

November 14, 2021

APPLE VALLEY CATHOLIC COLLABORATIVE TWO PARISHES ONE MISSION

Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

*“But of that day or hour, no one knows, neither the angels in heaven,
nor the Son, but only the Father.” (Mk 13: 32)*



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



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

We Welcome YOU!

At the Apple Valley Catholic Community, we live out the commandment Jesus gave to his disciples when he said “Love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another.” (John 13:34). We live this commandment by acknowledging we are all, in one way or another, our sister's and brother's keepers.

We affirm the dignity and worth of each person regardless of your race, nationality or ethnic group, gender, sexual orientation, immigration status, age, socioeconomic class, married, single, divorced, Mass attendance, or anything else. We affirm that we are all God's children and part of the one family of God and that means We Welcome YOU.

Last Friday's Remembrance Service



Many thanks for all who participated in the Remembrance Service, especially the choir for the inspiring music, Margita Chudik and Mary Ryan for the beautiful environment, and Martin and Matthew Vacek from the AV team who livestreamed the event. In case you were not able to attend, you can still view the recording of the service at https://youtu.be/Yk0u9xdcc_o

November ~ The Month Of All Souls

Through November all are encouraged to visit the Memorial Alcoves in our churches. You may write the names of deceased family members and friends in the Book of the Names of the Dead and place their pictures in the alcoves. Please write your loved one's name on the back of the picture before placing it on the wall. After November 23, you may either leave the picture with us to keep for next year or pick it up after Mass on the weekend. During this month, please make time to stop and read the names in the Book, look at the pictures in the Alcove, and say a prayer for those who have gone before us in faith.



St. Isidore Alcove

Thirty-Third Sunday In Ordinary Time

We are nearing the end of the Liturgical Year. The readings call us to think about the 'end times'. That topic we easily push away. . . "Oh, I'll think about it at another time." Yet it is not the time to be comfortable and complacent because as we hear in the scripture "of that day or hour, no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father." Even though you do not know when death will come, how well do your words and actions reflect your commitment to being a disciple? The time to be intentional about following Jesus is NOW! Do not wait.

Offertory Collections – Apple Valley Catholic Community



Over the past 20 months, weekly offertory at our Masses has been collected in the Gathering Spaces of each Church using baskets placed on tables or held by ushers. **Beginning with the first weekend of Advent (November 27-28, 2021)**, weekly offertory at our Masses will be collected during the preparation of the gifts. At this time, our ushers will go from pew to pew using "long-handled" baskets. Baskets will not be passed between parishioners within the pews just yet.

Offertory is the means by which we are able to keep our parishes open & operating. Thank you for your continued support.

Religious Exemption Covid-19 Vaccine

Some parishioners have reached out to me to inquire as to a religious exemption from the Covid-19 Vaccine. Below please find the statement that came out from the Archdiocese of Boston in regards to religious exemption.

I am yours in Christ,

Fr. Jeff

The Archdiocese of Boston:

August 27, 2021

Some parishioners have contacted the Archdiocese to obtain a religious exemption from the vaccine.

Because the Church has no moral objection to the vaccine — and actually reminds us that we need to protect the health of others, and the vaccine is currently one of the only and one of the best ways to do that — there is no exemption in the name of our religion (and the other major religions have the same stance.). The Church does not oblige anyone to be vaccinated, and people can decide for themselves whether to do so or not.

Pope Francis Invites You!



“Synod on Synodality”

Over the next several years, the Catholic Church around the world will be participating in a process called the **Synod on Synodality**. Synodality is how the Catholic Church describes its form of government, differentiating it from democracy and monarchy.

The Holy Father will be meeting with Bishops from across the globe in 2023 to discuss ways of improving the process by which the church, on all levels, is open to hearing the voices of people from all walks of life.

That process will begin now here at the Archdiocese of Boston with asking as many people as possible to take a simple survey. The link to the survey can be found here: <https://forms.office.com/r/aPadVsPft9>

This survey is the first step. Other upcoming steps will be:

- An opening Mass at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross, on Saturday, November 27, 2021, at 4:30PM. The Mass will be broadcast on CatholicTV, as well being a live event.
- Discussions in the Presbyteral Council, Archdiocesan Pastoral Council, and Parish Pastoral Councils and Parish Finance Councils, using a set of questions which will be distributed soon.
- Focus groups in various ministries, religious communities, and demographic populations across the Archdiocese.
- Five regional sessions that will be open to the public.
- The collection of all of the feedback, and its compilation into a ten-page document which will be submitted to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops in April of 2022.

