

## QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

**Theme:** God is always present in our life.

### Breaking Open the Word

Suggested text for faith sharing: Today's Gospel Reading

### Step One: Listen to the Word

Food, drink, clothing are mentioned in this passage. What anxieties do you feel when you release control of these things and put your trust in God?

### Step Two: Look into your Life

**Question for Children:** What do you worry about? What can you do to stop worrying and rely on God?

**Question for Youth:** Do you serve two masters? If so, what can you do to stop and serve only God?

**Question for Adults:** Who really is the master of your life?

#### 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.*



## *Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

*February 26, 2017*

*Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness.*



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,



It has now been over four weeks since my aortic valve replacement surgery. During that time VNA Care nurses and physical therapists have visited on a regular basis to monitor my progress, watch out for any unusual developments, and generally support my recuperation. My sister has been with me throughout, generously providing care and assistance that have been altogether indispensable. As the weeks pass, I have felt stronger, become steadier on my feet, and been able to sustain more activity at one time. I am comfortable and free of pain. But I am still under many surgery-related restrictions and have to take things slowly. Fatigue remains quick to assert itself even after the slightest exertion.

The road ahead, then, is likely to be longer than I would prefer, and will certainly call for patience and keeping expectations modest. The next major milestone is a post-op check-up at the hospital in early March. If all is well, I will be cleared to drive and to return to the parishes. But we shall see.

In the meantime, many thanks to everyone for your concern, cards, messages on Caring Bridge, and prayerful accompaniment. I miss everyone, and look forward to the day when I will be among you once again.

Fr. Walter

### CATHOLIC APPEAL 2017

Next weekend is the Catholic Appeal Announcement weekend. Please be sure to take home next week's bulletin to learn how the ministries supported by the Catholic Appeal directly benefit our parish. Thank you in advance for your generosity and commitment to this important work.

We ask you to visit the Catholic Appeal web site at <http://bostoncatholicappeal.org> and once there, view the Cardinal's excellent video (3.5 minutes), which highlights 3 of the many programs supported by our contributions. Please think ahead to making your pledge to the Appeal and be as generous as you can. You can also make your pledge online at the above web site. Thank you.

### ASH WEDNESDAY LITURGIES – MARCH 1

**St. Elizabeth of Hungary Parish**  
4:30 p.m. -Liturgy of the Word and  
Distribution of Ashes  
7:00 p.m. -Mass and Distribution of Ashes

**St. Isidore Parish**  
9:00 a.m.-Mass and Distribution of Ashes  
12:00 p.m.-Liturgy of the Word and  
Distribution of Ashes

### LENTEN GUIDELINES 2017

The annual observance of Lent—Ash Wednesday through the Mass of the Lord's supper on Holy Thursday—is the special season for the ascent to the holy mountain of Easter. Through its twofold theme of repentance and baptism, the season of Lent prepares us to celebrate the paschal mystery.

**Abstinence** -- Catholics over 14 years of age are bound to the obligation of abstinence. Abstinence is to be observed on Ash Wednesday and on all Fridays of Lent. On days of abstinence, meat may not be used at all.

**Fasting** -- Catholics ages 18–60 years are bound to the obligation of fasting on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. On these days, only one full meal is allowed. Two other meatless meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to each one's needs, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids, including milk and fruit juices are allowed.

### LENTEN DAILY REFLECTION RESOURCES

#### **Best Lent Ever**

Free video-based email program from Dynamic Catholic featuring internationally acclaimed speaker and bestselling author Matthew Kelly to help you identify what stands between you and happiness . . . and what to do about it. <http://dynamiccatholic.com/bestlentever/>

#### **Living Lent Daily**

Free daily email reflection based on *A Book of Grace-Filled Days* by Amy Andrews, *Living Lent Daily* opens a portal to God's loving, grace-filled presence in the midst of our busy lives. <https://www.loyolapress.com/our-catholic-faith/liturgical-year/lent/living-lent-daily>

### 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 Sughrie  
([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  
([siryan@applevalleycatholic.org](mailto:siryan@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  
([andreg@applevalleycatholic.org](mailto:andreg@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

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 4:00 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., Friday

### ASH WEDNESDAY LITURGIES – MARCH 1

**St. Elizabeth of Hungary Parish**  
4:30 p.m. -Liturgy of the Word and  
Distribution of Ashes  
7:00 p.m. -Mass and Distribution of Ashes

**St. Isidore Parish**  
9:00 a.m.-Mass and Distribution of Ashes  
12:00 p.m.-Liturgy of the Word and  
Distribution of Ashes

