

## QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

Theme: We are called to help one another grow as a community of faith.

Breaking Open the Word  
Suggested text for faith sharing: Today's Gospel

Step One: Listen to the Word  
When you hear the Gospel proclaimed today, what words or phrases really strike you?  
What lingers in your memory from this reading?

Step Two: Look into Your Life  
Question for Children: What is one thing you would do for someone whom you loved?

Question for Youth: Jesus tells us about the importance of community and friendship. When have you helped heal an argument between friends? How did that feel?

Question for Adults: How do you make sure you follow the way of love as described by Paul in today's reading? What steps do you take to eliminate the unloving — grudges, hatred, prejudice, or others.

### 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.*



*Twenty-Third Sunday of Ordinary Time  
September 10, 2017*

*“For where two or three are gathered together in my name,  
there am I in the midst of them.”*



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,

Today Fr. Paul and I have informed our parish communities that we will be retiring in 2018. Believe it or not, that's when both of us turn 75, which is the normal age of retirement for priests of the Archdiocese of Boston.

This announcement will surely raise many questions. Fortunately, we will have plenty of time to address them since our retirements are not likely to occur until May or June next year at the earliest.

As we sort out the personal and parish-related aspects of this transition, we all do well to keep our eyes and hearts on what is, and continues to be, most important: Knowing Jesus Christ, receiving his love and mercy, doing his work with grateful hearts, and advancing in our readiness to attract others to him.

In that connection, I renew my invitation that everyone please join us at one of the town meetings this week: Monday evening at St. E's and Tuesday evening at St. I's.

Love and blessings to you and your families,

Fr. Walter

### COLLABORATIVE TOWN MEETINGS

**St. Elizabeth Church, Monday, Sept. 11, 7:00 p.m.**  
**St. Isidore Church on Tuesday, Sept. 12, 7:00 p.m.**

Both meetings will present the same content. On one level, it's about our faith formation and worship activities for the coming year. At a deeper level, however, it's about our personal call to become better disciples of the Lord, and the responsibility of the two parishes to reorient all efforts and activities to the mission of making faithful disciples and supporting each one in making the best possible response to the Lord. Parishioners are welcome to attend whichever meeting works better for them. Each will end by 9:00 p.m.

### ALPHA IS COMING!



**Alpha is a 10-week experience** that provides an opportunity to explore life and the Christian faith in a friendly, open and informal environment.

**Alpha is for everyone and anyone.** Alpha is a great introduction to the Christian faith, but also offers practicing Catholics an opportunity to grow and strengthen their relationship to the Lord. We come together with one another as we are, free to be ourselves. At each session we share a meal, we listen to a talk and then we gather in small groups for discussion. The Alpha course will be offered at a variety of times throughout the year.

***Come and See!***  
***Try the Alpha experience!***

September 18, 9:45 a.m. **OR**  
September 21, 6:30 p.m.  
St. Elizabeth Parish Center Hall

Fall Alpha for Adults:  
Monday mornings, 9/25—12/4 at 9:45 a.m. **OR**  
Thursday evenings 9/28-12/14, 6:30 p.m.

Contact Barbara, Diahne or Jim, with questions or to sign up for the Come & See night, or [avccalpha@gmail.com](mailto:avccalpha@gmail.com). Preregistration is helpful but not required.

**NEW THIS YEAR~ TEEN ALPHA !!!**  
**Teen Alpha** is offered to all young people in Grade 9 and above. **Teen Alpha will be an integral part of our Confirmation formation and all candidates are encouraged and welcomed to participate this year.** Teen Alpha will be offered at a variety of formats/times during the year - fall, winter and spring evenings.

### OUR COLLABORATIVE STAFF:

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

**Parochial Vicar:** Rev. Paul Sughrue  
([frpaul@applevalleycatholic.org](mailto:frpaul@applevalleycatholic.org)), (781) 718-9433

**Deacon:** Charles A. Cornell  
([cac@applevalleycatholic.org](mailto:cac@applevalleycatholic.org)), (978) 562-7447

**Personal Assistant to the Pastor/  
St. Isidore Business Manager:**  
Robin Ulichney  
([robin@applevalleycatholic.org](mailto:robin@applevalleycatholic.org)), (978) 897-2710

**Pastoral Associate/Collab. Dir. Pastoral Ministries:**  
Diahne Goodwin ([diahneg@applevalleycatholic.org](mailto:diahneg@applevalleycatholic.org)), (978) 263-4305 ext.13, (adult formation, pastoral care, RCIA, pastoral ministries)

