

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

Theme: Your heart must be full of faith.

Breaking Open the Word

Suggested text for faith sharing: Today's second reading, from James

Step One: Listen to the Word

Listen again to this reading from the Letter of James. What strikes you in it? What single word or phrase jumps off the page for you?

Step Two: Look into Your Life

Question for Children: What steps can you take to more humbly welcome Christ into your heart?

Question for Youth: Jesus warns about the things that will lead us away from God. What tempts you away from being the person that God created you to be?

Question for Adults: Based on this reading from James, what is the sign in one's life that faith is present?

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-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
September 2, 2018*

*The Father willed to give us birth by the word of truth;
that we may be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.*



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!*

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Pharisees

Pharisees were mostly lay men (i.e. generally not Priests) who were characterised by a strict observance of the Torah as well as an oral tradition of teaching and interpretation. They believed that the Torah required interpretation – by engaging in this interpretation they participated in God's ongoing revelation. They also had a strong belief that all Jewish people were called to be a priestly people. This belief naturally put them at odds with the Priests of the Temple. After the destruction of the Temple in 70 CE, the teachings of the Pharisees gained prominence and eventually developed into Rabbinic Judaism that continues today.

GOSPEL FOCUS

The things within

We live in a culture that is very quick to lay blame on external factors; some people are very reluctant to accept responsibility for their own actions and look for opportunities to distance themselves from feelings of guilt or even regret. Jesus makes it very clear that evil intentions – the things that make a person 'unclean' – actually come from within. He presents a confronting list of the things that come from within and we may be able to add others relevant to our own time. In our culture of no personal responsibility, Jesus challenges us to rethink just where the buck does stop.

**GOT QUESTIONS ABOUT LIFE? ABOUT FAITH?
TRY ALPHA!**

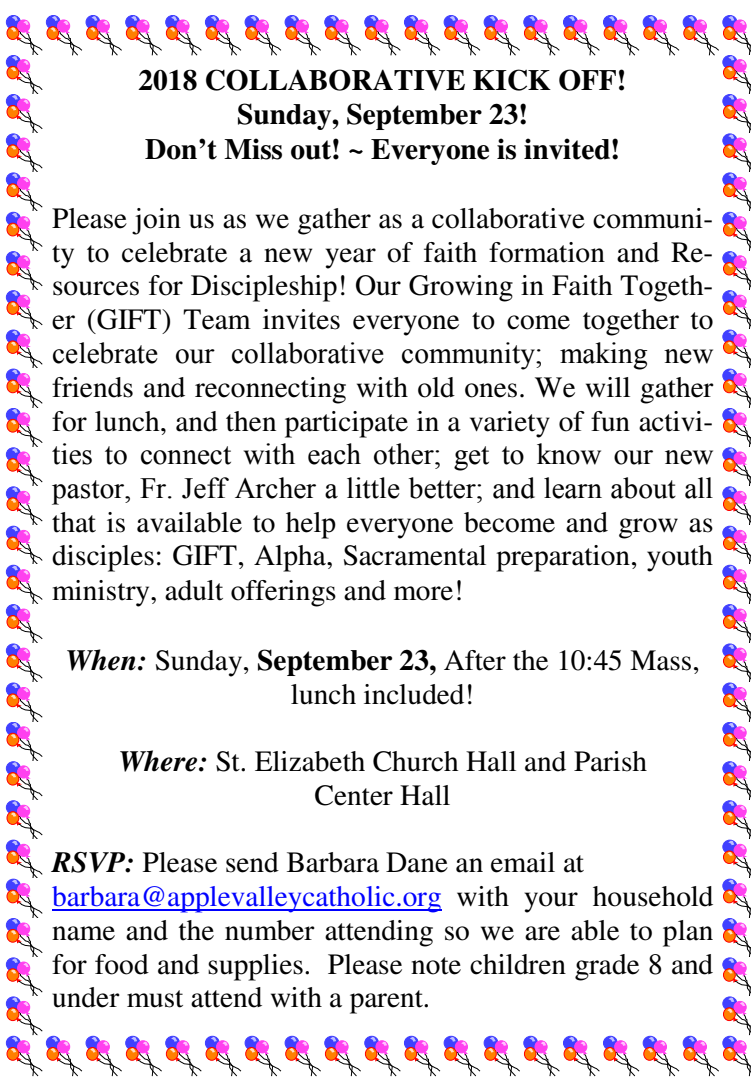
Alpha is an opportunity to explore life and the Christian faith in a friendly, open and informal environment. No pressure. No charge... Alpha includes a meal, a short talk and time for small group conversation. Typically, Alpha has 10 sessions and an extended day. Come and check it out at one of the next Come & See Sessions.

