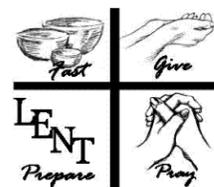


**LENTEN DAILY REFLECTION
RESOURCES**

Dynamic Catholic's "Best Lent Ever" is a free email program <https://dynamiccatholic.com/bestlentever>, that will guide you on an incredible 40-day journey to become the-best-version-of-yourself, making this a truly life-changing Lent.

Loyola Press' "Living Lent Daily" This Lent, come to know Jesus as a friend, and experience God's unbelievable love and generosity towards us with Living Lent Daily email series: https://www.loyolapress.com/our-catholic-faith/liturgical-year/lent/living-lent-daily?utm_source=nonYOCsub&utm_medium=email&utm_content=lld&utm_campaign=lent2018.

Word on Fire's Lenten Gospel Reflections – Daily meditations <http://www.lentreflections.com/> with Bishop Robert Barron. Spend your time with Christ in the Gospel this Lent alongside Bishop Barron and the Word on Fire community.



SUNDAY CAFÉ

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

St. Isidore after the 9:00 a.m. Mass

St. Elizabeth after the 10:30 a.m. Mass
(except GIFT weekends)

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.

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

Theme: Seeing Jesus

Breaking Open the Word

Suggested text for faith sharing: Today's Gospel

Step One: Listen to the Word

As you hear this familiar story today, what words or phrases strike you? What in this reading touches your heart? What image from Mark's Gospel lingers in your memory?

Step Two: Look into Your Life

Question for Children: Name or draw a picture of a time you knew that Jesus was with you.

Question for Youth: The disciples had a very intense experience of Jesus on the mountain. Have you ever had a "mountain top" experience? What was it like for you?

Question for Adults: In what ways does Jesus speak today, ways in which you can truly "listen to him?"

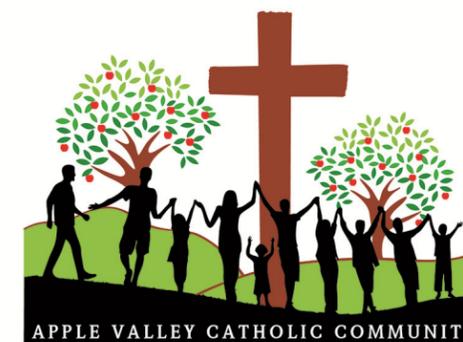
*St. Isidore Parish, Stow
St. Elizabeth of Hungary Parish, Acton & Boxborough*

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



*Second Sunday of Lent
February 25, 2018*

*"This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased;
listen to him."*



**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,



As announced last weekend, Cardinal Sean has made important decisions that affect our two parishes, Fr. Paul, and me. First of all, Cardinal Sean has appointed Fr. Jeffrey Archer to be the next pastor of St. Isidore and St. Elizabeth Parishes, effective June 1, 2018. Due to the diminishing number of priests, Fr. Jeff won't have a second assigned priest to serve with him in our collaborative. Cardinal Sean has also granted Fr. Paul and me senior priest / retired status as of June 1. We both plan to depart on or shortly after that date to begin our retirements and also to give Fr. Jeff and you the space you need to get acquainted and build your relationship without undue distraction.

Fr. Jeff and I intend to use these coming weeks diligently to help him be as ready as possible when he becomes pastor on June 1. There is much to discuss. On another front, our current Mass schedule, which presupposes two priests, will have to be revised so that one priest can manage it and still be able to visit with parishioners after Mass. I intend to convene a committee to make recommendations on the Mass schedule and other areas, especially where adjustments will be required early on.

As we move through this important time of transition, it is important to keep it and all things in proper perspective. All of what we do, and all of our parish structures and activities have but one purpose: that we may know Jesus Christ, embrace the graced community he offers us, and follow in his footsteps on the road of mission that always beckons us forward. We can go forward confidently into an unknown future because we know that the Lord will meet us there, even as he has faithfully accompanied us thus far.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Please come to St. Elizabeth on Wednesday, March 21, from 6:00 to 6:30 p.m. for a half hour of Eucharistic Adoration for the intention of an increase in vocations. We will be asking God to inspire more people to serve as sisters, priests, brothers, deacons and lay ministers.

