

Pastoral Leadership Team

Fr. Walter Woods  
Diahne Goodwin  
John Morris  
Robin Ulichney

Collaborative Pastoral Council

Fr. Walter Woods  
Fr. Paul Sughrue  
Deacon Charlie Cornell  
Diahne Goodwin  
Steve Ryan  
Paul McMahon  
JoAnn Witek  
Jan Ketonen  
Amy Alexander Jussaume  
Dan Armstrong  
Janet Moroney

St. Elizabeth Committee Contacts:

Finance Council—John Morris  
Building & Grounds—Bill Hart  
Liturgy Committee—Mary Ryan  
Consolation Ministry—Deb Lundquist

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



*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.*



*First Sunday of Lent  
February 14, 2016*



*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,

Today I would like to address an important development in the life of our young collaborative. Shortly after it is up and running, each collaborative is expected to prepare a pastoral plan to guide its work during the following three years. There are criteria and requirements about form and substance that each pastoral plan has to meet. For example, each plan is to have a purpose statement and three pastoral priorities, or critical mission areas, that call for everyone's participation. One of these must address vocations to the diocesan priesthood. In turn, each priority must have at least two goals associated with it, goals that are "specific, motivating, attainable, relevant, and trackable." For its part the archdiocese has been generous in providing training and ongoing support to the group that has been working on our plan for almost a year.

We have just submitted the latest draft of our collaborative's pastoral plan to a review panel at the archdiocese and now present it to you for your information and feedback. You can download a copy from the parish websites. There are hard copies at the doors of the two churches, in each parish office, and in the Welcome and Information Center at St. E's. We will make more hard copies as needed.

This is an important document, and I urge all parishioners to become familiar with it. Please be aware that once our pastoral plan is approved, we will be expected to abide by it. We are going to offer another Town Meeting style event in the near future, open to all parishioners, to discuss the plan and our collaboration process in general.

Your feedback will help the writing group to finalize our pastoral plan. On a parallel track, our two finance councils will arrange for any necessary budgetary support that the pastoral plan requires. When our plan is in its final form, we will submit it to Cardinal Sean for his review. It becomes official when Cardinal Sean formally approves it, which is likely to be sometime in June.

I want to thank the members of the writing group for the hard work, wisdom, and generous spirit that they have brought to this challenging assignment. They are Mary Brolin, Glen Bunnell, Charlie Corley, Deacon Charlie Cornell, Sheila Drugotch, Diahne Goodwin, Peter Hocknell, Jan Ketonen, Paul McMahan, Tom Moroney, Paul Nelson, Steve Ryan, Fr. Paul Sughrue, and Kim Tocci. I am grateful also to Tom Lyman, from the evangelization office of the archdiocese, for his participation and for the broader perspective and helpful insights that he brought to the group.

Fr. Walter

### CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES RICE BOWL

FIRST WEEK OF LENT HUNGERING FOR  
OPPORTUNITY

Our journey with CRS Rice Bowl begins in Colombia, where coffee beans are changing lives! What actions can we take this Lent to change lives—at home and around the world? Visit [crs-ricebowl.org](http://crs-ricebowl.org) for more.

### HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH MINISTRY UPCOMING EVENTS

All High School Youth Welcome!

Friday Morning Lenten Breakfast & Prayer  
6:15 a.m., St. Elizabeth Parish Center Hall



**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 Sughrue  
([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  
([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 Parish:



**PARDON OUR DUST, BUT WIRE THE  
CHURCH WE MUST**

For the next few weeks, you may notice work going on in the church at St. Elizabeth's - speakers in different places, ladders, tools, new wires not yet tucked away. Our sound system team and vendor are installing our new system. We think you'll find the temporary inconvenience will be well worth it when we're done.

