

First Sunday of Lent—February 26, 2023

APPLE VALLEY CATHOLIC COLLABORATIVE TWO PARISHES ONE MISSION



1st SUNDAY OF LENT

*"It is written: One does not live on bread alone,
but on every word that comes forth from the
mouth of God." (Mt 4:4)*

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.

This Week's Second Collection

This week's second collection will support the Church in those underdeveloped areas of the world. Catholic Relief Services (CRS), the Church in Africa and in Central and Eastern Europe and three important national Catholic missions: The Military Archdiocese, Home Missions, and the Black and Indian Missions. Your generosity will help fund the spiritual, educational and humanitarian needs of the Church around the world. For more information about each of these organizations go to their websites:

1. CRS: www.usccb.org/catholic-relief
2. Church in Africa: www.usccb.org/africa
3. Church in Central and Eastern Europe: www.usccb.org/ccee
4. Military Archdiocese: www.milarch.org
5. Catholic Home Missions: www.usccb.org/home-missions
6. Black and Indian Missions <https://blackandindianmission.org/>

AVCC Social Justice Ministry Collecting Household Items—This Weekend

AVCC Social Justice Ministry is collecting new and gently used household items for recently arrived Haitian refugees in the Lowell area. Many of these people had been staying in motels for lack of housing, and more are expected to arrive. Collection Day: **Sunday February 26 at both churches.** Some items, like diapers, have to be new. Others may be very gently used, like pots and pans. See our flyers and signs for listed items. February 26 - Drop off times: 9:45 - 12 noon St Isidore's church hall. 12 noon - 3 pm St Elizabeth's parish center. Please email socialjustice@avcatholic.org for questions or further details. This could be a good Lenten project, and many families would be grateful.

Hunger Banquet - Saturday, March 25th

Join us for a day of fasting, prayer, and solidarity with the hungry. Open to high school teens and adults. 10am-6pm at St. Isidore. Please RSVP here:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1iK0_xDlaIybYWSLimQZFnyUoQs6aXap--V9ygCnQXrU/prefill

Mass Intentions

Saturday, February 25, 4:00 p.m.
Kathleen Weaver, Memorial Mass

Sunday, February 26, 10:45 a.m.
Florentino Prada & Francisco Javier Soria,
Memorial Mass



With great joy we welcomed:

Delaney Grace Higdon

Catholic Appeal 2023

Next weekend, the 2023 Catholic Appeal will officially launch here in our parishes and across the Archdiocese. One of the most meaningful ways that we witness the presence of Christ and deepen the impact of our Church's ministries is by supporting the Catholic Appeal. As your pastor, I invite you to prayerfully consider extending your generosity to this year's appeal. Many of you have already done so and I am deeply grateful. When St. Isidore reaches its goal of \$22,171 and St. Elizabeth reaches its goal of \$49,587, a portion of the additional funds received will be returned to us for use in our parish.

To make a gift online, please visit www.bostoncatholicappeal.org/donate-now. Thank you!

Do You Like To Sing?

If you can carry a tune, consider joining the choir for Holy Week this year. Rehearsals are on Wednesdays from 7-8:15 pm in St. Elizabeth's Parish Center Hall.

Join a wonderful group of people as we prepare music for Easter. For more information contact Andrea Goodrich at andreag@avcatholic.org

BINGO Night - Saturday, March 11, St. Elizabeth Parish Hall



Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Suggested donation of \$20 for adults. Children 5 and up are \$10 and will have a chance to play in their own space.

Cash bar and food. Closes at 9 p.m. Tickets available at the door, but if bringing children, you must purchase your tickets in advance (preferred for everyone!)

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/538144523757>

First Sunday Of Lent

Today's gospel tells of Jesus being tempted over and over but never giving in to the temptations being posed. Rather, Jesus rejects the way of power and domination and the way of success at any price. The readings on this first Sunday in Lent invite us to take time to look at our own lives and to consider the temptations we confront and that threaten to draw us away from God and from the light of Christ. Every prayer we offer, every fast we undertake, and every small sacrifice we make this Lent will lead us to the cross. Spending time with Jesus at the cross during this Lent will help us overcome temptations and recognize the power of Jesus' resurrection. Make this Lent special – trust that the power of God's grace will help you avoid the temptations that stand in the way of our being faithful to Christ.

AVCC Lenten Food Drive

Looking for a volunteer activity this Lent? AVCC Adult Volunteer Service Ministry is coordinating a Food Drive for our collaborative to support Acton and Stow Food Pantries.

Here are key dates and how you can get involved (all are welcome)

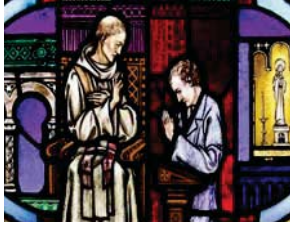
- Take a bag after Masses on March 11-12, or if you are away/remote, use your own bag. Fill the it with needed items on the list distributed with the bags or check the pantry websites.
- Return filled grocery bags at Masses on March 18-19 (or by 11am 3/19 at St. Isidore or by 6pm 3/19 at St. Elizabeth).
- Help collect and store bags before Masses on March 18-19.
- Help deliver food to Acton and Stow food pantries during the week of March 20 (date tbd),

If you are interested in volunteering to help distribute, collect, or deliver bags of groceries contact Mary at amato.mg@gmail.com.

