

Alleluia! Jesus is Risen!

APPLE VALLEY CATHOLIC COLLABORATIVE – TWO PARISHES ONE MISSION

St. Elizabeth of Hungary Parish
89 Arlington Street, Acton, MA 01720
(978) 263-4305/Fax (978) 263-9014
Office Hours: Suspended during
Coronavirus.



St. Isidore Parish
429 Great Road, Stow, MA 01775
(978) 897-2710/Fax (978) 461-0577
Office Hours: Suspended during
Coronavirus.

Visit us at <https://applevalleycatholic.org/>

Dear Friends in Christ,

As we enter Holy Week, the holiness week of our Liturgical year we find ourselves in a much different place than in year's past. We are not able to gather as a community of faithful to celebrate Holy Thursday, Good Friday, the Easter Vigil and of course Easter Sunday Mass. For me this brings elements of sadness and disappointment. Emotions that many of you may be feeling as well. And yet at the same time I am reminded of an article that I read. That article talked about that first Easter Sunday nearly 2,000 years ago where the disciples were locked in their house in the upper room for it was too dangerous for them to come out. Together, as a family united in Jesus Christ for the last 3-years, they were full of fear, uncertainty, despair and anxiety. If they left their home their lives and the lives of their loved ones might be at risk.

And then it happened. The resurrected Jesus comes to the mentoring the upper room through locked doors and windows. At first the disciples did not understand as they gazed upon Jesus. Their fear heightened not believing what their eyes were telling them. And then the comforting words of Jesus to them, "**Peace be with you.**" He comes bringing peace, hope and love. Yes, the Son of God, God himself comes to them in their fear, uncertainty, despair and anxiety with the gift of LOVE. At that moment everything changes. All their fears, uncertainty, despair and anxiety are dispelled replaced with hope, joy and love.

We all know the rest of the story. The disciples leave the house, that secured upper room to bring that hope, joy and love throughout the world. They bring the resurrected Christ to the world and the world is transformed never to be the same again.

This year as we celebrate Holy Week and Easter Sunday in our homes, let us be mindful that what we are faced with at this time will pass. Let us be mindful, especially during this Holy Week that Jesus, the Son of God, God himself remains with each and everyone of us. His words to His disciple's echo to us as well "**Peace be with You.**" Let these words, words of hope, comfort and love help to dispel our fears, uncertainties, despair and anxiety and fill us with love.

I want to share with you part of the lyrics of a favorite song of mine "*Hold onto Love*" composed by Jesse Manibusam. The words are as such: "*There is a place for the sadness, **Hold onto LOVE.** There is a season for gladness, **Hold onto Love.** When pain and confusion seem endless, **Hold onto LOVE.** We cultivate healing through kindness, **Hold onto LOVE.***"

Hold onto love, where hope is found.

Hold onto love, where joy abounds

Hold onto love where grace and mercy's overflowing, HOLD ONTO LOVE.

*When terror and fear overwhelm us, **Hold onto LOVE.** Courage and faith will sustain us, **Hold onto Love.** Acts of compassion restore us, **Hold onto LOVE.** Wisdom and truth reunite us, **Hold onto LOVE.***

Hold onto love, where hope is found.

Hold onto love, where joy abounds

Hold onto love where grace and Mercy's overflowing, HOLD ONTO LOVE.

Although we are not able to gather as a community to celebrate Holy Week and Easter Sunday please know that we remain united during this time in **Hope, Faith and Love.** We remain united in that we are one family with God as our Father, Jesus our brother and the Holy Spirit our counselor. We remain united through the great Trinity of our faith – God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit.

My thoughts and prayers remain with each of you and your families.

God Bless You.

I am yours in Christ,

Fr. Jeff



My Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ;

It is at times like these our faith reminds us that we are never truly alone, even as we face unprecedented challenges as a parish community. Though we are not able to join together in the celebration of the Eucharist, I continue daily to pray for the health of you and your loved ones.

I am reaching out to you about an archdiocesan effort created by a member of the laity with concern for our parishes during this time of crisis. It is a special, 90-day offertory campaign that will provide support *directly* to parishes during this emergency.

I understand that many of you may not be able to contribute to this special offertory collection, given the economic impact of this pandemic on your own personal finances. For those who are able, we hope that you continue to support the operations of our faith community during this emergency by enrolling in the *90-Days Now* campaign. I remain extremely grateful for your prayers of support for our collaborative family.

Be assured of my daily prayers for you and your entire family.
God Bless.