### 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 5 p.m.  
Sunday 8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.  
First Sunday of the Month 5 p.m. (Oct-March)

St. Isidore Parish:  
Vigil Mass: Saturday 5 p.m.  
Sunday 8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.  
Third Sunday of the Month 5 p.m. (Oct-March)

**Daily Eucharist this week:**  
St. Isidore—9:00 a.m., Wednesday-Friday.  
St. Elizabeth—9:15 a.m., Wednesday-Friday.

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

Sacrament of Reconciliation:  
Wednesdays during lent, 6:30-8:00 p.m.  
Saturday, 4:00-4:30 (both parishes)

### MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK:

**St. Isidore:**  
Sunday, February 14, 10:30 a.m.—Dick Cotter  
Memorial Mass

**St. Elizabeth:**  
Wednesday, February 17, 9:15 a.m.—Barbara Novak  
Memorial Mass

Friday, 19, 9:15 a.m.—Jack Bortz  
Third Anniversary Mass

Prayers for the Departed:  
Elizabeth Tolman

**FEBRUARY 14—TODAY IS VALENTINE'S DAY!**

The readings are not about cherubs with bows and arrows, but are all about love. Out of love God delivered His people from slavery in Egypt and sent His Son to redeem us. And Jesus' love for us brought him to fast for 40 days in the desert and withstand temptations of the devil. Prayer, fasting, and almsgiving are the three hallmarks of Lent. With Jesus as our model, we can incorporate all three into our lives this Lent. All for love of Him who first loved us, unconditionally.

**LENTEN MOMENTS OF MERCY**

Another terrific resource for daily inspiration and reflection during Lent. Sign up at [www.loyolapress.com/lenten-moments-of-mercy.htm](http://www.loyolapress.com/lenten-moments-of-mercy.htm) for this e-mail series and be inspired by the Scriptures of Lent and the words of Pope Francis.

**DISCERNMENT ABOUT THE RELIGIOUS LIFE FOR WOMEN**

Fiat is a discernment group for single women in the Archdiocese of Boston who are considering a vocation to religious life. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 24, 2016, from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. at St. Clement Eucharistic Shrine, 1105 Boylston St., Boston. Mother Olga of the Sacred Heart, Foundress of the Daughters of Mary of Nazareth, will be the speaker. If you are interested in attending, please respond to Sister Marian Batho, CSJ, Delegate for Religious, Sr\_Marian\_Batho@rcab.org or call 617-746-5637.



**24 HOURS FOR THE LORD**

On April 11, 2015, Pope Francis announced “an extraordinary jubilee, a Holy Year of Mercy that is to have God’s mercy at its center.” The season of Lent is an especially graced opportunity to celebrate and experience God’s abundant mercy. Therefore, Pope Francis has asked that Churches all around the world offer 24 Hours for the Lord on the Friday and Saturday of the weekend of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent, March 4-5.

The Apple Valley Catholic Collaborative liturgy, faith formation, and youth ministry teams have come together to offer a very special 24 Hours for the Lord experience. Our focus for the event is based on the theme “Merciful like the Father.” We have worked very hard to prepare events in both parishes that will offer prayer, reconciliation, adoration and praise, works of mercy, and community. We are offering events that will engage a variety of ages, interests, and spiritual needs.

There will be planned events and open times for prayer offered at St. Elizabeth and St. Isidore from Friday, March 4, 6:00 p.m. – Saturday, March 5, 6:00 p.m. Participate in any number of events during the 24 hours. Mark your calendars and make it a priority! You will be glad you did!

**If you are interested in helping us, we need assistance in the following areas:**

- Participation in Adoration, which will be offered late Friday evening in both parishes.
- Participation in the overnight vigils in both churches.
- Greeting people at the door throughout the event.
- Kitchen support in both parishes helping to prepare, serve, and clean up meals throughout the weekend.
- Helping out with the Food Pantry projects in both parishes. We need people to help deliver groceries on Saturday, March 5.

