

Second Sunday Of Advent—December 4, 2022

APPLE VALLEY CATHOLIC COLLABORATIVE TWO PARISHES ONE MISSION

**2nd
Sunday
of Advent**



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.

Bambinelli Weekend



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 on Sunday December 11**). We hope that everyone who desires will participate in this powerful witness to the celebration of the birth of our Lord & Savior.

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.

Faith Formation Grades 5-7

Faith Formation for grades 5-7 will have their first gathering following the 5:00 p.m. Mass on Sunday, December 4th, downstairs in the Church Hall of St. Elizabeth. The session will run until 8:00 p.m. Dinner will be served and all are welcome.

Youth Ministry Christmas Party

All teens are invited to our Christmas Party and Yankee Swap (\$15 limit) on December 11. Food, games, karaoke and more! 6-9 p.m. at St. Elizabeth Parish Center Hall.

Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 3, 4:00 p.m.
Larry Quigley, Memorial Mass

Sunday, December 4, 8:45 a.m.
Richard & Gertrude O'Neil,
Memorial Mass

Sunday, December 4, 10:45 a.m.
Anne Charlite, Memorial Mass

Sunday, December 4, 5:00 p.m.
Joe Unni, Memorial Mass

Immaculate Conception Mass Schedule December 8

(Holy Day Of Obligation)

Thursday, December 8, 9:00 a.m., St. Isidore
Thursday, December 8, 7:00 p.m., St. Elizabeth

Confessions

Confessions will be heard on Wednesday, December 7 from 4 – 6 p.m. in St. Elizabeth's Church, as well as every Saturday from 3 – 3:45 p.m. at St. Isidore Church.

Music Ministry News

Teen Choir (grades 7 – 12) will rehearse on Monday from 6 - 7 p.m. in St. Elizabeth Parish Center Hall.

Children's Christmas Choir rehearsals will begin on Wednesday, December 7. For your convenience, there are two rehearsal times: 1:30 – 2:15 or 4:30 -5:15 in St. Elizabeth's Parish Center Hall. Children in grades 2 – 6 are welcome to come sing.

Christmas Choirs - Have you always wanted to sing in the choir, but didn't have the time? If you can sing on pitch, come join the Christmas Choirs. Rehearsals are held on Wednesdays in December from 7- 8:15 p.m. in St. Elizabeth Parish Center Hall. This Wednesday, December 7, we will begin at 6:45 p.m. to enjoy some refreshments before rehearsal. We hope you will join us!

Instrumentalists - If you would like to play an instrument for one of the Christmas Masses, contact Andrea Goodrich at andreag@avcatholic.org

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Young Readers Workshop

Calling all kids in grades 3-7



Are you interested in participating as a reader for our Sunday morning Masses?

A new opportunity is available for our kids in **grades 3-7 to read the Prayers of the Faithful** at the St. Isidore's 8:45 a.m. Mass and the St. Elizabeth's 10:45 a.m. Mass.

We are putting the schedule together now for the months of January and February. Please reach out to Kelley Christie at kelleyc@avcatholic.org if you would like to be a part of the new opportunity.

We'll host a workshop on January 6 at 5 p.m. We'll make sure you are equipped with all the knowledge you need to feel comfortable and at ease. All prayers will be provided prior to your assigned mass for practice. Even if you can't make the workshop, but are interested in participating, please join us. We'll work with you.

This definitely grows public speaking and reading skills along with confidence and poise. We are eager to see our parish youth engaged and contributing to the Masses.

Stow Food Pantry Collections

The Kindergarten/1st Grade Faith Formation group, as part of one of their service projects this year, will be collecting food for the Stow Food Pantry. As a group, we'd like to ask you to bring to St. Isidore's any non-perishable goods you would like to donate. The class decorated a box that is sitting in the gathering space. All non-perishable goods are welcome. Items in most need are:

Decaf instant coffee, Applesauce, Crackers, Cream of mushroom soup, Cream of chicken soup, Cans of fruit cocktail, Cereal, Hygiene Items (toothbrush, toothpaste, floss).

Holiday Raffle

Our Apple Valley Catholic Community of Saint Isidore and Saint Elizabeth of Hungary is running a special Holiday Raffle, where the grand prize winner will receive \$5000! The proceeds from this raffle will support the various ministries at the church, including our young family ministries, our social justice ministry, our ministry for the homebound, our partnership with Lazarus House in Lawrence, other hospitality ministries and the general operations of both Saint Isidore and Saint Elizabeth of Hungary.

One entry for the raffle is \$100, and we are limiting the amount of tickets sold to just 500, which gives everybody at least a 3 in 500 chance to win. You can buy a ticket online securely at avcatholic.org or by using the QR code pictured.



The drawing is on January 6th. We hope you'll consider purchasing a ticket for a chance to win! It's for a good cause, and you just might win big.

Prize Payouts: 1st Prize: \$5000 | 2nd Prize: \$2000 | 3rd Prize: \$1000

One of the key ways to ensure the success of this raffle is for you to share with your family and friends, work colleagues, on social media, etc. Go to avcatholic.org/raffle to access pre-written emails and social media posts to make it extra easy for you to spread the word.

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT
CHRISTMAS MOVIE
And Pizza



16 December
5-8pm

A NIGHT OF FUN, LAUGHTER,
AND COMMUNITY!

COME ENJOY A VIEWING OF "THE STAR" IN THE CHURCH HALL. BRING YOUR FAVORITE BEAN BAG, BLANKET, CHAIR, OR PILLOWS. WE'LL HAVE PIZZA AND DRINKS.