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

### READINGS THIS SUNDAY— Feb. 26 (Cycle A)

Is 49:14-15; 1 Cor 4:1-5; Mt 6:24-34

### READINGS NEXT SUNDAY— March 5 (Cycle A)

Gn 2:7-9, 3:1-7; Rom 5:12-19; Mt 4:1-11

**FR. WALTER**

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

**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.



**CONTRIBUTIONS FOR PARISH SUPPORT  
ST. ELIZABETH**

Total Offertory Last Sunday: 2/19/17:	\$	3,406
Mail backs for Week Ending 2/18/17:	\$	2,328
EFT for Week Ending 2/18/17:	\$	713
Total Parish Support for Week Ending 2/18/17:	\$	6,447
Total Parish Support since 7/1/2016:	\$	446,725
Target Parish Support since 7/1/2016:	\$	464,421
Over (Under) Target since 7/1/2016:	\$	(17,696)

Preliminary target is \$715,000 for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2017.

Thank you!

**MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK:**

**St. Isidore:**  
Saturday, February 25, 5:00 p.m.  
Eugene and Bridget McCarthy, Memorial Mass

Sunday, February 26, 9:00 a.m.  
Fr. Mel Whelan, Memorial Mass

Prayers for the Deceased: Susan McWalter

**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 website: [www.householdgoods.org](http://www.householdgoods.org).

**CONTRIBUTIONS FOR PARISH SUPPORT  
ST. ISIDORE**

Total Offertory Sunday 2/19/17:	\$	3,281
Total EFT for Week Ending 2/19/17:	\$	2,066
Total Parish Support for Week Ending 2/19/17:	\$	5,347
Total Parish Support since 7/1/16:	\$	158,193
Target Parish Support since 7/1/16:	\$	161,000
Over (Under) Target since 7/1/16:	\$	(2,807)
St. Vincent DePaul Collection: 2/12/17	\$	25

Grand Annual (128% of goal) \$ 43,149

Thank you for your generosity!

**EXPERIENCE ALPHA!**

*Begins This Thursday!*  
**"Come and See" Night**  
March 2, 6:30 p.m.- 8:30 p.m.  
St. Elizabeth of Hungary Parish Center Hall



Alpha is an opportunity to explore life and the Christian faith in a friendly, open and informal environment. A free series of weekly interactive sessions, the Alpha experience includes a meal, a short talk and time where people can share thoughts and questions in a gradual, gentle, non-threatening way.

**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

**All are Welcome! Bring a Friend!**

Sign up at: [avccalpha@gmail.com](mailto:avccalpha@gmail.com)  
More info – [alphausa.org](http://alphausa.org)

**INTO THE DESERT  
YOUNG ADULT RETREAT**

Calling all young adults, aged 21-35! The Apple Valley Catholic Young Adult group is co-hosting an overnight retreat with the Boston University Graduate Catholic group. The retreat, "Into the Desert," will be held at St. Elizabeth from March 31 - April 2. The cost is \$50. To sign up, please visit the Apple Valley Catholic Young Adults Facebook page or email Marie Hoff at [youngadults@applevalleycatholic.org](mailto:youngadults@applevalleycatholic.org). Please register by March 3.

**ENCOUNTER LENT – CATHOLIC RELIEF  
SERVICES RICE BOWL**

Join our faith community—and nearly 14,000 Catholic communities across the United States—in a life-changing Lenten journey of encounter with CRS Rice Bowl. Rice Bowls are available now in the gathering space. Please take one home. Remember, Lenten sacrifices change lives!

**COLLABORATIVE MUSIC CALENDAR**

**Wednesday, March 1**  
Collaborative Music Ministry Rehearsal  
8:00 p.m., St. Elizabeth Church

**Thursday, March 2**  
Collaborative Teen Choir Rehearsal  
7:00—8:15 p.m., St. Elizabeth Church

**OFFICE SUPPORT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED  
AT ST. ELIZABETH PARISH**

Help is needed in the main office to support the staff's administrative needs. Duties include tasks such as making copies, prepping mailings, processing sign-ups for various activities, light computer work as needed (not often), and other similar activities. Time commitment would be two-three hours a day, one or two days a week, as needed. Timing is flexible and multiple volunteers can share the work. If you have some time and talent to share in this area, please Contact Janice Howes to discuss. Thank you!

**COLLABORATIVE VOCATIONS TEAM**

One of the priorities of our collaborative is to promote a culture of vocations. According to our Pastoral Plan, the first step is to create a Collaborative Vocations Team of 6-8 people, from both parishes to clarify, promote and implement this goal. If you are interested in being a part of this team, or finding out more about it, please contact [joann.witek@gmail.com](mailto:joann.witek@gmail.com)

**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.

**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](mailto: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](mailto:anitasuth@verizon.net)

### 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.

**APPLE VALLEY CATHOLIC**  
**YOUTH MINISTRY AUCTION 2017**  
**Let's Go to the Hop!**

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

**Tickets are on sale beginning March 4**  
**after all Masses.**

**Auction Tickets** are \$25 per person. The auction is a fun night out for adults featuring a cash bar, hors d'oeuvres, and desserts. See your friends, meet some new ones, bid on terrific items and support our youth! Please consider supporting the auction:

- **Purchase Event ticket:** \$25/person.
- **Purchase Raffle tickets:** \$5/1 ticket, \$10/5 tickets, \$20/20 tickets.
- **Sponsor an ad:** \$50/quarter page, \$75/half page, or \$150/full page.
- **Donate an item:** Vacation homes, tickets to a sporting event, gift certificates to a local restaurant, home-made items, a ride on your boat, etc.

