

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

Theme: Making God a priority in your life.

Breaking Open the Word

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

Step One: Listen to the Word

This is a tough reading. As you hear it, what words or phrases strike you? What in this reading touches your heart?

Step Two: Look into Your Life

Question for Children: How difficult would it be for you to give something you treasure to someone else who needed it more than you do?

Question for Youth: What is your most important possession? How hard would it be for you to give it up?

Question for Adults: How hard is it for you to part with things you treasure? Do your possessions ever stand in the way of having deeper communion with God?

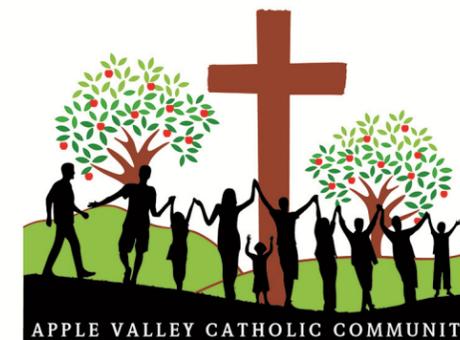
St. Isidore Parish, Stow
St. Elizabeth of Hungary Parish, Acton & Boxborough

Celebrating God's love in Jesus Christ. Going forth to share it with all.



Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time
October 14, 2018

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.



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!

from the perspective of the Disciples

'What about us?' Peter cried. The disciples were staggered that Jesus could turn away the rich man so easily and declare how difficult it is to enter into the kingdom of God. They suddenly see themselves in the shoes of the rich man: what more do they have to do? They've left their homes and families to traipse after Jesus, believing that this sacrifice would be enough to assure them a place in the kingdom, and suddenly they are faced with doubts. Has it all been worth it? Jesus reminds them that if they have followed him for all the right reasons then their reward is assured.

GOSPEL FOCUS

Sacrifice

Sacrifice is a term that gets used quite a lot in religion and yet it's a term with which modern society is very uncomfortable. We're not really 'into' sacrifice. We're much more into feeling good about ourselves and comfortable in our existence. Jesus called on the rich man to make a sacrifice – to let go of what he really loved and valued. What Jesus really called the man to do was to place his trust in Jesus and not in material wealth – that was the sacrifice he was called to make. Ultimately, the man couldn't do that! He couldn't let go of certainty and security and entrust his life and soul to Jesus.

Dear Parishioners,



As we say "good-bye" to summer and welcome the fall season I am excited to spend my first fall with all of you in the Apple Valley Catholic Community. If asked, "What excites you about fall this year?" my answer would be two-fold. First, fall brings the season of apple picking here in the Apple Valley of Massachusetts. Many of you have told me about apple picking and how popular it is. Second, I would say the start of a new season of programs offered in our Catholic community, all leading our community to a closer relationship with Jesus Christ and discipleship. The following programs have already started or will start in a few weeks: Alpha & Teen Alpha, Bible Studies, Confirmation preparation, First Penance & First Communion preparation, GIFT, Music ministry, Young Adult Scripture Study, Book Discussion group, and several other programs, as well as the celebration of the Sacraments of our faith. This is our Catholic community, this is who we are.

Fall also brings with it the need to review where we stand financially at both Parishes. On a monthly basis the Parish Finance Council ("PFC") for each parish meets together with me to review and discuss our offertory, our expenses, and the work needed to ensure that our buildings and grounds remain in good condition for many years to come. The PFCs and I have been monitoring our financial condition over the last several months and have concluded that we need both the Grand Annual at St. Isidore and the Increase Offertory at St. Elizabeth. Without the appeals, at St. Isidore we are projecting a net loss for fiscal 2019 of (\$65,000), while at St. Elizabeth we are projecting a net loss of (\$32,000). In past years both appeals have helped our community to reduce projected deficits. The PFCs and I are praying for the same results this year. Unless the projected losses are significantly reduced, we will need to determine whether the current level of program offerings are sustainable.

During the week of October 14th, letter packets will be mailed to all parishioners on record. Each packet will contain a letter from your respective PFC council and me. Additional information will include financial results for fiscal 2018, projections for fiscal 2019, and a summary explanation of how much it costs financially to keep our parishes operating. For those not receiving parish direct mailings, letter packets will also be available at each church beginning the weekend of October 20th.