ELECTRONIC BULLETIN

If you would like to have our weekly bulletin electronically sent to you, please email your request to: janice@applevalleycatholic.org



COLLABORATIVE SERVICE PROJECTS: HELP NEEDED

A beautiful way to encounter the Lord is through service. We will be doing a Lenten Food Drive in both churches with the goal of collecting 500 bags of groceries for the Stow and Acton Food Pantries, as well as St. Martha's Food Pantry, which is a part of the Lazarus House Ministries in Lawrence. This takes a lot of planning and preparation and the work will be done in stages over the course of 3 weekends. Events are open to all ages, but children under Grade 5 must be accompanied by a parent for all portions of the project. You and your household are invited to attend any or all of the following service opportunities to make this happen!

Bag and food list distribution help is needed at both churches *at the end* of these Masses. Meet Barbara Dane in the gathering space after Communion.

Saturday, February 24, 4:00 p.m., St. Elizabeth
Saturday, February 24, 5:00 p.m., St. Isidore
Sunday, February 25, 9:00 a.m., St. Isidore
Sunday February 25, 10:30 a.m., St. Elizabeth
Sunday, February 25, 5:00 p.m. St. Elizabeth

Grocery collection help is needed at both churches 15 minutes *before* these Masses. Meet Barbara Dane on the Church steps.

Saturday, March 3, 4:00 p.m., St. Elizabeth
Saturday, March 3, 5:00 p.m., St. Isidore
Sunday, March 4, 9:00 a.m., St. Isidore
Sunday, March 4, 10:30 a.m., St. Elizabeth
Sunday, March 4, 5:00 p.m., St. Elizabeth

Sorting and Delivery help is needed: Meet in the Church Halls.

St. Isidore, Saturday, March 10, 1:00 p.m.
for Stow Food Pantry

St. Elizabeth, Saturday March 10, 1:00 p.m.
for Acton and Lawrence

Large cars, vans, or trucks are especially helpful!!!
Please let me know how you would like to participate, if you can drive, and what kind of vehicle you have. Thank you! barbara@applevalleycatholic.org



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

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),
(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
(andreas@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 : Joan Mattila
(joan@applevalleycatholic.org), (978) 263-4305 ext. 17

Pastoral Ministries Administrative Assistant: Judy Richardson
(judy@applevalleycatholic.org), 978 263-4305 ext. 19

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

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

St. Isidore
Saturdays, 4:00—4:30 p.m.

For current information, check the Parish website or call the Parish telephone number.



READING THIS SUNDAY—February 25
(Cycle B)

Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18; Rom 8:31b-34; Mk 9:2-10

READINGS NEXT SUNDAY— MARCH 4
(Cycle B)

Ex 20:1-17; 1 Cor 1:22-25, Jn 2:13-25

**APPLE VALLEY CATHOLIC YOUTH
2018 SUMMER MISSION TRIPS**

**Olancho Aid Foundation
Juticalpa, Olancho - Honduras**
June 14 to June 21

Cost - \$1500.00 (\$1300.00 with support of the Auction)

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

**Our Own Mission Trip
Corpus Christi, Texas**

June 24 to June 30

Cost - \$1000.00 (\$850.00 with support of the Auction)

Open to all young people presently in high school.

**Just5Days - Center for Ministry Development -
Springfield, Massachusetts**

July 16 to July 20

Cost - \$550.00 (\$400.00 with the support of the Auction)

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

**Catholic Heart Workcamp
North Haledon, New Jersey**

July 22 to July 28

Cost - \$800.00 (\$650.00 with the support of the Auction)

Open to all young people entering high school in the Fall of 2018.

