

## QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

**Theme:** Christ calls us to use our gifts for the Reign of God.

### Breaking Open the Word

Suggested text for faith sharing: Today's Gospel, the short version.

### Step One: Listen to the Word

As you listen once again to this familiar parable, what caught your ear in it today? What image or action from the reading lingers in your memory now?

### Step Two: Look into Your Life

**Question for Children:** Name one talent or gift that God has given you and tell how you have used it.

**Question for Youth:** Name three talents that you have. How can you use these talents in the next week to make someone's life better?

**Question for Adults:** Using Jesus' parable as your starting point, describe in your own words how you are using your own gifts to enrich the reign of God.

## WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

“When one finds a worthy wife, her value is far beyond pearls.” Spouses, find value in one another by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. The next Weekends are Jan 19-21 in South Kingstown, RI and Mar 9-11 in Duxbury, MA. For more information, call Stephen & Michelle O'Leary at 800-710-9963 or visit them at <https://wwmema.org/>.

## READINGS THIS SUNDAY— November 19

(Cycle A)

Prv 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31; 1 Thes 5:1-6;  
Mt 25:14-30

## READINGS NEXT SUNDAY— November 26

(Cycle A)

Ez 34:11-12, 15-17; 1 Cor 15:20-26, 28; Mt 25:31-46

## 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)),  
(Bible Study, Funeral Planning)

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

**Business Manager:** John Morris  
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**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)

**Coordinator of Young Family Ministry:** Joan Mattila  
([joan@applevalleycatholic.org](mailto:joan@applevalleycatholic.org)), (978) 263-4305 ext. 17

**Pastoral Ministries Administrative Assistant:** Judy Richardson  
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**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.



*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.*



*Thirty-third Sunday of Ordinary Time  
November 19, 2017*

*Remain in me as I remain in you, says the Lord.  
Whoever remains in me bears much fruit.*



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).

Dear Parishioners,



Thank you very much for your participation in the Increased Parish Support Campaign, especially on this commitment weekend. Both in writing and in person I have tried to emphasize the importance of your contributions because of what they do and mean for those who give as well as for St. Isidore and St. Elizabeth Parishes. This is also a good time to acknowledge the many parishioners who have actively supported this campaign by speaking or reaching out by phone to their fellow parishioners. When all is said and done, a parish is a community of brothers and sisters who are united by their faith in the Lord Jesus and their commitment to work together to bring forth the good fruit that he expects from us.

On behalf of St. Isidore Parish, I also thank everyone who contributed to its grand annual collection today or plan to do so in the next few weeks.

Finally, I ask everyone to join me in lifting up a prayer of praise and thanksgiving to our good and loving God for all the gifts and graces we enjoy. We can and should offer that prayer in all times and seasons. It is especially appropriate this week, when we join with so many others in celebrating Thanksgiving Day this Thursday. May you enjoy it in peace, safety, and good health.

Fr. Walter

### SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK OF THANKSGIVING

On Thanksgiving Day, Mass will be celebrated at St. Isidore at 9:00 a.m.

This celebrations will include a blessing for the Thanksgiving table food items that participants bring.

The parish offices will be closed on Thanksgiving Day and on Friday. There will be no Mass at St. Elizabeth on Friday, November 24.



#### THANKSGIVING Adopt an Attitude of Gratitude!

Discipleship is not an authentic expression of faith unless it includes concerns for justice and human dignity—a concern that is fueled by an attitude of gratitude for the abundant graces God has provided for us and wants us to share. When we reflect on all the things we're grateful for, we cultivate an attitude of gratitude, which in turn sparks a desire to generously serve others, which is the very heart of discipleship. In the very midst of service we again are able to reflect on our blessings in gratitude. Be reflective, be thankful, be generous!



### 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.

**Living the gospel**

**Bring forth the Kingdom.**

*Like the original audience of Matthew's gospel, we can sometimes rely too much on God to bring about the Kingdom in our world. Like the lazy servant in the gospel, we can fall into the trap of handing the world back to God in exactly the same condition that we received it. We have to make a difference in the world! We are called to change the world and bring it closer to the realisation of the Kingdom. The only way that we can do that it is to live our lives as if the Kingdom is already here.*

### 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

**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.



### NOVEMBER IS VOCATIONS AWARENESS MONTH

**In his message on the World Day of Prayer for Vocations, Pope Francis included the following Vocations Prayer:**

Lord of the Harvest, Bless young people with the gift of courage to respond to your call.  
Open their hearts to great ideals, to great things.  
Inspire all of your disciples to mutual love and giving--for vocations blossom in the good soil of faithful people.

