, February 1 from 5:30-9:00 p.m.** at St. Elizabeth Parish Center. **Dinner will be included.**

Register for this or other locations at: <http://disciplesinmission.com/formingdisciples>.

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**Apple Valley Catholic Community Annual Youth Ministry Auction**

Saturday, March 25, 2017, 6:00 p.m.—10:00

*To ensure the safety of all children, we ask that parents accompany their children who go to the restrooms during Mass. The parish hall is 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: 11/27/16:	\$ 5,345
Mail backs for Week Ending 11/26/16:	\$ 1,171
EFT for Week Ending 11/26/16:	\$ <u>23,864</u>
Total Parish Support for Week Ending 11/26/16:	\$ 30,380
Total Parish Support since 7/1/2016:	\$ 286,770
Target Parish Support since 7/1/2016:	\$ <u>299,846</u>
Over (Under) Target since 7/1/2016:	\$ (13,076)
When you write or review your Will or Trust, please consider leaving a charitable bequest to St. Elizabeth of Hungary Parish.	
Thank you very much!	

**MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK:**

**St. Isidore:**

Saturday, December 3, 5:00 p.m.  
Henry Wegiel, Memorial Mass

Sunday, December 4, 9:00 a.m.  
Joseph and Marianna Melone, Memorial Mass

Tuesday, December 6, 9:00 a.m.  
Special Intentions

Wednesday, December 7, 9:00 a.m.  
Jeremy Gullette, Memorial Mass

Thursday, December 8, 9:00 a.m.  
Peter Hickey, Memorial Mass

**St. Elizabeth:**

Monday, December 5, 9:00 a.m.  
Gerald McCarville, Memorial Mass

Wednesday, December 7, 9:00 a.m.  
Timothy J. Fitzgerald, Memorial Mass

Friday, December 9, 9:00 a.m.  
Myron Liskiewicz, Memorial Mass

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR PARISH SUPPORT ST. ISIDORE	
Total Offertory Last Sunday 11/27/16:	\$ 2,720
Total EFT for Week Ending 11/27/16:	\$ <u>2,036</u>
Total Parish Support for Week Ending 11/27/16:	\$ 4,756
Total Parish Support since 7/1/16:	\$ 98,328
Target Parish Support since 7/1/16:	\$ <u>101,200</u>
Over (Under) Target since 7/1/16:	\$ (2,872)
St. Vincent DePaul Collection:	\$ 36
When you write or review your Will or Trust, please consider leaving a charitable bequest to St. Isidore Parish.	
Thank you for your generosity.	

**APPLE VALLEY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH MINISTRY**  
Serving Acton, Boxboro, Stow and Beyond

**Blanket Making for Lowell General**  
Sunday, December 4, 6:00—8:00 p.m.  
(Join us for the 5:00 p.m. Mass)

**Serving Breakfast at Cor Unum**  
Sunday, December 11, 5:00—9:15 a.m.

**Teen Leadership Committee Meeting**  
Monday December 12, 6:30—8:30 p.m.

**CHRISTMAS IN THE CITY**  
Set-up Day  
Saturday, December 17, 8:00 a.m.—2:30 p.m.

Party Day  
Sunday, December 18, 8:30 a.m.—5:30 p.m.

At the core of Christmas in the City are the children. Each year Christmas in the City helps thousands of children and their families celebrate a memorable holiday season at the Annual Christmas Party in which over 3500 children living in shelters enjoy a day that includes a sit down meal, toys, a winter wonderland, educational and clothing gifts and, of course, a visit from Santa! Christmas in the City is 100% a volunteer run non-profit organization. This event is open to all high school young people and adults!

**APPLE VALLEY COLLABORATIVE MIDDLE SCHOOL EVENTS**

**Laser Tag Grades 5-6**  
Thursday, December 15, 1:00 p.m. (early release)

**Laser Tag Grades 7-8**  
Tuesday, December 20, 11:15 a.m. (early release)

Cost is \$45. Includes Laser Tag, lunch and transportation. Permission slip required. We must have at least two adult chaperones to go on the trips.

**Supper, Service and Swap Grades 5-8**  
Saturday, December 17, after the 4:00 p.m. Mass  
St. Elizabeth Parish Center Hall

**GROWING IN FAITH TOGETHER (GIFT) NEXT WEEKEND**

**Saturday, December 10**  
St. Isidore Church Hall  
6:15 p.m.—8:45 p.m.

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



**LIVING THE GOSPEL**

**Prepare Ye!**

*John the Baptist's call to "Prepare the way of the Lord" is a summary of the purpose of the season of Advent. Every year, as we celebrate the Nativity, we celebrate once again the presence of God in our world. God became incarnate in the world through Jesus but also always was and continues to be incarnate in the world through each person. If we are to accept this reality and live it out, we need to remind ourselves this Advent to prepare the way for the Lord to be present in and through us every day of our lives.*

**ST. ELIZABETH CHRISTMAS SEASON  
FLOWER FUND**

We welcome your contribution towards flowers that will decorate our church for the Christmas Season. Please complete the form below and mail it to the parish office at 89 Arlington St. Acton, MA 01720 Attn: John Morris or put it in an envelope marked 'Flower Fund' and place it in the collection basket. If you are making your donation in memory of a deceased loved one and wish to have his/her name published in our bulletin on the Feast of the Epiphany, please check off the appropriate box on the form below. Contact Mary Ryan at mgr@applevalleycatholic.org or 978-263-4305 X35 if you have any questions.

