

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

Theme: God's love invites us to wholeness.

Breaking Open the Word

Suggested text for faith sharing: Today's Gospel Reading.

Step One: Listen to the Word

When you hear the word enemy, what or who do you think fits that definition? How do you turn the other cheek? What does that mean to you? How complete is your love for that enemy?

Step Two: Look into Your Life

Question for Children: What can you do at home or at school to show that you follow Jesus' Commandments?

Question for Youth: Do you think Jesus was serious when he said to love your enemies? Why or why not?

Question for Adults: Have you ever told someone to do something for his/her own well being? Do you accept God's laws in the same spirit of love and concern?

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.



Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 19, 2017

*Do you not know that you are the temple of God
and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?*



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 continues to make a slow road to recovery. Thank you for all the prayers. 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.



BURNING OF PALMS

From now until Sunday, February 25, we ask that you bring palms which were blessed on Palm Sunday from your homes and leave them in the basket in the gathering space at St. Elizabeth. These palms will be burned to provide the ashes which will be used on Ash Wednesday.



ASH WEDNESDAY LITURGIES – MARCH 1

St. Elizabeth of Hungary Parish

4:30 p.m. -Liturgy of the Word and Distribution of Ashes

7:00 p.m. -Mass and Distribution of Ashes

St. Isidore Parish

9:00 a.m.-Mass and Distribution of Ashes

12:00 p.m.-Liturgy of the Word and Distribution of Ashes

CATHOLIC APPEAL 2017

Recently, many of you received a letter from Cardinal Seán 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. Please take a moment to watch the 2017 Catholic Appeal video found on the website named below to see the positive impact that Central Ministries make throughout our Archdiocese. You may mail your pledge or visit bostoncatholicappeal.org [1] to give online. Thank you in advance for your support of this year's Catholic Appeal.

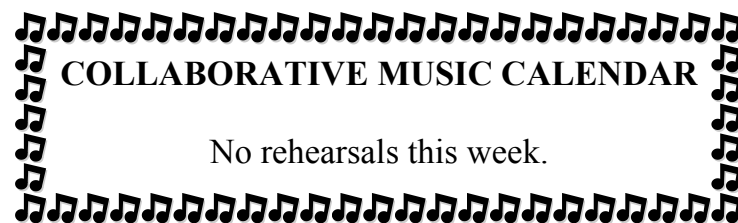
SNOW SAFETY

DON'T FALL OUTSIDE OR INSIDE

We had more slips and falls inside the building than outside the past few winters. The inside and outside steps and tile floors start out dry, but shoe and boot treads bring in snow, the snow melts and parishioners slip. Also, be aware outside of the clear/black ice as snow melts, turns to water, re-freezes in the shade or dark or under new snow and you can't see it. Slips result. It is winter in New England. Keep an eye out ahead of you. Keep your center of gravity over your cautiously moving feet, outside and inside. Be safe. Thank you.

COLLABORATIVE VOCATIONS TEAM

One of the priorities of our collaborative is to promote a culture of vocations. According to our Pastoral Plan, the first step is to create a Collaborative Vocations Team of 6-8 people, from both parishes to clarify, promote and implement this goal. If you are interested in being a part of this team, or finding out more about it, please contact joann.witek@gmail.com



No rehearsals this week.

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

Sacrament of Reconciliation:
Saturdays, 3:00-3:30 p.m.—St. Elizabeth
Saturdays, 4:00-4:30 p.m.—St. Isidore

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

READINGS THIS SUNDAY— Feb. 19 (Cycle A)

Lv 19:1-2, 17-18; 1 Cor 3:16-23; Mt 5:38-48

READINGS NEXT SUNDAY— Feb. 26 (Cycle A)

Is 49:14-15; 1 Cor 4:1-5; Mt 6:24-34

**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.

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.

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK:

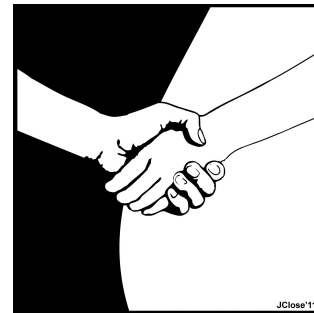
St. Isidore:
Saturday, February 18, 5:00 p.m.
Stella Darby, Memorial Mass

Sunday, February 19, 9:00 a.m.
Elsie and William Monahan, Memorial Mass

Thursday, February 23, 9:00 a.m.
Jeremy Gullette, Memorial Mass

DAILY MASS THIS WEEK

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



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?”

**Come and Invite Your Friends.
All are Welcome!**

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

LENTEN BOOK DISCUSSION

People Of God’s Mercy
By Marci Alborghetti

Marci Alborghetti brings her unique narrative voice to 14 Biblical figures who famously experienced God’s mercy (Cain, Leah, Moses, Rahab, Naomi, David, Bathsheba, Solomon, Job, Matthew, Martha, Peter, Paul, and the girl with the prophetic spirit). Their personal stories are pieced together imaginatively using Biblical and historical evidence. Each chapter is a page-turner, and includes thoughtful reflection questions.

