

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

Theme: Commitment is required to follow Jesus.

Breaking Open the Word

Suggested text for faith sharing: Today's Gospel

Step One: Listen to the Word

As you listen to the reading today, what image caught your imagination?
What word or phrase struck you?

Step Two: Look into Your Life

Question for Children: Jesus says that in order to be one of his followers, we must be close to him.
When do you feel closest to Jesus?

Question for Youth: Jesus tells his disciples that they must renounce their possessions in order to be His disciple. If you had to, could you leave everything behind to be with God? What would hold you back?
How much of a struggle would it be?

Question for Adults: Today's Gospel is demanding. How do you as a modern man or woman "denounce your possessions?" What does this mean for you?

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 McMahan
JoAnn Witek
Jan Ketonen
Dan Armstrong
Janet Moroney
Mary Ellen Johnson
David Winders
Kim Tocci

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.



Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 4, 2016

Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.



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).

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14**

Our newly-approved pastoral plan marks a turning point for our collaborative, one that involves far more than this document conveys. This important moment in the life of our two parishes presents temptations and opportunities, challenges and graces. What this means and how we ought to respond will be the subject of a major talk to parishioners that Fr. Walter will give on Wednesday, Sept. 14, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. in St. Isidore Church.

There will be light refreshments served prior to the meeting beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Church Hall. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us. Further details are available online via the home pages of each parish.

**LOUISIANA FLOOD
SPECIAL COLLECTION**

Cardinal Sean has authorized a special collection, to be taken next weekend (September 10/11) in all parishes in the Archdiocese of Boston, in support of relief efforts to those areas devastated by the flooding in Louisiana. The proceeds of this special collection will be used to support the humanitarian efforts of Catholic Charities USA and to provide pastoral and rebuilding supports to impacted dioceses. As many as 60,000 homes have been damaged, with nearly 20,000 people being rescued from the flood waters. More than 106,000 individuals and families have sought federal disaster aid.

GROWING IN FAITH (GIFT)

The Sunday 6:15 p.m. session of Growing in Faith Together is now closed to further registrations. There are still spaces available in the Saturday 6:15 p.m. session at St. Isidore and the 11:45 a.m. session at St. Elizabeth. To register please visit the website of either parish. GIFT opens the weekend of Sept. 10-11. First Reconciliation/First Eucharist and Confirmation programs are also registering on line, as part of the GIFT registration. Please register as soon as possible for these programs.

**NEW COLLABORATIVE
MASS SCHEDULE**

(Effective October 1, 2016)

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday

9 a.m. at St. Isidore

9:15 a.m. at St. Elizabeth

Saturday

4 p.m. at St. Elizabeth

5 p.m. at St. Isidore

Sunday

9 a.m. at St. Isidore

10:30 a.m. at St. Elizabeth

5 p.m. at St Elizabeth

Note: We will continue to follow the present schedule until Oct. 1, including the summer schedule at St. Isidore. Over the coming weeks, we will settle many related details and tie up the loose ends, including the confession schedule, music ministry, GIFT, youth ministry, and many other things.

**PERMANENT DIOCONATE
INQUIRERS PROGRAM
IS CHRIST CALLING YOU?**

If you are discerning God's possible call to serve the Church as a minister of Charity, Word, and Sacrament as an ordained deacon in the Archdiocese of Boston, you and your wife are invited to take part in the upcoming Inquirer program. The program consists of four sessions:

Session I: Who is the Deacon and am I one who is called?

Session II: How does diaconate ministry fit into marriage and family life?

Session III: Application process, Canon Law, Formation from the wives perspective Session.

Session IV: Half-day discernment retreat Saturday.

For more information go to <http://bostondiocconate.org/news.html> or contact Deacon Charlie at cac@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

**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
(andreag@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 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 5 p.m.
Sunday 8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

St. Isidore Parish:
Vigil Mass: Saturday 5 p.m.
Sunday 9:30 a.m.

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:
Saturday, 4:00-4:30 p.m. (both parishes)

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



READINGS THIS SUNDAY— Sept. 4 (Cycle C)
Wis 9:13-18; Phlm 9-10, 12-17; Lk 14:25-33

READINGS NEXT SUNDAY— Sept. 11 (Cycle C)
Ex 32: 7-11, 13-14; 1 Tm 1:12-17; Lk 15:1-32

**ST. ELIZABETH & ST. ISIDORE
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY**

Our parishes St. Vincent de Paul Conference assists needy persons in our community by providing food vouchers, household goods, or other necessary help. The local Conference has been able to carry out its work of person-to-person charitable assistance only because of your generous support and it is more grateful for it. You can continue to help by placing your donations in the SVDP Offering box at the rear of the church, or sending them to the parish office.

THIS WEEKEND'S SECOND COLLECTION

This week's collection supports the Catholic University of America (CUA) and its scholarship fund for needy students. CUA, located in Washington, D.C., is the national university of the Catholic church. Many priests and professional lay ministers throughout the US obtain their education from CUA. For more information, please visit www.cua.edu.