Instill those in religious life, parish ministries, and families with the confidence and grace to invite others to embrace the bold and noble path of a life consecrated to you.

Unite us to Jesus through prayer and sacrament, so that we may cooperate with you in building your reign of mercy and truth, of justice and peace.

Amen.

#### CONTRIBUTIONS FOR PARISH SUPPORT ST. ELIZABETH

Total Offertory Sunday 11/12/17:	\$ 4,378
Mailbacks for Week Ending 11/11/17:	\$ 13,497
Total EFT for Week Ending 11/11/17:	\$ 4,229
Total Parish Support for Week Ending 11/11/17:	\$ 22,103
Total Parish Support since 7/1/17:	\$ 247,202
Target Parish Support since 7/1/17:	\$ 255,108
Over (Under) Target since 7/1/17:	\$ ( 7,907)

In other collections in the past two weeks, parishioners donated \$928 at the All Saints' Day masses. These funds go to help local needs. Parishioners also donated \$1,598 towards the Campaign for Human Development.

Thank you very much!

#### CONTRIBUTIONS FOR PARISH SUPPORT ST. ISIDORE

Total Offertory Last Sunday: 11/12/17:	\$ 3,122
EFT for Week Ending 11/12/17:	\$ 2,088
Total Parish Support for Week Ending 11/12/17:	\$ 5,210
Total Parish Support since 7/1/17:	\$ 88,391
Target Parish Support since 7/1/17:	\$ 92,000
Over (Under) Target since 7/1/17:	\$ (3,609)

St. Vincent DePaul collection \$ 27

Thank you!

**THE ST. ISIDORE PARISH GRAND ANNUAL COLLECTION**

This weekend, Nov. 18-19, is the date for St. Isidore Parish's 2017 Grand Annual Collection. The target for this collection is \$45K, which is the amount contributed last year. This week, parishioners will receive a letter from Fr. Walter, pastor, and Bill Oberlies, vice-chair of the parish finance council, that invites everyone who can to support this year's Grand Annual. An envelope for parishioners' contributions will be included. These should be brought to Mass this weekend or returned to the parish when convenient.

**THIS WEEK AT ST. ISIDORE**

**Sunday, November 19**  
Children's Liturgy of the Word  
9:00 a.m. Mass

**CONSTRUCTION AT ST. ISIDORE**

Please be advised that the new sidewalk construction at St. Isidore will begin on Monday, Nov 20, when the old sidewalks will be removed, gravel put down and may last a week in this state until the new asphalt is laid down. Access from the rear parking lot stairs to the side entry of the church will be minimally impacted but access from the front of the rectory and the handicapped parking areas may be difficult for some.



The front doors of the church will be unlocked for weekday Masses during this time for all who may have difficulty walking on the gravel surface. Thank you in advance for your patience.

**BISHOP REED TO VISIT US**

On Sunday, Nov. 26, Bishop Robert Reed will celebrate the 9 a.m. Mass at St. Isidore's. Sunday, December 3, he will celebrate the 10:30 a.m. Mass at St. Elizabeth's. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us on one of these occasions.

**MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK:**

**St. Elizabeth:**  
Wednesday, November 22, 9:00 a.m.  
Rosemary Quigley-Harris, Memorial Mass

**St. Isidore:**  
Saturday, November 18, 5:00 p.m.  
Ed and Millie Oster, Memorial Mass

Sunday, November 19, 9:00 a.m.  
Gladys Cummings, Memorial Mass

Wednesday, November 22, 9:00 a.m.  
Vito DiBenedetto, Memorial Mass

**SPIRITUAL DIRECTION MINISTRY:  
AN INVITATION**

Our Collaborative now offers Spiritual Direction as one of its parish ministries. Spiritual direction is an ancient church practice grounded in an ongoing relationship in which one person accompanies another in the process of growing in intimacy with God. A Spiritual Director journeys with you—listening, guiding, and challenging you to grow in attentive awareness of God's Presence in your everyday life.