Enclosed is my donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ towards the Christmas Season Flower Fund.

I am making this donation in memory:

*(please print clearly)*

I would like the above name/s published in the bulletin on the Feast of the Epiphany.

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_.

My name is:

Please check here if you would like your donation to be made anonymously. \_\_\_\_\_

**ST. ELIZABETH SUNDAY CAFÉ**



Please join us in the Church Hall every Sunday following the 10:30 a.m. Mass (except GIFT weekends) for coffee and refreshments, time to catch up with friends & meet new friends!

*It's the place to be after Liturgy!*

**THIS WEEK AT ST. ELIZABETH:**

**Sunday, December 4**

Gospel Scripture Reflection  
9:15—10:15 a.m., Parish Center, Room 4

Confirmation Retreat

10:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m., Parish Center Hall

**Thursday, December 8**

Immaculate Conception Mass  
7:00 p.m., Church

**Friday, December 9**

Prayer Shawl Meeting  
10:00-11:30 a.m., Parish Center, Room 4

**ST. ELIZABETH  
PREPARING FOR CHRISTMAS**

Listed below are opportunities for you to help at one of our four Christmas Masses and to prepare our church for the Christmas Season. Times are subject to change according to the availability of those who sign up to help.

**Christmas Environment Preparation:**  
Between now and December 18, outdoor lights need to be strung on shrubs at the front of the church.

During the week of December 18, help is needed to wire wreaths and attach bows. This will be scheduled at a time convenient for those who sign up.

On Friday late afternoon and/or evening, December 23, we plan to remove the Advent environment; hang wreaths and swags; put fabric banners in place; iron altar and ambo cloths, and neaten up the church.

**Ministry needs for Christmas Masses:**  
27 persons are needed at the 4:00 p.m. and 22 persons are needed at EACH of the other Masses to serve as greeters, gift bearers, and to pass baskets.

If you would like to help in any way, please sign up at the back of the church after Mass or contact Mary Ryan at 978.263.4305 x35 or mgr@applevalleycatholic.org.

**ST. ELIZABETH  
HAVE YOU NOTICED?**

During Advent at St. Elizabeth and leading up to Christmas Eve you will see that the placement of figures and the lighting in the stable does not take place all at once, but occurs in four stages. This is done to highlight the season as a time of waiting and expectation until we celebrate the birth of Jesus on Christmas Eve. Please take time each week to stop and notice the changes that take place in the stable during our journey through Advent to Christmas; and to appreciate the beauty of the visible structure and, more important, the gift God has given us through the birth of his Son, Jesus. What changes have taken place since this picture was taken on the First Sunday of Advent?



**ST. ELIZABETH BAPTISM  
THIS WEEKEND**

This weekend we welcome Aderyn Grace Brown, daughter of Jaime Oliveira and Michelle 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.

**ST. ELIZABETH GIVING TREE**

Every year our parish generously supports many charities through their donation to the Giving Tree. This year we will be donating gifts to the following organizations: The Acton Housing Authority, St. Vincent DePaul Society, Los Amigos in Lawrence, Lazarus House in Lawrence, St. Patrick's Parish in Lowell, St. Mary's Parish in Lynn and Bellesini Academy in Lawrence. The Giving Tree with the tags has been placed in the entry way.

Please take as many tags as you are able to fulfill, purchase the suggested gift, and place your gift under the tree with the tag attached **before December 11.**

**CONGRATULATIONS DEACON CHARLIE!**

St. Isidore Parish is proud to announce that Deacon Charlie Cornell will receive the distinguished Archdiocesan Chevrus Award this Sunday, December 4 at 3:00 p.m. at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross. Recipients are honored by reason of their dedication and commitment to the Church of Boston. We congratulate Deacon Charlie on this auspicious occasion.

**ST. ISIDORE GIVING TREE**

We are currently requesting gift donations to St. Mary's in Lynn and Warm Hearts of Stow for Christmas. Thank you to all who took the St. Mary's tags last weekend (marked with an 'SM' on top right corner of tag). The St. Mary's gifts should be returned, with the tags and unwrapped by December 11. Warm Hearts of Stow gift tags are on the tree this weekend and should also be returned by Dec. 11th. All instructions for these gifts are noted on the Warm Hearts tags. Thank you to all for your generosity.



**ST. ISIDORE GRAND ANNUAL**

Just a reminder that our Grand Annual began in October yet at this time we have only reached 69% of our goal. There are return envelopes at the aisle end of each pew for all who may need one.

**ST. ISIDORE COFFEE AND DONUTS**

Sunday coffee & donuts is now held every Sunday following the 9:00 a.m. Mass. Please join us for refreshments, make new friends and catch up with old friends.

**ST. ISIDORE CLEANING FOR CHRISTMAS**

Volunteers are needed to help clean the church and pews in preparation for Christmas on the mornings of December 14 and 15 after Mass.

We would appreciate help on either or both days if possible.

