

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

Theme: Everyone who believes in the Son will have eternal life and I shall raise them up on the last day.

Breaking Open the Word

Suggested text for faith sharing: Today's Gospel from John.

Step One: Listen to the Word

As you listen to this Scripture story today, what is one word or thought that really struck you? What image do you take away from this reading?

Step Two: Look into Your Life

Question for Children: How did Jesus do God's will?

Question for Youth: Why did Jesus come down from Heaven?

Question for Adults: How have your thoughts about death and eternal life developed over time?

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.



Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 12, 2017

Blessed are they who follow the law of the Lord!



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).

UPDATE ON FR. WALTER

Fr. Walter continues to make a slow road to recovery. Thank you for all the prayers. Updates on his progress will be posted on the Caring Bridge website.

If you would like to receive updates on Fr. Walter's health journey, communicate, offer your support and love, go to www.caringbridge.org. There you will be asked to register and type in Friend's name: Walterjwoods.



LENTEN BOOK DISCUSSION

People Of God's Mercy

By Marci Alborghetti

Marci Alborghetti brings her unique narrative voice to 14 Biblical figures who famously experienced God's mercy (Cain, Leah, Moses, Rahab, Naomi, David, Bathsheba, Solomon, Job, Matthew, Martha, Peter, Paul, and the girl with the prophetic spirit). Their personal stories are pieced together imaginatively using Biblical and historical evidence. Each chapter is a page-turner, and includes thoughtful reflection questions.

Monday Mornings:

March 6, 13, 20, 27, April 3, 10
9:45—11:15 a.m., St Elizabeth Parish Center Hall
Contact: Diahne Goodwin,
diahneg@applevalleycatholic.org

Thursday Mornings:

Beginning March 2 (all dates tbd)
9:45—11:15 a.m., St. Isidore Rectory Dining Room
Contact: Anita Sutherland,
anitasuth@verizon.net

Books are available through Amazon.com or Twentythirdpublications.com. If you would like a book ordered for you (\$16) please let Diahne know no later than February 19.

BURNING OF PALMS

From now until Sunday, February 25, we ask that you bring palms which were blessed on Palm Sunday from your homes and leave them in the basket in the gathering space at St. Elizabeth. These palms will be burned to provide the ashes which will be used on Ash Wednesday.

SUMMER 2017 MISSION TRIPS!

Olancho Aid Foundation Juticalpa, Olancho— Honduras

June 12— June 20

Open to all graduating high school seniors, college young people and young adults.

Our Own Mission Trip Tuscaloosa, Alabama

June 26—July 2

Open to all young people presently in high school.

Just5Days— Center for Ministry Development Springfield, Massachusetts

July 17—July 23

Open to all young people presently in 7th and 8th grade.

Catholic Heart Workcamp N. Arlington, New Jersey

July 23—July 29

Open to all young people entering high school in the Fall of 2017.

IMPORTANT Information Meeting for ALL Mission Trips:

Wednesday, February 15, 7:00 p.m.
St. Elizabeth Parish Center Hall

Parents are invited and encourage to attend!



OUR COLLABORATIVE STAFF:

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

Parochial Vicar: Rev. Paul Sughrie
(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
(siryan@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
(andrag@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., Thursday
St. Elizabeth—9:00 a.m., Wednesday & Friday

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— Feb. 12 (Cycle A)

Sir 15:15-20; Cor 2:6-10; Mt 5:17-37

READINGS NEXT SUNDAY— Feb. 19 (Cycle A)

Lv 19:1-2, 17-18; 1 Cor 3:16-23; Mt 5:38-48

MIRAMAR MINI RETREAT FOR WOMEN

“Be Still Before the Lord and Wait Patiently”
 Thursday, February 16
 9:30 a.m.—1:00 p.m.
 Miramar Retreat Center, Duxbury
 781-585-2460; www.miramarretreat.org

Come and gift God and yourself with a few hours to “just be” in the presence of God who Longs to delight in you. There will be a presentation, time for quiet and prayer, walking the Grounds, praying the labyrinth, discussion and lunch.