For more information contact  
Jo Jo Holton at: [jholton390@gmail.com](mailto:jholton390@gmail.com) or  
Cathy Rudolph at [rudolphcl@gmail.com](mailto:rudolphcl@gmail.com)

### APPLE VALLEY CATHOLIC YOUTH MINISTRY UPCOMING MARCH EVENTS

Thursday Morning Lenten Breakfast & Prayer  
March 2, 9, 15, 23—April 6 & 13

Blankets & Meals Delivered to Boston  
Friday, March 3—6:00 to 10:30 p.m.

Catholic Youth Conference  
Saturday, March 18—11:30 to 7:00 p.m.

Youth Ministry Auction  
Saturday, March 25

### SAVE THE DATE!

**Apple Valley Catholic Community**  
**Vacation Bible School**



August 7-11, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.,  
St. Elizabeth Church

Closing service and ice cream social  
August 10, 6:30 p.m., St. Isidore Church

For children age 4 by Sept. 1, 2017 through entering 6th grade. Stay tuned ... Preregistration even- ing coming soon. Volunteers welcomed!: teens entering 7th grade up to adult.

Questions? Contact Co-Directors Lisa Lapinski  
([lisalapinski@verizon.net](mailto:lisalapinski@verizon.net)) or Sarah Burianek  
([sarahburianek@msn.com](mailto:sarahburianek@msn.com))

### ST. ELIZABETH BAPTISM THIS WEEKEND

This weekend we welcome Mason Neil Hryniewich, son of James and Sekeeta, and Ivanna Morgan Hryniewich, daughter of Jason and Carolina in the sacrament of Baptism. Please join us in keeping them in prayer as well as their parents and godparents as they continue to nurture them in a life of faith.

### THIS WEEK AT ST. ELIZABETH:

**Sunday, February 26**  
Gospel Scripture Reflection  
9:15—10:15 a.m., Parish Center, Room 4

**Monday, February 27**  
Book Discussion Group  
9:45—11:30 a.m., Parish Center Hall

**Thursday, March 2**  
Alpha  
6:30—8:30 p.m., Parish Center Hall

**PLEASE REMEMBER Your Weekly Offering,**  
*Even if the Bad Weather gets in the Way!*

Recent weather has made it challenging to attend Masses some weekends. We are asking those that may have missed Mass to consider doubling up contributions the next week. As you know, from looking out your window, parish expenses, like utilities, plowing and shoveling, did not get the weekend off. It is winter in New England. We need your support. Thank you for your generosity!

### ST. ELIZABETH YEAR END CONTRIBUTION STATEMENT

For tax purposes, parishioners often seek to document their contributions to St. Elizabeth's. Your bank statement constitutes acceptable IRS documentation for donations by check or EFT. The parish can also supply a statement, provided they were made by means of donations envelopes, EFT or contributions of \$250 or more on a single day. If you would like a statement, please fill out the form below and return it by mail or the collection basket. Thank you as always, for your support of St. Elizabeth and its mission.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(please print)

ID Number \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone or email (in case we have questions)  
\_\_\_\_\_

### VIRTUS TRAINING

**Thursday, March 9**

7:00 p.m., St. Elizabeth Parish Center, Room 3

This is a one time course required of everyone 18 and older who works with children, youth, or the homebound. This is a good time to take care of this if you are planning on participating in the spring service projects, a mission trip, or VBS. To register, please contact our CAP (Child Abuse Protection) Team Leader, Jack Deasy at [j.w.deasy@gmail.com](mailto:j.w.deasy@gmail.com).

### AN OPPORTUNITY TO DEEPEN YOUR FAITH

Cursillo is a short course in Christianity offering 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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:stbasilcenter@comcast.net)  
or John Prendeville, [john\\_prendeville@harvard.edu](mailto:john_prendeville@harvard.edu).

### WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

"So be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect." Encourage the Holy Spirit to perfect your marriage by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. The next WWME Weekends are March 17-19 in South Kingstown, RI and April 22-23 in Brewster. For more information, call Stephen and Michelle O'Leary at 800-710-9963 or visit [www.wwmema.org](http://www.wwmema.org).