

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

Theme: Jesus calls us to follow him; our lives will never be the same.

Breaking Open the Word

Suggested text for faith sharing: Today's Gospel.

Step One: Listen to the Word

As you listen to the story of Jesus calling the first disciples, what one word or thought strikes you?
What image or insight do you take away from this?

Step Two: Look into Your Life

Question for Children: How do you hear Jesus calling you to do what he wants you to do?

Question for Youth: As you grow into young adulthood, Jesus calls you to follow him in particular ways, both big and small. What are some of the small ways in which Jesus calls you to follow him?

Question for Adults: How does Jesus call you to assist in his ministry: the building up of the Reign of God?
How do you know what God wants of you in this regard?

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.



Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 22, 2017

*Jesus proclaimed the Gospel of the kingdom
and cured every disease among the people.*



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,

My column last weekend (published again for your convenience) shared news of my upcoming surgery. Since then I learned that an earlier date had become available, and am now scheduled for surgery this Tuesday, January 24.



My sister will be with me during the early weeks of my recuperation. So you can be assured that I will be well cared for and have everything I need for a good recovery, which is likely to need a fair amount of space and time. During that time I can be reached by mail at either parish address. Updates on my progress will be posted on the Caring Bridge website (see instructions in this bulletin). I will be back among you soon enough, when the right moment comes. Then we will have the time to catch up. In the meantime, please know how important to me are your care and prayers.

Fr. Walter

PASTOR'S CORNER FROM LAST WEEK

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

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

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., Wednesday & Thursday
St. Elizabeth—9:00 a.m., 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. 22 (Cycle A)

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

READINGS NEXT SUNDAY— Jan. 29 (Cycle A)

Zep 2:3, 3:12-13; 1 Cor 1:26-31; Mt 5:1-12a

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Repent

Throughout the Old Testament, the people of Israel repeated a cycle of behaviour. When their relationship with God was strong, they upheld the covenant and they prospered. They would forget that their prosperity lay in being in right relationship with one another and with God and so they would neglect those relationships. They would turn so far away that some tragedy or oppression would befall them. Out of their despair they would recognise their need for God and they would 'repent' and re-establish their relationship with God. Jesus' call to repent is a call to looking at the relationship with God in a whole new way.

BLOOD DRIVE AT ST. ELIZABETH

The Red Cross will run a blood drive this Thursday, January 26, from 12-8 p.m. in the Parish Center Hall. To participate, please call 1-800-RED CROSS or visit their website at redcrossblood.org. Walk-ins are welcome also. The Red Cross and people in need thank you for your donation.

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR PARISH SUPPORT ST. ELIZABETH

Total Offertory Last Sunday: 1/15/17:	\$	4,988
Mail backs for Week Ending 1/14/17:	\$	1,213
EFT for Week Ending 1/14/17:	\$	713
Total Parish Support for Week Ending 1/14/17:	\$	6,914
Total Parish Support since 7/1/2016:	\$	386,196
Target Parish Support since 7/1/2016:	\$	398,722
Over (Under) Target since 7/1/2016:	\$	(12,526)

Last weekend we collected \$542 targeted for assistance to urban parishes. They need your support, and we thank you for your generosity to your parish for causes like this.

Thank you!

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK:

St. Isidore:

Saturday, January 21, 5:00 p.m.
Angela Difalco, Memorial Mass

Tuesday, January 25, 9:00 a.m.
Michael McGonegal, Memorial Mass

St. Elizabeth:

Friday, January 27, 9:00 a.m.
Michael Liskiewicz, 14th Anniversary Mass

DAILY MASS THIS WEEK

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

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.

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR PARISH SUPPORT ST. ISIDORE

Total Offertory Sunday 1/24/17:	\$	2,128
Total EFT for Week Ending 1/24/17:	\$	1,581
Total Parish Support for Week Ending 1/24/17:	\$	3,709
Total Parish Support since 7/1/16:	\$	130,824*
Target Parish Support since 7/1/16:	\$	138,000
Over (Under) Target since 7/1/16:	\$	(7,176)

St. Vincent DePaul Collection: 1/15/17 \$ 56

Grand Annual \$ 35,406
(118% of \$30,000 goal from 76 parish families)

* Correction to total reported last week.