In the coming weeks, please take the time to read through the materials and formulate your personal response to the Grand Annual at St. Isidore or the Increase Offertory at St. Elizabeth. Through your financial support you enable our Community to carry out its mission and continue to serve with the effectiveness, hospitality and generosity that have been our hallmarks.

Thank you for your continued commitment to Jesus Christ's mission through our Apple Valley Catholic Community.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Jeff

IMPORTANT TIME CHANGE FOR EVENING GIFT SESSIONS FOR OCTOBER!

Trying to get our little ones home a little earlier! It's not too late to register. Online registrations available on the website.

- Saturday, Oct. 20 at St. Isidore: was originally 6:15 p.m. **NOW 6:00 - 8:30 p.m.**
- Sunday, Oct. 21 at St. Elizabeth still 11:45 a.m. **(no change!)**
- Sunday, Oct. 21 at St. Elizabeth: was originally 6:15 p.m., **NOW 6:00 - 8:30 p.m.**

Need to switch your session this month? No problem! Just email Barbara Dane at barbara@applevalleycatholic.org.

Middle School Laser Tag Trip

Sunday, November 4 after the 10:45 a.m. Mass at St. Elizabeth.

- Bus leaves St. Elizabeth parking lot at 12:00 noon
- Bus pick up at St. Isidore lot: 12:15 p.m.
- Returns to St. Isidore, 4:00 p.m.
- Returns to St. Elizabeth, 4:15 p.m.

Xtreme Craze
Westmeadow Plaza
166 Milk Street
Westborough, MA 01581

ALPHA UPDATE!

Please join us in praying for our Alpha participants and team in our 4 Alpha sessions that are taking place this fall:

- Teen Alpha on Sunday evenings
- Mom's Alpha on Monday evenings
- AM Alpha on Wednesday mornings
- PM Alpha on Thursday evenings

May the Holy Spirit fill each and every one and may they encounter Christ on this journey.



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:
No Daily Mass here this week.

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

St. Isidore
Saturdays, 4:00—4:45 p.m.

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



READINGS THIS SUNDAY— October 14
Wis 7:7-11; Heb 4:12-13; Mk 10:17-30

READINGS NEXT SUNDAY— October 21
Is 53:10-11; Heb 4:14-16; Mk 10:35-45

**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 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. CORI forms are available in the collaborative offices and after Masses.

Virtus Training Session

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

Saturday, November 10, 10:00 a.m.
St. Elizabeth Parish Center, Room 3

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR PARISH SUPPORT: ST. ELIZABETH	
Total Offertory Sunday 10/7/18:	\$ 2,720
Mailbacks for Week Ending 10/6/18:	\$ 1,446
Total EFT for Week Ending 10/6/18:	\$ 4,261
Total Parish Support for Week Ending 10/6/18:	\$ 8,427
Total Parish Support since 7/1/18:	\$ 174,624
Target Parish Support since 7/1/18:	\$ 186,482
Over (Under) Target since 7/1/18:	\$ (11,859)
Thank you very much!	

**CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES OFFERING
SOLIDARITY RETREAT
October 27**

Catholic Relief Services carries out the commitment of the Bishops of the United States to assist the poor and vulnerable overseas and throughout the US. If you have a passion for global solidarity and are interested in learning more about getting involved and making a difference, then this retreat is for you. There is no pressure for commitment to anything specific. It is a time to learn and discern.



The Fall Retreat will be held on October 27 at the Pastoral Center in Braintree. Please contact Danielle Corea-Smith, Regional Relationship Manager, at 973 255-6502 or danielle.corea-smith@crs.org for details.

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.

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR PARISH SUPPORT ST. ISIDORE	
Total Offertory Last Sunday: 10/7/18:	\$ 1,871
EFT for Week Ending 10/7/18:	\$ 2,391
Total Parish Support for Week Ending 10/7/18:	\$ 4,262
Actual Parish Support since 7/1/2018:	\$ 71,450
Target Parish Support since 7/1/2018:	\$ 74,232
Over (Under) Target since 7/1/2018:	\$ (2,782)
St. Vincent DePaul Collection	\$ 55
Thank you very much!	

YOUNG FAMILY MINISTRIES NEWS

Here's our upcoming schedule of events:

First Communion Sacramental Preparation

- Mini-Lesson #2 for children and parent(s) is on Sunday, October 14 at St. Elizabeth of Hungary Church Hall at 10:00 a.m. (parent and child complete Go Seek Find lessons 3-4 beforehand).

