

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

Theme: It is never too late to enter the reign of God.

Breaking Open the Word

Suggested text for faith sharing: Today's Gospel

Step One: Listen to the Word

As you listen once again to this familiar parable, what caught your ear in it today?

What image of this vineyard do you still have lingering in your mind?

Step Two: Look into Your Life

Question for Children: How do you experience God being generous to you:
through your family, friends, school, or parish?

Question for Youth: This Gospel reminds us that God is always seeking us out and welcoming us
into his generous love. Through whom has God reached out to you?

Who is always encouraging you to say "yes" to God?

Question for Adults: Using Jesus' parable as your starting point, describe in your own words how God
will treat those who come to be part of the church, even those who come late.

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
Carolyn Johnson
David Winders
Corrie Gladyszak
Nick Gladyszak
Maria Mpelkas
Ed Kelly

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-Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time
September 24, 2017*

*Open our hearts, O Lord,
to listen to the words of your Son.*



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).

**GROWING IN FAITH TOGETHER (GIFT)
THIS UPCOMING WEEKEND**

Saturday, September 30

St. Isidore Church Hall
6:15 p.m.—8:45 p.m.

Sunday, October 1

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

BAPTISMS THIS WEEKEND

Please join us in welcoming our newest members of the community in the sacrament of baptism this weekend! At St. Elizabeth: Jackson William Lush, son of Dawn & Robert Lush and Theodore Robert Cavanagh, son of Mark and Colby Cavanagh. At St. Isidore: Caitlin Diane Fournier, daughter of Celia & Christopher Fournier. Please join us in praying for them and their parents as they grow in a life of faith! Congratulations and God Bless!



**CATHOLIC MOM'S GROUP
Tuesday, October 3, 7:30—9:30 p.m.**

An informal group for moms of kids from birth-high school to socialize, share kid ideas, and develop a stronger community outside of Mass/Sunday Cafe is forming.

The first meeting will be just to introduce each other and propose ideas for reading a faith-oriented book to keep the conversation going! The host for the first meeting will be Hayley Reynold's home, 6 Hawthorne St., Acton, and desserts/drinks will be provided.

Please RSVP to Hayley at psychchic04@gmail.com.



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.

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. 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.

**COLLABORATIVE
CONFIRMATION MEETING**

**Monday, September 25
7:00 p.m., St. Elizabeth Parish Center Hall**

We invite all 10th grade young people and a parent to the opening session. The meeting will layout the guidelines for the program.



Registration will be accepted at that meeting. For more information please contact Jim Flanagan at jim@applevalleycatholic.org.

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
(andreg@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)

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

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 24
(Cycle A)**

Is 55:6-9; Phil 1:20c-24, 27a; Mt 20:1-16a

**READINGS NEXT SUNDAY— October 1
(Cycle A)**

Ez 18:25-28; Phil 2:1-11; Mt 21:28-32

**BOSTON COLLEGE ONLINE
FALL COURSES**

Check out these great learning opportunities!!
Go to www.bc.edu/crossroads for details.
Registration closes September 22 or when filled.

At the Heart of Parenting, Sept. 27 – Nov. 7

How has parenting impacted your relationship with God? This course builds on the conviction that spirituality is at the heart of parenting. The gift of grace and other spiritual supports can sustain us through the ups and downs of being a parent. Guided by Kathy Hendrick's book *The Spirituality of Parenting*, we will touch on four dimensions of parenting, a parent's spiritual gifts, potential companions for support on the journey, and prayer for the state of parenthood.

Spirituality Matters, Sept. 27 – Nov. 7

Our spirituality affects our total outlook on life and every aspect of daily living. What is spirituality? What is at the heart of prayer? Do we need community? What can suffering teach us? Join other adults in discussing these important questions and share best spiritual practices. "A person intentionally living out of a spiritual center will consciously try to forge the connections, to integrate the different strands of life, and to present the one face, the true face to the world." Dolores R. Leckey.