**Deadline to register for the Mission trips is
March 20.**

Questions: please contact

Jim Flanagan - jim@applevalleycatholic.org

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK:

St. Elizabeth:

Monday, February 26, 9:00 a.m.
Margaret DuFault, Anniversary Mass

Wednesday, February 28, 9:00 a.m.
Deacon Jack Bortz, Anniversary Mass

Friday, March 2, 9:00 a.m.
Kathleen Ryan, Memorial Mass

Prayers for the Departed:
Joan Flannery

St. Isidore:
Saturday, February 24, 5:00 p.m.
Joan Nataro, Memorial Mass

Sunday, February 25, 9:00 a.m.
John F. Ciampa, Memorial Mass

Tuesday, February 27, 9:00 a.m.
Lydia Deyle, Special Intention

Wednesday, February 28, 9:00 a.m.
Adan Corona-Deyle, Special Intention

Thursday, March 1, 9:00 a.m.
Mike McGonegal, Memorial Mass



24 HOURS FOR THE LORD - SAVE THE DATE!

Friday, March 10 - Saturday, March 11

The season of Lent is an especially graced opportunity to celebrate and experience God's abundant love and mercy. Since 2015, churches around the world have been offering intentional opportunities for people to come together over a 24 hour period to pray and seek God's mercy. In our collaborative, we too will be embracing this opportunity but in an even more expanded way.

The Apple Valley Catholic Collaborative Staff music ministry, faith formation and youth ministry teams have come together to prepare events that will engage a variety of ages, interests, and spiritual needs. The 24 Hours for the Lord will take place Friday evening March 9 through Saturday evening March 10. Events in both parishes will offer prayer in many forms, reconciliation, adoration, works of mercy, and community. Friday evening events will take place at St. Elizabeth and Saturday events will take place at St. Isidore, with the exception of a couple of off-site opportunities.

We will begin with a simple Lenten supper at 6 p.m. on Friday, March 9 at St. Elizabeth and conclude with a pot luck supper at St. Isidore at 6 p.m. on Saturday.

Events include:

Friday: Welcome & evening prayer; quiet prayer and confessions; Taizé prayer; Adoration and overnight vigil prayer

Saturday: Emmaus Walk (at Heath Hen Conservation Area in Stow), morning prayer, quiet prayer time, stations of the cross, rosary, food pantry service projects, confessions and Mass.

All parishioners are invited to participate and journey with one another during this sacred time. Over the next few weeks, you will find descriptions of the various spiritual practices that are being offered. A guide will also be available prior to the start so that you can plan how to best spend your 24 hours. It is not necessary to do everything offered! Find a balance of activities that is right for you and your family.

24 HOURS FOR THE LORD

Taizé Prayer

Taizé is a town in France. In 1940, Brother Roger founded a small community of Christians there to create a monastic community of healing and refuge. Over 100,000 visitors, mostly teens and young adults, travel to Taizé annually to participate in the community's prayer life. Taizé prayer services are held around the world.



During our 24 Hours For the Lord experience, our collaborative will offer Taizé prayer from 8:30-9:15 on Friday evening in St. Elizabeth Church. At a Taizé prayer service, we gather around an icon of the Cross. We listen to scripture readings. We reflect in silence for an extended period of time. We are invited to come and reverence the Cross. We pray for the needs of our community and world. We feel peaceful and centered. We sing simple songs. These songs repeated again and again bring us to a meditative state. The brothers of Taizé explain that "using just a few words, these songs express a basic reality of faith, quickly grasped by the mind. As the words are sung over many times, this reality gradually penetrates the whole being." Be sure to join us for this beautiful time of prayer!

Prayer Ministry



During our 24 Hours For the Lord experience, from 9:30 – 1:00 a.m., in St. Isidore Church, our collaborative will offer an opportunity for individuals or small groups of two or three to be prayed with and for, for specific intentions and general intentions. Designated prayer teams will be ready and prepared to pray with you. Quiet time for personal prayer will also be taking place at the same time. This is an invitation, open to all ages, to bring your needs and prayers together with others in the community. If anyone would like to be involved as part of the prayer team, please Contact Diahne Goodwin.

