

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

Theme: Temptation - What would Jesus do?

Breaking Open the Word

Suggested text for faith sharing: Today's Gospel.

Step One: Listen to the Word

As you listen to the familiar story of Jesus' journey into the desert, what word or phrase did you notice?
As you heard it again today, what image from this story lingers in your memory?

Step Two: Look into your Life

Question for Children: What do you plan to do during Lent this year as a way of showing you want to grow closer to Jesus?

Question for Youth: Jesus was tempted by the devil. How are you tempted? What helps you resist these temptations?

Question for Adults: When you yourself pause to be alone with God, what distracts and prevents you from dwelling in that? Busyness? The demands of life? TV? The internet?

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.



First Sunday of Lent

March 5, 2017

*The Lord, your God, shall you worship
and him alone shall you serve.*



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).

THE LIGHT IS ON FOR YOU!

This Lenten season, each Catholic parish in the Boston Archdiocese will have confessions available every Wednesday from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. If you have been reluctant to come to the sacrament, have been away for some time, or just find it difficult to get to a Saturday afternoon confession time, this is a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with Christ and his Church. Haven't been to confession in a while? Interested, but worry you don't remember how to give a good confession? No problem. A simple guide is available on the back cover of our Lenten 24 Hours for the Lord guide or at <http://www.bustedhalo.com/wp/wp-content/uploads/2009/02/how-to-confess.pdf>. And, our priests are always happy to gently guide you through the experience. Come experience the joy of our Lord's mercy! The light will be on for you at:

St. Elizabeth:

Wednesdays—March 8, 22, and April 12.
6:30-8:00 p.m.

St. Isidore:

Wednesdays—March 1, 3, 29 and April 5.
6:30-8:00 p.m.

FIRST WEEK OF LENT-- ENCOUNTER INNOVATION Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl

We encounter the Singh family in India, where a mother and father are using innovative farming techniques to feed their family amidst a flood. How is God inviting us to think outside the box in service to others this Lent? Visit crricebowl.org for more. Rice Bowls are available in the gathering space.

CATHOLIC APPEAL

Next week, Catholics across the Archdiocese will be invited to pledge their support to the 2017 Catholic Appeal. The Appeal helps to maintain and expand the many ministries that serve the Catholic faithful in our part of Christ's vineyard. Please be sure to read the insert in today's bulletin to see how these ministries impact our parish and the life of our Church.

EXPERIENCE ALPHA!

Alpha is an opportunity to explore life and the Christian faith in a friendly, open and informal environment. A free series of weekly interactive sessions, the Alpha experience includes a meal, a short talk and time where people can share thoughts and questions in a gradual, gentle, non-threatening way.

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
-

Thursday 6:30—8:30 p.m.

All are Welcome! Bring a Friend!

Sign up at: avccalpha@gmail.com

More info – alphausa.org



LENTEN DAILY REFLECTION RESOURCES

Best Lent Ever

Free video-based email program from Dynamic Catholic featuring internationally acclaimed speaker and bestselling author Matthew Kelly to help you identify what stands between you and happiness and what to do about it. <http://dynamiccatholic.com/bestlentever/>

Living Lent Daily

Free daily email reflection based on *A Book of Grace-Filled Days* by Amy Andrews, opens a portal to God's loving, grace-filled presence in the midst of our busy lives. <https://www.loyolapress.com/our-catholic-faith/liturgical-year/lent/living-lent-daily>

INTO THE DESERT YOUNG ADULT RETREAT

Calling all young adults, aged 21-35! The Apple Valley Catholic Young Adult group is co-hosting an overnight retreat with the Boston University Graduate Catholic group. The retreat, "Into the Desert," will be held at St. Elizabeth from March 31 - April 2. The cost is \$50. To sign up by March 3, please visit the Apple Valley Catholic Young Adults Facebook page or email Marie Hoff at youngadults@applevalleycatholic.org.

OUR COLLABORATIVE STAFF:

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

Parochial Vicar: Rev. Paul Sughrue
(fpaul@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
(andrea@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:

St. Elizabeth:
Saturdays, 3:00—3:30 p.m.
Wednesdays, 6:30—8:00 on March 8, 22, April 12

St. Isidore:
Saturdays, 4:00—4:30 p.m.
Wednesdays, 6:30—8:00 on March 3, 29, April 5

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

READINGS THIS SUNDAY— March 5 (Cycle A)

Gn 2:7-9, 3:1-7; Rom 5:12-19; Mt 4:1-11

READINGS NEXT SUNDAY— March 12 (Cycle A)

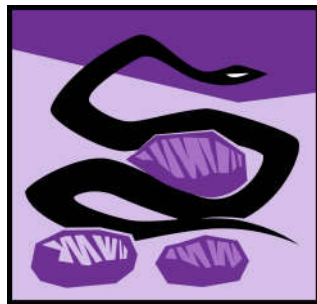
Gn 12:1-4a; 2 Tim 1:8b-10; Mt 17:1-9

FR. WALTER

If you would like to receive updates on Fr. Walter's health journey, communicate, offer your support and love, go to Caring Bridge website, www.caringbridge.org. There you will be asked to register and type in Friend's name: Walterjwoods.