**Pastoral Associate:** Steve Ryan  
([sjryan@applevalleycatholic.org](mailto:sjryan@applevalleycatholic.org)), (978) 263-4305 ext. 21 (Bible Study, Funeral Planning)

**Administrative Assistant:** Janice Howes  
([janice@applevalleycatholic.org](mailto:janice@applevalleycatholic.org)), (978) 263-4305 ext. 10

**Business Manager:** John Morris  
([john@applevalleycatholic.org](mailto:john@applevalleycatholic.org)), (978) 263-4305 ext. 11

**Collaborative Director of Music:** Andrea Goodrich  
([andreg@applevalleycatholic.org](mailto:andreg@applevalleycatholic.org)), (978) 263-4305 ext. 12

**Coordinator of Youth Ministries:** Jim Flanagan  
([jim@applevalleycatholic.org](mailto:jim@applevalleycatholic.org)), (978) 263-4305 ext. 23 (High school ministry, Confirmation)

**Director of Faith Formation:** Barbara Dane  
([barbara@applevalleycatholic.org](mailto:barbara@applevalleycatholic.org)), (978) 263-4305 ext. 16 (Faith Formation for Grades 5-8 and GIFT)

**Liturgical Coordinator:** Mary Ryan  
([mgr@applevalleycatholic.org](mailto: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](http://www.seoh.org)

**St. Isidore**  
429 Great Rd.  
Stow, MA 01775  
Phone (978) 897-2710  
Fax: (978) 461-0577  
[www.stisidorestow.org](http://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

**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— September 10**  
(Cycle A)

Ez 33:-7-9/Rom 13:8-10; Mt 18:15-20

**READINGS NEXT SUNDAY— September 17**  
(Cycle A)

Sir 27:30-28:7; Rom 14:7-9; Mt 18:21-35

## JOIN CUB SCOUTS AND BOY SCOUTS!

Cub Scouting and Boy Scouting wants you! Now is the time to join the fun and excitement of America's foremost youth program for boys— Cub Scouting. Designed for boys in grades K-5 (Cub Scouts) and 6-12 (Boy Scouts), Scouting combines outdoor activities, sports, academics, and more in a fun and exciting program that helps families teach ideals such as honesty, good citizenship, and respect. Boys experience adventure they never thought possible! For more information, please contact:

Cub Scouts at St. Elizabeth contact Eugene Cook:  
[eugene.h.cook@gmail.com](mailto:eugene.h.cook@gmail.com)

Boy Scouts at St. Elizabeth contact Joe Robb:  
[rumney512@comcast.net](mailto:rumney512@comcast.net)

## WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

“Give your servant, therefore, an understanding heart.” Help encourage understanding hearts in your marriage by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. The next WWME Weekends are September 16-17 in Medway and October 21-22 in Contoocook, NH. For more information, call Stephen & Michelle O'Leary at 800-710-9963 or visit <https://wwmema.org/>.

### CONTRIBUTIONS FOR PARISH SUPPORT ST. ELIZABETH

Total Offertory Sunday 9/3/17:	\$ 3,992
Mailbacks for Week Ending 9/2/17:	\$ 1,142
Total EFT for Week Ending 9/2/17:	\$ 671
Total Parish Support for Week Ending 9/2/17:	\$ 5,805
Total Parish Support since 7/1/17:	\$ 110,152
Target Parish Support since 7/1/17:	\$ 119,337
Over (Under) Target since 7/1/17:	\$ (9,185)

Thank you very much!

## MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK:

### St. Elizabeth:

Monday, September 11, 9:00 a.m.  
Jennifer Anne Zupicich, Memorial Mass

Wednesday, September 13, 9:00 a.m.  
William Walsh, Memorial Mass

Friday, September 15, 9:00 a.m.  
Myron Liskiewicz, Memorial Mass

## 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](mailto: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.



### CONTRIBUTIONS FOR PARISH SUPPORT ST. ISIDORE

Total Offertory Last Sunday: 9/3/17:	\$ 3,532
EFT for Week Ending 9/3/17:	\$ 2,100
Total Parish Support for Week Ending 9/3/17:	\$ 5,632
Total Parish Support since 7/1/17:	\$ 42,518
Target Parish Support since 7/1/17:	\$ 46,000
Over (Under) Target since 7/1/17:	\$ (3,482)
St. Catholic university Collection	\$ 514

Thank you very much!