 St. Elizabeth's Church Hall, Dec. 16th 5-8pm.
We'll start the movie around 5:30pm, once everyone is settled.

Please RSVP to kelleyc@avcatholic.org



All are welcome for a viewing of the first two episodes of the new season of The Chosen, currently only available in theaters.

Friday, December 9th
7pm
St. Elizabeth Church Hall
89 Arlington St. Acton

Tickets are \$11 for adults and \$9 for children, plus fees.
Tickets can be purchased at avcatholic.org or here:

Come & See



Free popcorn and soft drinks!

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:

[St. Elizabeth Of Hungary](https://www.osvhub.com/st-elizabeth-of-hungaryav/giving/funds/saint-elizabeth-christmas-flower-fund)

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

[St. Isidore](https://www.osvhub.com/st-isidore-churchavc/giving/funds/saint-isidore-christmas-flower-fund)

<https://www.osvhub.com/st-isidore-churchavc/giving/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 8th, 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 2022 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 Epiphany. Yes_ No _.

My name is _____.

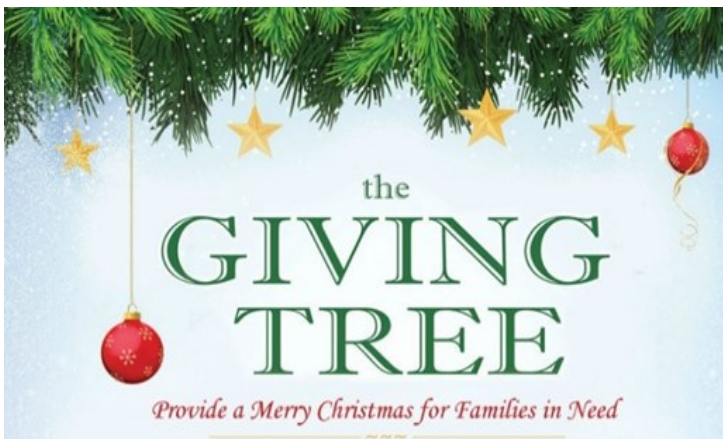
Please check here if you would like your donation to be made anonymously. ____

My donation is to (please check one) ☐ St. Elizabeth Church ☐ St. Isidore Church

St. Elizabeth Giving Tree

Every year our parish generously supports many charities through donations to the Giving Tree. This year we will be donating gifts/gift cards to the following organizations: The Acton Housing Authority, Lazarus House in Lawrence, Students in the Community Group Enrichment Program in Lawrence, and St. Mary's in Lynn. The Giving Tree with the tags will be placed in the entryway beginning the weekend of 11/19-11/20. 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 12/10-12/11.

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!



St. Isidore Giving Tree

We will be donating gifts/gift cards to Warm Hearts of Stow and St. Mary's in Lynn to help those in need this Christmas season. Tags will be hung on our Giving Tree with specific gift/gift cards information. The Giving Tree with the tags will be placed in the entryway beginning the weekend of 11/19-11/20. 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 12/10-12/11.

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!



Apple Valley Catholic Community Christmas & New Year's Day Mass Schedule

Christmas

Vigil Mass - December 24

4:00 p.m. St. Elizabeth

6:30 p.m. St. Isidore

10:00 p.m. St. Elizabeth

December 25

8:45 a.m. St. Isidore

10:45 a.m. St. Elizabeth

5:00 p.m. No Mass

Mary Mother of God/New Year's Day

Saturday, December 31

4:00 p.m. St. Isidore

Sunday, January 1

8:45 a.m. St. Isidore

10:45 a.m. St. Elizabeth

5:00 p.m. No Mass



K-4 Family Advent Wreath Workshop

It was great to see the creativity of the kids in creating their advent wreaths. These turned out beautiful. It was a lovely evening of conversation, creativity, and community.

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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
(andrea@avcatholic.org), (978) 263-4305 ext. 12

Director of Evangelization - Baptism, LIFT, Communications:
Tom Spataro (toms@avcatholic.org), (978) 263-4305 ext. 13

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

Coordinator of Faith Formation Grades 5-7: Adam Tocci
(adamt@avcatholic.org), (978) 263-4305 ext. 16

Coordinator of Faith Formation K-4: Kelley Christie
(kelleyc@avcatholic.org), (978) 26-4305 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.



Thank You!

"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" ~ Matthew 3:2

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 11/20/22

Cash & Check offertory	\$ 7,140
Electronic offertory (EFT & Online):	<u>\$ 14,541</u>
Total Parish Support:	\$ 21,681

Offertory since 7/1/2022:	
Total collected offertory	\$ 225,137
Total budgeted offertory (1)	<u>\$ 237,825</u>
Over (under) budget	\$ (12,688)

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

St. Vincent de Paul collection:	\$ 60
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CONTRIBUTIONS FOR PARISH SUPPORT ST. ISIDORE

For the week ending 11/20/22

Cash & Check offertory	\$ 6,684
Electronic offertory (EFT & Online):	<u>\$ 4,763</u>
Total Parish Support:	\$11,447

Offertory & Grand Annual since 7/1/2022:	
Total collected offertory & Grand Annual	\$ 103,060
Total budgeted offertory & Grant Annual (1)	<u>\$ 104,216</u>
Over (under) budget	\$ (1,156)

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

Grand Annual collection for the year ended 6/30/2023 (18% of goal of 45k)	\$ 7,950
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St. Vincent de Paul collection	\$ -
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