- A closing liturgy at the Cathedral in late April of 2022.

In this process, we hope to be able to make some contribution to the global conversation on synodality. More importantly, we hope to improve the synodality of various local institutions here in the Archdiocese of Boston, as well as of the Archdiocese itself.

Thank you.

Apple Valley Catholic Community Staff

Advent Wreath Workshop

Join fellow parishioners on Saturday, November 20, at 6:00 p.m. in St. Elizabeth's parish center hall for a hands-on workshop to make an Advent wreath for your family table. Plan to roll up your sleeves for an evening of socializing, Advent music, and craft-based fun! At the end of the night, you'll have a beautiful handmade Advent wreath to bring home. We'll provide the undecorated wreath form, Advent candles, decorations, and a gold plate to display the wreath. A selection of fresh greens will be provided, but it would be helpful if you can bring some greens to share... any type of evergreen branches will do... pines, holly, andromeda tips, etc. Please bring a hand pruner. No floral design experience necessary! Desserts, wine, and non-alcoholic beverages provided. Masks optional but highly recommended.

Cost is \$25/pp payable in advance. Must be 21 years or older to attend. Any questions, or to RSVP, contact pam.pnelson@gmail.com

Mass Times

Saturday Mass, 4:00 p.m.— St. Isidore
Sunday Mass, 8:45 a.m.— St. Isidore
Sunday Mass, 10:45 a.m.— St. Elizabeth,
(Live Streaming Mass)
Sunday Mass, 5:00 p.m.— St. Elizabeth

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

Weekday Mass

Monday Mass 9:00 a.m.—St. Elizabeth
Tuesday Mass 9:00 a.m.—St. Isidore

St. Elizabeth's Giving Tree



Every year our parish generously supports many charities through donations to the Giving Tree. This year we will be donating gifts to the following organizations: The Acton Housing Authority, Los Amigos in Lawrence, and Lazarus House in Lawrence. The Giving Tree with the tags will be placed in the entryway beginning the weekend of 11/27-11/28. Please take as many tags as you are able to fulfill, purchase the suggested gift, and place your gift under the tree with the tag attached no later than the weekend of 12/11-12/12.

Please note, some tags will indicate the gift to be wrapped, others will indicate to leave the gift unwrapped. Thank you in advance for helping out these charities!

Collection For Retired Religious Sisters



Next weekend the Archdiocese will take up the Collection for Retired Religious Sisters. Since 1988, the collection has provided needed financial support for religious communities who have served the Archdiocese of Boston as educators and health care and social service providers. Please give generously in recognition of the Sisters' years of dedicated service. For more information, please contact the Delegate for Religious at 617-746-5637.

<https://www.osvhub.com/st-elizabeth-of-hungaryav/funds>

<https://www.osv.hub.com/st-isidore-churchavc/funds?preview=>

Mass Intentions

Sunday, November 14, 10:45 a.m.
Cody Davenport, Memorial Mass

Sunday, November 14, 5:00 p.m.
Patricia McCarthy, Memorial Mass

St. Isidore Giving Tree



Once again, we are helping Warm Hearts of Stow to help those in need this Christmas season by donating gifts/gift cards. Tags will be hung on our Giving Tree with specific gift/gift card information. The Giving Tree with the tags will be placed in the entryway beginning the weekend of 11/27-11/28. Please take as many tags as you are able to fulfill, purchase the suggested gift or gift card, and place your gift under the tree with the tag attached no later than the weekend of 12/11-12/12.

Please note, some tags will indicate the gift to be wrapped, others will indicate to leave the gift unwrapped. Thank you in advance for helping out these charities!