GIFT Weekend—October 20-21

- Families choose one of three sessions during the weekend. Our First Communion children and parent(s) attend the K-4 breakout session with Joan Mattila.

If you have not registered for GIFT or our First Communion preparation program yet, it's not too late! Please contact Joan Mattila with any questions about our sacramental preparation program for First Communion.

Saints Pageant for Children in Grades 3-4

Save the date for Thursday, November 1, for our 3-4 children and parent(s) pizza and Saints pageant planning party that will begin at 5:30 p.m. in the St. Elizabeth Parish Church Hall, followed by a celebration of Feast of All Saints Holy and children's saints pageant. Please contact Joan Mattila for more information.



This is a volunteer ministry offered most Sundays at both St. Isidore 8:45 a.m. and St. Elizabeth 10:45 a.m. Masses. Children in grades K-6 are accompanied by our CLOW team to the church hall following the opening prayers and they return to Mass prior to the Liturgy of the Eucharist. Parents are welcome to accompany their young children as well. This is an amazing opportunity for the young children of our collaborative to hear the Word of God proclaimed and then reflected upon in a format that upholds the sanctity of this portion of the Mass, yet simplifies the language and message so that our young children can celebrate the Eucharist with "full, conscious and active participation." (Constitution of the Sacred Liturgy #14). If you have questions about CLOW, or would like to join our ministry team, please contact Joan Mattila at joan@applevalleycatholic.org or 978-263-4305 ext. 17.

**COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND FOR THE
HOLY FATHER AND MISSIONARY EFFORTS**

This week's second collection will support the Holy Father's "Peter's Pence" collection that provides funds for emergency and disaster relief and for Catholic World Missions that support pastoral and evangelization efforts in mission dioceses. This collection will also provide support to The Catholic University of America that educates priests and lay people for ministry and for the Inner City Parishes of the Archdiocese of Boston. Your generosity and prayers will assist the Holy Father as well as the various missionary efforts at home and abroad. For information on these Collections, go to:

1. www.usccb.org/ppc
2. www.propfaithboston.org
3. www.cua.edu
4. www.BostonCatholic.org



COLLABORATIVE MUSIC NEWS

Teen Ensemble Pizza, Prayer and Practice on Monday from 6:30 – 7:45 p.m. in St. Elizabeth Parish Center Hall.

St. Isidore and St. Elizabeth Children's Choirs (grades 2 – 6) will rehearse on Wednesday from 5:30 – 6:15 p.m. in St. Isidore Church Hall.

Collaborative Adult Music Ministry Choirs will rehearse on Wednesday from 7 – 8:30 p.m. in St. Isidore Church Hall.

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

**SAVE THE DATE
MINISTRY RENEWAL DAY**

Saturday, November 17
9 a.m.—3 p.m., St. Isidore Hall

All involved in **any ministry** are invited and encouraged to attend. Details coming.

SUPPORT OUR YOUTH & FAMILIES!
The Kids Healthy Minds Initiative Education Session
November 28 at 7:00 p.m.
St. Isidore Church Hall

The Kids Healthy Minds Initiative (KHM) is an innovative mental health awareness and community education program offered across the Archdiocese of Boston in partnership with Franciscan Children's. The prevalence of youth mental illness is staggering. *20% of our children and adolescents hold a mental health diagnosis nationwide* according to the CDC. Failure to detect and treat mental illness early can have a significant impact on a child's potential and success later in life. Franciscan Children's will provide an education session in our collaborative on Wednesday, November 28, at 7:00 p.m. at St. Isidore Church Hall. Those who participate in a KHM education session will gain an understanding of the early warning signs of mental illness, common youth diagnoses and the barriers of stigma impacting our families.

All are welcome to attend this important evening.

Please join our faith community to learn about this crucial initiative and what steps we can take together to support youth and families who suffer from mental illness. *Your attendance at this one session can make a tremendous difference!* For any questions regarding the program please contact Franciscan Children's team at: Kidshealthyinds@franciscanchildrens.org

YOUTH MINISTRY EVENTS
(Open to incoming Freshman to
Graduating Seniors)

New - Youth Ministry Night!
Second Sunday of every Month after the
5:00 p.m. Mass

Teen Alpha
Sundays thru December 16
Starting with the 5:00 p.m. Mass
(no registration required)

If your 10th grader has not registered for the Confirmation Preparation Program and/or Growing in Faith Together – please contact Jim Flanagan at jim@applevalleycatholic.org for the forms.