- Do you find yourself wanting a deeper relationship with God?
- Do you desire a companion on the spiritual journey?
- Do you want to explore new ways to pray, or has prayer become difficult?
- Do you feel the need for help in prayerfully discerning a call of God?

If you are interested in learning more about one-to-one spiritual direction within the auspices of our parish collaborative, please contact Diahne Goodwin, [diahne@applevalleycatholic.org](mailto:diahne@applevalleycatholic.org).

**FIRST RECONCILIATION—  
FIRST EUCHARIST PREP—NEWS**

THANK YOU to all of the children and parents who joined us for our first mini lesson last Sunday! We invite our children to continue to work together with their parents on their "Go Seek Find" lessons at home. We will gather as a community (children and their parent(s) for the following mini lessons and our GIFT as we prepare for the Sacrament of First Reconciliation:

- **Sunday, November 19th – St. Isidore in the church hall at 8:30 a.m. (lesson 3&4)**
- **Sunday, December 2nd and 3rd– GIFT Weekend! Join us for a special Advent Children's breakout session.**
- **Sunday, December 10th – St. Elizabeth in the church hall at 10:00 a.m. (lesson 5&6)**
- **Sunday, December 17th – St. Isidore in the church hall at 8:30 a.m. (lesson 7&8)**

Please complete the indicated lessons for each session with your child before we meet. We will review lesson highlights and other sacramental information. Don't forget to bring your "Go Seek Find" backpacks! I will have new backpacks for anyone who needs one, so please speak with Joan before we get started. If you have not registered for GIFT and/or sacramental preparation for your child, if you have any questions about our young family ministries, or about sacramental preparation, please contact Joan Mattila in the office at 978-263-4305, ext. 17 or by email: [Joan@applevalleycatholic.org](mailto:Joan@applevalleycatholic.org).



As a reminder, children in grades K-6 are invited to join us for Children's Liturgy Of the Word (CLOW) which is offered at both parishes on most Sundays! Please check the bulletin for the complete CLOW schedule. Blessings of gratitude and joy as you celebrate the Thanksgiving Holiday with your families!

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD  
UPDATE**

Have you noticed that about 40 kids and adults are now attending Children's Liturgy of the Word during the 10:30 Mass at St. Elizabeth's? Do you wonder what they are all doing? CLOW is liturgy that is especially designed for children. From the children's Lectionary, the kids hear the 1st reading of the day, sing the psalm, and listen to the Gospel. They then have a reflection led by one of the CLOW team members that helps them break open the Gospel in terms that they can more easily understand. Over the last few weeks, we have seen what a vineyard actually looks like and can now better understand why Jesus often uses it as an image of God's Kingdom—everyone working together for a bountiful harvest. We have re-enacted the Gospel about the ungrateful wedding guests in a way that might happen today. And, most recently, we discussed how kids can be good stewards in taking care of what is God's in the world.

We are very excited to announce **CLOW at the 9:00 a.m. Mass at St. Isidore**. All kids in grades K – 6 are encouraged to attend. Parents are welcome. CLOW will be offered at both parishes on the following dates: 11/19, 12/10, and 12/17.

We are still looking for more volunteers to help sustain CLOW, so if you are interested, please contact Barbara Dane at [barbara@applevalleycatholic.org](mailto:barbara@applevalleycatholic.org) or Joan Mattila at [joan@applevalleycatholic.org](mailto:joan@applevalleycatholic.org).

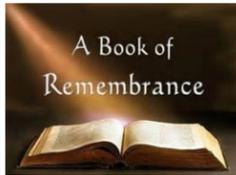
**COLLABORATIVE MUSIC NEWS**

St. Isidore and St. Elizabeth Children's Choirs (grades 2-6) will rehearse Monday, November 20 from 5:30—6:15 p.m. in the St. Elizabeth Parish Center Hall. Rehearsals in November will be at St. Elizabeth.

No rehearsal this week for Adult Music Ministry and the Teen Ensemble.

