

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.



Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 15, 2017

*Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord
Jesus Christ.*



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 have some important personal news to share: I have been scheduled to have aortic valve replacement surgery at the Brigham & Women's Hospital in Boston on Friday, January 27. My surgeon expects me to be in the hospital for about five days. I won't be allowed to drive for about four weeks, and am to stay home from work during that same period. He anticipated that it will take about 12 weeks for a full recovery and the end of all medical-related restrictions.

I have known that this day would come since I was first diagnosed with aortic valve stenosis in mid-2013. My last check-up showed that this condition had deteriorated to the point where surgery was clearly called for. Frankly I was not surprised, and am at peace with this decision. I am grateful that my condition can be corrected and that world-class hospitals and physicians are so close to hand.

Of course, this news will raise many questions, some of which I can answer now. On the personal side, I will be away from the parish for the first three or four weeks after surgery. That is the normal practice, and will allow the pastoral staff, Fr. Paul and me to focus without distraction on what we respectively need to do. During those early weeks I will be well cared for and free to do whatever my recuperation requires. And in case anyone is wondering, I intend to follow the advice of my physicians until my recovery is complete.

Archdiocesan authorities and our staff are already making arrangements to assure that the life our two parishes continues as normally as possible during my absence and recovery. The weekday Mass schedule will have to fall back to three days between the two parishes, but the schedule of confessions and Masses on Saturday and Sunday will run as usual, thanks to visiting priests and Fr. Paul. Our extraordinary collaborative staff will support them, and continue the day-to-day work of parish ministry, including all that pertains to Disciples in Mission. I have no qualms about leaving St. Isidore and St. Elizabeth of Hungary parishes in their capable hands.

When all is said and done, this is an important point in my own journey of faith as a disciple of the Lord and servant of his people. With that in mind, I have asked Fr. Paul for the sacrament of the sick, and wish to receive it in the midst of the community gathered for the Eucharist on Sunday, January 22 at 5 p.m. Whether or not you are present on that occasion, I ask for your continuing prayers and accompaniment on the road ahead.

Fr. Walter

FORMING DISCIPLES IN MISSION

A workshop in Parish-based Evangelization coming to our collaborative!

**Tuesday, January 31— Wednesday, February 1
5:30-9:00 p.m.**

**St. Elizabeth Parish Center
Dinner included!**

“Enjoyable...” “Worthwhile...” “Useful...”
“Helped me focus on my relationship with Jesus...”

These are just a few of the remarks from some of the over 40 parishioners who were able to participate in the November workshop! If you haven't had the chance to participate, we are pleased to offer this free workshop locally a second time, in a two-evening format.

Register for this or other locations at:
<http://disciplesinmission.com/formingdisciples>.

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.

LEARN HOW TO STUDY AND PRAY WITH THE BIBLE

Collaboratively, we will hold an “Introduction to the Bible” study starting January 31. You will gain comfort in finding your way around the Bible, develop a better understanding of its themes and writing styles, and gain insights about Catholic use and interpretation of the Bible. The study covers seven Tuesday evenings from 7:30 to 9:00. Please let me know if you are interested before January 19th so there will be time enough to order materials. Contact Steve Ryan with questions or to sign up sjryan@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

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, Thursday

St. Elizabeth—9:00 a.m., Monday, 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— Jan. 15 (Cycle A)

Is 49:3, 5-6; 1 Cor 1:1-3; Jn 1:29-34

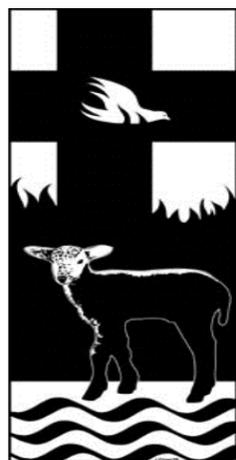
READINGS NEXT SUNDAY— Jan. 22 (Cycle A)

Is 8:23-9:3; 1 Cor 1:10-13, 17; Mt 4:12-23 or 4:12-17

SCRIPTURAL CONTEXT

Baptism of Jesus

Each of the three synoptic gospels (Mark, Luke and Matthew) presents an account of the baptism of Jesus. All three versions record the Spirit descending in the form of a dove. In the fourth gospel, it is interesting that the gospel writer does not actually give an account of the baptism as by the time of this gospel's writing the story is well entrenched in the Christian culture. Instead of a baptism account, John the Baptist appears to recall the event. Rather than needing to describe the event, this gospel writer treats it as a given and simply refers to it.



