

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

Theme: We have the spirit of truth to guide us.

Breaking Open the Word

Suggested text for faith sharing: Today's Gospel.

Step One: Listen to the Word

What words or phrases in today's reading touch your heart and mind?
What feeling do you have after hearing the promises of Jesus?

Step Two: Look into Your Life

Question for Children: Jesus promises to be our friend forever. How do friends treat each other?

Question for Youth: Jesus promised us that the Holy Spirit (the Advocate) would remain with us always. When have you experienced the Spirit?

Question for Adults: Which one of the promises in today's Gospel gives you the most hope?

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.



Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 21, 2017

*Whoever loves me will keep my word, says the Lord,
and my Father will love him and we will come to him.*



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 Pastor's corner

Dear Parishioners,

Several weeks ago I informed worshipers at the Sunday 5 p.m. Mass that we had a decision to make about continuing that celebration through the summer months. The underlying concern was whether a sufficient number of musicians and other liturgical ministers would be available during the summer to enable us to celebrate the Eucharist worthily and well on each occasion. After many conversations, it appears that this will indeed be the case, and hence there will be no need for a special summer schedule in either parish. So we'll continue the current Mass schedule unchanged throughout the summer. Please help spread the word.

Heartfelt congratulations to everyone who celebrated the Easter sacraments this year, particularly those who were baptized (and their families), received their first Holy Communion, were received into the full communion of the Catholic Church, or were confirmed. May these celebrations remind us that faith in the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead is a gift from God, and one that is intended to inspire and guide the course of our lives and the mission of our community.

Fr. Walter

A THANK YOU FROM CARDINAL SEAN

Cardinal Sean has asked us to pass along to both parishes his "heartfelt gratitude and congratulations for reaching your 2017 Catholic Appeal goal." The annual appeal supports many essential ministries that serve parishes, schools, and service organizations in the Archdiocese of Boston. He also specifically thanks all "parishioners who made a commitment to supporting this year's Appeal." If you have not yet participated, it's not too late to do so. Please remember that each parish will receive a rebate equal to 65% of funds contributed beyond its assessment—and you'll be doing your part to support very important ministries and services.

**THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD
MASS SCHEDULE—THURSDAY MAY 25**
(Holy Day of Obligation)

9:00 a.m. Mass at St. Isidore
7:00 p.m. Mass at St. Elizabeth

MISSIONARY COOPERATIVE PLAN 2017

Missionary preachers from the Archdiocese of Nyeri, Kenya, will be visiting both parishes on the weekend of July 1 & 2. They will speak about the church's life in that diocese and ask for our prayerful and financial support.

COLLABORATIVE WELCOME MINISTRY



Could a Welcome Ministry be the one you are called to? We are looking for people who are interested in acting as Welcome Ambassadors for new parishioners and families as well as the returning faithful to our churches. You will be trained, then you might reach out and connect with our newcomers, help with welcoming social events or just encourage people to meet over coffee after Mass.

If you love people and love sharing the wonderful things about our faith community, or have any questions, please contact:

Sue Hart, seashellsue102@gmail.com
Helen Tracy, helentracy@verizon.net
Diahne Goodwin, diahneg@applevalleycatholic.org

We need core team members to help with planning plus ambassadors. Thank you!

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

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

The Ascension of The Lord Mass Schedule Thursday, May 25:

9:00 a.m. Mass at St. Isidore
7:00 p.m. Mass at St. Elizabeth

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— May 21
(Cycle A)

Acts 8:5-8, 14-17; 1 Pt 3:15-18; Jn 14:15-21

READINGS NEXT SUNDAY— May 28
(Cycle A)

Acts 1:12-14; 1 Pt 4:13-16; Jn 17:1-11a

**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 with 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 donation to be made anonymously. ___

**CONTRIBUTIONS FOR PARISH SUPPORT
ST. ELIZABETH**

Total Offertory Sunday 5/14/17:	\$ 3,413
Mailbacks for Week Ending 5/13/17:	\$ 1,657
Total EFT for Week Ending 5/13/17:	\$ 4,569
Total Parish Support for Week Ending 5/13/17:	\$ 9,638
Total Parish Support since 7/1/16:	\$ 613,226
Target Parish Support since 7/1/16:	\$ 626,674
Over (Under) Target since 7/1/16:	\$ (13,448)

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

Thank you very much!

