

1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Jesus said to his disciples: "Be watchful! Be alert!
You do not know when the time will come." Mark 13:33

St. Elizabeth of Hungary Parish
89 Arlington Street, Acton, MA 01720



St. Isidore Parish
429 Great Road, Stow, MA 01775

Apple Valley Catholic Collaborate Office:
89 Arlington Street, Acton, MA 01720
Office Hours: Tuesdays 12-4 p.m. & Wednesdays 10-4 p.m.
(978) 263-4305/Fax (978) 263-9014
Visit us at <https://applevalleycatholic.org>

Dear Friends in Christ,

I hope and pray that you and your loved ones are doing as well as expected despite the Corona-virus Pandemic (“Covid-19”) among the crises we are facing together. This year we all will experience a “modified” holiday season. As the virus continues to spread through our towns, our State and the United States and as the surge in the number of daily infection cases and deaths hitting record numbers most will spend the Christmas holiday with fewer family & friends around our homes and tables. In my family alone, our annual Christmas Eve dinner of upwards of 40+ relatives has been cancelled. Likewise, Christmas day will be a much smaller gathering with most of my family celebrating at our individual homes and using social media to connect with each other. We are doing this out of love for each other and through that love comes the desire to protect each other and oneself from this virus.

We have learned as a nation in these last eight months that large and frequent gatherings increase the spread of the virus. With the primary goal of providing a safe environment for each and every one of us, I have had several discussions with my staff about Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses. After listening to their advice, thoughts, and ideas, I have decided that this year we will celebrate with a **modified Mass schedule**. This modified schedule is done with love for all of you, your loved ones, and for the safety of each and every one of us. This year the Christmas Mass schedule is as follows:

Christmas Eve:

4:00pm Live Stream Mass. This will be a closed Mass where only the priest, deacon, film crew, cantor, and a few musicians will be in attendance. This will allow us to celebrate a full Christmas Eve Mass with you in the safety of your homes that will include all the liturgical singing plus some incredibly special Christmas songs. We anticipate this Live Stream Mass to last a bit over an hour.

6:30p Mass at St. Isidore. This Mass will allow up to **65** parishioners to attend as we adhere to the social distancing and safety protocols.

Registration is required and no one will be allowed in unless they are registered. We cannot go over the **65** parishioners as this will break the 6 feet social distancing protocol. Registration will take place on our website starting at **noon on Saturday, December 19; closing at noon on December 23rd** at <https://applevalleycatholic.org/mass-times>. Advance registration is required so that proper and safe seating can be planned ahead.

Christmas Day:

10:45a Mass at St. Elizabeth. This Mass will allow up to **90** parishioners to attend as we adhere to the social distancing and safety protocols. Registration is required and no one will be allowed in unless they are registered. We cannot go over the **90** parishioners as this will break the 6 feet social distancing protocol. Registration will take place on our website starting **noon on Saturday, December 19; closing at noon on December 23rd** at <https://applevalleycatholic.org/mass-times>.

A note on Registration for Christmas Eve and Day Masses: *Because of the projected high demand and ensuing waiting list, **we cannot take walk-ins.** If you are registered and your plans change, please cancel your registration as soon as possible, so that others may have the chance to attend.*

Weekend Mass schedule (December 26th – 27th)

The weekend Masses following Christmas will still be celebrated as usual. Come enjoy the beauty of the Christmas season celebrations!

4:00p Vigil Mass on Saturday – Live Stream – closed Mass.

8:45a Mass St. Isidore - This Mass will allow up to **65** parishioners to attend. Register at <https://applevalleycatholic.org/mass-times>

10:45a Mass St. Elizabeth - This Mass will allow up to **90** parishioners to attend as we adhere to the social distancing and safety protocols. Register at <https://applevalleycatholic.org/mass-times>.

5:00p Mass St. Elizabeth – For this weekend **ONLY** there will be **no 5:00p Mass**.

(continued)

Although we are faced with these difficult times, I am hopeful and confident that for Christmas 2021, we will be able to celebrate Christmas Eve and Christmas Days masses as we have in past years.

I extend to all of you my well wishes and love during this holiday season. Be assured of my prayers for you and your loved ones.

I am yours in Christ,
Fr. Jeff

Please join us in welcoming our newest staff member - Tom Spataro to the Apple Valley Catholic Community Team!

You may recognize Tom from Mass at St. Isidore with his wife, Jackie and their four children or, more recently, online leading our Facebook Live Children's Liturgy of the Word every Sunday morning! We are excited that Tom is moving from dedicated volunteer into this staff position where he will oversee ministry with parents and children in the Baptism, in grades 1-4, and in the First Communion programs.