Wednesday, September 26, 10:00 a.m.
St. Isidore Church Hall

Thursday, September 27, 6:30 p.m.,
St. Elizabeth Parish Center

Teen Alpha offers the same great experience for high school youth! Check it out!
September 30, 6:00 p.m.
St. Elizabeth Parish Center

Learn more at: #try Alpha or alphausa.org, or email Diahne at avccalpha@gmail.com



**2018 COLLABORATIVE KICK OFF!
Sunday, September 23!
Don't Miss out! ~ Everyone is invited!**

Please join us as we gather as a collaborative community to celebrate a new year of faith formation and Resources for Discipleship! Our Growing in Faith Together (GIFT) Team invites everyone to come together to celebrate our collaborative community; making new friends and reconnecting with old ones. We will gather for lunch, and then participate in a variety of fun activities to connect with each other; get to know our new pastor, Fr. Jeff Archer a little better; and learn about all that is available to help everyone become and grow as disciples: GIFT, Alpha, Sacramental preparation, youth ministry, adult offerings and more!

When: Sunday, September 23, After the 10:45 Mass, lunch included!

Where: St. Elizabeth Church Hall and Parish Center Hall

RSVP: Please send Barbara Dane an email at barbara@applevalleycatholic.org with your household name and the number attending so we are able to plan for food and supplies. Please note children grade 8 and under must attend with a parent.

DAILY MASS CHANGE

Monday & Tuesday
9:00 a.m.—St. Isidore

Wednesday
9:00 a.m.—St. Elizabeth

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION
TIME CHANGE**

Saturdays 4:00-4:45 St. Isidore
Sundays 4:00-4:45 St. Elizabeth

**RESOURCES FOR DISCIPLESHIP &
FAITH FORMATION**

Welcome! Whether you have participated in our discipleship and faith formation programs in prior years, or are new to our parish community, we extend a warm welcome to you as we begin this year's journey in faith. Father Jeff, our staff, and our parish ministry teams are eager to accompany and support each of you to grow as disciples and joyfully live out the mission of Jesus Christ!

All registered households should have received a copy of the information and registration brochure in the mail. You also may download a copy of the form from each parish website. Online registration and payment in one step is also available at this link: <https://avcc.wufoo.com/forms/zrnc9q10wr5cnh/> (also on the websites).

**FALL BIBLE STUDY
WOMEN IN THE OLD TESTAMENT**

The next collaborative Bible study offering draws upon stories of the unique contributions that many women in the Old Testament have made to the annals of faith. This study begins on Tuesday evening September 25 at St. Elizabeth's parish center and continues for nine Tuesday evenings. This study is in depth and of greatest value for those with previous Bible study experience. However, participation is open to all and study participants support one another. The cost for books is expected to be \$20. Additional information about this study will be found on the website. Enrollment deadline is September 11. To enroll or ask questions, please contact Steve Ryan (sjryan@applevalleycatholic.org or 978-263-4305 x21).

OUR COLLABORATIVE STAFF:

Pastor: Rev. Jeffrey Archer
(frjeff@applevalleycatholic.org), (978) 263-4305 ext. 15

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

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),
(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
(andreasg@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: Joan Mattila
(joan@applevalleycatholic.org), (978) 263-4305 ext. 17

Pastoral Ministries Administrative Assistant:
Judy Richardson
(judy@applevalleycatholic.org), 978 263-4305 ext. 19

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:
Sunday: 10:45 a.m. & 5:00 p.m.

St. Isidore Parish:
Vigil Mass: Saturday 5:00 p.m.
Sunday 8:45 a.m.

Daily Eucharist at St. Isidore this week:
Monday & Tuesday, 9:00 a.m.

Daily Eucharist at St. Elizabeth this week:
Wednesday, 9:00 a.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation:
St. Isidore
Saturdays, 4:00—4:45 p.m.

