

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

Theme: The mystery of the incarnation - Jesus is a gift to all humanity.

Breaking Open the Word

Suggested text for faith sharing: Today's Gospel.

Step One: Listen to the Word

What one word or thought in this reading really strikes you?
What image from this reading lingers for you now in your memory?

Step Two: Look into Your Life

Question for Children: In your life, who helps you to see Jesus in other people such as a classmate or a friend?

Question for Youth: Life can sometimes be rough: losing your home, moving, feeling fear or danger. How do you experience God being and staying with you in such times?

Question for Adults: How this past week did you demonstrate God's love at home and at work?

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.



Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

January 8, 2017

They prostrated themselves and did Him homage.



**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).

JANUARY BOOK DISCUSSION

“The Good Life: Where Morality and Spirituality Converge”

By Richard M. Gula S.S.

Come join us as we explore this introduction to the Christian moral life. Book discussions begin this week!

- Monday mornings, 9:45 – 11:15 a.m. beginning January 9 for seven weeks (no session January 16) at St. Elizabeth Parish Center. Facilitator: Diahne Goodwin.
- Thursday mornings, 9:45 – 11:15 a.m. January 12, 19, 26, February 2, 9, 16 at St. Isidore Rectory. Facilitator: Anita Sutherland.

All are welcome! Please contact Diahne Goodwin with questions: diahneg@applevalleycatholic.org.

CELEBRATE EPIPHANY!

With Vallimar Jansen



Saturday, Jan. 7, 7:00 p.m.
St. Isidore Church
Stow, MA

Sunday, Jan. 8, 12:30 p.m.
St. Elizabeth Church
Acton, MA

Vallimar Jansen will lead us in song, prayer, and story to celebrate Epiphany. She is an international recording artist, inspirational speaker, composer, artist, author and professor who brings it all together in her inspiring performance.

Vallimar's presentation is great for all ages.

Everyone is invited!
Come and bring a friend!

GROWING IN FAITH TOGETHER (GIFT)

A Very Special Presentation with
Vallimar Jansen

Saturday, January 7, 6:15 p.m., St. Isidore
Sunday, January 8, 11:45 a.m., St. Elizabeth

** Please note. There will not be a Sunday 6:15 p.m. session at St. Elizabeth this weekend. Participants for that session are welcome to attend one of the other two sessions. Vallimar is fantastic and you don't want to miss it!*

SAVE THE DATE!

Collaborative
Annual Youth Ministry Auction

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

Our youth mission trips are not possible without the support of our community, our volunteers and the funds raised at our auction. We need help from both St. Isidore and St. Elizabeth of Hungary communities to prepare for the auction and provide donation items. Please let Jo Jo Holton (jholton390@gmail.com) or Cathy Rudolph (rudolphcl@gmail.com) know of your interest.

FORMING DISCIPLES IN MISSION

A workshop in Parish-based Evangelization coming to our collaborative!

“Enjoyable...” “Worthwhile...” “Useful...”
“Helped me focus on my relationship with Jesus...”

These are just a few of the remarks from some of the over 40 parishioners were able to participate in the November workshop! If you haven't had the chance to participate, we are pleased to offer this free workshop locally a second time, in a two-evening format.

Tuesday, January 31— Wednesday, February 1
from 5:30-9:00 p.m.

St. Elizabeth Parish Center ~ Dinner included!

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

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
(andrea@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 HEARING LOOP

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

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

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

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

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

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

READINGS THIS SUNDAY— Jan. 8 (Cycle A)

Is 60:1-6; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

READINGS NEXT SUNDAY— Jan. 15 (Cycle A)

Is 49:3, 5-6; 1 Cor 1:1-3; Jn 1:29-34

Living the Gospel

A Peaceful New Year?

It is traditional around New Year's Day to make resolutions for the upcoming year: changes that affect the way you live; the way you treat others; setting goals to aim for and work towards. In this context, it is interesting that the Church marks this day as a World Day of Peace. Perhaps, in amongst the self-promises to give up smoking, get a bit more fit, work and study harder and treat little sisters better, we might find time to consider ways in which we can bring about a more peaceful world – even just my little bit of it.