Children's Christmas Choir will begin rehearsals on Sunday, November 21 from 4 - 4:40 p.m. in the Parish Center Hall. All children in grades 2 - 5 are welcome! We will prepare Christmas music that will be videotaped and inserted into the livestream Masses during the Christmas Season. For safety, we will sing with masks, with the chairs spaced apart, and windows open. Contact Andrea Goodrich with any questions: andreag@avcatholic.org

Teen Choir rehearsal on Monday from 6 - 7 p.m. in St. Elizabeth Church. All singers and instrumentalists in grades 6 - 12 are welcome!

Adult Choir rehearsal on Tuesday from 7 - 8:15 p.m. in St. Elizabeth Parish Church. All are welcome!

November 14, 2021

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

Deacon: Charles A. Cornell
(charliec@avcatholic.org), (978) 562-7447

Collaborative Office & Communication Manager: Janice Howes
(janiceh@avcatholic.org), (978) 263-4305 ext. 10

Director of Finance & Operations: Annmarie Mazzucotelli,
(annmariem@avcatholic.org), (978) 263-4305 ext. 11

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

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

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

Coordinator of Young Family Ministries: Tom Spataro
(toms@avcatholic.org), (978) 263-4305 ext. 17

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

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

Collaborative Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults ("RCIA") :
Trina Toups (trin@avcatholic.org)

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

Confession:
Saturday, 3:00-3:45 p.m., St. Isidore

First Wednesday of each month at
St. Elizabeth, 4-6 p.m.



Thank You

Thank You for your continued support of our Collaborative Parishes, especially during these difficult times! Whether you mail in your offertory, drop it in the collection basket at Mass, or participate in our electronic giving options, your support is very much appreciated, because it allows us to go forth together bringing people to Jesus, forming disciples and serving our hungry world as Christ's heart, hands and feet.

"Give yourself fully to God. He will use you to accomplish great things on the condition that you believe much more in His love than in your own weakness." - Saint Teresa of Calcutta



CONTRIBUTIONS FOR PARISH SUPPORT ST. ELIZABETH

For the week ending 10/31/21

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|---------------|
| Cash & Check Offertory | \$ | 8,463 |
| Electronic Offertory (EFT & Online): | \$ | <u>6,571</u> |
| Total Parish Support: | \$ | 15,034 |

| | | |
|------------------------------|----|----------------|
| Offertory since 7/1/2021: | | |
| Total collected offertory | \$ | 195,825 |
| Total budgeted offertory (1) | \$ | <u>213,805</u> |
| Over (under) budget | \$ | (17,980) |

| | | |
|---|-----------|-----------------|
| Budgeted operating deficit | | |
| for the year ended 6/30/2022* | \$ | (70,378) |
| Offertory over (under) budget since 7/1/2021 | \$ | <u>(17,980)</u> |
| Projected operating deficit for the year ended 6/30/2022 | \$ | (88,358) |

(1) Budgeted offertory for the year ended 6/30/22 is 628k.

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|---------------------------------|----|-----|
| St. Vincent de Paul collection: | \$ | 400 |
|---------------------------------|----|-----|

*Includes Catholic Appeal current shortfall of \$14,799.

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR PARISH SUPPORT ST. ISIDORE

For the week ending 10/31/21

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|--------------|
| Cash & Check Offertory | \$ | 6,557 |
| Electronic Offertory (EFT & Online): | \$ | <u>2,742</u> |
| Total Parish Support: | \$ | 9,299 |

| | | |
|-------------------------------|----|---------------|
| Offertory since 7/1/2021: | | |
| Total collected offertory: | \$ | 78,266 |
| Total budgeted offertory (1): | \$ | <u>72,289</u> |
| Over (under) budget | \$ | 5,977 |

| | | |
|---|-----------|-----------------|
| Budgeted operating income for the year | | |
| ended 6/30/2022* | \$ | (37,730) |
| Offertory over (under) budget since 7/1/2021 | \$ | <u>5,977</u> |
| Projected operating deficit for the year ended 6/30/2022 | \$ | (31,753) |

(1) Budgeted offertory for the year ended 6/30/2022 is \$212k.

| | | |
|--------------------------------|----|-----|
| St. Vincent de Paul collection | \$ | 255 |
|--------------------------------|----|-----|

*Includes Catholic Appeal current shortfall of \$11,383.