I am yours in Christ,

Fr. Jeff



90-DAYS NOW – FOR YOUR PARISH

This special initiative is an opportunity, if possible, to rally around and support the ongoing operations of our parishes of St. Isidore or St. Elizabeth of Hungary with a *daily* offertory commitment for the next 90 days. This effort will *supplement* the weekly offertory gifts, given the challenges of the current crisis.

90-Days Now Donation

Copy & Paste Link to Web Browser:
<https://bcatholic.sites.bostoncatholic.org/form/giving-form?fid=4916>

Donate in 4 Easy Steps

1. Select St. Elizabeth of Hungary or St. Isidore from a drop down menu.
2. Choose \$1, \$2, \$5, \$10 or a custom daily donation amount.
3. Select your payment frequency (weekly, monthly or one-time).
4. Enter your debit or credit payment information.

Your donations will be processed and deposited, net of any credit card fees, into the savings account of the parish you selected.



NEW!

**We also are now able to set up
Online Giving!**

This allows you to make offertory and other contributions (beyond the special 90 Day Now Campaign) throughout the year, without writing checks or worrying about cash donations. This site lets you set up automatic contributions and change the timing or the amount of your gift at any time. Please go on our website page:

<https://22049.sites.ecatholic.com/donate>

Together we can make a difference!

Thank you for helping take care of our parishes during the unprecedented challenges we are facing. With faith we look forward with hope and stand together in support of our parishes.

Our Collaborative Mission Pathway



Rooted in **Worship** through the liturgy, prayer and sacraments, we believe that transformation is possible for each person! We do this through creating a culture of **Welcome** and by providing opportunities to **Encounter** Jesus Christ; to **Connect** with others on the journey, to **Grow** in faith and discipleship; to **Empower** all to know and use their God-given gifts to share in fulfilling the mission; and to **Serve** others through outreach.

No matter your age or how many steps you may have journeyed in your faith, we are here to walk with you and assist you on your journey, a journey that can open up answers to questions that humanity has been asking throughout history: Who are we? Why are we here? Where are we going?

Check out **Learn & Grow** on our website to see what we are currently offering for all ages Adults, youth and children to help you on your journey. Please do not hesitate to **contact us** with any questions.

Virtual Children's Liturgy Of The Word

On Sunday at 9:30 a.m., one of our Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLOW) volunteers are leading a Facebook Live lesson and reflection on this weekend's readings, from their own home. The Live event will take place on the [Apple Valley Catholic Collaborative's Facebook Page](#). Although we won't be able to see you, if you do tune in live at 9:30, your children will be able to participate through Facebook comments: asking and answering questions, contributing prayers of the faithful, etc. Following the lesson, an archive of the recording will be available on our Facebook page.



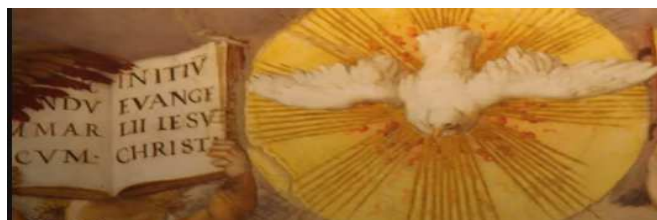
Symbolon on [Formed.org](#)

April 15— 7:00 p.m.
Virtual Gathering!

"The Holy Spirit and a life of Grace"

The Holy Spirit is the third divine person of the Holy Trinity, the bond of love between the Father, and the Son. Through the power of the Spirit, Christians can die to self and bear much fruit, such as love, joy, peace, patience, kindness and self control. How is it possible to have a relationship with the Holy Spirit? We invite you to participate in this video and discussion online together via a Zoom connection. To enhance security, we are asking that people sign up in advance so they can receive a private invitation to log into the Zoom meeting. Please let Diahne Goodwin, diahneg@applevalleycatholic.org, know by April 13 if you would like to participate. Click on the link below to view the episode in advance. (Note, you must have or create a Formed account to access. This is free for our collaborative).

<https://watch.formed.org/videos/the-holy-spirit-the-life-of-grace-god-s-divine-life-within-us>



Apple Valley Adult Christian Service Ministry

We are a group of adults who desire to share our gifts and blessings in service to others. All are welcome to volunteer according to their own schedules and interests.

Please join us, all are invited! Contact Mary at amato.mg@gmail.com for more information about our ministry or to add your name to the mailing list.



