

# APPLE VALLEY CATHOLIC COLLABORATIVE TWO PARISHES ONE MISSION



*When the sabbath came he  
began to teach in the synagogue,  
and many who heard him were  
astonished.* Mark 6:2 (NAB)

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



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

**Welcome— We're Glad You're Here!**

**Apple Valley Catholic Collaborative Office:**  
89 Arlington Street, Acton, MA 01720

**“Again, Jesus spoke to them, saying “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.” (John 8:12).**

During the pandemic that changed our lives for so many months, as your Pastor I have kept these words close to my heart since March 2020. Not only for me but for our entire community – all of you. In the midst of the dark days of this pandemic, as well as the struggles we encountered, Jesus’ light continued to shine through. And as we inch closer each day to beating this pandemic, His light is brighter than ever.

So, let’s get right to it. Let’s talk about how our Apple Valley Catholic Community of St. Elizabeth of Hungary and St. Isidore is going to mark the end of the pandemic. Let’s talk about how we’re going to come together; parents and children, neighbors and strangers and sing and smile and pray and rejoice and praise God for everything He has done for us.

And let’s also talk about how we’re going to commemorate this experience as a community, and how we will remember the souls who died. Because there’s a need for that as well, no less urgent, and no less important to our community than a celebration.

I know that we’re not completely out of the woods. I know we need to remain cautious, and we need to listen to our local health officials. But I also know that we’re close enough that we can start planning for the future of our community.

And let me tell you, our community will be the place to be this year. We are coming out of this experience stronger than ever before. So, my friends in Christ, I along with the entire staff want you to mark your calendars for our Celebration Weekend on September 11-12, 2021. It’s going to be a celebration like we haven’t seen in years.

Yes, things can always change, but our leaders feel this is a prudent, realistic timeline. I agree. (We can adjust our timeline if necessary.) For now, let’s plan ahead and work together and pray together to make it happen.

We’re planning something that I think will be both fun and meaningful for our re-opening celebration and we want you to be a part of it. This is a community-wide effort, and we need everyone’s help to pull it off. We need your involvement, and we need your input. Please take 5 minutes to complete this brief survey about your lives for the past 18 months and our future as a community.

**Copy the URL into your browser:**

[avcatholic.org/welcomeback](https://avcatholic.org/welcomeback)

I can’t wait to see you, and everyone else, together as one united family of the Apple Valley Catholic Community on the weekend of September 11-12, 2021.

More details are forthcoming so keep an eye on additional communications.

I am yours in Christ,  
Fr. Jeff



## PRAYER FOR INDEPENDENCE DAY

God, source of all freedom,  
this day is bright with the memory  
of those who declared that life and liberty  
are your gift to every human being.  
Help us to continue a good work begun  
long ago.

Make our vision clear and our will strong:  
that only in human solidarity will  
we find liberty,  
and justice only in the honor  
that belongs to every life on earth.  
Turn our hearts toward the family of nations:  
to understand the ways of others,  
to offer friendship,  
and to find safety only in the  
common good of all.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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### Mass Intention

Saturday, July 3, 4:00 p.m.  
James N. Stronach Sr., 25 Anniversary Mass

### Saturday Confessions & Vigil Mass Returns to St. Isidore

As noted in Fr. Jeff's pastoral letter, the Saturday confessions and vigil Mass returns to St. Isidore starting Saturday July 10, 2021. Note the time changes:

**Confessions: 3:00-3:45**  
**Mass - 4:00p**

The live stream Mass will be broadcast every Sunday at 10:45a to our Website, Facebook page and YouTube page.

### Calling All Current 9th Graders! Teen Alpha Starts This Week

You must be getting very excited about returning to a more normal routine in Grade 10. One of the most exciting events in 10th grade is preparing for and celebrating your Confirmation. (Probably right behind getting your learner's permit...!) Confirmation prep at AVCC is a wonderful experience including Teen Alpha, beautiful service opportunities, and a strong foundation in liturgy and sacrament. If you would like to get a jump on doing your Confirmation prep this summer, please consider joining our Summer Teen Alpha starting with 5:00 Mass on Sunday, July 11 and meeting every evening that week from 5 - 8:30 until Thursday, July 15.