Thank you for your generosity!

UPDATES ON FR. WALTER

If you would like to receive updates on Fr. Walter's health journey, communicate, offer your support and love, a website has been set up on the Caring Bridge website:

www.caringbridge.org

There you will be asked to register and type in Friend's name: Walterjwoods.



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...”

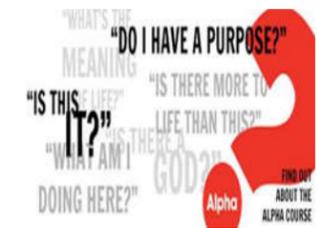
These are just a few of the remarks from some of the over 40 parishioners who were able to participate in the November workshop! If you haven't had the chance to participate, we are pleased to offer this free workshop locally a second time, in a two-evening format.

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



Disciples in Mission
Archdiocese of Boston

EXPERIENCE ALPHA!



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



COLLABORATIVE MUSIC CALENDAR

Wednesday, January 25:

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 26:

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

CREATED FOR LOVE

Created for Love is an Apple Valley Catholic Collaborative program designed for 7th and 8th graders. It introduces Catholic moral teaching regarding the importance of teens having healthy and respectful friendships and dating relationships in preparation for marriage. The course will be offered on Friday, January 27 from 6 – 8:30. If you have questions or would like to register your child, please contact Barbara Dane at barbara@applevalleycatholic.org.

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)

EXPERIENCE CURSILLO ENCOUNTER CHRIST!

Cursillo is an encounter with Christ in a small community of the Church so that His love and grace can be brought to every aspect of life. On a Cursillo weekend, a team of priests and lay people, supported by the prayer and sacrifices of the movement's other members, share the fundamental truths of the Christian faith in an especially "living way." Those who participate in Cursillo are sponsored by those who have already experienced the weekend. For questions about the weekend or if you would like to find out how you can get a sponsor, please contact Diahne Goodwin or John Prendeville: 978-263-1222, john_prendeville@harvard.edu.

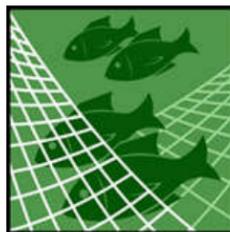
ST. ELIZABETH ANNUAL APPEAL

Remember the weekend Masses in November when the St. Elizabeth Finance Council presented the Corporal Works of Mercy at the stained glass windows?

Parishioners, staff and others stood in front of the windows and described to us how their works deepened their relationship with Christ through outreach and service. People at the masses, that witnessed this, related to us that they thought it was creative and moving.

We need your participation and resources to continue to do this kind of mission work here to 1) grow our parish in service and 2) deepen our and other's relationship with Christ.

This event was the kick off to our fall appeal. This reminder you are reading here is the last call for help for our once a year parish appeal. To those who have not yet responded, we need your help, please send in your pledge and respond as generously as you can. We only ask once a year. To those who have already responded, thank you for your support. God bless you all.



THIS WEEK AT ST. ELIZABETH:

Sunday, January 22
Gospel Scripture Reflection
9:15—10:15 a.m., Parish Center, Room 4

Monday, January 23
Book Discussion Group
9:45—11:15 a.m., Parish Center Hall

Parish Finance Council
7:00—9:00 p.m., Parish Center Hall

Friday, January 27
Created for Love
6:00—9:00 p.m., Parish Center Hall



SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND

Next week's second collection supports various pastoral projects throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. The Collection for the Church in Latin America funds the work of evangelization, formation of laity, religious and seminarians, as well as youth ministry and catechesis. Please visit www.usccb.org/catholic-giving/opportunities-for-giving/latin-america/index.cfm for more information.

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.

THIS WEEK AT ST. ISIDORE:

Thursday, January 26
First Eucharist Parents Meeting
7:00 p.m., Church Hall

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 time enough to order materials. Contact Steve Ryan with questions or to sign up sjryan@applevalleycatholic.org.

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.

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.