St. Elizabeth
Sundays, 4:00-4:45 p.m.



READINGS THIS SUNDAY— September 2
(Cycle B)

Dt 4:1-2, 6-8; Jas 1:17-18, 21-22, 27; Mk 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

READINGS NEXT SUNDAY— September 9
(Cycle B)

Is 35: 4-7; Jas 2:1-5; Mk 7:31-37

ONE-DAY WOMEN'S RETREAT

Saturday, September 22, 10:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.
Monument Hall, Holy Family Parish, Concord, MA

All women are invited to an inspirational retreat, "Practical and Effective Ways to Navigate through Life's Challenges," presented by Tina Boyd; sponsored by Holy Family Parish & Walking With Purpose. The \$25 fee includes Speaker, Workshop, Materials and Luncheon. Financial Assistance available.

Tina Boyd has taught thousands of women how to move forward with any life challenge, step-by-step, by sharing her own heart-wrenching experience and miraculous recovery. Tina is a successful talk show host, speaker, author, Co-Owner of CB Jewelry and Co-founder of W+winGs (women walking in God's spirit), a non profit to help women and children in need in her community. She has her MBA and lives in VA with her husband and three children. For more info and/or a registration form, email: retreatholyfamily@gmail.com or call 978-505-5775

CATHOLIC DOCTORS NEEDED

Mission Doctors Association will offer the **2018 Fall Retreat/Seminar, September 28 - 30**, for Catholic Doctors, Dentists, Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants considering short-term mission service. This will be held at Loyola Stritch Medical School in Chicago. Working in partnership with Loyola Stritch Medical School, medical professionals will also have the opportunity to obtain CME for attending the weekend. Visit the website: www.MissionDoctors.org/loyola or call the office for more information (213) 368-1872.

**CONTRIBUTIONS FOR PARISH SUPPORT:
ST. ELIZABETH**

Total Offertory Sunday 8/26/18:	\$ 1,993
Mailbacks for Week Ending 8/25/18:	\$ 1,153
Total EFT for Week Ending 8/25/18:	\$ 27,222
Total Parish Support for Week Ending 8/18/18:	\$ 30,368
Total Parish Support since 7/1/18:	\$ 104,447
Target Parish Support since 7/1/18:	\$ 114,484
Over (Under) Target since 7/1/18:	\$ (10,037)

Additionally, a couple of weeks ago, St. Elizabeth's parishioners donated \$766, going towards local need, at the collaborative two Feast of the Assumption Masses. Thank you very much!

**EMMAUS MINISTRY FOR GRIEVING PARENTS
FALL RETREATS**

The Office of Chaplaincy Programs is now offering the *Emmaus Ministry for Grieving Parents*, a unique program providing spiritual retreats for grieving parents given by grieving parents. It is a safe place where parents can find peace, comfort, and hope—at least for a time. Currently we are offering One-Day and Weekend Retreats. Parents focus on questions, such as "Where is God in my pain? Where is my child right now? Will I ever see my child again?" "How can I get through this horrific situation? These are for parents of any age who are grieving the loss of a child of any age. Upcoming Retreats: September 8 or 22 in Boston or Stoneham, November 2-4 at the Miramar Retreat Center, Duxbury and December 8 in Weymouth. For more details go to www.emfgp.org.



**ANNUAL SILVER AND GOLDEN
ANNIVERSARY MASS**

If you are celebrating your 25th or 50th wedding anniversary this year, please join Cardinal Seán O'Malley on Sunday, Oct. 28 at St. Mary Parish in Waltham at 4:00 p.m. for the annual Anniversary Mass with renewal of vows. Couples can register at bostoncatholic.org/weddinganniversarymass. For more information, contact Kelly Tolman at ktolman@rcab.org or 617-746-5803.

**CONTRIBUTIONS FOR PARISH SUPPORT
ST. ISIDORE**

Total Offertory Last Sunday: 8/26/18:	\$ 2,942
EFT for Week Ending 8/26/18:	\$ 2,321
Total Parish Support for Week Ending 8/26/18:	\$ 5,263
Actual Parish Support since 7/1/2018:	\$ 43,584
Target Parish Support since 7/1/2018:	\$ 43,992
Over (Under) Target since 7/1/2018:	\$ (408)
St. Vincent DePaul Collection	\$ 52

Thank you very much!