This program will be fully in person at St. Elizabeth's We will cover the entire Alpha program in an intensive, retreat-like format. It is a lot of fun, builds great friendships, and will kick start your spiritual journey for next year! (For those of you who did Teen Alpha in Grade 9, you are already all set!). Teen Alpha will also be offered Sunday evenings on a weekly basis during the fall. This will be a hybrid program with some in person sessions and some Zoom sessions.

[Register for Summer Teen Alpha!](https://avcc.wufoo.com/forms/m12wjtpd12ir1ey/)  
<https://avcc.wufoo.com/forms/m12wjtpd12ir1ey/>

### Faith Formation Registration

Welcome back! Thanks to the grace of God, it looks like AVCC will be able to offer faith formation sessions on site next year. Hallelujah! We can't wait to see everybody live and in person! And to get ready, our faith formation team is busy planning a very welcoming, dynamic, and engaging program to bring all our K-12 students back!

We also learned during Covid, that digital platforms can be very effective and helpful tools for religious education and sacramental preparation. As we continue to grow as discipleship leaders, we are excited about being able to offer both instructional models in a hybrid approach that will help to make faith formation even more accessible to everyone!

To learn more about our programs for specific grade levels, please [click here](#) or visit our website faith formation page:

<https://applevalleycatholic.org/growing-in-faith>

This year the Faith Formation fee is \$100 per student.

First Communion preparation is an additional \$75 per child.

Confirmation preparation is an additional \$150 per teen.

We are making it easy, so that everything can be done online! [Online Registration and Payment Here](#) and on our website:

<https://avcc.wufoo.com/forms/m10pcl8r15wlp9w/>

### July 4 ~ Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

We hear in today's gospel that Jesus returned to his hometown where he did not receive a warm reception. What they saw was a carpenter's son and so they questioned his wisdom, his authority and "they took offense at him." St. Paul also refers to the trials and hardships he encountered in his preaching. Despite the rejection they experienced, neither Jesus nor St. Paul backed away from their mission. How about you? When you encounter rejection or obstacles in speaking the good news, does following Christ feel too much for you. At those times, ask Jesus for the help you need to persevere as his disciple, in spite of the difficulties you may face.



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**Collaborative Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults ("RCIA") :**  
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**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



**Thank You**

As always, it was so good to see everyone this past weekend! Blessings to all our Mission Trip participants!

"To the servant of God ... every place is the right place, and every time is the right time." - Saint Catherine of Sienna



**CONTRIBUTIONS FOR PARISH SUPPORT  
ST. ELIZABETH**

**For the week ending 6/13/21**

Cash & Check Offertory	\$ 5,042
Electronic Offertory (EFT & Online):	\$ <u>8,486</u>
Total Parish Support:	\$ 13,528
Offertory since 7/1/2020:	
Total Collected Offertory:	\$ 592,953
Total Revised budgeted offertory:	\$ <u>593,403</u>
Over (Under) Revised Budget	\$ (450)
Revised budgeted net income	
for the year ended 6/30/2021:	\$ 63,602
Offertory Over (under) Revised Budget since 7/1/2020	\$ <u>(450)</u>
Projected net income for the year ended 6/30/2021	\$ 63,152
St. Vincent de Paul collection:	\$ 200

**CONTRIBUTIONS FOR PARISH SUPPORT  
ST. ISIDORE**

**For the week ending 6/13/21**

Cash & Check Offertory	\$ 2,220
Electronic Offertory (EFT & Online):	\$ <u>2,916</u>
Total Parish Support:	\$ 5,136
Offertory since 7/1/2020:	
Total Collected Offertory:	\$ 206,346
Total Revised budgeted offertory:	\$ <u>204,630</u>
Over (Under) Revised Budget	\$ 1,716
Revised budgeted net income	
for the year ended 6/30/2021:	\$ 9,466
Offertory Over (under) Revised Budget since 7/1 /2020	\$ 1,716
Grand Annual over revised budget since 7/1/2020	\$ <u>6,687</u>
Projected net income for the year ended 6/30/2021	\$ 17,869
Grand Annual collection (121% of revised goal of \$32,560	\$ 39,247
St. Vincent de Paul collection	\$ 30