CONTRIBUTIONS FOR PARISH SUPPORT ST. ELIZABETH

Total Offertory Last Sunday: 1/8/17:	\$	3,118
Mail backs for Week Ending 1/7/17:	\$	6,350
EFT for Week Ending 1/7/17:	\$	4,621
Total Parish Support for Week Ending 1/7/17:	\$	14,089
Total Parish Support since 7/1/2016:	\$	379,314
Target Parish Support since 7/1/2016:	\$	391,574
Over (Under) Target since 7/1/2016:	\$	(12,260)

The Clergy Health and Retirement Fund Christmas Collection was \$22,284 and the Solemnity of Mary Collection at New Year's Masses, going towards local need, was \$1,071.

When you write or review your Will or Trust, please consider leaving a charitable bequest to St. Elizabeth of Hungary Parish.

Thank you very much!

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK:

St. Isidore:

Saturday, January 14, 5:00 p.m.
For all the Faithful Departed

Sunday, January 15, 9:00 a.m.
Edna Taylor, Memorial Mass

Tuesday, January 17, 9:00 a.m.
Helen Boyle, Memorial Mass

St. Elizabeth:

Monday, January 16, 9:00 a.m.
Regina Poppert, Memorial Mass

Wednesday, January 18, 9:00 a.m.
Lillian Vieria, Memorial Mass

Friday, January 20, 9:00 a.m.
Rose Avey, Memorial Mass

Prayers for the Departed:

Stella Centauro
Shaun Rogers

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR PARISH SUPPORT ST. ISIDORE

Total Offertory Sunday 1/8/17:	\$	2,955
Total EFT for Week Ending 1/8/17:	\$	2,138
Total Parish Support for Week Ending 1/8/17:	\$	5,092
Total Parish Support since 7/1/16:	\$	130,071
Target Parish Support since 7/1/16:	\$	133,400
Over (Under) Target since 7/1/16:	\$	(3,329)
St. Vincent DePaul Collection: 1/8/17	\$	30
Grand Annual (125% of goal)	\$	42,515

When you write or review your Will or Trust, please consider leaving a charitable bequest to St. Isidore Parish.

Thank you for your generosity!

COLLABORATIVE MUSIC CALENDAR

Wednesday, January 18:

4:00-4:45 p.m. - St. Isidore Children's Choir
Rehearsal, St. Isidore Parish Hall

7:00 – 7:30 p.m. – Collaborative Cantor
Rehearsal, St. Elizabeth Parish Center Hall

7:30 – 9:00 p.m. – Collaborative Music Ministry
Rehearsal, St. Elizabeth Parish Center Hall

Thursday, January 19:

5:45 –6:30 p.m. - St. Elizabeth Children's Choir
Rehearsal, St. Elizabeth Parish Center Hall

7:00-8:15 p.m.– Collaborative Teen Rehearsal,
St. Elizabeth Church

JANUARY BOOK DISCUSSION

“The Good Life: Where Morality and Spirituality Converge”
By Richard M. Gula S.S.

It's not too late to join in!

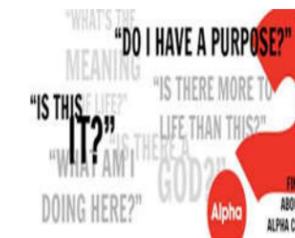
Come join us as we explore this introduction to the Christian moral life. Book discussions begin this week! We will explore this compelling book a chapter a week over seven weeks.

- Monday mornings, 9:45 – 11:15 a.m. beginning January 9 for seven weeks (no session January 16) at St. Elizabeth Parish Center.
Facilitator: Diahne Goodwin.
- Thursday mornings, 9:45 – 11:15 a.m. January 12, 19, 26, February 2, 9, 16 at St. Isidore Rectory.
Facilitator: Anita Sutherland.

All are welcome! Please contact Diahne Goodwin with questions: diahneg@applevalleycatholic.org.

Participants are responsible for acquiring their own copies.

EXPERIENCE ALPHA!