WONDERING WHAT TO GIVE UP FOR LENT?

Every day, Household Goods welcomes new families emerging from homelessness or other difficult circumstances, and strive to offer all of them the dignity of choice as they set up their new home. Immediate needs: mattresses & box springs in good condition; couches; table lamps; kitchen & dining tables; pots & pans; glassware; silverware; blankets; countertop microwaves; toaster ovens; toasters; TVs (2005 or later); blenders; food processors; slow cookers; vacuums. Donations accepted Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays 9 a.m. to Noon. Your Lenten sacrifice could make a real difference for someone in need!



**CONTRIBUTIONS FOR PARISH SUPPORT
ST. ELIZABETH**

Total Offertory Last Sunday: 2/26/17:	\$ 4,094
Mail backs for Week Ending 2/25/17:	\$ 1,551
EFT for Week Ending 2/25/17:	\$ 25,075
Total Parish Support for Week Ending 2/25/17:	\$ 30,720
Total Parish Support since 7/1/2016:	\$ 477,436
Target Parish Support since 7/1/2016:	\$ 496,129
Over (Under) Target since 7/1/2016:	\$ (18,693)

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

Thank you!

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK:

St. Isidore:

Saturday, March 4, 5:00 p.m.
Stephen Orsatti, Memorial Mass

Sunday, March 5, 9:00 a.m.
Albert Darby, Memorial Mass

St. Elizabeth:

Friday, March 10, 9:00 a.m.
William Richards, Jr., Memorial Mass

Prayers for the Departed:

Marguerite Brienzo
Paul Hebert

VIRTUS TRAINING

Thursday, March 9

7:00 p.m., St. Elizabeth Parish Center, Room 3

This is a one time course required of everyone 18 and older who works with children, youth, or the homebound. This is a good time to take care of this of you are planning on participating in the spring service projects, a mission trip, or VBS. To register, please contact our CAP (Child Abuse Protection) Team Leader, Jack Deasy at j.w.deasy@gmail.com.

**CONTRIBUTIONS FOR PARISH SUPPORT
ST. ISIDORE**

Total Offertory Sunday 2/26/17:	\$ 2,647
Total EFT for Week Ending 2/26/17:	\$ 2,066
Total Parish Support for Week Ending 2/26/17:	\$ 4,713
Total Parish Support since 7/1/16:	\$ 162,905
Target Parish Support since 7/1/16:	\$ 165,600
Over (Under) Target since 7/1/16:	\$ (2,695)
St. Vincent DePaul Collection:	\$ 56

Grand Annual (128% of goal) \$ 43,584

Thank you for your generosity!

COLLABORATIVE MUSIC CALENDAR

Wednesday, March 8

St. Isidore Children's Choir Rehearsal
4:00—4:45 p.m., St. Isidore Church

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

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

Thursday, March 9

St. Elizabeth Children's Choir Rehearsal
5:45—6:30 p.m., St. Elizabeth Parish Center, Room 1

Collaborative Teen Choir Pizza Prayer and Practice
7:00—8:30 p.m., St. Elizabeth Parish Center, Room 4

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

**EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS ARE NEEDED AT
EMERSON HOSPITAL**

Eucharistic Ministers are needed to bring communion to patients at Emerson Hospital. The candidate does not have to be a Eucharistic Minister in a parish. We ask for a 2 hour commitment approximately once or twice a month. Communion is provided from the hospital chapel and two ministers are scheduled each day. Timothy Duff, Catholic chaplain at the Hospital, offers ongoing training and direction. If you have an interest in this ministry or need additional information please call Tim at (978) 287-3015 or email him: tduff@emersonhosp.org by Friday, March 31.

LENTEN BOOK DISCUSSION

People Of God's Mercy
Begins this week!

Mondays: 9:45—11:15 a.m., SEOH Parish Center Hall,
Contact: Diahne Goodwin
diahneg@applevalleycatholic.org

Thursdays: 9:45—11:15 a.m., St. Isidore Rectory
Contact: Anita Sutherland, anitasuth@verizon.net

**APPLE VALLEY CATHOLIC
YOUTH MINISTRY UPCOMING
MARCH EVENTS**

Thursday Morning Lenten Breakfast & Prayer
March 9, 15, 23—April 6 & 13

Catholic Youth Conference
Saturday, March 18—11:30 to 7:00 p.m.

Youth Ministry Auction
Saturday, March 25

All High School Youth Welcome!

**APPLE VALLEY CATHOLIC
YOUTH MINISTRY AUCTION 2017**

Let's Go to the Hop!

Saturday, March 25, 6:00—10:00 p.m.