FALL BOOK DISCUSSION

Monday Mornings 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.
September 17 - October 29
St. Isidore Church Hall

Book: Pope Francis' Rejoice and be Glad (Gaudete et Exsultate): Apostolic Exhortation on the Call to Holiness in Today's World

Pope Francis' latest Exhortation involves the call to re-propose the call to holiness in a practical way for our own time. As he has explained in this way, "Seeing and acting with mercy: That is holiness." Throughout the document, Francis urges followers not to withdraw from the world but to engage with it, and to be less consumed with showy demonstrations of faith and piety than with patiently and lovingly raising children, working hard to support families and representing what he called "the middle class of holiness."

Free copies are downloadable from the Vatican website, http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_exhortations/index.html, and are also available in print from Amazon and similar outlets. If you would like to reserve a copy for \$10.50, please let Diahne Goodwin know by September 4. All are welcome!



YOUTH MINISTRY EVENTS

(open to incoming Freshman to Graduating Seniors)

Teen Leadership Committee Planning Retreat

Sunday, September 2, 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Back to School Cookout - Mission Trips Reunion

Sunday, September 2, following 5:00 p.m. Mass

New - Youth Ministry Night (2nd Sunday of every Month)

First Gathering - September 9 - After 5:00 p.m. Mass
 Chinese Food and Caricature Artist

Teen Alpha

Sunday, September 30 - Sunday, December 16
 6:00 p.m, St. Elizabeth Parish Center Hall

ALL EVENTS ARE ON FACEBOOK AND
 PARISH BULLETIN

Facebook - Apple Valley Catholic Youth Ministry

In our collaborative we are on Mission and we encourage all our members to serve in ministry. As members of this Body, we truly are His hands, His feet and His eyes in our world. To be a Christian, then, is to be committed to action, to living out our faith through service to one another. Every member of our parish has something to offer towards the Mission of the Church.

A long time parishioner, Moe Joyal, died a few weeks ago. The way he lived his life was a beautiful witness to what being a disciple in mission is all about. He and his wife Paulette were members of St. Elizabeth parish since the 70's and he served Buildings and Grounds here for 25 years. A lot of what this parish is today, came from Moe, from infrastructure to an attitude of selfless service. In his memory, below are some appreciations, from a retirement plaque we presented to him when he retired from the B&G in 2016.

Moe,

Thanks for showing us how to serve selflessly and always with a smile.

Thanks for letting us take the lead and learn, with your low key advice always offered if we asked, or gently inserted without asking, if we should have asked and were missing something.

Thanks for you and Bill Hart spending about every Saturday morning for years quietly making things run well here.

Thanks for dropping everything and being here when things go bad.

Thanks for reminding us to celebrate accomplishments instead of always looking forwards at the growing list of things we need to do.

Thanks for teaching us - tackling each new challenge by putting it in perspective, then egoless idea sharing and then being a doer, making it happen.

Thanks for keeping things simple and reminding us who the B&G serves, God and the Parish.



PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN: VIRTUS TRAINING AND CORI CHECKS

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. This requirement may include, but is not limited to GIFT and Teen Alpha group leaders, chaperones, Confirmation leaders, Children's Liturgy of the Word ministers, musicians, altar server trainers, EM's for the homebound, etc. You only need to complete this training once.

Criminal Offender (CORI) checks *must be completed on a yearly basis* and are submitted for each organization in which one volunteers. (A school CORI check, for example, will not be acceptable for church.) CORI forms must be completed and returned to a staff member by Oct. 1. CORI forms are available in the collaborative offices and after Masses.

Virtus Training Sessions

Please sign up for Virtus training at least one week prior to each session. You may register by contacting Barbara Dane at barbara@applevalleycatholic.org or at 978-263-4305, ext. 16. Please leave your name, parish, the date you wish to attend, and an email or cell phone number where you can be reached.

