

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

Theme: Opening up to the power of Jesus.

Breaking Open the Word

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

Step One: Listen to the Word

As you hear again this week from the Letter of James, what lingers in your memory about this reading? What word or phrase really strikes you?

Step Two: Look into Your Life

Question for Children: How do you shun others whom you don't like?

Question for Youth: Who are the people in our world today who sometimes go unnoticed? What could you do to help them?

Question for Adults: In what ways do you discriminate in your heart against those whom you judge less than fully worthy?

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 in Ordinary Time
September 9, 2018*

*Jesus proclaimed the Gospel of the kingdom
and cured every disease among the people.*



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!*

SCRIPTURAL CONTEXT

Isaiah's Prophecy

All three synoptic gospel writers were at pains to demonstrate that Jesus was the fulfilment of the prophecies of the scriptures. This reference to Isaiah's prophecy appears in all three synoptic gospels. It is perhaps most familiar in the context of the Gospel of Luke, where the gospel writer actually combines it with a different passage from Isaiah and portrays Jesus as reading it in the synagogue as an announcement of his mission (Lk 4: 16-21). It is good to have the Isaiah text as the first reading this week and then see the way it is referred to in the gospel of the day.

GOSPEL FOCUS

Ephphatha

The healing that Jesus works in this passage is perhaps one of the most 'physical' of his healing actions. He puts his fingers in the man's ears and places spittle on his tongue. It is an incredibly intimate contact with a complete stranger and someone regarded as outcast and unclean because of his disabilities. When Jesus speaks the word of healing, Ephphatha ('Be opened'), he appears to be speaking not only to the man but to all those listening. Be open to the possibility of embracing those you have cast out; be open to a different understanding of Messiah.

**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

First Communion Parent and Child Lunch and Kick-Off event at 11:45 a.m. THIS weekend!

Sunday, September 9, St. Elizabeth Parish Center Hall.

CLERGY HEALTH & RETIREMENT TRUST COLLECTION

Next week, the diocese-wide collection will support the Clergy Health and Retirement Trust which cares for the health and well-being of our 590 Boston priests. Our priests are always there for us; they share Christ's good news, joyfully perform good works, and spread good faith to all they encounter. You can show your gratitude by giving generously to the collection.

You are also invited to make your gift online at clergytrust.org or you can donate \$25 through your cell phone by texting the word **PRIEST25** to 20222 (msg. & data rates may apply). And don't forget to find and follow the Trust on Facebook by searching "@ClergyTrust."

Thank you in advance for your generous and prayerful support of our priests.

**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.

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/zrnc9q10wr5cni/> (also on the websites).



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
(andrag@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 9
(Cycle B)

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

READINGS NEXT SUNDAY— September 16
(Cycle B)

Is 50:5-9; Jas 2:14-18; Mk 8:27-35

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: retreatoholyfamily@gmail.com or call 978-505-5775



**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. ELIZABETH**

Total Offertory Sunday 9/2/18:	\$ 3,540
Mailbacks for Week Ending 9/1/18:	\$ 3,382
Total EFT for Week Ending 9/1/18:	\$ 567
Total Parish Support for Week Ending 9/1/18:	\$ 7,489
Total Parish Support since 7/1/18:	\$ 111,936
Target Parish Support since 7/1/18:	\$ 120,436
Over (Under) Target since 7/1/18:	\$ (8,500)

Thank you very much!

DAILY MASS HAS CHANGED

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

Wednesday
9:00 a.m.—St. Elizabeth

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION
TIME HAS CHANGED**

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

**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 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.

**CONTRIBUTIONS FOR PARISH SUPPORT
ST. ISIDORE**

Total Offertory Last Sunday: 9/2/18:	\$ 3,031
EFT for Week Ending 9/2/18:	\$ 2,303
Total Parish Support for Week Ending 9/2/18:	\$ 5,334
Actual Parish Support since 7/1/2018:	\$ 48,918
Target Parish Support since 7/1/2018:	\$ 48,880
Over (Under) Target since 7/1/2018:	\$ 38
St. Vincent DePaul Collection	\$ 58

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](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!

**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).

COLLABORATIVE MUSIC NEWS

Music Ministry rehearsals begin next week! Please note the new rehearsal days and times.

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

Collaborative Adult Music Ministry Choirs will rehearse on Wednesdays from 7:30 – 9 p.m. beginning September 19 in St. Elizabeth's Parish Center Hall.

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

Rehearsals will be at St. Elizabeth during September, November, January, and March. Rehearsals will be held at St. Isidore during October, December, February, and April.

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

New members are welcome in all music groups. For more information, contact Andrea Goodrich at andreag@applevalleycatholic.org or 978-263-4305, ext.12.



**COLLABORATIVE PARISH COUNCIL
SEEKING PERMANENT RECORDER**

The CPC is seeking a parishioner to join the council in the volunteer role of Recorder. The recorder is gifted in the skills need to keep track of the progress of each meeting and record official decisions for reference. The recorder is also responsible for any council correspondence or other clerical tasks. This includes providing copies of the council meeting record within a week after each meeting to all members and sending upcoming meeting reminders with agendas and copies of previous meeting notes the week prior to any meeting. The recorder is a full member of the council and is also encouraged to engage in council discussions and decisions. Please contact Diahne Goodwin at diahneg@applevalleycatholic.org for more information or to express interest in being considered for the position.

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!**

YOUTH MINISTRY EVENTS

(open to incoming Freshman to Graduating Seniors)

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

SUNDAY CAFÉ

Please join us every Sunday for coffee and refreshments, time to catch up with friends & meet new friends!

St. Isidore after the 8:45 a.m. Mass
St. Elizabeth after the 10:45 a.m. Mass

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.

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:

Sunday, September 9, 8:45 a.m.
Ed & Miller Oster, Memorial Mass



St. Elizabeth:

Wednesday, September 12, 9:00 a.m.
Moe Joyal, Month's Mind Mass



HEARING SCRIPTURE

Imagine you're with a group of friends swapping stories about recent trips. But each of you brings a written copy for everyone else. When it's your turn, you don't tell the story while everyone listens. Instead, everybody pulls out your written account and reads along with you while you speak. Sound like fun? Sorry, that's not how we tell stories.

Listening is an art as rich as reading. We still do it in classrooms, seminars, phone conversations and the living room. Lively interaction between speaker and listener means the speaker proclaims ideas and the listener gives attention. In that low-tech communication, human beings connect.

The proclamation of Scripture recaptures the age-old art of speaking and listening. God's presence appears in the assembly as word. In actively listening to the word of God, as we naturally do in conversation, we open our hearts to wonder. Technology has made the mass production of written materials more available now than ever. With little effort, Scripture readings can be placed in the hands of every worshiper. Advocates of this practice say it permits the worshiper to use sight, not just hearing. However, it's like having everyone read your trip story while you tell it. It can let the air out. The event requires both the proclamation of the reader and the eagerness of listeners. Hearing the word together bonds and expresses our community. If everyone reads the text silently, we become individuals again, with noses in our laps and faces turned down from one another.

We'll hear the word of God with better attention if we prepare. Worshipers can read the texts prior to coming to Mass and pray over them throughout the week before. We may also discuss them with family and friends. Then our ears will be open to listen attentively to the Word of God. All eyes will be fixed on the one who reads. And our hearts will be joined as one body of believers. When the divine word resounds in our assembly heads up! And listen.

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