

Second Sunday of Advent—December 5, 2021

APPLE VALLEY CATHOLIC COLLABORATIVE TWO PARISHES ONE MISSION

2nd
Sunday
of Advent



Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths. Luke 3:4

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

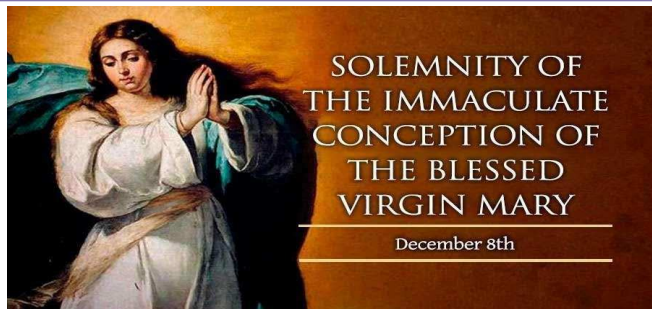


St. Isidore Parish
429 Great Road, Stow, MA 01775

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.



On December 8 we celebrate the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This is a Holy Day of Obligation. The Mass schedule for the Apple Valley Catholic Community is:

Tuesday December 7, 2021 – 7:00p –

Vigil Mass – St. Elizabeth

Wednesday December 8, 2021 – 9:00a –

Mass - St. Isidore

All are Welcome!

Bambinelli Weekend



All children and adults are invited to bring a figurine of the baby Jesus, particularly from their family Nativity Creche to be blessed by Fr. Jeff on the third Sunday of Advent (**all Masses** the weekend of December 11-12). We hope that everyone who desires will participate in this powerful witness to the celebration of the birth of our Lord & Savior. If for some reason you forget, we will have some figurines of baby Jesus available at each Mass that can be brought home after the blessing & Mass.

The Origin of the Tradition

A beloved annual tradition at the Basilica of St. Peter's in Rome in preparation for Christmas, the Blessing of the Bambinelli was first instituted by St. John Paul II. On the Third Sunday of Advent, the children of Rome are encouraged to bring the baby Jesus (Bambinelli) from each of their Nativity sets to St. Peter's Square.

Now celebrated in other churches around the world, this **Advent tradition** is a way for children & adults to connect their Nativity scene at home to the celebration of Christmas at their church.

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 AVCC 89 Arlington St. Acton MA 01720 or put it in an envelope marked '**SEoH or St. I Flower Fund**' and place it in the collection basket at Mass. You may also make your donation on-line using these links:

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

<https://osvhub.com/st-isidore-churchavc/funds?preview=>

If your donation is in memory of a deceased loved one whose name you wish to have published in our bulletin on January 9th, the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, please complete the form below. Contact Mary Ryan at maryr@avcatholic.org, 978-263-4305 X35 if you have questions.

Enclosed is my donation of \$_____ towards the 2021 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 Baptism.

Yes___ No ___.

My name is: _____

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

My donation is to (please check one)

___ St. Elizabeth Church

___ St. Isidore Church

Mission Trip Registration Is Now Open

Registrations are now open for all 8th - 12th graders to join us for this summer's Catholic Heart Mission Trip! This year, we will be going to New Jersey to serve. Dates are July 17 - 22. Male and female chaperones needed.

For more information contact Sheila Bauer at sheilab@avcatholic.org. Register at: <https://avcc.wufoo.com/forms/q1vv2k1y1p2xy15/> or [Simply Click Here!](#)



THE SOCIETY OF
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

A Message from the St. Vincent de Paul conferences of Saint Isidore and Saint Elizabeth of Hungary

Annually, in early December, representatives from each of our St. Vincent de Paul conferences have the honor of reporting to the respective parishes on the work of our conferences. It is our opportunity to thank the parish members for their strong support of the mission of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. It is that mission of following Christ through service to those in need and bearing witness to His compassion that allows us to serve in hope.

As we continue through the Pandemic we must continue to make our appeal through the printed and electronic Church bulletin. This approach only reminds us how much life has been altered for ourselves and for many of our neighbors who turn to us in their moment of need. It is anticipated that requests for rental assistance may be high this winter due to the cessation of the State eviction moratorium. We represent our generous parishes every time we establish a relationship of help based on trust, understanding and compassion.

Please consider donating by any of the following methods: on-line giving links noted below; a check during Mass; or mail a check to our Collaborative office at 89 Arlington Street, Acton, MA 01720. Please make your check payable to the Saint Vincent de Paul conference of your choice.

Below please find a brief summary of each conference's annual report:

St. Isidore St. Vincent de Paul Conference:

(online giving: <https://www.osvhub.com/st-isidore-churchavc/funds>)

·We assisted 5 families during this year, primarily for rents.