All events are on Facebook and in the parish bulletin.
Facebook:
Apple Valley Catholic Youth Ministry

APPLE VALLEY CATHOLIC YOUNG
ADULT GROUP
ATTENTION ALL YOUNG ADULTS (20s—30s)

October –November Events:

Night with Faith, Food and Friends
Wednesday, October 24, 7:00 p.m.

Join us for dinner and faith conversation with Fr. Paul Sughrue. This is always a fun night to talk about our faith and meet new people. Pay your own way. Location: Yangtze River Restaurant at 584 King Street, Littleton.

Volunteer at Cor Unum Meal Center

Saturday, November 17, 3:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m.
We will serve dinner at Cor Unum Meal Center in Lawrence. Dinner is provided there. Please RSVP by November 1. Meet us at St. Elizabeth Parish to carpool. Learn more about Cor Unum here: <http://www.corunummealcenter.org>.

Ongoing Events:

Scripture Study every First and Third Sunday
(through December 2)

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 Parish.

Volunteer at Household Goods

Third Sunday of every month 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 our goods or load their vans. Please contact us if this is your first time volunteering. Meet us at Household Goods at 530 Main Street, Acton. Learn more at <http://householdgoods.org>.

Check out the Apple Valley Catholic Young Adult
Group Facebook group for the most up-to-date
events:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/558137624339112/>

Get in touch! Contact us!

For more information on all our young adult Programs: youngadults@applevalleycatholic.org



JANUARY MINISTRY SHOWCASE

~ Seeking Organizing Help! ~

Periodically it is helpful to showcase all parish ministries. This helps to let everyone know what ministries are available and is also a time to invite new participation. We hope to plan and offer a collaborative wide Ministry Showcase after all Masses on the weekend of January 12/13. We need a small team of 2-4 people to help coordinate the details to make this possible. This involves communicating with ministries and organizing the set up and presentation in each of the Church halls. Please contact Diahne Goodwin for more information or if you can help, diahneg@applevalleycatholic.org

PRESENTATION ON PALLIATIVE CARE

St. Irene Parish, Carlisle – Parish Hall
Sunday, October 14 from Noon – 1:30
Light luncheon to be served

Are you concerned about aging relatives? Have you or someone you know been diagnosed with a serious illness? Come hear a presentation and join in discussion about palliative care, a way for people to live better with serious illness that offers support for loved ones as well. Palliative care is often confused with hospice care, which is different. Presented by Diane McCarthy, Coordinator for the Archdiocesan *Initiative for Palliative Care and Advance Care Planning*. A light luncheon will be served at noon in the church hall, followed by the presentation and discussion. All are welcome.

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

ST. ELIZABETH SUNDAY CAFÉ
NEEDS YOU!

We are in need of more volunteers to keep this running. Please contact Bob Meinhold at bob.meinhold@olympus.com if you are able to help in any way.

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK:

St. Isidore:

Saturday, October 13, 5:00 p.m.
Michael Sureau, Memorial Mass



St. Elizabeth:

Wednesday, October 17, 9:00 a.m.
No Weekday Mass Today.

ST. ISIDORE FAMILY ITALIAN NIGHT
& SILENT AUCTION EXTRAVAGANZA

St. Isidore Hall

Saturday, November 3, 6:00—9:00 p.m.

Enjoy an evening listening to Italian music while browsing our many Silent Auction items followed by a delicious homemade Italian dinner of Italian pasta, meatballs & vegetarian ziti. Gluten free will be available as well. Then enjoy a warm cup of coffee with a yummy dessert while listening for your name to be called as a winning bidder!

Reservations will be taken the weekends of October 20 & 27 at St. Isidore after all Masses. You may also request via email to Laureen at email address below. Adults-\$7.50 • Seniors (60+)-\$6.00 • Children 5 to18-\$5.00 • Under 5 FREE.

WE NEED HELP! We need help serving dinner that night. Please consider volunteering to help us. We need four servers. Contact Laureen, debenedetto6@gmail.com, 978-897-2599. All are welcome!

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.