If you are interested in being part of the 24 Hours for the Lord Team, please contact Barbara Dane at [barbara@applevalleycatholic.org](mailto:barbara@applevalleycatholic.org)

**REDISCOVER JESUS**  
Book Discussion

We invite you to come to a two-evening discussion on Mathew Kelly’s inspiring book. If you would like to participate, please sign up with Carmen Giombetti, [carmen@applevalleycatholic.org](mailto:carmen@applevalleycatholic.org).

Monday February 15, 7:00-8:30 p.m.  
Part 1 (sections 1-20)  
St. Isidore Parish Rectory

Monday February 22, 7:00-8:30 p.m.  
Part 2 (sections 21-40)  
St. Isidore Parish Rectory

**“Rediscover Jesus” Every Day during Lent!**

Matthew Kelly, author of “Rediscover Jesus,” is sending out a short video each of the 40 days of Lent based on chapters of the book. Enroll your email at [dynamiccatholic.com](http://dynamiccatholic.com) to receive a daily email reflection video. Anyone can sign up even to receive these even if you are not reading the book. This is a great way to nourish your Lenten journey.

**THE LIGHT IS ON FOR YOU!**

This Lenten season, each Catholic parish in the Boston Archdiocese will have confessions available every 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. Come experience the joy of our Lord’s mercy!

**SAVE THE DATE**

Annual Youth Ministry Auction  
April 2, 6:00 —10:00 p.m.  
More details coming soon!

**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.

**READINGS THIS SUNDAY (Cycle B)**

Dt 26:4-10; Rom 10:8-13; Lk 4:1-13

**READINGS NEXT SUNDAY (Cycle B)**

Gn15:5-12, 17-18; Phil 3:17-4:1; Lk 9:28b-36

**CONTRIBUTIONS FOR PARISH SUPPORT  
ST. ELIZABETH**

Total Offertory Last Sunday: 2/7/16:	\$ 4,361
Mail backs for Week Ending 2/6/16:	\$ 1,470
EFT for Week Ending 1/6/16:	\$ 951
Total Parish Support for Week Ending 1/6/16:	\$ 6,781
Total Parish Support since 7/1/2015:	\$ 445,162
Target Parish Support since 7/1/2015:	\$ 438,801
Over (Under) Target since 7/1/2015:	\$ 6,361

\*Target is \$705,000 for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2016.

Thank you very much!

**CONTRIBUTIONS FOR PARISH SUPPORT  
ST. ISIDORE**

Total Offertory last Sunday 2/7/16:	\$ 2,753
Total EFT for week ending 2/7/16 :	\$ 1,977
Total Parish Support for Week Ending 2/7/16:	\$ 4,730
Total Parish Support since 7/1/15:	\$ 140,516
Target Parish Support since 7/1/15:	\$ 147,200
Over (Under) Target since 7/1/15	(\$ 6,684)

Grand Annual  
(119% of \$30,000 goal from 76 parish families): \$ 35,706

St. Vincent DePaul collection: \$ 178

Thank you for your generous support!

## MISSION TRIPS– SUMMER OF 2016

**Olancho Aid Foundation**  
**Juticalpa, Olancho – Honduras**  
June 13 to June 21  
Cost - \$1200

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

**Our Own Mission Trip Co-Sponsored with Young Neighbors in Action**  
**Omaha, Nebraska**  
June 26 to July 2  
Cost - \$850

Open to all young people presently in high school.

**Catholic Heart Workcamp – Next Level**  
**Champaign, Illinois**  
July 3 to July 9  
Cost - \$850

Open to all young people entering high school in the Fall of 2016.

**Just5Days – Center for Ministry Development**  
**Springfield, Massachusetts**  
July 18 to July 22  
Cost - \$400

Open to all young people presently in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

**Catholic Heart Workcamp**  
**N. Arlington, New Jersey**  
July 24 to July 30  
Cost - \$650

Open to all young people entering high school in the Fall of 2016.

