

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 this week:

There will be no morning Mass on Monday, December 24 at St. Isidore

There will be no morning Mass on Wednesday, December 26 at St. Elizabeth

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

St. Isidore
Saturdays, 4:00—4:45 p.m.

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

ST. ISIDORE—Updates

Thank you to all who so generously donated gifts to St. Mary's of Lynn and to Warm Hearts of Stow.

There will no Café at St. Isidore on the weekends of December 23 or 30 due to the holiday. The Café will resume on Sunday, January 6. Happy New Year!

**CONTRIBUTIONS FOR PARISH SUPPORT
ST. ISIDORE**

Total Offertory Last Sunday: 12/16/18:	\$ 2,924
EFT for Week Ending 12/16/18:	\$ 2,023
Total Parish Support for Week Ending 12/16/18:	\$ 4,947
Actual Parish Support since 7/1/2018:	\$ 119,525
Target Parish Support since 7/1/2018:	\$ 122,200
Over (Under) Target since 7/1/2018:	\$ (\$2,675)
Grand Annual (45% of goal)	\$ 28,098
St. Vincent DePaul Collection	\$ 280

Thank you very much!

**CONTRIBUTIONS FOR PARISH SUPPORT
ST. ELIZABETH**

Total Offertory Sunday 12/16/18	\$ 4,750
Mailbacks for Week Ending 12/15/18:	\$ 2,731
Total EFT for Week Ending 12/15/18:	\$ 753
Total Parish Support for Week Ending 12/15/18:	\$ 8,234
Total Parish Support since 7/1/18:	\$ 301,824
Target Parish Support since 7/1/18:	\$ 316,310
Over (Under) Target since 7/1/18:	\$ (14,486)

*Preliminary target is \$726,000 for the year ended 6/30/2019
Thank you very much!

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

**COLLABORATIVE STAFF
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
(siryan@applevalleycatholic.org),
(Bible Study, Funeral Planning)

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

Director of Finance & Operations: Annmarie Mazzucotelli,
(annmarie@applevalleycatholic.org), (978) 263-4305 ext. 21

Collaborative Director of Music: Andrea Goodrich
(andrea@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

READINGS THIS SUNDAY— December 23
Mi 5:1-4a; Heb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-45

READINGS NEXT SUNDAY— December 30
Sir 3:2-6, 12-14; Col 3:12-21; Lk 2:41-52

*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.



*Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 23, 2018*

*Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord.
May it be done to me according to your word.*



*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!*

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ;

Peace be with you.

Our community has journeyed these last 4 weeks through the Advent Season. A season filled with Hope, Faith, Joy and Peace. It has been a busy 4 weeks for me and I am certain for all of you. Not only have we celebrated the 4 Sundays of Advent, but we enjoyed many of our programs. Our 3rd GIFT gathering took place with the focus on our Blessed Mary. We wrapped up three 10-week sessions of Alpha. Our 2nd graders continue to prepare for 1st Holy Communion as they gathered with their families for lunch and group discussion in preparation for their 1st Reconciliation. We wrapped up our Bible Study series on the Women of the Old Testament. Our teens have prepared meals and journeyed to the Lazarus House to serve these meals. Our young adults continue to meet and reflect on the Gospel. Our Choir continuously prepares for the celebration of our Masses as well as prepare for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses. Our book club series continued in strong force, and the list goes on.

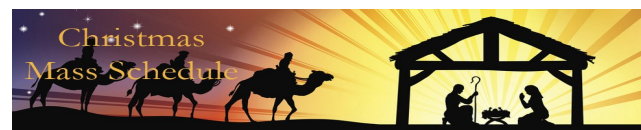
Yet during this busy season we have remained focused on the reason we celebrate Advent, in anticipation and preparation of the Solemnity of the Nativity of our Lord & Savior Jesus Christ. Over 2,000 years ago in a small stable in the town of Bethlehem Jesus is born. Not an ordinary baby but the only Begotten Son of God. God, in his infinite wisdom and love for us offers to humanity the greatest gift of all Jesus Christ, the one who came into the world to redeem us. How awesome is that! And over 2,000 years later we are still celebrating the birth of our redeemer and savior.

Let us not lose sight of the true meaning of Christmas. Let us be mindful of what the angel of God said to those poor Shepherds in the field in the darkness of night – **“Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord.”** (Luke 2:10-11).

Reflect this Christmas on those very words. Focus close attention to these specific words - good news, great joy, all the people, a savior, for you, Christ and Lord. Those words direct us to the true meaning of Christmas. God’s great gift to us.