·We received contributions of \$7,523 (\$550 of the contributions were received in memory of Marcia Melone) and spent \$5,980 in assistance.

St. Elizabeth of Hungary St. Vincent de Paul Conference:

(online giving: <https://www.osvhub.com/st-elizabeth-of-hungaryav/funds>)

- We assisted over 28 families this past year with food, rental assistance, gas and utility payments.
- We received contributions of \$19,337 (\$575 of the contributions were received in memory of Jeanne Rotolante) and spent \$21,155 in assistance.

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

Advent Contemplative Prayer Service In The Style Of Taizé – Friday, December 10

Are you longing for peace during these hectic days before Christmas? Join members of our community as we pray in the style of the Taizé Community on Friday, December 10 at 7:30 p.m. in St. Elizabeth Church. During this contemplative prayer service of simple repetitive songs and scripture readings, you are invited to light a candle, bring it to the cross with your worries and burdens, and let the peace of Christ fill your soul. We hope you join us!

The *Advent mystery* is the beginning of the end
of all in us that is not yet Christ.

~Thomas Merton

APPLE VALLEY CATHOLIC COMMUNITY



Christmas Eve Masses:

4:00p – St. Elizabeth – seating in the Church & Church Hall & Live Streaming

6:30p – St. Isidore

10:00p – St. Elizabeth

Christmas Day Masses:

8:45a – St. Isidore

10:45a – St. Elizabeth

Masks are not required but recommended.
No previous registration needed.

St. Elizabeth's And St. Isidore's Giving Trees

Every year our parishes generously support 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 through the St. Elizabeth's Giving Tree.

Through St. Isidore's Giving Tree we are helping Warm Hearts of Stow to help those in need this Christmas season by donating gifts/gift cards.

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!

Music Ministry

Children's Christmas Choir rehearsal on Sunday from 3:45 – 4:15 p.m. in St. Elizabeth Church.

Teen Choir rehearsal on Monday from 6 - 7 p.m. in St. Elizabeth Parish Center Hall.

Adult Choir rehearsal on Tuesday from 7 – 8:15 p.m. in St. Elizabeth Parish Center Hall.

Mass Intentions

Sunday, December 5, 8:45 a.m.
Carmen Bernales, Memorial Mass

Sunday, December 5, 10:45 a.m.
Mary Clare Pfeffer, Memorial Mass

Sunday, December 5, 5:00 p.m.
Regina Johnson, Memorial Mass

Monday, December 6, 9:00 a.m.
Larry Quigley, Memorial Mass

Tuesday, December 7, 9:00 a.m.
Joseph Melone, Memorial Mass



What Is Alpha?

Alpha is a 10-week series of interactive sessions exploring the basics of the Christian faith. No matter where you are in your faith journey, no matter your questions, Alpha is the opportunity to watch videos that tackle questions about life and faith, and then for guests to have a chance to discuss these topics in small groups in a friendly, non-judgmental environment. If you already attended Alpha, maybe you know someone who's searching and has questions about faith. The adult Alpha sessions are the perfect way to start.

Please come and join us on Wednesday, January 19 at 7:00 p.m. for the "Come and See" Alpha session on Zoom. No pressure, no commitment, no fee and no driving!

To learn more about Alpha visit applevalleycatholic.org/alpha, and please register so that we can send you the Zoom link.



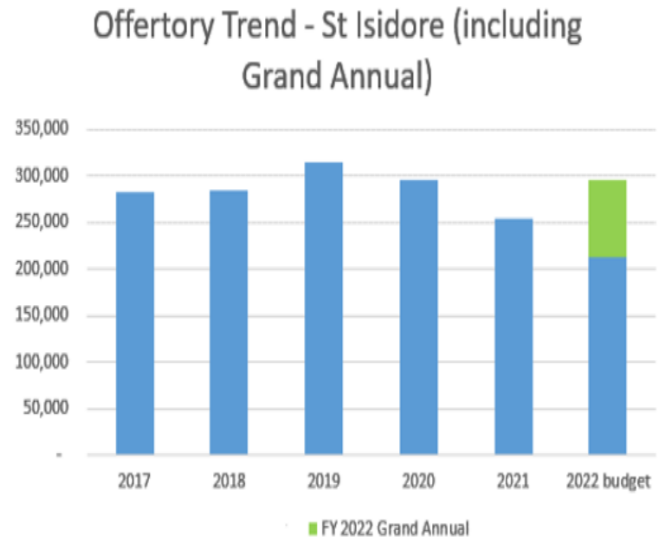
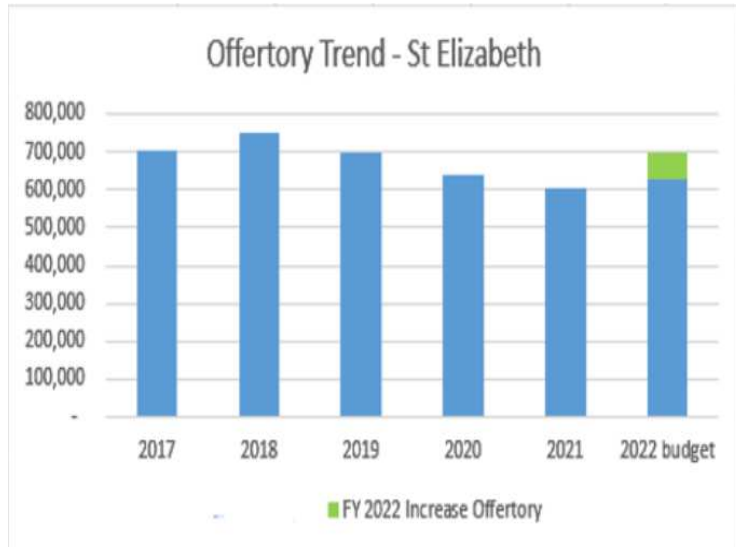
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Thank You!