The Liturgy Committee, Sept. 27 - Oct. 31

A course designed for members of faith-based communities who are involved or who want to become involved in liturgy planning. It covers liturgical principles, the basic structure of the Mass, tools for planning liturgies and liturgical seasons, and strategies for working together as a committee." The liturgy is the summit toward which the activity of the Church is directed; at the same time it is the font from which all her power flows." - Constitution On The Sacred Liturgy.

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR PARISH SUPPORT ST. ELIZABETH	
Total Offertory Sunday 9/17/17:	\$ 3,670
Mailbacks for Week Ending 9/16/17:	\$ 1,122
Total EFT for Week Ending 9/16/17:	\$ 671
Total Parish Support for Week Ending 9/16/17:	\$ 5,463
Total Parish Support since 7/1/17:	\$ 127,958
Target Parish Support since 7/1/17:	\$ 145,497
Over (Under) Target since 7/1/17:	\$ (17,539)
The last two weeks at masses, St. E's parishioners donated \$7,913 for relief- Hurricanes Harvey and Irma and other disasters such as the wild-fires. Thanks for this massive outpouring of support for those in need.	

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK:

St. Elizabeth:

Monday, September 25, 9:00 a.m.
Regina Johnson, Memorial Mass

Wednesday, September 27, 9:00 a.m.
Henry Joseph Wall, 10th Anniversary Mass

St. Isidore:

Sunday, September 24, 9:00 a.m.
Faithful Departed

**APPLE VALLEY CATHOLIC
YOUNG ADULT GROUP
Ongoing Events**

Scripture Study

First and Third Sunday of every month until 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 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/>

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR PARISH SUPPORT ST. ISIDORE	
Total Offertory Last Sunday: 9/17/17:	\$ 1,477
EFT for Week Ending 9/17/17:	\$ 2,100
Total Parish Support for Week Ending 9/17/17:	\$ 3,577
Total Parish Support since 7/1/17:	\$ 50,389
Target Parish Support since 7/1/17:	\$ 55,200
Over (Under) Target since 7/1/17:	\$ (4,811)
Hurricane/Natural Disaster Relief Collection	\$ 75
Clergy Health and Retirement Trust Collection	\$ 1,082
St. Vincent DePaul collection	14
Thank you very much!	

**FIRST RECONCILIATION AND
FIRST EUCHARIST
SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION
Information meeting and initial gathering
for parents and children
Sunday, October 29**

**10:15—12:00 p.m., St. Isidore church Hall
Or
3:00—4:45 p.m., St. Elizabeth Church Hall**

Children who are age 7 or older (typically in second grade) are ready to prepare, with their parents, for the celebration of the sacraments of reconciliation and Eucharist for the first time. Preparation involves an integrated approach to parish and home life, worship and learning. The process includes participation in the GIFT sessions, Children's Liturgy of the Word and specific sacramental formation.

All the details for sacramental preparation will be covered at these meetings. After an opening together, we will do a separate activity just for the children while we meet with the parents to review the program and then bring the families back together to do joint activities to begin our preparation for first Reconciliation. Register your family on the forms found in the Resources for Discipleship Booklet (available in the back of the churches or downloadable from the parish websites, if you do not already have one).

**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.

**TAIZE PRAYER FOR PEACE
Friday, October 13
7:30 p.m., St. Isidore**

Do you long for peace during these uncertain times? Join us for Taizé Prayer as we gather around an icon of the cross in a candlelit church. During this service with no presider or preaching, we sing simple chants and listen to scripture readings. We pray for the needs of our community and world. We are enveloped in a period of reflective silence and feel peaceful and centered. Please join us.

