

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

Theme: The Beatitudes -- a way of life -- a map to happiness.

Breaking Open the Word

Suggested text for faith sharing: Today's Gospel.

Step One: Listen to the Word

When you heard the Beatitudes proclaimed today, which one struck you?
What one word from this reading lingers now in your memory?

Step Two: Look into Your Life

Question for Children: Choose one of the Beatitudes and share how you will make it part of your life.

Question for Youth: Jesus gives us a plan for our happiness in the beatitudes.
Do the things that make you happiest also lead you towards God? Do they follow God's plan?

Question for Adults: How do you describe what it means to be "blest" in your own life?

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.



Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 29, 2017

Rejoice and be glad; your reward will be great in Heaven.



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).

UPDATE ON FR. WALTER

Fr. Walter had a successful, uncomplicated surgery on Tuesday, January 24. He expresses his gratitude for all the care and prayer sent his way. Fr. Walter's sister will be with him during the early weeks of his recuperation. So you can be assured that he will be well cared for and have everything he needs for a good recovery. Many people have expressed a desire to send cards and well wishes. These can be mailed/dropped off at either parish and the staff will make sure he gets them.

Updates on his progress will be posted on the Caring Bridge website. If you would like to receive updates on Fr. Walter's health journey, communicate, offer your support and love, go to 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...”

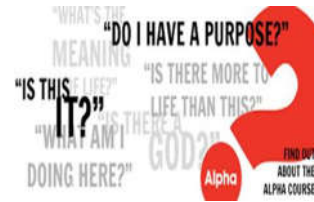
These are just a few of the remarks from some of the over 40 parishioners who were able to participate in the November workshop! If you haven't had the chance to participate, we are pleased to offer this free workshop locally a second time, in a two-evening format.

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



Disciples in Mission
Archdiocese of Boston

EXPERIENCE ALPHA!



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?”

**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 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

OUR COLLABORATIVE STAFF:

Pastor: Rev. Walter J. Woods, STD
(wjw@applevalleycatholic.org), (978) 263-4305 ext. 15

Parochial Vicar: Rev. Paul Sughrie
(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
(siryan@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
(andrag@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., Thursday
St. Elizabeth—9:00 a.m., 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. 29 (Cycle A)

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

READINGS NEXT SUNDAY— Feb. 5 (Cycle A)

Is 58:7-10; 1 Cor 2:1-5; Mt 5:13-16

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.

DONATIONS NEEDED AT HOUSEHOLD GOODS

Household Goods, 530 Main Street (Rte. 27) in Acton, currently needs donations, especially kitchen/dining room tables, dressers/bureaus, coffee/end tables, countertop microwaves, toasters or toaster ovens, blenders and irons, like-new pillows, Queen-sized bedding: sheet sets, pillowcases, bedspreads and comforters. Donations are gratefully accepted on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday mornings from 9 a.m. to noon. Financial contributions to support the newly expanded facility are also most welcome. For more information, please visit their website: www.householdgoods.org.

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK:

St. Isidore:

Saturday, January 28, 5:00 p.m.
Jasper Smith, Living Mass

Sunday, January 29, 9:00 a.m.
Gaetano Angelico, Memorial Mass

St. Elizabeth:

Wednesday, February 1, 9:00 a.m.
Myron Liskiewicz, 40th Anniversary Mass

Friday, February 3, 9:00 a.m.
William Richards, Jr., Memorial Mass

DAILY MASS THIS WEEK

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



AN OPPORTUNITY TO DEEPEN YOUR FAITH

Cursillo is a short course in Christianity which offers the participants a vibrant experience of the Christian Life and a method for living as an active member of the Church.

Archdiocesan Cursillo at the Campion Center, Weston, MA:

Women's Weekend: March 2-5, 2017
Men's Weekend: March 30-April 2, 2017

For information and registration, please contact Diahne Goodwin or check the Archdiocesan Cursillo Website: www.bostoncursillo.org or call Mrs. Mary Ann McLaughlin at the Office of Spiritual Life at 617-779-3640, or email at: spiritual_development@rcab.org.

Cursillo at the St. Basil Salvatoran Center, Methuen MA :

Women's Weekends: March 2-5 & May 4-7
Men's Weekends: April 6-9 & June 1-4

For information please contact stbasilcenter@comcast.net or John Prendeville, john_prendeville@harvard.edu.

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.

