

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

Theme: Jesus gives us the power of the Holy Spirit.

Breaking Open the Word

Suggested text for faith sharing: Today's 2nd Reading, the letter of Peter

Step One: Listen to the Word

As you hear these hopeful words of Peter, which ones touch you most deeply? What single word or line from this reading lingers in your memory?

Step Two: Look into Your Life

Question for Children: Even though you can't see him with your eyes, how do you "see" Jesus in others?

Question for Youth: Jesus gave us the gift of the Holy Spirit and gave us the power to forgive sins. How do you offer forgiveness to your friends and family? How do you seek forgiveness for yourself?

Question for Adults: When and how do you experience the "new birth" which we are given in Christ? When someone has forgiven you? When you have forgiven others? When your celebration reconciliation? At other times?

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 McMahan
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 of Easter

April 23, 2017

*You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me,
says the Lord; blessed are they who have not seen me,
but still believe!*



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).



This year parishioners of both our parishes celebrated the major moments of the Sacred Triduum together. We joined as one community for the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Thursday, the Solemn celebration of the Lord's Passion on Friday, and the Easter Vigil on Saturday. Having everyone participate in one celebration that occurred over time in both churches enabled better stewardship of our human resources, including the liturgical ministers and those who prepared our worship spaces. It allowed us to make our Triduum celebration more beautiful, prayerful, and spiritually rich than would have been the case had each parish tried to "go it alone." Better celebrations are more apt to bring heaven and earth together, which is what liturgy ought do every time.

Communion with the risen Lord—through word, action, sign, and symbol—transforms us as persons and as community, inspiring us to be better disciples in mission. Although worshiping together during the Sacred Triduum was a special grace, these reflections apply whenever the church gathers to hear the word and celebrate God's love and call in Christ. May our worship together always help us to know the Lord more fully and serve him more generously in the lives we actually lead each day.

My thanks to everyone who prepared our worship and our churches, or who supported our celebrations in any way. I also thank all who contributed to the Easter collection, which supports the sick and retired priests of the Archdiocese of Boston.

Fr. Walter



IMPORTANT MASS TIME NOTICE

In light of the 2:00 p.m. celebration of Confirmation Masses, there will be no Sunday 5:00 p.m. Masses at St. Elizabeth on May 7 & May 21. This will relieve additional stress on the presiders and ministers needed. Thank you for your understanding and patience with any inconvenience!

EASTER SEASON COLLABORATIVE FOOD DRIVE BEGINS THIS WEEKEND

Please take a bag at the end of Mass today and fill it with the requested food items. Bags may be returned before all Masses in both parishes or at GIFT next weekend. Food will be sorted and delivered to the Stow Food Pantry, the Acton Food pantry, and the St. Martha's Food Pantry in Lawrence.

Lots of help is needed to sort and deliver.
We especially need drivers!

Saturday, May 6, 11:00 a.m. - St. Isidore Church Hall

Saturday, May 6, 1:00 p.m. - St. Elizabeth Church for both the Acton Food Pantry and St. Martha's.

Please email Barbara Dane at barbara@applevalleycatholic.org if you are able to help!

**GROWING IN FAITH TOGETHER
(GIFT)
NEXT WEEKEND**

Saturday, April 29
St. Isidore Church Hall
6:15 p.m.—8:45 p.m.

Sunday, March 30
St. Elizabeth Church Hall
11:45 a.m.—2:15 p.m.
6:15 p.m.—8:45 p.m.

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
(andreaag@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



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

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

St. Elizabeth:
Saturdays, 3:00—3:30 p.m.

St. Isidore:
Saturdays, 4:00—4:30 p.m.

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

READINGS THIS SUNDAY— April 23
(Cycle A)

Acts 2:42-47; 1 Pt 1:3-9; Jn 20:19-31

READINGS NEXT SUNDAY— April 30
(Cycle A)

Acts 2:14, 22-23; 1 Pt 1:17-21; Lk 24:13-35

SUMMER 2017 MISSION TRIPS!