VIRTUS TRAINING

All volunteers who work with children, the elderly, or the homebound are required to take a one time course in Child Protection. Our next Virtus training will be held on Saturday, Jan. 21 from 10:00 a.m.– 12:00 p.m. in Room 3 of the Parish Center of St. Elizabeth. To register, please contact our Child Abuse Prevention team leader, Jack Deasy, at jw.deasy@gmail.com.

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR PARISH SUPPORT ST. ELIZABETH

Updated collection numbers will be posted in next week's bulletin.

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:

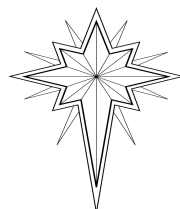
Saturday, January 7, 5:00 p.m.
Augusto & Antoinette Orsatti, Memorial Mass

St. Elizabeth:

Wednesday, January 11, 9:00 a.m.
Rose Avey, Anniversary Mass

WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE THIS WEEK

Mass is Monday and Wednesday at SEOH, Tuesday at SIP. No Mass at SIP on Wednesday; no Mass in either church on Thursday and Friday.



CONTRIBUTIONS FOR PARISH SUPPORT ST. ISIDORE

Total Offertory Sunday 1/3/17:	\$ 2,342
Total EFT for Week Ending 1/3/17:	\$ 2,138
Total Parish Support for Week Ending 1/3/17:	\$ 4,480
Total Parish Support since 7/1/16:	\$ 124,979
Target Parish Support since 7/1/16:	\$ 128,800
Over (Under) Target since 7/1/16:	\$ (3,821)
Clergy Health/Retirement Trust Collection	\$ 7,846
St. Vincent DePaul Collection: 1/3/17	\$ 529
Grand Annual (123% of goal)	\$ 41,990

Thank you for your generosity.

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

COLLABORATIVE MUSIC CALENDAR

Wednesday, January 11:

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

7:00-7:30 p.m. – Collaborative Cantor Rehearsal, St. Elizabeth Parish Center Hall.

7:30-9:00 p.m. – Collaborative Music Ministry Rehearsal, St. Elizabeth Parish Center Hall.

Thursday, January 12:

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

7:00-8:30 p.m.– Collaborative Teen Choir Pizza and Practice, St. Elizabeth Parish Center, Room 4.

EXPERIENCE ALPHA!

Alpha is an opportunity to explore life and the Christian faith in a friendly, open and informal environment.

No pressure. No charge.

Alpha runs in churches, bars, coffee shops and homes all over the world. Typically, Alpha has around ten sessions and includes food, a short talk and time at the end where you can share your thoughts.

Check it out at our “come and see” night.
March 2, 6:30 p.m.
St. Elizabeth of Hungary Parish Center
Dinner included!

Sign up at: avccalpha@gmail.com

Bring a friend!



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.

Helping Hands - 10,000 Meals Project A Great Service Opportunity for all!

Join the Confirmation Preparation Program for our next service opportunity. On Monday, January 16th, (Martin Luther King Day) we will get together for our Helping Hands - 10,000 Meals Project. That's right, we are responsible for packaging 10,000 meals that will be shipped to Burkino Faso.

Helping Hands, a program developed by Catholic Relief Services (CRS), is a hands-on way for us to tackle hunger around the world. During our event, we will package nutritious meals for people in Burkina Faso suffering from food shortages and famine. We will learn about the people and Burkino Faso. The meal-packaging event not only helps hungry people overseas, it provides an opportunity for the Apple Valley Catholic Community to live out our faith in love and service to the poor.

What you need to do:

- Let us know if can join us for a shift on Monday, January 16th. There is a 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. shift and an 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. shift.
- If you can – please fundraise for our project. The cost of the project is \$5,000.00. Any money raised over \$5,000.00 will go directly to Catholic Relief Services.
- If you can't fundraise for the project—please join us for a shift! No one will be turned away!

EPIPHANY CHALK

Some Christians bless their homes on Epiphany each year. With chalk, they write an inscription on the inside lintel above the front door. The series of numbers, letters and crosses changes only slightly from year to year. For example, at the start of the year 2002, the line read as follows: 20+C+M+B+02.

The four digits designating the new year appear at the beginning and end of the line. In 2003, for example, the last number changed to a 3. Because Epiphany comes so near the beginning of the new year, the numbers represent an annual renewal of God's blessing.

The letters have two meanings. They are the initials of the traditional names of the magi: Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar. They also abbreviate the Latin words "Christus mansionem benedicat." "May Christ bless the house." The letters recall the day on which the inscription is made, as well as the purpose of blessing.