A Note of Farewell

In mid-December Diahne Goodwin will be stepping down from her role at the Apple Valley Catholic Community. In her nine years here Diahne has served as Pastoral Associate, Director of Pastoral Ministries and Director of Evangelization and Discipleship. After some time to regroup and rest, Diahne will continue to pursue her passion for mission and disciple making in her position with Alpha New England, coaching and supporting Catholic parishes across the region.



Diahne shared, *"Working in ministry is not a job, but part of who we are. A part of this community will always remain in my heart. I will sincerely miss and cherish all the beautiful relationships I have been blessed to have, and I will continue to be inspired and lifted by the examples of faith and discipleship I have been privileged to witness in my time here. Thank you and God bless you."*

Have you noticed?



Thanks to Martin, Jim, Eric, Ken, and Leo for their hard work last weekend to make the St. Elizabeth outdoor stable ready. By this weekend the hay and animals have appeared and over the next three weekends more figures will arrive, as we journey through Advent to Christmas. Please take time during each week to stop and notice the changes that occur and to appreciate the beauty of the visible structure and, more important, the gift God has given us through the birth of his Son.

The Apple Valley Catholic Giving Tree 2020



The Apple Valley Catholic Giving Tree Ministry is reaching out again this year to our community asking for your continued support in providing Christmas gifts to so many people in need. The need is even greater this year due to so many people struggling during this time of Covid.

Instead of the usual gift tags that they usually put on an actual tree each year, they will be collecting gift cards and checks this year in lieu of asking for actual gifts. This will be in keeping with our Covid safety guidelines and the requests of the agencies we again will be serving this year. These agencies are: The Acton Housing Authority, St. Vincent dePaul Society of Acton/Boxborough, St. Vincent DePaul Society of Stow, Low Amigos in Lawrence, Lazarus House in Lawrence, St. Patrick's Parish in Lowell, St. Mary's Parish in Lynn, Bellesini Academy in Lawrence, Pine Street Inn, Warm Hearts of Stow. Please go to:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/apple-valley-catholic-virtual-giving-tree-tickets-125105775743>

[Apple Valley Community Giving Tree](#)

Mass Schedule

Saturday - 4:00 p.m. Live Stream/Recorded
Mass from St. Elizabeth
Sunday - 8:45 a.m. Mass at St. Isidore
Sunday - 10:45 a. m. Mass St. Elizabeth
Sunday - 5:00 p.m. Mass St. Elizabeth

Don't Forget to Register for Mass!
Please make sure to register in advance!
Walk-ins are welcome if there is room, but
are not guaranteed a seat and may have to
wait until all those pre-registered are
checked in to be seated.

Registration opens at 9:00 a.m. Tuesday and
closes at noon on Saturday, or when full.

An Eventbrite invitation, and detailed instructions, are available on our website. *Phone in reservations can be made between 9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. on Tuesdays* by calling Judy, 978 273-4305 x19. Seating will be limited, Reservations will be required. Masks and safe distancing will be required. Music will be limited.

Our Newest Live Stream Mass Addition

We are so fortunate in our Apple Valley Catholic Community to bring everyone the Live Stream Mass at 4:00p every Saturday and as a recorded Mass on our site throughout the weekend. As you are aware the words to the selected Mass music appear during the streaming brought to you each week by Andrea Goodrich our Director of Music and our AV team of Michel Hoff, Martin Vacek and Matthew Vacek.

We have added another feature. Each week Andrea develops a Mass Worship Aid that can be downloaded before watching the Mass. It has all the songs with the words & musical notes, all the responses to the various parts of the Mass, the Nicene Creed we profess together, and some really great images. You now have the option of downloading this Worship Aid prior to watching the Mass. Just go to the Apple Valley Catholic Community website page <https://applevalleycatholic.org/>. To the right of the Mass image are the links. There you can select the Worship Aid and print it.

Please know that the words to each musical selection for any given Mass will still be part of the Live Stream Mass each week. Enjoy!

Mass Intentions:

Saturday, November 28, 4:00 p.m.
Paul J. Curran, Jr., 15th Anniversary Mass

Sunday, November 29, 10:45 a.m.
Jean McGrath, Memorial Mass

Apple Valley Catholic Christmas Season Flower Funds

We welcome your contribution towards flowers and items that will decorate our churches for the Christmas Season. Please complete and mail the form below to St. Elizabeth Parish or St Isidore Parish at 89 Arlington St. Acton MA 01720, or put it in an envelope marked with the name of your Parish and **'Flower Fund'** and place it in the collection basket at the exit of the church after Mass. You may also make your donation on line using the following links if you would like to make a straight donation to the flower fund:

Saint Elizabeth Parish: <https://www.osvhub.com/st-elizabeth-of-hungaryav/funds/saint-elizabeth-christmas-flower-fund>

Saint Isidore Parish: <https://www.osvhub.com/st-isidore-churchavc/funds/saint-isidore-christmas-flower-fund>

If your donation is in memory of a deceased loved one whose name you wish to have published in our bulletin on January 10, the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, please complete the form below. Contact Mary Ryan at mgr@applevalleycatholic.org or 978-263-4305 x35 if you have questions.