**Tickets are on sale beginning March 4
after all Masses.**

Auction Tickets are \$25 per person. The auction is a fun night out for adults featuring a cash bar, hors d'oeuvres, and desserts. See your friends, meet some new ones, bid on terrific items and support our youth! Please consider supporting the auction:

- **Purchase Event ticket:** \$25/person.
- **Purchase Raffle tickets:** \$5/1 ticket, \$10/5 tickets, \$20/20 tickets.
- **Sponsor an ad:** \$50/quarter page, \$75/half page, or \$150/full page.
- **Donate an item:** Vacation homes, tickets to a sporting event, gift certificates to a local restaurant, home-made items, a ride on your boat, etc.

For more information contact
Jo Jo Holton at: jholton390@gmail.com or
Cathy Rudolph at rudolphcl@gmail.com

See you at the HOP!



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.

OFFICE SUPPORT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AT ST. ELIZABETH PARISH

Help is needed in the main office to support the staff's administrative needs. Duties include tasks such as making copies, prepping mailings, processing sign-ups for various activities, light computer work as needed (not often), and other similar activities. Time commitment would be two-three hours a day, one or two days a week, as needed. Timing is flexible and multiple volunteers can share the work. If you have some time and talent to share in this area, please contact Janice Howes janice@applevalleycatholic.org to discuss.

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.

RITE OF SENDING—ST. ELIZABETH

This weekend at our 10:30 Mass we celebrate the Church's Rite of Sending. For our candidate for Full Communion into the Catholic Church, Louisa Malchodi. Louisa is being sent to the Cathedral of the Holy Cross, in Boston for celebration of the Call to Continuing Conversion with the Cardinal and along with other candidates across the archdiocese.

This rite pivots her forward with paschal hope toward Easter and the promise of Eternal life as she enters the final stages of preparation for Confirmation and Eucharist. Thank you for holding Louisa in your prayers during this time.



WATER COMING UP

Through St. Elizabeth Parish Center Hall
Ladies' room floor

Water has been coming into the Parish Center Hall downstairs ladies' room. It appears to be groundwater, likely coming up from a crack under the tiles. It is a small flow, but depending on the groundwater level, precipitation and melting, it can sometimes be just enough to come up between the tiles, as you step on them, making the floor slippery, and DANGEROUS, which we don't like, as we like to avoid slips and falls. It may take a while to fix. We will need to manage, with your help, until it's fixed.

For now, we put up a sign on the wall and a 'slippery when wet' sandwich board sign on the floor. The wall sign will suggest using your judgement and due care and to consider using the upstairs facilities. If you see that the floor is wetter than you think is safe for all, please feel bring this to the attention of the group leader, or a staff member here, and to consider closing the downstairs ladies' room and using only the one upstairs. The upstairs is accessible by both stairs and elevator.

The St. E's Buildings & Grounds is looking into this. It is not a quick fix. A likely outcome is taking up the tiles, finding the crack, waiting until dry season to seal it properly, seeing if this fixes it and if not, then possibly more invasive, expensive water management measures. Thank you for your help in this matter.

THIS WEEK AT ST. ELIZABETH:

Sunday, March 5

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

Confirmation Workshop
1:00—6:00 p.m., Parish Center Hall

Monday, March 6

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

Youth Ministry Auction Planning Meeting
7:00—9:00 p.m., Parish Center, Room 1

Thursday, March 9

Alpha
6:30—8:30 p.m., Parish Center Hall

Virtus Training Session
7:00—9:00 p.m., Parish Center, Room 3



ST. ELIZABETH YEAR END CONTRIBUTION STATEMENT

For tax purposes, parishioners often seek to document their contributions to St. Elizabeth's. Your bank statement constitutes acceptable IRS documentation for donations by check or EFT. The parish can also supply a statement, provided they were made by means of donations envelopes, EFT or contributions of \$250 or more on a single day. If you would like a statement, please fill out the form below and return it by mail or the collection basket. Thank you as always, for your support of St. Elizabeth and its mission.

Name _____
(please print)

ID Number _____

Address _____

Telephone or email (in case we have questions)

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)



Monday, March 6

St. Isidore Prayer Shawl Ministry
7:00 p.m., Upstairs in the Rectory

Friday, March 10

St. Elizabeth Prayer Shawl Ministry
10:00—11:30 a.m., Parish Center, Room 4

SAVE THE DATE! Apple Valley Catholic Community Vacation Bible School



August 7-11, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.,
St. Elizabeth Church

Closing service and ice cream social
August 10, 6:30 p.m., St. Isidore Church

For children age 4 by Sept. 1, 2017 through entering 6th grade. Stay tuned ... Preregistration evening coming soon. Volunteers welcomed!: teens entering 7th grade up to adult.

Questions? Contact Co-Directors Lisa Lapinski
(lisalapinski@verizon.net) or Sarah Burianek
(sarahburianek@msn.com)