For more information, contact Andrea Goodrich at [andrea@applevalleycatholic.org](mailto:andrea@applevalleycatholic.org) or 978-263-4305, ext.12.

## REMEMBRANCE ALCOVES



During the month of November we remember those who have died and pray that they might share in the peace and joy of the Resurrection.

### ST. ELIZABETH

We remember our deceased family members and friends by writing their names in our Book of the Names of the Dead and placing their pictures on the wall in St. Elizabeth Alcove. Please print your loved one's name on the back of the picture before placing it on the wall.

### ST. ISIDORE

The remembrance Alcove will be set up for the month of November with the book of Names to honor and pray for friends and family who have died. You are invited to share a photo of your loved one at any time during the month in the remembrance alcove. Please write your loved one's name on the back so we may return the photo to you at the end of the month or, if you wish we can keep the photo for next year.

## COLLECTION FOR RETIRED RELIGIOUS SISTERS

Today's second collection is used to assist religious communities to provide for the retirement and health care needs of Sisters who have served in the Archdiocese. Please take this opportunity to say thank you to the Sisters who have served the Church of Boston so generously for so many years. Your contribution does make a difference.

For more information, please contact Sister Marian Batho, CSJ, Delegate for Religious at 617-746-5637 or [Sr.Marian.Batho@rcab.org](mailto:Sr.Marian.Batho@rcab.org)

## APPLE VALLEY CATHOLIC YOUNG ADULT GROUP

### 4th Annual Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe and Taco Night

Friday, December 8, 7:00 p.m.

Join us at St. Isidore Parish to celebrate this feast day with tacos and conversation! Bring friends!

### Christmas in the City

Sunday, December 17, 9:30 a.m.— 4:30 p.m.

Volunteer at a giant Christmas party for children who live in homeless shelters with their families! Help provide a meal, take children on rides, and see the joy that this event brings them and their family. Contact us for more information.

### 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 every month 12:45—4:00 p.m. 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 St., Acton. <http://householdgoods.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

## APPLE VALLEY CATHOLIC YOUTH MINISTRY

Serving Acton, Boxboro, Stow and Beyond

### UPCOMING YOUTH MINISTRY EVENTS

#### Friend's Thanksgiving Dinner

Tuesday, November 21 (**Note date change**)

Starting at 6:30 p.m.

We will be cooking a turkey and we ask you to bring your favorite side dish and/or dessert. Come join us at St. Elizabeth of Hungary Parish for dinner and a brief prayer service to give us a chance to thank God for all that we have and all that we are!

#### Advent Prayer

Wednesdays from November 29 to December 20  
7:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Take a few minutes each week to be mindful of the season of Advent as we wait in joyful hope of the coming of our Savior—Jesus Christ.

#### Christmas in the City

Set-up Day Saturday, December 16, 8:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Party Day Sunday, December 17, 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

#### Youth Ministry Christmas Party

Wednesday, December 27, 6:30—9:30 p.m.

More information can be found on all events on Facebook: Apple Valley Catholic Youth Ministry or by emailing: [jim@applevalleycatholic.org](mailto:jim@applevalleycatholic.org)

*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.*

## ST. ELIZABETH GIVING TREE

Every year our parish generously supports many charities through their donation to the Giving Tree. This year we will be donating gifts to the following organizations: The Acton Housing Authority, St. Vincent DePaul Society, Los Amigos in Lawrence, Lazarus House in Lawrence, St. Patrick's Parish in Lowell, St. Mary's Parish in Lynn and Bellesini Academy in Lawrence. The Giving Tree with the tags will be placed in the entry way next weekend.



Please take as many tags as you are able to fulfill, purchase the suggested gift, and place your gift under the tree with the tag attached **before December 10**.

Please note, some tags will indicate the gift to be wrapped, others will indicate to leave the gift unwrapped. Thank you in advance for helping out these charities!

## THIS WEEK AT ST. ELIZABETH

### Sunday, November 19

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

Children's Liturgy of the Word  
10:30 a.m., Mass, Church

Teen Alpha  
6:30-9:00 p.m., Parish Center Hall

### Monday, November 20

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

St. Isidore and St. Elizabeth Children's Choirs  
5:30—6:15 p.m., Parish Center Hall