The crosses represent Christ, whom we invoke, and the saintliness of the magi. The inscription is made above the front door, so that all who enter and depart this year may enjoy God's blessing.

The month of January still bears the name of the Roman god Janus, the doorkeeper of heaven and patron of the beginning and end of things. This blessing adds a Christian dimension to the traditional observance of the first month. The inscription is made of chalk, a product of clay, which recalls the human nature taken by God's eternal word in this holy season.

If you want to bless your home this Epiphany, read the opening verses of John's Gospel, pray the Lord's prayer, then write the inscription for this year above your front door with chalk.

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ST. ELIZABETH CHRISTMAS SEASON FLOWER FUND



Thank you to everyone who made a donation towards enhancing our worship environment during the Christmas Season.

*Your gift is greatly appreciated.
Listed below are the names of those whose a contribution was made:*

*Jennifer Anne Zupicich
Monica Heffernan
Mary McGuire
Gertrude Heron
Nancy Heron
Wilbur Sharp
John Hoff
Mike & Ruby Daddaria
Edward J. Magee
Jim Kotanchik
Noone & Farley Grandparents
Robert R. Duhamel
Ernest D. Glynn Sr.
Betty Saganich
Matthew James Romano
Donald A. Wilks
The Hogan & Egan Families*



ST. ELIZABETH PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The next Prayer Shawl Meeting will be on Friday, January 13 from 10 – 11:30 a.m. in Room 4 of the Parish Center. All are most welcome.

ST. ELIZABETH GIVING TREE

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all parishioners who took tags from the giving tree to support someone in need over the holidays. It was extremely uplifting to see that every tag was taken. The letters of thanks have already begun to come in to the parish. You all do make a difference in the lives of those less fortunate and the organizations that help them. Thank you!

NEXT WEEKEND SECOND COLLECTION

Assistance to Urban Parishes Collection

The January 2017 Special Collection, to be taken up the weekend of January 14/15, has been designated as "Assistance to Urban Parishes," to support the mission of our inner city parishes in the Archdiocese of Boston. The Archdiocese of Boston currently provides financial assistance to urban parishes in particular geographic areas that historically have had a strong Catholic presence. Many of these urban parishes have a high population of newcomers to our country, are in areas of higher socio-economical risk and are deemed critical to the mission of the Church. This collection will help continue this support to urban parishes to provide resources for mission and ministry in these parishes and for the people in the communities they serve. Assistance is needed for such parishes experiencing financial hardship and who struggle to sustain their mission and meet their financial obligations.

PROJECT RACHEL

Post-Abortion Healing Retreat

"God's forgiveness knows no bounds" – Pope Francis.

The Project Rachel ministry of the Archdiocese of Boston extends a special invitation to women suffering from the pain of a past abortion to attend a Come to the Waters of Healing one-day retreat. Winter/spring dates are February 4, March 4 and May 20. Location is confidential. Limited to ten participants. For more information, contact Project Rachel at 508 651-3100 or help@projectrachelboston.com.

CANCELLATION OF MASS DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER

If you don't have internet access, closings can be found on TV on Channel 4, WBZ. The names of closed institutions scroll continuously across the screen. Cancellation of Masses on Saturday evening or Sunday will be posted on the home page of the parish web site <http://www.seoh.org/> or <http://www.stisidorestow.org/> at least one hour before Mass is scheduled to begin.

Weekday morning Masses are canceled whenever the local high school cancels class or has a delayed opening. St. Isidore follows NRHS and St. Elizabeth follows ABRHS.



ST. VINCENT DePAUL SOCIETY OF ST. ISIDORE

Give to the St. Isidore Chapter of St. Vincent DePaul at No Cost

If you buy things on Amazon, please now use www.smile.amazon.com so SVDP Isidore gets a cash bonus. If you choose our charity Society of Saint Vincent De Paul in the Archdiocese of Boston we will get .5% of many things you buy from Amazon if you log into www.smile.amazon.com. Our bank account will get this .5% bonus at the end of every quarter.

ST. ISIDORE PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The next Prayer Shawl Meeting will be on Monday, January 9 at 7:00 p.m. in the Rectory.

ST. ISIDORE SUNDAY CAFÉ

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.