Olancho Aid Foundation
Juticalpa, Olancho– Honduras
 June 12— June 20

Our Own Mission Trip
Tuscaloosa, Alabama
 June 26—July 2

Just5Days– Center for Ministry Development
Springfield, Massachusetts
 July 17—July 23

Catholic Heart Workcamp
N. Arlington, New Jersey
 July 23—July 29



CONTRIBUTIONS FOR PARISH SUPPORT
ST. ELIZABETH

| | | |
|---|----|----------------|
| Total Offertory Sunday 4/16/17: | \$ | 1,954 |
| Mailbacks for Week Ending 4/15/17: | \$ | - |
| Total EFT for Week Ending 4/15/17: | \$ | <u>671</u> |
| Total Parish Support for Week Ending 4/15/17: | \$ | 2,625 |
| | | |
| Total Parish Support since 7/1/16: | \$ | 555,191 |
| Target Parish Support since 7/1/16: | \$ | <u>571,253</u> |
| Over (Under) Target since 7/1/16: | \$ | (16,062) |

During Triduum we collected: \$12,537 on Easter towards the Clergy Benefit Trust; \$230 on Good Friday towards the maintenance of Holy Land Shrines; \$3,578 on Holy Thursday (with more still coming in). The Rice Bowl collection, going towards poverty, hunger, disease and emergency relief.

Thank you very much!

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK:

St. Isidore:

Saturday, April 22, 5:00 p.m.
 Mike Marshall, Memorial Mass

Sunday, April 23, 9:00 a.m.
 Marianna & Joseph Melone, Memorial Mass

Tuesday, April 25, 9:00 a.m.
 Maria Rodriguez, Memorial Mass

Thursday, April 27, 9:00 a.m.
 Vito DiBenedetto, Memorial Mass

St. Elizabeth:

Wednesday April 26, 9:00 a.m.
 Patricia Cullen, Memorial Mass

Friday, April 28, 9:00 a.m.
 Juliane Shanley, Successful surgery & healing

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR PARISH SUPPORT
ST. ISIDORE

| | | |
|---|----|----------------|
| Total Offertory Last Sunday: 4/16/17: | \$ | 524 |
| Annual Offertory donation received 3/28/17: | \$ | 3,550 |
| EFT for Week Ending 4/16/17: | \$ | <u>1,665</u> |
| Total Parish Support for Week Ending 4/16/17: | \$ | 5,739 |
| | | |
| Total Parish Support since 7/1/2016: | \$ | 193,206 |
| Target Parish Support since 7/1/2016: | \$ | <u>193,200</u> |
| Over (Under) Target since 7/1/2016: | \$ | 6.67 |

| | | |
|--|----|--------|
| Good Friday/Holy Land Shrines | \$ | 1314 |
| Easter Collection—Clergy Health/Retirement Trust | \$ | 4349 |
| Black & Native American/Military | \$ | 10 |
| St. Vincent DePaul | \$ | 67 |
| Grant Annual (128% of goal) | \$ | 43,682 |

Thank you very much!



COLLABORATIVE MUSIC CALENDAR

Wednesday, April 26

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

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

Thursday, April 27

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

SPRING BOOK DISCUSSION

Between Heaven and Mirth

By Fr. James Martin, SJ
 Beginning May 1

Mondays at 9:45 a.m., St. Elizabeth Parish
 Center Hall (May 1,8,15,22, June 5, 12,19)

Thursdays at 9:45 a.m., Isidore Rectory
 May 4, 11, 18, 25, June 1, 8, 15)



Father Martin reminds us that happiness is God's own goal for us. His book takes a look at how joy, humor, and laughter can change our lives and save our spirits. See Diahne Goodwin with Questions. All are welcome.

CRADLES TO CRAYONS SERVICE
PROJECT A SUCCESS!

Great job Apple Valley Catholic Community! With your help, St. Elizabeth's 8th grader Michael Grega collected 21 bags of clothing for homeless children in Boston. As part of Project 351, he organized a group of Junior High students to sort and deliver the clothing to Cradles to Crayons, an organization that provides necessities for these kids. Our young adult ministry also collected a large number of personal hygiene and care items for Cradles to Crayons. Thank you so much for your donations!! We couldn't do it without you! You all really delivered!

CATHOLIC APPEAL

Some great news: both of our parishes have met their goals for the 2017 Catholic Appeal! Many thanks to all of you who have already contributed.

If you have not yet contributed, you may now do so online at <http://tinyurl.com/jp5g5ct> or by filling out a blue pledge card, available at the rear of our churches, and placing it in the collection basket at any Mass. One significant value of contributions or pledges made after we have met our goals is that 65% of those dollars are returned to the parish.