**CONTRIBUTIONS FOR PARISH SUPPORT
ST. ELIZABETH**

Total Offertory Last Sunday: 8/28/16:	\$	3,759
Mail backs for Week Ending 8/27/16:	\$	617
EFT for Week Ending 8/27/16:	\$	23,707
Total Parish Support for Week Ending 8/27/16:	\$	28,083
Total Parish Support since 7/1/2016:	\$	118,475
Target Parish Support since 7/1/2016:	\$	120,356
Over (Under) Target since 7/1/2016:	\$	(1,881)

Last week, in our second collection, parishioners donated \$4,388 in support of the MaryKnoll Lay Missions, to care for the sick, comfort the afflicted, and support the poor and marginalized.

Thank you for your generous support of this good cause.

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, September 3, 5 p.m.
Bevan Quinn, Memorial Mass

Sunday, September 4, 9:30 a.m.
Robert O'Donnell, Memorial Mass

St. Elizabeth:

Thursday, September 8, 9:15 a.m.
Rosemary Quigley-Harris
12th Anniversary Mass

Friday, September 9, 9:15 a.m.
Michael Liskiewicz, Memorial Mass

Prayers for the Deceased:
Catherine D'Entremont



**CONTRIBUTIONS FOR PARISH SUPPORT
ST. ISIDORE**

Total Offertory Last Sunday 8/28/16:	\$	2,678
Total EFT for Week Ending 8/28/16:	\$	1,983
Total Parish Support for Week Ending 8/28/16:	\$	4,661
Total Parish Support since 7/1/16:	\$	37,252
Target Parish Support since 7/1/16:	\$	41,400
Over (Under) Target since 7/1/16:	\$	(4,147)
St. Vincent DePaul Collection:	\$	74.25
Mary Knoll Collection	\$	1,028
Catholic Relief	\$	25

Thank you for your generosity.

FALL BOOK DISCUSSION GROUPS

Beautiful Mercy:

*Experiencing God's Unconditional Love
so we can Share it with Others*

Dynamic Catholic and Matthew Kelly have enlisted the help of twenty-six incredible authors who witness to the power of God's mercy, provide simple, practical tips on how to be an instrument of that mercy, and bring hope to anyone searching for deeper meaning in life.



Free copies will be available in September. Please Contact Diahne Goodwin, diahneg@applevalleyCatholic.org if you would like to participate.

St. Elizabeth Parish Center

Monday Mornings 10 – 11:30 a.m.:
Sept. 12, 19, 26 & Oct 3

OR

Sunday Evenings 7 – 8:30 p.m.:
Sept. 18, 25, Oct. 9 & 1

OR

St. Isidore Rectory

Thursday Mornings 9:45 – 11:15 a.m.:
Sept 15, 22, 29 & Oct 6

Coming in October....

Grace

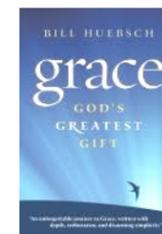
God's Greatest Gift

by Bill Huebsch

St. Elizabeth Parish Center

Monday Mornings 10 – 11:30 a.m.:
Oct 17, 24, 31, Nov 7, 14, 21, 28,
Dec 5, 12 & 19

*Copies of the book can be reserved for \$10.50
by September 30*



**COFFEE & COMMUNITY
ST. ELIZABETH & ST. ISIDORE**

We hope you enjoy(ed) our gatherings after the Sunday morning Masses. It is our goal to be able to offer this time of fellowship every Sunday in both parishes once the new Mass schedule begins in October. To make this happen we need your help! Many hands are needed:

Ministry chairperson(s): coordinates and schedules volunteers, makes sure enough food and supplies are on hand and is the general liaison with staff.

Runners: manage supplies for each week: shopping for extra items needed, picking up donuts, checking on paper goods, etc.

Set up team: Make the coffee; set up everything prior to the end of Mass.

Serve & Clean up team: serve as needed during the event; making sure supplies are maintained; clean up after the events, returning all items to their proper places

If you have gifts you could share to help with this ministry in anyway, please let Diahne Goodwin or Janice Howes or Robin Ulichney know. The ideal would be to have enough people so that no one has to serve every week. This is a wonderful easy way to help our community grow; get to know each other better and to welcome visitors and newcomers!

**CALLING TEEN MUSICIANS FROM
ST. ISIDORE & ST. ELIZABETH**

The Apple Valley Teen Youth Choir welcomes singers and instrumentalists in grades 7 – 12. This vibrant community of students from St. Isidore and St. Elizabeth of Hungary Parishes will share their musical talents as leaders of sung prayer at the 5 p.m. Sunday Mass on the first Sunday of the month at St. Elizabeth's. Rehearsals are on Thursday evenings from 7 – 8:15 p.m. Join us for our first rehearsal with pizza on September 8 in Room 4 of St. Elizabeth Parish Center. For more information, contact Andrea Goodrich andre-ag@applevalleycatholic.org 978-263-4305, ext.12.

GIFT NEXT WEEKEND

September 10

St. Isidore Church Hall
6:15 a.m.—8:45 p.m.