**CONTRIBUTIONS FOR PARISH SUPPORT:
ST. ELIZABETH**

Total Offertory Sunday 2/18/18:	\$ 3,993
Mailbacks for Week Ending 2/17/18:	\$ 2,641
Total EFT for Week Ending 2/17/18:	\$ 567
Total Parish Support for Week Ending 2/17/18:	\$ 7,201
Total Parish Support since 7/1/17:	\$ 475,576
Target Parish Support since 7/1/17:	\$ 476,052
Over (Under) Target since 7/1/17:	\$ (477)

Through your generosity last week at Ash Wednesday Masses, we also collected \$1,235 going towards the Catholic Charities Appeal.

Thank you very much!

**CONTRIBUTIONS FOR PARISH SUPPORT
ST. ISIDORE**

Total Offertory Last Sunday: 2/18/18:	\$ 3,008
EFT for Week Ending 2/18/18:	\$ 2,127
Total Parish Support for Week Ending 2/18/18:	\$ 5,135
Actual Parish Support since 7/1/17:	\$ 160,357
Budget Parish Support since 7/1/17:	\$ 179,104
Over (Under) Target since 7/1/17:	\$ (18,747)
Grant Annual Actual Year-To-Date	\$ 27,065
Grand Annual Budget	\$ 45,000
Over (Under) Budget	\$ (17,935)
St. Vincent DePaul	\$ 40

Thank you very much!

24 HOURS FOR THE LORD

What is the Emmaus Walk?

For many people, one of the best ways to encounter the Lord is through nature. The order of God's creation makes us keenly aware of His love and purpose. An Emmaus Walk invites you to not only appreciate the beauty of God's creation, but also to share your faith with a friend or two as you hike through a path together.

During 24 Hours for the Lord, we will gather in a beautiful conservation area, pray together, and share our faith. Each small group will be given a few questions to discuss along the way. We will close with a group reflection on the experience. We'd love to have you join us.

Where: Heath Hen Meadow Brook Woodland Conservation Area, Stow, MA. Trailhead Location: East side of Boxborough Road, just north of its junction with Packard Road.

When: Saturday, March 10, 7:00 a.m. Breakfast to follow at St. Isidore Church Hall at 8 a.m.

Dress: Warmly and with good boots. It is likely to be muddy.

Questions? Contact Barbara Dane, barbara@applevalleycatholic.org

THE LIGHT IS ON FOR YOU!

This Lenten season, each Catholic parish in the Boston Archdiocese will have confessions available very Wednesday from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. If you have been reluctant to come to the sacrament, have been away for some time, or just find it difficult to get to a Saturday afternoon confession time, this is a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with Christ and his Church. Haven't been to confession in a while? Interested, but worry you don't remember how to give a good confession? No problem. A simple guide is available on the back cover of our Lenten 24 Hours for the Lord guide or at: <http://www.bustedhalo.com/wp/wp-content/uploads/2009/02/how-to-confess.pdf>, and our priests are always happy to gently guide you through the experience. The light will be on at both parishes on Wednesdays, February 28 and March 7, 14, 21 & 28.

Come experience the joy of our Lord's mercy!

POT LUCK DINNER—PLEASE JOIN US!

At the conclusion of the 24 Hours for the Lord on Saturday, March 10th, we invite you to join us and bring your favorite dish for a pot luck dinner after mass in the parish hall at St. Isidore. Six(6) volunteers are also needed to help set up before and/or clean up after the dinner. Sign up sheets to note what dish you will bring and whether you can help are in the gathering areas of both parishes. If you have any questions, please contact Robin at St. Isidore – robin@applevalleycatholic.org or 978-897-2710.

