

## APPLE VALLEY CATHOLIC COLLABORATIVE TWO PARISHES ONE MISSION

### TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Then Abraham said, 'If they will not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded if someone should rise from the dead.'

Luke 16:31



**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.

**Church Hall  
St. Elizabeth & St. Isidore**



During the pandemic I had to make some difficult decisions which, in the end, were for the benefit of our Apple Valley Catholic Community. One decision was to discontinue the use of our Church Halls at St. Elizabeth & St. Isidore for private use. I made this decision based on the following. All custodians were let go during the pandemic due to the financial challenges both Churches faced. Custodians will not be re-hired at this time. This has an impact on renting our halls since we have no one to set up, breakdown and clean the halls after the private event. Second, both Churches had teams of volunteers who helped to organizing these private events. The teams did a fantastic job. However, these teams have since disbanded.

Going forward, the halls will not be available for private events. We will continue to use the halls for our internal use such as religious education, choir rehearsals, Auction night, Alpha, etc. Please do not ask for an exception as I cannot permit it. I cannot say yes to one family or organization and no to another.

Thank you for your understanding.

Fr. Jeff



All are welcome for the Feast of St. Francis blessing of the animals on Sunday, October 2, 1:00 p.m., St. Elizabeth Parking lot. Rain date is October 9. Please leash dogs and contain other furry, scaly or swimming friends.

**Mass Intentions**

Sunday, September 25, 8:45 a.m.  
Wilma Tromba, Memorial Mass

Sunday, September 25, 10:45 a.m.  
Dave Welch, Memorial Mass

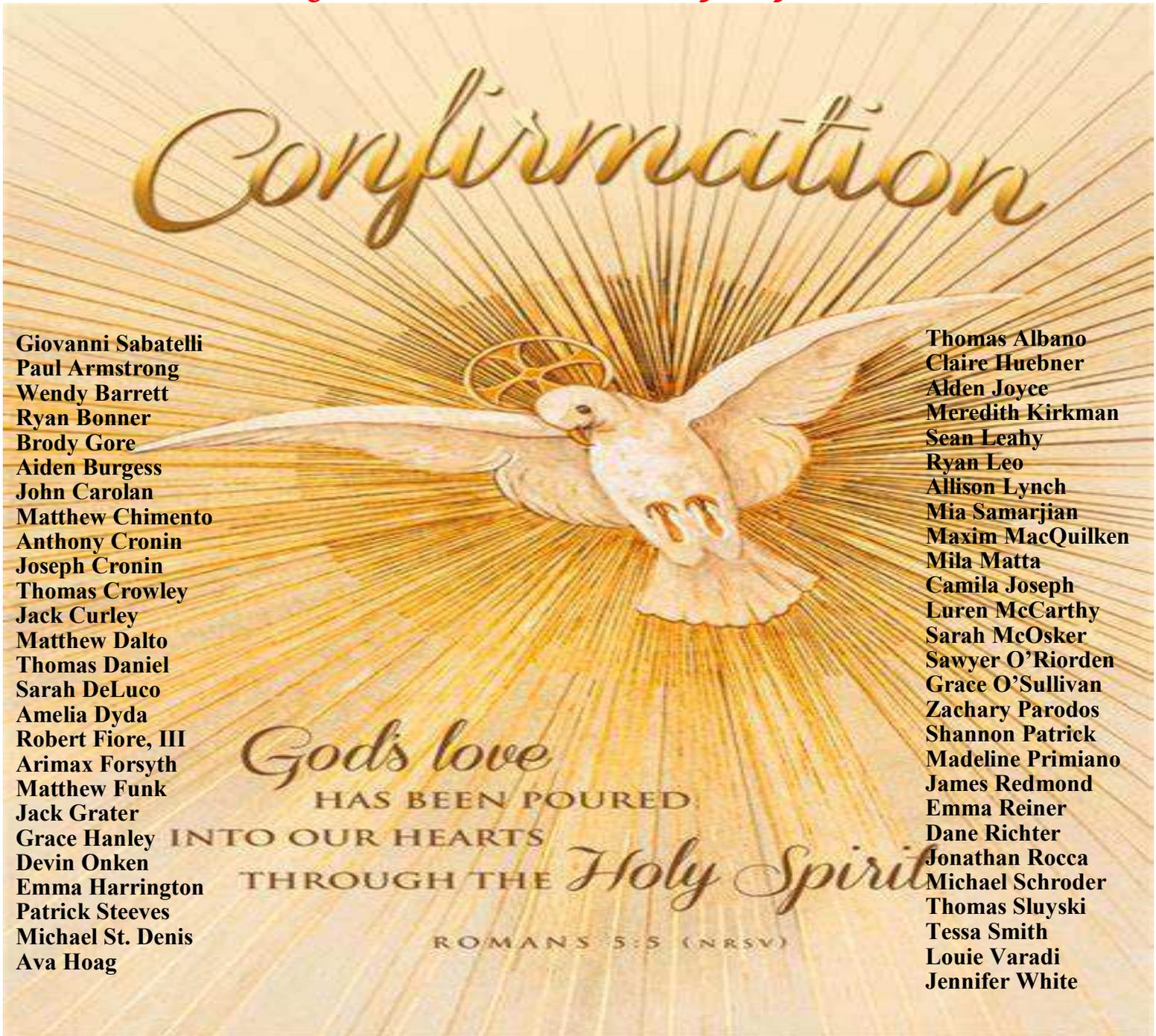
**Meditation Station Blessing  
Sunday September 25, 2022 - Noon**