## HURRICANE HARVEY COLLECTION

Cardinal Seán has authorized a special collection, to be taken this weekend September 9-10 in all parishes in the Archdiocese of Boston, in support of the relief efforts to those areas devastated by Hurricane Harvey. Please write your checks out to the parish with “Hurricane Harvey Collection” in the memo. All monies collected will be distributed by the USCCB to Catholic Charities USA.

## APPLE VALLEY CATHOLIC YOUNG ADULT GROUP

### Ongoing Events

#### Scripture Study

First and Third Sunday of every month from September 17—December 3. Join us for a **free** dinner and good conversation about the readings from Mass. Meet us after the 5:00 p.m. Mass at the Parish Center at St. Elizabeth.

#### Volunteer at Household Goods

Third Sunday of every month. Our next date is September 17 from 12:45—4:00 p.m. Household Goods provides families with donated furniture and appliances to help them furnish their homes. Volunteers can either help families pick out goods or load their vans. Please contact us if this is our first time volunteering. Meet us at Household Goods at 530 Main Street, Acton. Learn more about Household Goods at <http://householdgoods.org>.

Join our Apple Valley Catholic Young Adult Group  
<http://www.facebook.com/groups/558137624339112/>

Get in Touch! Contact us:

[youngadults@applevalleycatholic.org](mailto:youngadults@applevalleycatholic.org)

## 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

## NOT CATHOLIC? SEEKING? CURIOUS?

### We Welcome you!

Throughout the year and especially at times like Christmas, Easter, and sacramental celebrations like baptisms, First Communion, Confirmations, weddings and funerals, we worship together with many who are not Catholic. Most often it is the loving connection of family—spouse and/or children—or close friendships that compel us to come together under one roof to worship, celebrate, seek comfort and strength from God, or simply to support a loved one with the support of a faith community. All are welcome and we are joyed to pray together!

Many, perhaps you or someone close to you, may be seeking a spiritual home or finding meaning and purpose in life. Maybe you/they have wondered about what it means to be Catholic or how to even begin to inquire about what that would entail. We are here to support you, provide a safe place to explore your questions and assist you on your journey of discovery. Please contact any staff person to learn more and explore options.



## CLERGY HEALTH AND RETIREMENT TRUST

Next week's second collection supports the retirement, medical and financial needs of priests of the Archdiocese of Boston. On behalf of all of our priests, thank you in advance for your generosity. For more information, please visit [www.clergyfunds.org](http://www.clergyfunds.org).

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD IS GROWING AND WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

The CLOW team is working hard to increase the frequency of Children's Liturgy of the Word at St. Elizabeth's and to begin a CLOW at St. Isidore. This is a wonderful program that helps children in grades K-6 better understand the Sunday readings and how to apply them to their lives. But we need lots of help to make this happen! We are looking for volunteers in grades 7 – adult to help us as leaders, readers, shepherds, and musicians. There will be a planning and training meeting for all interested volunteers on Wednesday, Sept. 27 at 7:00 p.m. in the St. Elizabeth Church Hall Basement. Please register with Barbara Dane at [barbara@applevalleycatholic.org](mailto:barbara@applevalleycatholic.org).

**VIRTUS TRAINING AND CORI CHECKS  
Protecting God's Children**

The Archdiocese of Boston mandates that all volunteers who minister directly to children or elders, or who have the potential for unmonitored access to children and must be Virtus (Child Abuse Protection) trained and must have a CORI check. Please sign up for Virtus training at least one week prior to each session. Register by contacting our CAP Team Leader, Jack Deasy at [j.w.deasy@gmail.com](mailto:j.w.deasy@gmail.com) or by calling Barbara Dane at 978-263-4305, ext. 16. Please leave your name, parish, the date you wish to attend and your email or cell phone number.

Tues., Sept. 12, 10:00 a.m., St. Elizabeth Parish Center, Rm. 3

Tues., Sept. 19, 7:00 p.m., St. Isidore Rectory Upstairs

Sat., Oct. 21, 10:00 a.m., St. Isidore Rectory Upstairs

Sat., Nov. 4, 10:00 a.m. at St. Elizabeth Parish Center, Rm. 3

*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.*

**COLLABORATIVE MUSIC NEWS**

*Calling teen musicians from St. Isidore's and St. Elizabeth's...*

The Apple Valley Teen Youth Choir welcomes singers and instrumentalists in grades 7 – 12. This vibrant community of students from St. Isidore and St. Elizabeth of Hungary Parishes will share their musical talents as leaders of sung prayer at the 5:00 p.m. Sunday Mass on the first Sunday of the month at St. Elizabeth's beginning October 1. Rehearsals begin this Wednesday evening from 5:30 – 6:45 p.m. in St. Elizabeth's Parish Center Hall.