APPLE VALLEY CATHOLIC YOUTH MINISTRY AUCTION 2018

Back to the 80's – The Totally Awesome Auction



Saturday, March 17, 6:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m.
Tickets are on sale after all Masses beginning this weekend.

Auction Tickets are \$25 per person and available after all Masses beginning this weekend. 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 "totally awesome" 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, homemade items, a ride on your boat, etc.

For more information, contact
Cathy Rudolph at rudolphcl@gmail.com or
Sandra Fallica at iam12go@hotmail.com

COLLABORATIVE MUSIC NEWS

Are you a singer or instrumentalist hoping to find a musical community? Perhaps you would consider participating in the music ministry as a new way to open your heart to God's love and a meaningful way to express your faith and give to your community.

The Music Ministries of St. Isidore and St. Elizabeth welcomes musicians of all skill levels for one common purpose: to praise God in song. Come join us Monday evening at 7:30 p.m. in St. Isidore's Church Hall. For more information, contact Andrea Goodrich at andrag@applevalleycatholic.org.

St. Isidore and St. Elizabeth Children's Choirs will rehearse Monday February 26 from 5:30 – 6:15 p.m. in the Church Hall at St. Isidore's.

Collaborative Adult Music Ministers of St. Isidore and St. Elizabeth will rehearse on Monday, February 26 from 7:30 – 9 p.m. in the Church Hall at St. Isidore's.

Apple Valley Teen Ensemble will rehearse on Wednesday, February 28 from 5:30 – 7 p.m. in St. Elizabeth's Church.



New - Morning rehearsal beginning on Tuesday, March 6!

This group welcomes parents from both parishes with young children who would like to sing with one of the choirs on the weekend, but cannot attend evening rehearsals. Babies and children are welcome to attend a Tuesday morning rehearsal from 10 – 11 a.m. with their parents. This rehearsal is also open to those who don't like to drive at night. We will meet in St. Isidore's Church Hall. Contact Andrea Goodrich at andrag@applevalleycatholic.org for more information.

RICE BOWLS Second Week of Lent—Encounter Cesia

We encounter Cesia in Nicaragua, where, despite a lack of economic opportunity, young people pursue their dreams by building businesses to better their lives. How can you support those, worldwide, who are forced to flee their homes to find safety or better opportunities? Visit csrcricebowl.org for more. Rice Bowls are available in the gathering space at each Parish.

FIRST EUCHARIST AND K-4 FAMILY NEWS

Family Lent Resources

There are many wonderful resources available for families during this Church season where we search for ways to grow closer to Jesus. Check out "Best Lent Ever" from Dynamic Catholic to receive daily video-based reflections. Rice bowls are available in the churches, as well as family Lent calendars. Check out our parish emails as well for other resources and Lent events.

Save the Date!

Friday, March 9 and Saturday, March 10 - Parish 24 Hours for The Lord Event. There will be some wonderful family activities that are offered to enrich your Lent experience. Here are some highlights of family-friendly events (a complete schedule will be distributed at our upcoming Masses):

Friday Evening (St. Elizabeth): Simple supper followed by quiet prayer, Taizé prayer, and Sacrament of Reconciliation will be offered until 10:00 p.m.

Saturday (St. Isidore): Emmaus Walk at Heath Hen Meadow Brook Woodland Conservation Area, Stow. Coffee and donuts, Family Stations of the Cross, Food pantry service project (children and parents will sort collected items).

Please Help With Food Drive

See the bulletin page that outlines the details of the food drive, including collection and sorting schedule.

Next First Eucharist Mini-Lesson

We will meet with parent(s) and children on Sunday, March 4 at 8:30 a.m. at St. Isidore Church Hall. Parents are asked to review chapters 3-4 with their child prior to then.

CATHOLIC APPEAL 2018

Next weekend is the Catholic Appeal Announcement weekend. Please be sure to take home next week's bulletin to learn how the programs supported by the Catholic Appeal directly benefit both parishes in our collaborative, as well as vital ministries across our diocese. 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, which highlights three 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.