The staff and I wish you and your families a Blessed & Merry Christmas and health and prosperity in the year of our Lord 2019. Be assured of my continuous prayers this Christmas and throughout 2019.

God Bless You!
Fr. Jeff



COLLABORATIVE MASS SCHEDULE FOR CHRISTMAS

Caroling begins 20 minutes before each Mass

Christmas Eve Masses

4:00 p.m. Mass at St. Elizabeth ¹

6:30 p.m. Mass at St. Isidore

10:00 p.m. Mass at St. Elizabeth

Christmas Morning Masses

8:45 a.m. Mass at St. Isidore

10:45 a.m. Mass at St. Elizabeth

There will be no 5:00 p.m. Mass on Christmas day

¹ – *Mass will be live-streamed in the church hall with additional seating for 300. There will be a cantor present to lead the music and sung responses and when it comes time for communion, we will have Eucharistic Ministers come to the church hall to distribute communion to everyone in the hall.*

SHARE THE LOVE OF CHRIST WITH OUR VISITORS THIS CHRISTMAS!

It is a joy to see the church filled with extended families, friends, and neighbors, all gathered together to celebrate the birth of our savior! Please join us in making an extra effort to welcome our visitors with a smile, a warm greeting and even a seat during our Christmas Masses. A great sign of welcome is to move to the center of the pew so that others may easily find a place to sit. Thanks!



CHRISTMAS COLLECTION

Among the gifts you give this Christmas season, please consider contributing to a special Christmas Collection for the health and well-being of 580 active and senior priests in good standing in our Archdiocese. Amid these difficult times for our Church, our hardworking priests need your support now more than ever. Please take this opportunity to say Thank You to all the priests, including our senior priests, who have devoted their lives to our Church...and to all of us. To donate online, please visit clergytrust.org or text the word PRIEST25 to 20222 to donate \$25. Msg. and data rates may apply. Visit clergyfunds.org for a heart-warming testimony from a family about our priest.

RETIREMENT NEWS

After 15.5 years as serving as a dedicated pastoral associate at St. Elizabeth of Hungary parish, Steve Ryan will be retiring as of the end of December. **We will be celebrating his service on January 19th after the 10:45 Mass**, during our Sunday Café time.

Please join us in showing our appreciation and gratitude for his years of dedication and ministry!

ST. ELIZABETH ~ FIRST COMMUNION

Congratulations to Jonathan Anthikat as he prepares to receive the Sacrament of First Communion at 10:45am Mass on December 25!

Please keep Jonathan and his family in prayer.

ATTENTION ALL MINISTRY LEADERS! Ministry Showcase January 12-13

Ministry write ups are due by January 6th. For more information and details, please contact Diahne Goodwin, diahneg@applevalleycatholic.org or Janet and Tom Moroney at jmmoroney@comcast.net or t.moroney@comcast.net

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK:

St. Isidore:

Saturday, December 22, 5:00 p.m.
Augusto and Antoinette Orsatti, Memorial Mass

Sunday, December 23, 8:45 a.m.
Peter T. Rooney, 10th Anniversary Mass

There will be no morning Mass on Monday, December 24 at St. Isidore

St. Elizabeth:

Sunday, December 23, 10:45 a.m.
Kevin Flanagan, Anniversary Mass

Sunday, December 23, 5:00 p.m.
Michelle Gould Starr, Memorial Mass

There will be no morning Mass on Wednesday, December 26 at St. Elizabeth

ST. ELIZABETH CHRISTMAS SEASON FLOWER FUND

We welcome your contribution towards flowers and items that will decorate our church for the Christmas Season. Please complete and mail the form below to St. Elizabeth Parish 89 Arlington St. Acton MA 01720 or put it in an envelope marked ‘SEOH Flower Fund’ and place it in the collection basket. If your donation is in memory of a deceased loved one and you wish to have his/her name published in our bulletin on the Feast of the Epiphany, please check off the appropriate box on the form below. Contact Mary Ryan at mgr@applevalleycatholic.org or 978-263-4305 x35 if you have any questions.

Enclosed is my donation of \$ _____ towards the 2018 Christmas Season Flower Fund.

I am making this donation in memory of _____
(please print clearly)

I would like the above name/s published in the bulletin on the Feast of the Epiphany. Yes ___ No ___

My name is _____

Please check here if you would like your donation to be made anonymously. ___