Begins Thursday, March 2
6:30 p.m. -8:30 p.m.
St. Elizabeth Parish Center Hall
Dinner included. 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?”

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 – alphausa.org

Helping Hands - 10,000 Meals Project
A Great Service Opportunity for all!

Join the Confirmation Preparation Program for our next service opportunity. On Monday, January 16th, (Martin Luther King Day) we will get together for our Helping Hands - 10,000 Meals Project. That's right, we are responsible for packaging 10,000 meals that will be shipped to Burkino Faso.

Helping Hands, a program developed by Catholic Relief Services (CRS), is a hands-on way for us to tackle hunger around the world. During our event, we will package nutritious meals for people in Burkino Faso suffering from food shortages and famine. We will learn about the people and Burkino Faso. The meal-packaging event not only helps hungry people overseas, it provides an opportunity for the Apple Valley Catholic Community to live out our faith in love and service to the poor.

What you need to do:

- Let us know if can join us for a shift on Monday, January 16th. There is a 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. shift and an 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. shift, both at St. Elizabeth of Hungary Church Hall.
- If you can – please fundraise for our project. The cost of the project is \$5,000.00. Any money raised over \$5,000.00 will go directly to Catholic Relief Services.
- If you can't fundraise for the project—please join us for a shift! No one will be turned away!

PROJECT RACHEL
Post-Abortion Healing Retreat

“God’s forgiveness knows no bounds” – Pope Francis.

The Project Rachel ministry of the Archdiocese of Boston extends a special invitation to women suffering from the pain of a past abortion to attend a Come to the Waters of Healing one-day retreat. Winter/spring dates are February 4, March 4 and May 20. Location is confidential. Limited to ten participants. For more information, contact Project Rachel at 508.651.3100 or help@projectrachelboston.com.

**CONGRATULATIONS AND PRAYERS TO
BILL RALLS!**

This weekend we celebrate the Reception of Bill into Full Communion of the Catholic Church in the sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist. Thank you to the RCIA team (Bob, Kathy, Paul & Trina) and all in our community for your prayers and support! Please join us and his sponsor, Mary Winowieki, in continuing to pray for Bill as he continues to grow in faith and discipleship.

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

Sunday, January 15, 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.

**REMINDER!
ST. ELIZABETH LECTOR POTLUCK**

Sunday, February 15 at 6:15 p.m.
Parish Center Hall

St. Elizabeth Lector Potluck is this weekend. Please touch base with Marie Hoff at mnhoff@bu.edu if you plan on attending.



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.

**ST. VINCENT DePAUL SOCIETY OF
ST. ISIDORE**

Give to the St. Isidore Chapter of St. Vincent DePaul at No Cost.

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

**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.



**SECOND COLLECTION
THIS WEEKEND**

Assistance to Urban Parishes Collection

The January 2017 Special Collection, to be taken up the weekend of January 14/15, has been designated as “Assistance to Urban Parishes,” to support the mission of our inner city parishes in the Archdiocese of Boston. The Archdiocese of Boston currently provides financial assistance to urban parishes in particular geographic areas that historically have had a strong Catholic presence. Many of these urban parishes have a high population of newcomers to our country, are in areas of higher socio-economical risk and are deemed critical to the mission of the Church. This collection will help continue this support to urban parishes to provide resources for mission and ministry in these parishes and for the people in the communities they serve. Assistance is needed for such parishes experiencing financial hardship and who struggle to sustain their mission and meet their financial obligations.

ST. ISIDORE SUNDAY CAFÉ

Sunday coffee & donuts is now held every Sunday following the 9:00 a.m. Mass. Please join us for refreshments, make new friends and catch up with old friends.



VIRTUS TRAINING

All volunteers who work with children, the elderly, or the homebound are required to take a one time course in Child Protection. Our next Virtus training will be held on Saturday, Jan. 21 from 10:00 a.m.– 12:00 p.m. in Room 3 of the Parish Center of St. Elizabeth. To register, please contact our Child Abuse Prevention team leader, Jack Deasy, at jw.deasy@gmail.com.

To ensure the safety of all children, we ask that parents accompany their children who go to the restrooms during Mass. The parish hall is used by the community at large and the doors are open during Mass.
Thank you.