Enclosed is my donation of \$ _____ towards the 2020
Christmas Season Flower Fund for
_____ Parish.

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 Baptism. Yes _____ No _____

My name is: _____

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

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

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

Pastoral Associate/Collab. Dir. Pastoral Ministries:
Diahne Goodwin (diahneg@applevalleycatholic.org),
(978) 263-4305 ext.13
(Adult Formation, Pastoral Care, RCIA, Pastoral Ministries)

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. 11

Collaborative Director of Music: Andrea Goodrich
(andreag@applevalleycatholic.org), (978) 263-4305 ext. 12

Coordinator of High School Youth Ministry:
Sheila Bauer, (sheilab@applevalleycatholic.org),
(978) 263-4305 ext. 23

Director of Faith Formation: Barbara Dane
(barbara@applevalleycatholic.org), (978) 263-4305 ext. 16
(Faith Formation for Grades 5-8)

Operations & Finance Administrative Assistant: Judy Richardson
(judy@applevalleycatholic.org), 978 263-4305 ext. 19

Liturgical Coordinator: Mary Ryan
(mgr@applevalleycatholic.org), (978) 263-4305 ext. 35

St. Elizabeth's St. Vincent DePaul: Conference of Acton/Boxborough
(978) 263-4305 ext. 14

St. Isidore's St. Vincent De Paul Conference of Stow,
(978) 263-4305 ext. 21

God needs priests. Is He calling you? If you are 30-60, you may be surprised.

“First Friday Visits”
Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary, 558 South Ave.
Weston, MA
Friday, December 4, 5:00 PM



Join the Seminary community for prayer & fellowship
<https://www.psj.s.edu/chapel-live-stream>

Zoom meeting with Seminarians. RSVP to Msgr. Fay to msgr.fay@psjs.edu to get Zoom Link.

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR PARISH SUPPORT
ST. ELIZABETH

For the week ending 11/15/20

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Cash & Check Offertory | \$ 6,039 |
| Electronic Offertory (EFT & Online): | \$ <u>7,545</u> |
| Total Parish Support: | \$ 13,584 |

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| Offertory since 7/1/2020: | |
| Total Collected Offertory: | \$ 223,563 |
| Total Budgeted Offertory: (1) | \$ <u>183,193</u> |
| Over (Under) Budget | \$ 40,370 |

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|--|------------------|
| Budgeted loss for the year ended 6/30/2021 (2) | \$ (79,603) |
| Offertory Over (Under) Budget since 7/1/2020 | \$ <u>40,370</u> |
| Revised Budgeted loss for the year ended 6/30/2021 | \$ (39,233) |

(1) Budgeted offertory for the year ended 6/30/2021 is \$475,200. This estimate was calculated based on the actual offertory received during April of 2020, as instructed by the Archdiocese. This is approximately 30% less than what we have received in past years, which reflects the uncertainty of the economic impact of the Pandemic.

(2) Budgeted loss primarily due to the uncertainty of offertory collections related to the Pandemic. Payroll expenses have been reduced through layoffs and reduction in employee salaries and hours. Other expenses have also been reduced accordingly.

St. Vincent de Paul collection: \$ -

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR PARISH SUPPORT
ST. ISIDORE

For the week ending 11/15/20

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Cash & Check Offertory | \$ 1,162 |
| Electronic Offertory (EFT & Online): | \$ <u>2,668</u> |
| Total Parish Support: | \$ 3,830 |

| | |
|-------------------------------|------------------|
| Offertory since 7/1/2020: | |
| Total Collected Offertory: | \$ 83,557 |
| Total Budgeted Offertory: (1) | \$ <u>67,399</u> |
| Over (Under) Budget | \$ 16,158 |

| | |
|--|------------------|
| Budgeted loss for the year ended 6/30/2021 (2) | \$ (39,242) |
| Offertory Over (Under) Budget since 7/1/2020 | \$ <u>16,158</u> |
| Revised Budgeted loss for the year ended 6/30/2021 | \$ (23,084) |

(1) Budgeted offertory for the year ended 6/30/2021 is \$171,746. This estimate was calculated based on the actual offertory received during April of 2020, as instructed by the Archdiocese. This is approximately 30% less than what we have received in past years, which reflects the uncertainty of the economic impact of the Pandemic.

(2) Budgeted loss primarily due to the uncertainty of offertory collections related to the Pandemic. Payroll expenses have been reduced through layoffs and reduction in employee salaries and hours. Other expenses have also been reduced accordingly.

Grant Annual Collection: \$ 12,812
St. Vincent de Paul collection: \$ 15