Thurs, Sept. 27, 7:00 p.m., St. Isidore, Upstairs Rectory.
Mon., Oct. 1, 7:00 p.m., St. Elizabeth Parish Center, Room 3.
Tues., Oct. 9, 12:30 p.m., St. Isidore, Upstairs Rectory.
Sat., Nov. 10, 10:00 a.m., St. Elizabeth Parish Center Room 3

COLLABORATIVE MUSIC NEWS

New days announced for choir rehearsals this fall!

St. Isidore and St. Elizabeth Children's Choirs (grades 2 – 6) will rehearse together on Wednesdays from 5:30 – 6:15 p.m. beginning on September 19.

Collaborative Adult Music Ministry Choirs will rehearse on Wednesday from 7:30 – 9 p.m. beginning September 19.

Children's Choir and Adult Choirs will alternate rehearsal space monthly.

Rehearsals will be at St. Elizabeth's during September, November, January, and March.

Rehearsals will be held at St. Isidore during October, December, February, and April.

The Collaborative Teen Choir and Band (grades 7 – 12) will rehearse on Mondays from 6:30 – 7:45 p.m. beginning on September 17 at St. Elizabeth.

YOUNG FAMILY MINISTRIES NEWS

Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLOW)

Please Join our CLOW Team! Do you feel called to proclaim the Word of God to the young children of our parish and relate it to their lives? No prior experience is necessary, and all training and support materials are provided. Please contact Joan Mattila if you are able to assist with this vital children's ministry at either church: joan@applevalleycatholic.org or 978-263-4305, ext. 17.

First Communion Sacramental Preparation

Please register your child (entering 2nd Grade or older) for GIFT and complete the First Communion enrollment form. We look forward to welcoming you and your child for our **First Communion Parent and Child Lunch and Kick-Off event at 11:45 a.m. on Sunday, September 9.** If you have questions about this program, please contact Joan Mattila.

Registration for 2018-2019 GIFT and Faith Formation Programs

Mark your calendars for our **collaborative kick-off event on Sunday, September 23!**

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 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.

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK:

St. Isidore:

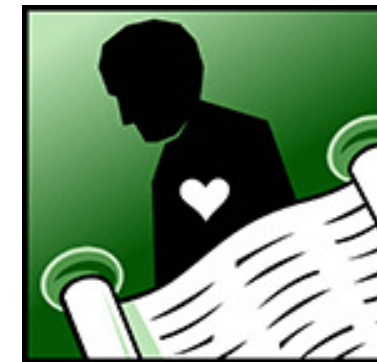
Saturday, September 1, 5:00 p.m.
James Gray, Memorial Mass

Sunday, September 2, 8:45 a.m.
Edna Taylor, Memorial Mass



St. Elizabeth:

Wednesday, September 5, 9:00 a.m.
Jim Murphy, Memorial Mass



GATHERING

If friends invite you to dinner at 7, you understand that the meal may not begin till 7:30 or 8. Of course, you should get there close to 7 because what happens before the meal is an important part of the meal itself. We gather. We say hello. We settle in. We start to form a little community before we sit down to the table. If we've socialized a bit we will enjoy the meal and the company much more.

The Mass is very sensitive to this human need. The very first rubric instructs about the introductory rites: "The purpose of these rites is to help the assembled people to become a worshipping community and to prepare them for listening to God's word and celebrating the eucharist." Notice that before we listen to the word and celebrate the Eucharist we are to become a worshipping community. This is the primary role of the assembly.

The rubrics then offer a marvelous expression, "After the people have assembled" (notice who gets mentioned first among the ministries: the people), "the priest and the ministers go to the altar while the entrance song is being sung."

The assembling of the people is how Mass begins. In the parking lot, in the vestibule, in the pew, we gather to prepare ourselves for prayer by becoming a worshipping community. When you wave at your friends, nod to strangers, or hold open the door for another worshiper, you're already beginning Mass.

We assemble as one because we have a common mission. We are not like folks on an elevator, thrown together as individuals with separate missions, who do not speak during the ride. We form a community and join our prayer as one.

It's just like the time before a dinner party. We visit with one another before the food is served so the meal can celebrate unity. That's how important our time is before Mass.

Are there folks you worship with whose names you don't know? People you keep bumping into in the parking lot? Would you share a dinner with people whose names you don't know? Come to Mass early. Introduce yourself to people. Introduce a friend to a friend. Practice the names. Form a community. Assemble. Gather. Then worship. And eat.