DONATIONS NEEDED AT HOUSEHOLD GOODS

Household Goods, 530 Main Street (Rte. 27) in Acton, currently needs donations, especially kitchen/dining room tables, dressers/bureaus, coffee/end tables, countertop microwaves, toasters or toaster ovens, blenders and irons, like-new pillows, Queen-sized bedding: sheet sets, pillowcases, bedspreads and comforters. Donations are gratefully accepted on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday mornings from 9 a.m. to noon. Financial contributions to support the newly expanded facility are also most welcome. For more information, please visit their web-site: www.householdgoods.org.

**CONTRIBUTIONS FOR PARISH SUPPORT
 ST. ELIZABETH**

Total Offertory Last Sunday: 2/5/17:	\$ 4,324
Mail backs for Week Ending 2/4/17:	\$ 888
EFT for Week Ending 2/4/17:	\$ 713
Total Parish Support for Week Ending 2/4/17:	\$ 5,926
Total Parish Support since 7/1/2016:	\$ 429,920
Target Parish Support since 7/1/2016:	\$ 441,594
Over (Under) Target since 7/1/2016:	\$ (11,674)

Thank you!

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK:

St. Isidore:
 Sunday, February 12, 9:00 a.m.
 Jane and Richard Bell, Memorial Mass

St. Elizabeth:
 Wednesday, February 15, 9:00 a.m.
 Jennifer Anne Zupicich, 2nd Anniversary Mass

Friday, February 17, 9:00 a.m.
 Jack Bortz, 4th Anniversary Mass

DAILY MASS THIS WEEK

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



**CONTRIBUTIONS FOR PARISH SUPPORT
 ST. ISIDORE**

Total Offertory Sunday 2/5/17:	\$ 3,373
Total EFT for Week Ending 2/5/17:	\$ 2,066
Total Parish Support for Week Ending 2/5/17:	\$ 5,439
Total Parish Support since 7/1/16:	\$ 148,440
Target Parish Support since 7/1/16:	\$ 151,800
Over (Under) Target since 7/1/16:	\$ (3,360)
St. Vincent DePaul Collection: 2/5/17	\$ 43
Grand Annual (127% of goal)	\$ 43,149

Thank you for your generosity!

EXPERIENCE ALPHA!

**Begins Thursday, March 2
 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.
 St. Elizabeth Parish Center Hall
 Dinner included and bring a friend!**

Alpha is an opportunity to explore life and the Christian faith in a friendly, open and informal environment. Over a series of weekly interactive sessions, the Alpha experience includes a meal, a short talk and time where people can share thoughts and questions. It is evangelization based on welcome and hospitality, sharing and prayer – all offered in a gradual, gentle and non-threatening way.

Alpha is for adults and young adults to help learn about and grow in their own faith, and foster an environment of life-long faith formation. In particular, it is attracting many young people who are asking the question, “Is there more to life than this?”

**Come and Invite Your Friends.
 All are Welcome!**

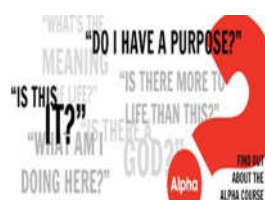
Alpha is Great for:

- People who are curious about Christianity
- People who were raised in a church but have drifted away over the years
- Faithful people who want a safe place to talk about their questions and doubts, and grow in their faith
- Parents of all ages, wondering how to keep the faith in turbulent times

Check it out at our “Come and See” night
 March 2, 6:30 p.m.
 St. Elizabeth of Hungary Parish Center

There is no charge for this experience.

Sign up at: avccalpha@gmail.com
 More info – alpha.org



COLLABORATIVE MUSIC CALENDAR

Thursday, February 16:

7:00-8:15 p.m.– Collaborative Teen Choir
 St. Elizabeth Parish Church

**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.



NEW BULLETIN FORMAT COMING SOON

In the coming months the collaborative will be transforming our weekly bulletin to a monthly format. This is in line with our goal of being a missionary community and will give us the opportunity to not just inform people about what is happening but also be an evangelizing resource for welcome and outreach. We will still have a brief one-page printed week-at-a-glance available, but more in depth articles and information will be found in the monthly format. This also will make better use of our resources on the production end. Thanks for your patience during the transition. More details to come as the process unfolds.