September 11

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



UPCOMING BAPTISMS AT ST. ELIZABETH

Sunday, September 18, 10:30 a.m.
Saturday, September 24, 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, October 2, 10:30 a.m.

ST. ELIZABETH OF HUNGARY CHILDREN'S CHOIR

St. Elizabeth of Hungary Children's Choir rehearsals are on a new night: Thursdays from 5:45 –6:30 p.m. in the Parish Center Hall. Children in grades 2 – 6 are invited to join this choir that will sing once a month at the 10:30 Sunday Mass. Rehearsals will begin on September 29.

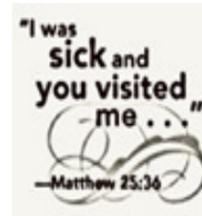
While learning pieces for Sunday Mass, the choir members learn about the parts of the Mass, the liturgical seasons, scripture readings, and the ministry of sung prayer. The children will play musical games that teach singing fundamentals: breath support, tone production, blend, dynamics, rhythm and note reading. The Choir will celebrate monthly birthday parties and seasonal pizza parties. For more information, contact Andrea Goodrich andrea@applevalleycatholic.org 978-263-4305, ext.12.

ST. ELIZABETH EUCHARISTIC MINISTRY TO THE HOMEBOUND

Meeting Monday, September 12, 7:00 p.m.
St. Elizabeth Parish Center, Room 1

For current and prospective members

Important meeting for current members to reconnect, reflect on the future of the ministry and share ideas. Those who are interested in learning more about the ministry are invited to come to come and explore and discern if they are called to this important ministry.



Our Homebound Ministry is for those called by compassion to be the presence of Christ to the most vulnerable. We are blessed to be able to offer this beautiful outreach in our community but *we need more ministers in order to respond well to the great need that exists.* By reasons of our baptism, all Christians have a special share in the ministry to the sick and aging. Through the giving of the Eucharist, attentive listening, sharing prayer, offering reassurance and being present, ministers will bring the Body of Christ to those who cannot join us physically in worship (weekends or weekdays). Serving as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion at Mass is not a requirement. Ongoing training will be provided. If you think you may be called to this ministry and would like to learn more please attend this meeting and/or contact Diahne Goodwin.

ST. ELIZABETH PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The next Prayer Shawl Meeting will be on Friday, September 9 from 10 – 11:30 a.m. in Room 4 of the Parish Center. New members are most welcome.

ST. ISIDORE PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Please join us for the First Prayer Shawl meeting of the season on Monday, Sept 13, at 7 p.m. in the rectory.

A NEW CHILDREN'S CHOIR IS FORMING AT ST. ISIDORE'S

Children in grades 2 – 6 are invited to join this group that will sing once a month at the 9 a.m. Sunday Mass. Rehearsals are Wednesday afternoons from 3:30 – 4:15 p.m. in the Parish Hall beginning on September 28. A snack will be provided after school. While learning pieces for Sunday Mass, the choir members learn about the parts of the Mass, the liturgical seasons, the scripture readings, and the ministry of sung prayer. The children will play musical games that teach singing fundamentals: breath support, tone production, blend, dynamics, rhythm and note reading. The Choir will celebrate monthly birthday parties and seasonal pizza parties. For more information, contact Andrea Goodrich andrea@applevalleycatholic.org 978-263-4305, ext.12.

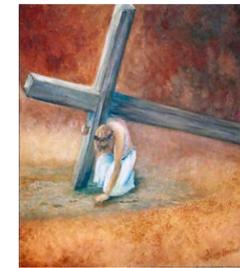
Join us as we begin a new year of music and fun!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR GIFT

Volunteers are still needed to help set up tables at St. Isidore for Gift Sessions on Thursday night or any time Friday by 2 p.m. before each GIFT session. This task will take a half hour maximum with two volunteers, or less time with more volunteers. Please contact Barbara Dane, Deacon Charlie or Robin Ulichney.

COFFEE & COMMUNITY ST. ISIDORE

Please join us on September 11.
Coffee & donuts will be served in the Parish Hall following the 9:30 a.m. Mass



FALL ON-LINE COURSES AVAILABLE THROUGH BOSTON COLLEGE

Go to www.bc.edu/crossroads to register. 5-week courses are \$50; 3 & 4-week courses are \$25. Registration will close at on the Friday before a course site opens. Registration may close earlier than scheduled if filled to capacity.

The Online Book Club: "Laudato Si", by Pope Francis

September 21 - October 15
Encounter Pope Francis' radical vision for the environment and the Christian community in his latest encyclical, "On Care for Our Common Home."

The Liturgy Committee September 28 - October 25

This course offers participants a new understanding of liturgical principles and the structure of mass, as well as tools for liturgical planning and strategies for communal participation.

Autumn Blessings

October 5 - November 15
An uplifting look at hope, forgiveness, mercy, self-love and the meaning of discipleship in the second half of life.

Finding a Moral Compass October 5 - November 15

This course explores what prompts moral concern, the sacredness and dignity of being human, our social nature, the common good, and the process of discernment.

New Testament Visions of Faith October 5 - November 20

Investigate a rich Scriptural understanding of faith and discipleship through the Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.