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK:

St. Isidore:

Saturday, May 20, 5:00 p.m.
Sally Hesler, Memorial Mass

Sunday, May 21, 9:00 a.m.
Jerry Mayer, Memorial Mass

Thursday, May 25, 9:00 a.m.
Special Intention

St. Elizabeth:

Wednesday, May 24, 9:00 a.m.
Louisa Michalowicz, Memorial Mass

Friday, May 26, 9:00 a.m.
Robert Mallard, Memorial Mass

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 attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. The next WWME Weekends are June 10-11 and September 16-17 in Medway. For more information, call Stephen & Michelle O'Leary at 800-710-or visit us at www.WWME.org.

**CONTRIBUTIONS FOR PARISH SUPPORT
ST. ISIDORE**

Total Offertory Last Sunday: 5/14/17:	\$ 3,418
EFT for Week Ending 5/14/17:	\$ 2,082
Total Parish Support for Week Ending 5/14/17:	\$ 5,500
Total Parish Support since 7/1/2016:	\$ 212,185
Target Parish Support since 7/1/2016:	\$ 211,600
Over (Under) Target since 7/1/2016:	\$ 585

St. Vincent DePaul	\$ 325
Grant Annual (128% of goal)	\$ 43,782

Thank you very much!

**APPLE VALLEY CATHOLIC COMMUNITY
YOUTH MINISTRY**

Attention 9th Graders

Night of Reflection
Thursday, June 8, 5:30—8:00 p.m.
St. Elizabeth Parish Center Hall

The Evening will include games, prayer experiences, witness talks, activities and of course a meal.

Attention 8th Graders

Gathering of Pizza, Sundaes and Tye-Dye
Monday June, 5 6:00—7:30 p.m.
St. Elizabeth Center Hall

Our Teen Leadership Committee welcomes you to this fun evening of food and fun.
Bring a t-shirt.

**ATTENTION MISSION TRIP CHAPERONES
AND VBS LEADERS**

There will be VIRTUS Training (Child Abuse Protection) on Wednesday, May 31st at 7:00 p.m. at SEOH. This is a one time course required of everyone over 18 who will be working with children this summer. Please register with Jim Flanagan at jim@applevalleycatholic.org.

GOSPEL FOCUS

Paraclete

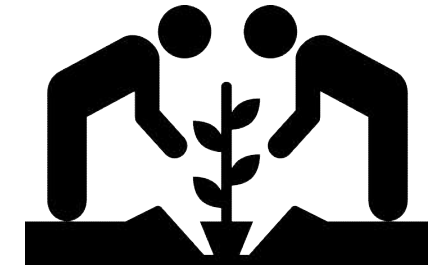
The Greek word, *paraklētos*, is translated into a number of different terms in English translations of the gospel. Its technical use was for a lawyer or attorney. However, its use in scripture is like the broader meaning of advocate that we use today: someone who stands up for another; someone who speaks up for another; someone who intercedes on behalf of another. An advocate is one who lends strength and support to someone who is disempowered. That is exactly what Jesus did for many people during his ministry and it is also what the Holy Spirit is sent to do.

COLLABORATIVE GARDEN NEWS

Calling all volunteers! We will begin to work on the St. Isidore/St. Elizabeth Collaborative vegetable garden at St. Isidore on Saturday, June 3 beginning at 9:00 a.m. to prep the soil and plant our vegetables. If you can help, even if only for a short period of time, please put your name and contact information on the sign-up sheet in the vestibule.