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

Saturday, February 11
St. Isidore Church Hall
6:15 p.m.—8:45 p.m.

Sunday, February 12
St. Elizabeth Church Hall
11:45 a.m.—2:15 p.m.
6:15 p.m.—8:45 p.m.

**AN OPPORTUNITY TO DEEPEN
YOUR FAITH**

Cursillo is a short course in Christianity which offers the participants a vibrant experience of the Christian Life and a method for living as an active member of the Church.

**Archdiocesan Cursillo at the Campion Center,
Weston, MA:**

Women's Weekend: March 2-5, 2017
Men's Weekend: March 30-April 2, 2017

For information and registration, please contact Diahne Goodwin or check the Archdiocesan Cursillo Website: www.bostoncursillo.org or call Mrs. Mary Ann McLaughlin at the Office of Spiritual Life at 617-779-3640, or email at: spiritual_development@rcab.org.

**Cursillo at the St. Basil Salvatoran Center,
Methuen MA:**

Women's Weekends: March 2-5 & May 4-7
Men's Weekends: April 6-9 & June 1-4

For information please contact stbasilcenter@comcast.net, or John Prendeville, john_prendeville@harvard.edu.

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.

SUNDAY CAFÉ



Please join us every Sunday for coffee and refreshments, time to catch up with friends & meet new friends!

This weekend at:
St. Isidore after the 9:00 a.m. Mass

**COME HOLY SPIRIT: A DAY OF
REFLECTION FOR WOMEN**

Come Holy Spirit: A Day of Reflection for Women will be offered on Saturday, February 25 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at St. Catherine Parish in Westford. It will be facilitated by Jerri Lou Buffo and Sharon Laronga. The Holy Spirit surrounds us and calls us to new life. Are we aware of this special presence in our lives? How can we become more attuned to the Spirit? Join with other women for presentations and discussion as we reflect on the role of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

Morning refreshments and drinks will be provided. Participants should bring a bag lunch. A \$15 donation is suggested but not required. Call 978-692-6353 ext. 127 to register.



THIS WEEK AT ST. ELIZABETH:

Sunday, February 12
Gospel Scripture Reflection
9:15—10:15 a.m., Parish Center, Room 4

Monday, February 13
Book Discussion Group
9:45—11:30 a.m., Parish Center Hall

Wednesday, February 15
Mission Trip Meeting
7:00—8:30 p.m., Parish Center Hall

**UPCOMING BAPTISMS
AT ST. ELIZABETH**

Saturday, February 25, 4:00 p.m.

**ST. ELIZABETH
LITURGY OF THE WORD FOR CHILDREN**

Sunday, March 12, 10:30 a.m. Mass

At the opening of the 10:30 a.m. Mass, the children are invited to the front of the church to proceed to the church hall for the Liturgy of the Word for Children.

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 that are requests for prayer. It is amazingly comforting to know that a group of people are praying for you. Please email Cathy Griffin at cathleengriffin@comcast.net. 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.



Monday, February 13
St. Isidore Prayer Shawl Ministry
7:00 p.m., Upstairs in the Rectory

**GIVE TO THE ST. ISIDORE CHAPTER OF
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL AT NOT COST**

If you buy things on Amazon.com, 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 purchase if you log into www.smile.amazon.com instead of www.amazon.com. Our bank account will get this .5% bonus at the end of every quarter.

There is no difference in what you see on amazon.com or the prices you pay on smile.amazon.com. To make it easier to get there log into: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/27-3629339> This will set up your account to us.

Living the gospel

Interpretation

Jesus demonstrates the crucial nature of interpretation. It is easy for us today to look at something like the Ten Commandments or the Beatitudes and dismiss them as irrelevant. Taken literally, they have fairly limited application to our modern lives. However, interpreted in a broader context and within the context of our own lives, such ancient codes of behaviour can take on new significance. Jesus points us towards the importance of looking beyond the surface and searching out the truth of such statements. Interpretation of scripture for our modern lives and modern world is vital to living life to the fullest.