## A NEW SOUND SYSTEM FOR ST. ELIZABETH CHURCH

About a month ago, I updated you on the proposal to install a new sound system in St. Elizabeth Church. The demonstration of the new system back in October garnered very good reviews. Since then, the parish has received cash donations and solid pledges that total just shy of \$30K, against an expected cost not to exceed \$37K. Our business manager, John Morris, and I judged that the quality of the system and financial support to date warranted bringing the proposal to the parish finance council. After a discussion of the technical, financial, and pastoral aspects, the council accepted my recommendation that the parish should go ahead and install the new sound system. The goal is to have it in place for Easter. –Fr. Walter

## CATHOLIC HOSPITALITY TRAINING INSTITUTE

Saturday, February 27, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

The Archdiocese of Boston is pleased to welcome a hospitality workshop called "Entertaining Angels," held at Our Lady Comforter of the Afflicted in Waltham. The decision to stay at your parish may be made in as little as the first 3 minutes a visitor spends on our campus, and that includes the time in the parking lot! It is vital that they experience our church as a warm, welcoming place. Entertaining Angels is a unique one day hospitality training seminar aimed at helping members of our parish communities be an open door to Jesus Christ. The training is intended for both staff and volunteers who interact with guests. We encourage any St. Elizabeth and St. Isidore parishioners who would like to be that open door to our visitors! The workshop cost will be covered by the parishes. If you are interested in attending, please let Diahne Goodwin know by February 15th. She will give you registration instructions.

## PUBLICITY & COMMUNICATIONS MINISTRY

A new opportunity for you to share your gifts! We are seeking to form a small team consisting of people from both parishes to help our communities stay on top of written, electronic and social media so that the community, within and beyond our doors, can stay well connected and informed. This is a great behind-the-scenes activity and a fun way to contribute to your parish! Please see Diahne Goodwin if you are interested and we can discuss more details.

## ST. ISIDORE BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS UPDATE

The Building and Grounds Committee is pleased to report that this has been a busy year of research and accomplishments, from reviewing contract proposals and making recommendations to Fr. Walter for the repairs of the buildings and maintenance of the grounds, to volunteering and completing many projects ourselves. Because of, or perhaps inspired by, the storm damage incurred last winter, we contributed over 500 hours of work to restore St. Isidore's exterior, interior and grounds.

- o Major projects completed in 2015 include:
- o Removal of asbestos from the rectory.
- o Insulation added to the rectory.
- o Creation of a parish meeting room, upstairs in the rectory.
- o Cleaning and painting of all rooms on the second floor of the rectory.
- o Installing windows inserts in the doors of the rectory and the church.
- o Replacing the church's flat roofs.
- o Repairing and adding a cap to the church chimney.
- o Repair of emergency lights in the church.
- o Replacement of smoke detectors in the church.
- o Removal of broken lights on the grounds.
- o Tarring to eliminate tripping hazards on the grounds.
- o Restarting the parish vegetable garden, nurtured by dedicated parishioners, and donating vegetables to the Stow and Acton Food Pantries.

Significant work has been accomplished during the past year. The committee continues to actively work on projects, as the parish buildings and grounds are over 50 years old and need similar repairs as one would need for a home. We truly appreciate all your financial support of St. Isidore, as it is this support that provides the foundation for our work. With your continued support, we look forward to keeping the buildings and the grounds of St. Isidore in good condition, as they are our "home" for parish activities, especially our Eucharistic celebration each Sunday.

Building and Grounds Committee: Robin Ulichney (Chair), Charlie Corley, Dave Goulet, Paul McLaughlin, Sandra Morales, Tom Moroney, Michelle Sinopoli and Gary Smith.

## THIS WEEK AT ST. ISIDORE:

**Monday, February 15**  
Rediscovering Jesus Discussion  
Rectory  
7:00-8:30 p.m.



## ST. ISIDORE'S CARDS OF CARE

We have two parishioners in Fr. Paul's visiting ministry who would appreciate receiving cheery cards. Parishioners who would like to take part may send a card to:

John O'Connell, c/o Care One, 57 ORNAC, Room 237, Concord, MA 01742.

John McMorrow, P.O. Box 182, Sudbury, MA 01776.