Thank You for your faithfulness and continued support of each other, our parishes and our community. While we wait in expectation of the Lord, your support allows us to rejoice in God our Savior and serve our world as Christ's heart, hands and feet.

"Mary sustains our journey toward Christmas, for she teaches us how to live this Advent Season in expectation of the Lord. For this time of Advent is a time of waiting for the Lord, who will visit us all on the feast, but also, each one, in our own hearts. The Lord is coming! Let us wait for him!" ~ Pope Francis

The bar graphs below depict the offertory trends over the last five years, highlighting the need for our current Increase Offertory and Grand Annual Campaigns.



The following information represents the anticipated balance in our cash accounts at the end of June 2022. This information has been reviewed by each Parish's Finance Council. The Councils meet every two months and this information will be published in subsequent Constant Contact weekly emails and the Bulletins.

Cash Forecast - St Elizabeth

Total unrestricted cash as of 11/1/2021	302,745
Estimated eight months of revenue (Nov 2021 - June 2022)	388,146
Estimated eight months of expenses (Nov 2021 - June 2022)	(558,052)
FY 2022 Increase Offertory	70,000
Projected net operating cash flow	(99,906)
Capital Improvement Projects of \$100k - estimated and not approved (\$52k has already been collected and restricted)	(48,000)
Total projected unrestricted cash at 06/30/2022	154,838

Monthly income less expenses including projected offertory shortfall	(8,632)
Months remaining in projected unrestricted cash, beginning on 6/30/2022 (plus or minus 3 months)	18

These numbers are based on an Increase Offertory of \$70k.

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Cash Forecast - St Isidore

Total cash as of 11/1/2021	110,625.00
Estimated eight months of revenue (Nov 2021 - June 2022)	124,655
Estimated eight months of expenses (Nov 2021 - June 2022)	(230,212)
FY 2022 Grand Annual	83,000
Projected net operating cash flow	(22,556)
RCAB Loan - monthly repayments (10 months of a 5 year loan)	(2,500)
Boiler replacement expense	(42,100)
Total projected cash at 06/30/2022	43,469

Monthly income less expenses after Grand Annual has been expensed in FY 2022	(5,946)
Months remaining in projected cash, beginning on 6/30/2022 (plus or minus 3 months) *	7

These numbers are based on a Grand Annual of \$83k.

* Please refer to Grand Annual Chart in Grand Annual Letter.

Second Sunday of Advent—December 5, 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
(andreag@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 (trinat@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.



Register Or Update Your Parish Registration

Registering as a parishioner and keeping your information updated and accurate helps us to be able to respond and minister to you more quickly and efficiently. Please visit our website to update or register yourself and or your family. It would be very much appreciated!

<https://applevalleycatholic.org/register>



Becoming Catholic? Returning Catholic? Adult Sacramental Prep?

If you want information about possibly joining the Catholic Church, or if you are an adult who has missed a sacrament along the way, we can help.

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is an individualized process for anyone who has not been baptized, or anyone who is already a baptized Christian who would like to join the Catholic Church. We can also work with adult Catholics who missed First Eucharist or Confirmation and would like to fill in the gaps. We will meet you where you are and help you discern the best path forward. Our parish has a team ready to work with you at any time, since this is an individual process. If you have a child over the age of 7 seeking baptism, we will work with you and the relevant youth ministry to proceed. For more information, please email TrinaT@avcatholic.org

Apple Valley Catholic Collaborative Office:
89 Arlington Street, Acton, MA 01720
Office Hours: Sunday Noon –4:00 p.m., Tuesday– Thursday 10:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.
(978) 263-4305 — Visit us at <https://applevalleycatholic.org>
Follow Us On Facebook: Apple Valley Catholic Collaborative
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