You may have noticed recent landscape activity taking place outside of our Parish Center Hall. St. Elizabeth's parishioner and altar server, Sean Nelson, a Scout in Troop 32 Acton, has completed the construction of a "Meditation Station" as his Eagle Scout project. The project includes a stone patio and a natural gas fire pit that will provide a place for prayer and reflection for Apple Valley Catholic Community prayer groups, youth ministry meetings, and more.

On Sunday, September 25 at Noon, Fr. Jeff will officially bless the Meditation Station. Please come by after Mass to participate in the blessing and to see the completed Meditation Station. All are welcomed.

*Congratulations To Our Newly Confirmed!*



**Consider Becoming A Prayer Partner For Our  
9th And 10th Graders!**

As part of Confirmation preparation this year, we are inviting adults (and older teens) to partner with a 9th or 10th grader to pray for that person as they prepare for Confirmation either this year or next. This is a great way to connect to a young person in our community and model the greatest thing we can do for each other - pray! There will be an opportunity to meet your assigned candidate, but for the most part we just ask that you include this person in your prayers.

Please email Sheila at [sheilab@avcatholic.org](mailto:sheilab@avcatholic.org) if you are interested!

## Second Collection Next Weekend

Next week's second collection will support the Holy Father's "Peter's Pence" collection that provides funds for emergency and disaster relief. This collection also provides support to The Catholic University of America (CUA) that educates priests, lay people for ministry, and will assist the Inner-City Parishes of the Archdiocese of Boston. Your generosity will assist the Holy Father as well as the various missionary efforts at home and abroad.

For information on these Collections, go to:

1. [www.usccb.org/ppc](http://www.usccb.org/ppc)
2. [www.cua.edu](http://www.cua.edu)
3. [www.BostonCatholic.org](http://www.BostonCatholic.org)

## Music News

**Beginning this week! Children's Choir rehearsals** (grades 2 – 6) begin on Wednesday, September 28. There will be two rehearsal times – 1:30 – 2:15 p.m. or 4:30 – 5:15 p.m. Choose the time that best fits your schedule.

It is not too late to join the Teen or Adult Choirs. If you can sing on pitch and want to join a wonderful group of people singing praise to God, come join us!

**Teen Choir** (singers and instrumentalists in grades 7 – 12) rehearse on Mondays from 6 - 7 p.m. in St. Elizabeth Parish Center Hall.

**Adult Choirs** rehearse on Wednesdays from 7 – 8:15 p.m. in St. Elizabeth Church. Please enter using the side door by the ramp.

For more information, contact Andrea Goodrich at [andreag@avcatholic.org](mailto:andreag@avcatholic.org).

## Twenty-sixth Sunday In Ordinary Time

The rich man in today's gospel felt no compassion or responsibility for Lazarus, the beggar at this table, or for the pain and hunger that existed around him. His concern was for his own comforts and pleasures with no concern for those around him. This parable challenges us to reflect on our worldview and sense of responsibility for those around us so that we don't become like the rich man in the gospel. What will it take to persuade us to listen to God's word and to follow the example that Christ gives us and calls us to imitate as his disciples?