The Year Of The Eucharist
April 9, 2020—June 6, 2021

The Year of the Eucharist is intended “to help people gain a better understanding of the Eucharist”. “Our lives are a gift of God’s gratuitous love, and the Eucharist is the most profound symbol of His love for us. Jesus comes to us in humility, in littleness, so that no one need be afraid or unsure of His acceptance”.

Cardinal Seán O'Malley



Young Adult Ministry
Come Join Us!

Are you a 20 something or 30 something Young Adult? We welcome you! Join us for activities such as: A night with Faith, Food and Friends, Volunteering at Cor Unum Meal Center, Christmas in the City, Scripture Study & Dinner. Check out their Facebook page for the latest details about all events. Please join us! Facebook: Apple Valley Catholic Young Adult Group or email:

youngadults@applevalleycatholic.org

Scripture for the week of April 12, 2020

- 12 SUN Acts 10:34a, 37-43/Col 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6b-8/Jn 20:1-9 or Mt 28:1-10
- 13 Mon Acts 2:14, 22-33/Mt 28:8-15
- 14 Tue Acts 2:36-41/Jn 20:11-18
- 15 Wed Acts 3:1-10/Lk 24:13-35
- 16 Thu Acts 3:11-26/Lk 24:35-48
- 17 Fri Acts 4:1-12/Jn 21:1-14
- 18 Sat Acts 4:13-21/Mk 16:9-15
- 19 SUN Acts 2:42-47/1 Pt 1:3-9/Jn 20:19-31



You Matter to God!
You Matter to Us!

May God bless you and our community.

**As always, please let us know how we can be
of help and support for you and
your loved ones.**

Alleluia!

**Why do you look for
the living among
the dead?**



Luke 24:5



**Got Questions about
Life?... About Faith?
Try Alpha!**



What is Alpha?

Alpha is an opportunity to explore life and the Christian faith, in a friendly, open and informal environment. It's where you can belong to a group of people exploring these questions.

Alpha is not so much a *course*, but an experience! Gathering once a week over a ten week period, each Alpha brings together people from every walk of life. We begin each Alpha gathering by sharing a meal then we listen to a talk and then discuss the talk in small groups. Over 29 million people across the globe have experienced Alpha. There is no cost to you, consider trying it! bring a friend!

We will be offering Alpha again soon, but in the meantime if you would like to learn more, go to www.applevalleycatholic.org/alpha, alphausa.org. Contact avccapha@gmail.com with questions or if you would like to be emailed when the next Alpha will begin.

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

St. Isidore Business Manager:
Robin Ulichney
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Pastoral Associate/Collab. Dir. Pastoral Ministries:
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(High School Ministry, Confirmation)

Director of Faith Formation: Barbara Dane
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(Faith Formation for Grades 5-8 and GIFT)

Coordinator of Young Family Ministries: Joan Mattila
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Catholic Chaplain - Emerson Hospital
Timothy Duff - (978) 287-3015

St. Elizabeth's St. Vincent DePaul: (978) 263-4305 ext. 14

FREE Online Resources!



Diving into the beauty of the Faith has never been easier: at home, on the go, or from any internet connected device. Discover the best in Catholic content through thousands of books, audio talks, movies, documentaries, and studies... Over 4,000 titles. There is something for every member of the family to help them grow closer to Christ and His Church.

[JOIN NOW - FREE!](https://www.formed.org) On Formed.org

Go to [Formed](https://www.formed.org) and put in: Apple Valley Catholic Community where it asks you to find your Parish and enter your email address and you're all set!



CONTRIBUTIONS FOR PARISH SUPPORT ST. ELIZABETH

For week ending 4/5/20

Mass Offertory collections:	\$ -
Mailbacks:	3,895
Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT):	<u>2,117</u>
Total Parish Support:	6,012
Total Parish Support since 7/1/2019:	\$ 501,601
Target Parish Support since 7/1/2019:	<u>533,170</u>
Over (Under) Target since 7/1/2019:	(31,569)

*Target is \$698,000 for the year ended 6/30/2020

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR PARISH SUPPORT ST. ISIDORE

For week ending 4/5/20

Mass Offertory collections:	\$ -
Mailbacks:	1,839
Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT):	<u>2,588</u>
Total Parish Support:	4,427
Total Parish Support since 7/1/2019:	\$193,258
Target Parish Support since 7/1/2019:	<u>199,941</u>
Over (Under) Target since 7/1/2019:	(6,683)

Grand Annual (66% of 65K goal) \$ 43,091

*Target is \$260,000 for year ended 6/30/2020