Have you thought?

Those who have not seen

Jesus says to Thomas, 'You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.' That's us! Jesus' words in the gospel are meant for people like us living today. We are not in the position of Thomas and the other disciples who were able to see the risen Lord face to face and so convince themselves of his rising. The gospel recognises that to believe in the resurrection without that physical, personal encounter with Jesus is to be celebrated even more. Happy are we - Blessed are we - who have not seen and yet still believe!

CONFIRMATIONS:

May 7, 2:00 p.m., St. Isidore
May 21, 2:00 p.m., St. Elizabeth



FIRST COMMUNIONS:

May 6, 5:00 p.m., St. Isidore
May 7, 10:30 a.m., St. Elizabeth
May 13, 4:00 p.m., St. Elizabeth
May 14, 9:00 a.m., St. Isidore



THIS WEEK AT ST. ELIZABETH

Sunday, April 23

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

Wednesday, April 26

Collaborative Pastoral Council
7:00-9:00 p.m., Parish Center, Room 1

ST. ELIZABETH EASTER SEASON FLOWER FUND

We welcome your contribution towards the flowers and decorations that will adorn our church for the Easter Season. Please complete the form below and mail it to the parish office at 89 Arlington St. Acton MA 01720 Attn: John Morris or put it in an envelope marked 'Flower Fund' and place it in the collection basket.

If you are making your donation in memory of a deceased loved one and wish to have his/her name published in our bulletin on the Feast of Pentecost, the end of the Easter Season, please check off the appropriate box on the form below. Contact Mary Ryan at mgr@seoh.org or at 978-263-4305 X35 if you have any questions.

Enclosed is my donation of \$ _____
towards the Easter Season Flower Fund.
I am making this donation in memory of _____

(please print clearly)

I would like the above name/s published in the
bulletin on the Feast of Pentecost. Yes ___ No ___

My name is _____

Please check here if you would like your dona-
tion to be made anonymously. _____

SUNDAY CAFÉ

Please join us every Sunday for coffee and refresh-
ments, 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. VINCENT DEPAUL SOCIETY OF ST. ISIDORE

Free: Give to the St. Isidore Chapter of St Vincent
dePaul at No Cost. If you buy things on Ama-
zon.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.

BRIDGES OF HOPE

Reaching Out to Individuals and Families Affected
by Mental Illness

Wednesday, May 3, 2017
7:00 p.m.

St. Isidore Parish Hall

Please join the conversation!
For more information contact
Deacon Charlie Cornell: cac@stisidorestow.org



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 enter-
ing 6th grade. Stay tuned ... Preregistration even-
ing coming soon. Volunteers welcomed: teens enter-
ing 7th grade up to adult.

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

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the
Father has sent me, so I send you." Celebrate God's
love and mercy for each other by attend-
ing a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend.
The next WWME Weekends are Jun 10-11, 2017 in
Medway, MA and Sep 16-17, 2017 in Medway,
MA. For more information, call Stephen &
Michelle O'Leary at 800-710-9963 or visit us at
www.WWME.org.

LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES?

Household Goods, 530 Main St. (Rte. 27) in Acton,
needs additional volunteers, especially furniture
movers during the week. These volunteers assist
both on the road (picking up donations) and at the
facility in Acton (moving donations in and client
furniture out to waiting vehicles). Must be 18 years
or older and must complete a CORI check. Hours
and days of the week are flexible. Whether you can
spare as little as three hours a month, or a day or
more a week, we invite you to join us in our mission
to assist those in need in our community. For more
information, please call 978-635-1710 x6 or visit
their website: www.householdgoods.org.

A DAY OF REFLECTION FOR WOMEN

All women are invited to attend a special day of re-
flection on Saturday, May 13 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00
p.m. at St. Catherine Church in Westford. Using
Anne Morrow Lindbergh's classic book, Gift from
the Sea, we will explore and discover insights about
remaining whole in the midst of distractions, and be-
coming free for growth of mind and heart.

There will be presentations by Jerri Lou Buffo and
Sharon Laronga, with time allowed for reflection and
discussion. Morning refreshments and drinks will be
provided. Participants should bring a bag lunch.
A \$15 donation is suggested. Proceeds will be used
for programs at St. Catherine's. Call to pre-register at
978-692-5435.



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.