## Social Justice Ministry Corner

After such an outpouring of support for our Afghan family in Lowell through the recent collection of gift cards and a fun-filled Bingo Night, it should come as no surprise that our Social Justice Ministry theme for this year is Option for the Poor and Vulnerable. Whether economically disadvantaged, immigrant or refugee status, disabled, or living on the margins of society for whatever reasons, Catholic Social Teaching emphasizes that the measure of a good and just society is the extent of its caring for its most vulnerable members. This Option is stated throughout Catholic Social Teaching in many sections of the Bible, the writings of many theologians and saints throughout the ages, and through Jesus' example as a person close to poverty. (See [usccb.org](http://usccb.org) for further information.)

Future offerings from our Social Justice Ministry and the Adult Christian Service Ministry, as well as the Archdiocese Social Justice Ministry, include a conversation with Thomas Hollywood from Catholic Relief Services on Oct. 18, 7 p.m. in the Parish Center, focusing on the nature of CRS work in Ukraine and other vulnerable areas of the world. Soon after that on Oct. 22, the Archdiocese of Boston's annual Social Justice Convocation focusing on migrants and refugees will be held virtually from 10 a.m. to 12:30 pm. More details will follow on the Social Justice Ministry website: <https://www.bostoncatholic.org/health-and-social-services/social-justice-ministry>.

## Collaborative Bible Study In October

A three-week study will begin on October 11th at 7:30 p.m. over Zoom. This study will explore a message at the heart of St. Paul's ministry to the Gentiles and the Jews of the Mediterranean diaspora. This study is entitled "Paul, Proclaiming Christ Crucified". A small text must be ordered for study ahead of the first session. Details will be sent on enrollment.

Enroll via email to Steve Ryan [sjryan01@verizon.net](mailto:sjryan01@verizon.net)



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**Collaborative Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (“RCIA”) :**  
Trina Toups ([trinat@avcatholic.org](mailto: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.



**Thank You**

"He's not waiting for you to say vows; he's not waiting for you to make a promise; he's not waiting for your circumstances to change. He wants you today - just today - to say yes to him in your daily duties." ~ Fr. Mike Schmitz, *How to Make Great Decisions*

Jesus Christ seeks to be in relationship with each and everyone one of us. To encounter Jesus is to experience his love in a meaningful and life transforming way. Your support of our parishes is a reflection of your faith that Jesus Christ is the way and the truth and the life, and your desire that this generation and following generations come to know this. Our faith in action is life changing for ourselves and for those who encounter us. Thank You for your continued engagement and support!

**CONTRIBUTIONS FOR PARISH SUPPORT  
ST. ELIZABETH**

**For the week ending 9/11/22**

Cash & Check offertory	\$ 3,318
Electronic offertory (EFT & Online):	<u>\$ 6,632</u>
Total Parish Support:	\$ 9,950

Offertory since 7/1/2022:	
Total collected offertory	\$ 117,707
Total budgeted offertory (1)	<u>\$ 124,575</u>
Over (under) budget	\$ (6,868)

(1) Budgeted offertory (including Increase Offertory of 25k) for the year ended 6/30/23 is 626k.

St. Vincent de Paul collection:	\$ 5
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**CONTRIBUTIONS FOR PARISH SUPPORT  
ST. ISIDORE**

**For the week ending 9/11/22**

Cash & Check offertory	\$ 5,374
Electronic offertory (EFT & Online):	<u>\$ 2,131</u>
Total Parish Support:	\$ 7,505

Offertory & Grand Annual since 7/1/2022:	
Total collected offertory & Grand Annual	\$ 49,186
Total budgeted offertory & Grand Annual (1)	<u>\$ 48,304</u>
Over (under) budget	\$ 882

Budgeted offertory for the year ended 6/30/2023 is \$285k (which includes the Grand Annual of \$45k.

St. Vincent de Paul collection	\$ 25
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Apple Valley Catholic Collaborative Office:  
89 Arlington Street, Acton, MA 01720

Office Hours: 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>

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