PLANT DONATIONS ARE ALSO NEEDED...

We are also looking for seedling and small vegetable plant donations. If you can help us, please leave the plants on the side of the rectory garage before June 3rd. All produce grown in our garden will be delivered to both the Acton/Boxborough and Stow Food pantries.



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



SPRING BOOK DISCUSSION

Between Heaven and Mirth

By Fr. James Martin, SJ

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

Thursdays at 9:45 a.m., St. Isidore Rectory (May 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.

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.



HELP NEEDED AT THE ACTON FOOD PANTRY

The Acton Food Pantry is looking for volunteers to help unload trucks, sort food, and assist clients. There are flexible times and schedules. High school and college kids are welcome to help unload and sort. If you are looking for some community service to do during the summer, this would be a great opportunity. For more information, please contact Kathy Casseletto at kathy3190@aol.com.

**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. Volunteers welcomed: teens entering 7th grade up to adult. Questions? Contact Co-Directors Lisa Lapinski (lisalapinski@verizon.net) or Sarah Burianek (sarahburianek@msn.com)

HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER PROGRAM AT NORTHEAST CATHOLIC COLLEGE

Northeast Catholic College in Warner, NH is pleased to announce the dates for its Summer Program for high school students. The Collegiate Summer Program offers participants the opportunity to study theology, philosophy, literature and political science. During the summer program, students also attend daily Mass and enjoy sports, socials and day trips including hiking and canoeing. The program is for students who will be entering their sophomore, junior or senior year of high school in the fall of 2017. It is also open to students who have just graduated high school. The Collegiate Summer Program is a two-week session that runs from Sunday, July 23 – Saturday, August 5, 2017. Register today at www.NortheastCatholic.edu! For more information, contact the admissions office at admissions@northeastcatholic.edu or 603-456-2656.

BLOOD DRIVE AT ST. ELIZABETH

The Red Cross will run a blood drive this Thursday, May 25, from 11:00 a.m.—4:00 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.

THIS WEEK AT ST. ELIZABETH

Sunday, May 21

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

Alabama Mission Trip Adult Meeting
7:00—8:30 p.m., Parish Center, Room 1

Monday, May 22

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

Springfield Mission Trip Meeting
7:00—8:30 p.m., Parish Center, Room 1

Wednesday, May 24

Alabama Mission Trip Gathering
7:00—8:30 p.m., Parish Center Hall

APPLE VALLEY COLLABORATIVE YOUTH MINISTRY INVITES YOU TO:

The Class of 2017 Baccalaureate Brunch

We will celebrate the accomplishment of your High School Class Graduation on Wednesday, May 31 in the St. Elizabeth Parish Center Hall Immediately following Acton/Boxborough graduation rehearsal.

A WORD TO THE WISE!

The Acton Police Department has asked us to pass a message to parishioners who park on Arlington St.: please park properly and legally while you're at Mass. A vehicle with even one of its wheels up on the sidewalk or that otherwise obstructs the sidewalk risks getting a citation. The police are not anxious to ticket anyone, but they have to meet their responsibilities. The good news is that the parish almost never runs out of parking spaces in the lower parking lot.

ST. ISIDORE BAPTISM

Last weekend we welcomed Paige & Madeline Jones, daughters of Joshua & Marissa in the sacrament of Baptism. Please join us in keeping them in prayer as well as their parents and godparents as they continue to nurture Paige & Madeline in a life of faith.



APPLE VALLEY COLLABORATIVE YOUTH MINISTRY INVITES YOU TO:

The Class of 2017 Baccalaureate Brunch

We will celebrate the accomplishment of your High School Graduation on Thursday, June 8 in the St. Isidore Parish Rectory immediately following Nashoba Regional High School graduation rehearsal.

ST. VINCENT DEPAUL SOCIETY OF ST. ISIDORE

Free: 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.