COLLABORATIVE MUSIC CALENDAR

Wednesday, February 1:

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 Church

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

Thursday, February 2:

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

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

gospel focus

Covenant

The structure of the Beatitudes can be seen as yet another attempt by God to re-establish a covenant between Godself and the people. Throughout Jewish history, God called the people back into relationship and re-established God's covenant with them. Like all the previous versions of the covenant, the Beatitudes contain both a series of demands and a series of promises. It is a two-way deal. The first part of each Beatitude is a statement of what the people are called to do and the second part is God's promise of how they will be rewarded for their right action.

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR PARISH SUPPORT ST. ELIZABETH

Total Offertory Last Sunday: 1/22/17:	\$ 3,807
Mail backs for Week Ending 1/21/17:	\$ 2,391
EFT for Week Ending 1/21/17:	\$ 25,192
Total Parish Support for Week Ending 1/21/17:	\$ 31,390
Total Parish Support since 7/1/2016:	\$ 417,561
Target Parish Support since 7/1/2016:	\$ 428,434
Over (Under) Target since 7/1/2016:	\$ (10,873)

Preliminary target is \$715,000 for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2017.

Thank you!

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR PARISH SUPPORT ST. ISIDORE

Total Offertory Sunday 1/22/17:	\$ 2,675
Total EFT for Week Ending 1/22/17:	\$ 1,710
Total Parish Support for Week Ending 1/22/17:	\$ 4,385
Total Parish Support since 7/1/16:	\$ 138,924
Target Parish Support since 7/1/16:	\$ 142,600
Over (Under) Target since 7/1/16:	\$ (3,676)

St. Vincent DePaul Collection: 1/22/17 \$ 36

Grand Annual (127% of goal) \$ 43,149

Thank you for your generosity!

GROWING IN FAITH TOGETHER (GIFT)

Saturday, February 11
St. Isidore Church Hall
6:15 p.m.—8:45 p.m.

Sunday, February 12
St. Elizabeth Church Hall
11:45 a.m.—2:15 p.m.
6:15 p.m.—8:45 p.m.

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.

We can't wait to see you there.



OFFERTORY CONTRIBUTIONS

How to get your offertory contribution to St. Isidore's or St. Elizabeth's when you're attending Mass at the other church.

If you'd like to make sure your donation hits your home parish in our collaborative when you attend mass at the other parish, there are several ways to do this.

First, and best, sign up for EFT at your home parish. Once you're signed up you will not need to lift a finger regardless of which parish you're at - for one weekend or every weekend. Both SIP and SEOH have successful electronic giving programs. EFT is reliable, convenient and eliminates handling for parishioners, our volunteer offertory counters and our staffs. You can pick up a form in the church entrance before or after Mass.

Second, sign up for and use offertory envelopes from SIP or SEOH. Drop them in the basket and they'll make their way to the correct parish, along with the EFT signup forms.

Third. NEW! We designed special envelopes just for this purpose. They're in the front gathering space of each parish. Grab one or a stack of these, put your donation in the basket and it will make its way to the intended parish. There are pink envelopes (signifying St. Elizabeth's roses) in the lobby of St. Isidore's. At St. Elizabeth's there are yellow envelopes for St. Isidore, the farmer (yellow = corn, sunflowers, summer squash, peppers, etc.). However you contribute, we want to honor your intentions and we want to thank you for your support.

SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND

This 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.

THIS WEEK AT ST. ELIZABETH:

Sunday, January 29
Gospel Scripture Reflection
9:15—10:15 a.m., Parish Center, Room 4

Monday, January 30
Book Discussion Group
9:45—11:15 a.m., Parish Center Hall

ST. ELIZABETH LITURGY OF THE WORD FOR CHILDREN

Sunday, February 5, 10:30 a.m. Mass

At the opening of the 10:30am 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.

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.

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. ISIDORE CATHOLIC APPEAL

Recently many of you have received a letter from Cardinal Sean requesting your support of the 2017 Catholic Appeal. Our parish directly benefits from the 50 ministries supported by the Appeal. If you have not already done so, please prayerfully consider making an early pledge. You may mail your pledge or visit bostoncatholicappeal.org to give online. Thank you!

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.

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.

“To evangelize, therefore, it is necessary to open ourselves once again to the horizon of God’s Spirit, without being afraid of what he asks us or of where he leads us.”

— Pope Francis, *The Church of Mercy*