*Collaborative Adult Music Ministry of St. Isidore and St. Elizabeth Music Ministers...*

Rehearsals begin on Wednesday, September 13 from 7:15 – 9:00 p.m. in St. Elizabeth's Parish Center Hall. We have a different rehearsal schedule this year. Rehearsals in September will be Wednesdays at 7:15 p.m. at St. Elizabeth. October rehearsals will be on Mondays at 7:15 p.m. at St. Isidore. We will alternate days and locations every other month. We hope you will join us!

*St. Isidore and St. Elizabeth Children's Choirs...*

Grades 2-6 will rehearse together on Mondays from 5:30 – 6:15 p.m. beginning on September 18 in the Parish Center Hall at St. Elizabeth. Rehearsals will alternate between the two parishes. Rehearsals in September will be at St. Elizabeth. Rehearsals in October will be at St. Isidore. For more information, contact Andrea Goodrich at 978-263-4305, ext.12 or [andreag@applevalleycatholic.org](mailto:andreag@applevalleycatholic.org).

**THIS WEEK AT ST. ELIZABETH**

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

**Monday, September 11**  
Town Meeting  
7:00-9:00 p.m., Church

**Tuesday, September 12**  
Prayer Shawl Ministry  
10:00-11:30 a.m., Parish Center, Room 4

Virtus Training  
10:00 a.m.– 12:00 p.m., Parish Center, Room 3

**Wednesday, September 13**  
Teen Choir Rehearsal  
5:30-6:45 p.m., Parish Center Hall

Music Ministry Rehearsal  
7:15-9:00 p.m., Parish Center Hall

**THANK YOU ST. ISIDORE AND ST. ELIZABETH FOR YOUR GENEROUS HELP FOR OUR SOLDIERS**

With your donations, our collaborative community has collected nearly 400 packets of drink mixes, 110 packs of gum, 228 packets of instant coffee, and 74 packets of creamer. Project 351 will help send these donations to soldiers overseas fighting for our country. I am so thankful that our community came together to show support for our heroes. Your kindness and impact are so inspiring. All of you who donated are generous, kindhearted and willing to help. Thank you for answering the call and delivering! From Michael Grega, Grade 10.



Prayer Shawl Ministries this week!  
All are welcome at either St. Isidore on Monday evening at 7:00 p.m. or St. Elizabeth on Tuesday morning at 10:00 a.m.!

**THIS WEEK AT ST. ISIDORE**

**Monday, September 11**  
Prayer Shawl Ministry  
7:00 p.m., Upstairs in the Rectory

**Tuesday, September 12**  
Town Meeting  
7:00-9:00 p.m., Church

**FALL BOOK DISCUSSION**

*Saints Off the Pedestal: Real Saints for Real People*  
by Amanda Roberts

**Nobody's perfect!** *Saints Off the Pedestal* takes an in-depth look at the struggles of 10 well known saints, making them more relatable to today's audience. Author Amanda Roberts Delves into the real-life struggles and perseverance of saints, including **Saints Augustine, Thérèse of Lisieux, Peter, Francis of Assisi, Catherine of Siena, Teresa of Avila, Aloysius Gonzaga, Martin de Porres, Elizabeth Seton, and Katharine Drexel**, making the saints' stories more accessible and relatable to ordinary people.

**Wednesday Mornings:**  
St. Elizabeth of Hungary Parish Center,  
9:54-11:15 a.m.,  
September 27, Oct 4, 11, 18, 25  
Sign up with Diahne Goodwin,  
[diahneg@applevalleycatholic.org](mailto:diahneg@applevalleycatholic.org)

OR

**Thursday Mornings:**  
St. Isidore Parish Rectory, 9:54-11:15 a.m.,  
September 28, Oct 5, 12, 19, 26  
Sign up with Anita Sutherland at  
[anitasuth@verizon.net](mailto:anitasuth@verizon.net)

The first session begins with discussion of introduction and chapters 1 & 2.