CURSILLO

More than just a retreat, a Cursillo (pronounced Cur-see-yo) weekend is a "Short Course" that lasts a lifetime, enriching your relationship with God, your family, and your community. It is a movement of the Church that promotes Catholic ideals, fellowship, and spiritual growth in daily living. Cursillo is an encounter with Christ. You won't see Him with your eyes, but you will come to know Him in a deeper way and become very much aware of his presence and His love for you. Talk to anyone who has made a Cursillo, they cannot really explain why they are so enthusiastic about it. They will tell you it is wonderful, it is the greatest experience of their lives—something they will never forget. They will tell you that you have to go through it to understand it, but they cannot tell you what it is. Why? Because it is a *living experience* and we all fall short in adequately explaining a living experience. There are opportunities to experience Cursillo in Methuen and Weston MA throughout the year. For more information please contact Diahne Goodwin or Anita Sutherland (anitasuth@verizon.net).

*Upcoming Weekends at
Campion Center, Weston, MA
October 26-29—Women
November 30-December 3—Men*

*Upcoming Weekends at St. Basil, Methuen, MA
October 5-8—Men
November 2-5—Women
December 7-10—Men
January 4-7 2018—Women*



COLLABORATIVE MUSIC NEWS

St. Isidore and St. Elizabeth Children's Choirs (grades 2 - 6) will rehearse together this Monday September 25, from 5:30 - 6:15 p.m. 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.

The Apple Valley Teen Ensemble welcomes singers and instrumentalists in grades 7 - 12. Rehearsal is on Wednesday from 5:30 - 6:45 p.m. in St. Elizabeth's Church. All are welcome to attend!

Collaborative Adult Music Ministry of St. Isidore and St. Elizabeth Music Ministers will rehearse this week on Wednesday, September 27 from 7:15 - 9:00 p.m. in St. Elizabeth's Parish Center Hall. 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. 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.

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

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

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 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.

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

THIS WEEK AT ST. ELIZABETH

Sunday, September 24

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

Monday, September 25

Alpha
9:45 a.m.—12:00 p.m., Parish Center Hall

Children's Choir Rehearsal

5:30—6:15 p.m., Parish Center Hall

Confirmation Gathering

7:00—8:30 p.m., Parish Center Hall

Wednesday, September 27

Book Discussion Group

9:45—11:15 a.m., Parish Center Hall

Apple Valley Teen Ensemble

5:30—6:45 p.m., Church

Liturgy of the Word for Children Training

7:00—9:00 p.m., Church Hall

Collaborative Adult Music Ministry

7:15—9:00 p.m., Parish Center Hall

Thursday, September 28

Alpha Come

6:30 p.m., Parish Center Hall



"BARBARA AND IRA SMITH CENTER"
BUILDING DEDICATION CEREMONY
Wednesday, September 27, 2:00 p.m.

Household goods invites you to attend the dedication of their building at 520 Main Street, Acton in honor of Founders, Barbara and Ira Smith.

THIS WEEK AT ST. ISIDORE

Saturday, September 30

GIFT
6:15 p.m., St. Isidore Church Hall

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 we will get .5% of many things you buy and our bank account will get this .5% bonus at the end of every quarter.

UNDERSTANDING THE DANGERS OF
OPIOID MISUSE WEBINAR SERIES
Thursdays, beginning September 21
1:00-2:00 p.m.

We are facing an opioid and addiction crisis of epidemic proportion. Massachusetts is one of the hardest hit states in the country. What can we do within our families, faith communities and schools to stem the tide? As part of its mandate to address this epidemic, the Archdiocese of Boston's Opioid Task Force is offering a series of interactive webinars specifically geared to Catholic school parents and guardians on four consecutive Thursdays.

Sept.21: Responding to the Opioid Crisis

Sept.28: The Opioid Crisis and the Medical Profession: What Parents Need to Know

Oct. 5: The Loss Associated with Substance Abuse

Oct.12: Mental Illness in Children and Adolescents

You may sign up for one or all of our webinars. There is no charge for these webinars; registration is free. To register, please go to: www.masscatholicOTF.org