Monday Mornings:

March 6, 13, 20, 27, April 3, 10
9:45—11:15 a.m., St Elizabeth Parish Center Hall
Contact: Diahne Goodwin,
diahneg@applevalleycatholic.org

Thursday Mornings:

Beginning March 2 (all dates tbd)
9:45—11:15 a.m., St. Isidore Rectory Dining Room
Contact: Anita Sutherland,
anitasuth@verizon.net

Books are available through Amazon.com or Twentythirdpublications.com. If you would like a book ordered for you (\$16) please let Diahne know no later than February 19.

NEW BULLETIN FORMAT COMING SOON

In the coming months the collaborative will be transforming our weekly bulletin to a monthly format. This is in line with our goal of being a missionary community and will give us the opportunity to not just inform people about what is happening but also be an evangelizing resource for welcome and outreach. We will still have a brief one-page printed week-at-a-glance available, but more in depth articles and information will be found in the monthly format. This also will make better use of our resources on the production end. Thanks for your patience during the transition. More details to come as the process unfolds.

**CONTRIBUTIONS FOR PARISH SUPPORT
ST. ELIZABETH**

Total Offertory Last Sunday: 2/12/17:	\$	3,664
Mail backs for Week Ending 2/11/17:	\$	1,776
EFT for Week Ending 2/11/17:	\$	4,662
Total Parish Support for Week Ending 2/11/17:	\$	10,102
Total Parish Support since 7/1/2016:	\$	440,022
Target Parish Support since 7/1/2016:	\$	456,662
Over (Under) Target since 7/1/2016:	\$	(16,640)

At masses last week, we also collected \$558 for Parish Sharing and \$1,370 for the support of the Church in Latin America.

Thank you!

**CONTRIBUTIONS FOR PARISH SUPPORT
ST. ISIDORE**

Total Offertory Sunday 2/12/17:	\$	2,339
Total EFT for Week Ending 2/12/17:	\$	2,066
Total Parish Support for Week Ending 2/12/17:	\$	4,405
Total Parish Support since 7/1/16:	\$	152,845
Target Parish Support since 7/1/16:	\$	156,400
Over (Under) Target since 7/1/16:	\$	(3,555)
St. Vincent DePaul Collection: 2/12/17	\$	63

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

Thank you for your generosity!

SUMMER 2017 MISSION TRIPS!

Olancho Aid Foundation Juticalpa, Olancho— Honduras

June 12— June 20

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

Our Own Mission Trip Tuscaloosa, Alabama

June 26—July 2

Open to all young people presently in high school.

Just5Days— Center for Ministry Development Springfield, Massachusetts

July 17—July 23

Open to all young people presently in
7th and 8th grade.

Catholic Heart Workcamp N. Arlington, New Jersey

July 23—July 29

Open to all young people entering high school.
in the Fall of 2017.



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.

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)

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Walk two miles

Roman soldiers were allowed by their own military laws to require any person to carry the soldier's pack along the road from one milestone marker to another. That is, they could order a man to walk one mile with their pack. If they made someone carry their pack for more than one mile, the soldier himself was subject to discipline and punishment. Jesus says, 'If anyone orders you to go one mile, go two miles with him.' Like turning the other cheek, it is turning the tables on the one who would oppress you and bringing shame upon them.

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.

THIS WEEK AT ST. ELIZABETH:

Sunday, February 19

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

Monday, February 20

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

UPCOMING BAPTISMS AT ST. ELIZABETH

Saturday, February 25, 4:00 p.m.

ST. ELIZABETH LITURGY OF THE WORD FOR CHILDREN

Sunday, March 12, 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.

GIVE BLOOD



SAVE LIFE

BLOOD DRIVE AT ST. ELIZABETH

The Red Cross will run a blood drive this Thursday, February 23, from 12-8 p.m. in the Parish Center Hall. To participate, please call 1-800-RED CROSS or visit their website at red-crossblood.org. Walk-ins are welcome also. The Red Cross and people in need thank you for your donation.

GIVE TO THE ST. ISIDORE CHAPTER OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

At No Cost

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

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

"So be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect." Encourage the Holy Spirit to perfect your marriage by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. The next WWME Weekends are March 17-19 in South Kingstown, RI and April 22-23 in Brewster. For more information, call Stephen and Michelle O'Leary at 800-710-9963 or visit www.wwmema.org.

COME HOLY SPIRIT: A DAY OF REFLECTION FOR WOMEN

Come Holy Spirit: A Day of Reflection for Women will be offered on Saturday, February 25 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at St. Catherine Parish in Westford. It will be facilitated by Jerri Lou Buffo and Sharon Laronga. The Holy Spirit surrounds us and calls us to new life. Are we aware of this special presence in our lives? How can we become more attuned to the Spirit? Join with other women for presentations and discussion as we reflect on the role of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

Morning refreshments and drinks will be provided. Participants should bring a bag lunch. A \$15 donation is suggested but not required. Call 978-692-6353 ext. 127 to register.