Food Items most needed for Acton food pantry: brown rice, canned pineapple, cereal, cooking oil (vegetable, olive etc.) coffee (especially decaf and k-cups), jarred pasta sauce, jelly, nuts, trail mix, dried fruit, oatmeal (flavored packets), diapers (especially size 6), dish soap, laundry soap, shampoo.

Food items most needed for Stow food pantry: Mayonnaise, 6-pack cups of applesauce, sweetened cereal, crackers, Decaf instant coffee, Decaf ground coffee, cookies, cream of mushroom soup, cream of chicken soup.

Confessions



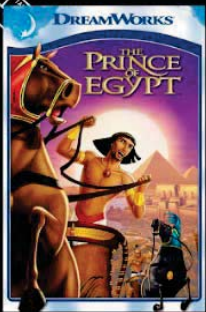
This Wednesday, March 1, 4-6 p.m.,
St. Elizabeth

Confessions are always held every Saturday at
St. Isidore from 3:00-3:45 p.m.

A Season For Slowing Down

During this sacred season, we will intentionally slow down so that we can pay closer attention to our relationship with God, our neighbors and our planet. Reflect on how the pillars of prayer, fasting and almsgiving can guide your journey for a more enriching Lenten experience. How can practicing these pillars help you to live in solidarity with our sisters and brothers around the world? Visit crsricebowl.org to learn more. Rice Bowls are available in the gathering space. Please take one home to use during Lent.

Apple Valley Catholic Presents



FAMILY PIZZA AND MOVIE NIGHT

Come enjoy a viewing of "The Prince of Egypt"
at St Elizabeth's Parish Church Hall. Bring your
favorite bean bag, blankets, and pillows.

FRIDAY, MARCH 17

DOORS OPEN AT 5PM

MOVIE STARTS AT 5:30 PM AFTER
EVERYONE GETS SETTLED

ST. ELIZABETH'S
PARISH CHURCH HALL

RSVP to kelleyc@avcatholic.org

**God needs priests. Is He calling you?
If you are 30-60, you may be surprised.**

First Friday Visits

Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary
558 South Ave., Weston, MA

Friday, March 3rd

5:00 PM

Join the Seminary community either **virtually** or **in person**
for prayer & fellowship

Holy Hour and Evening Prayer

In Person: Dinner with the seminarians and a tour of the Seminary

RSVP or receive more information
Msgr. William Fay at 781-899-5500 ext. 134
msgr.fay@psjs.edu

www.psjs.edu



Online Giving

OSV Online Giving is the system our collaborative uses for online giving. You can give gifts that recur weekly, monthly, semi-monthly, quarterly, annually, or one time. You can donate by an automatic withdrawal from your bank account; or use a debit or credit card. OSV Online Giving is safe, consistent, convenient, and simple to use.

If you have any questions contact Annmarie, Director of Finance, 978 263-4305 x111 or email annmariem@avcatholic.org.



First Sunday of Lent—February 26, 2023

Pastor: Rev. Jeffrey Archer
(frjeff@avcatholic.org), (978) 263-4305 ext. 115

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

Collaborative Office & Communication Manager: Janice Howes
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Director of Finance & Operations: Annmarie Mazzucotelli,
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Collaborative Director of Music: Andrea Goodrich
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Director of Evangelization - Baptism, LIFT, Communications:
Tom Spataro (toms@avcatholic.org), (978) 263-4305 ext. 113

Director of Evangelization - Youth Ministry:
Sheila Bauer, (sheilab@avcatholic.org),
(978) 263-4305 ext. 123

Coordinator of Faith Formation Grades 5-7: Adam Tocci
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Coordinator of Faith Formation K-4: Kelley Christie
(kelleyc@avcatholic.org), (978) 263-4305 ext. 117

Finance & Operations Administrative Assistant: Judy Richardson
(judy@avcatholic.org), (978) 263-4305 ext. 119

Liturgical Coordinator: Mary Ryan
(maryr@avcatholic.org), (978) 263-4305 ext. 135

Collaborative Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults ("RCIA"):
Trina Toups (trin@avcatholic.org), (978) 263-4305 ext. 122

Alpha Coordinator: Bernice Higdon
(alpha@avcatholic.org), (978) 263-4305 ext. 124

St. Elizabeth's St. Vincent DePaul: Conference of Acton/Boxborough
(978) 263-4305 ext. 114

St. Isidore's St. Vincent De Paul Conference of Stow
(978) 263-4305 ext. 121

Confession:
Saturday, 3:00-3:45 p.m., St. Isidore
First Wednesday of each month at
St. Elizabeth, 4-6 p.m.



Thank You

"Brothers and sisters: We are ambassadors for Christ, as if God were appealing through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God." ~ 2 Corinthians 5:20

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 Son of God, 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 2/12/23

Cash & Check offertory	\$ 5,164
Electronic offertory (EFT & Online):	<u>\$ 6,619</u>
Total Parish Support:	\$ 11,783

Offertory since 7/1/2022:	
Total collected offertory	\$ 373,507
Total budgeted offertory (1)	<u>\$ 379,725</u>
Over (under) budget	\$ (6,218)

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

St. Vincent de Paul collection:	\$ 65
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CONTRIBUTIONS FOR PARISH SUPPORT ST. ISIDORE

For the week ending 2/12/23

Cash & Check offertory	\$ 2,345
Electronic offertory (EFT & Online):	<u>\$ 1,835</u>
Total Parish Support:	\$ 4,181

Offertory & Grand Annual since 7/1/2022	
Total collected offertory & Grand Annual	\$ 171,805
Total budgeted offertory & Grant Annual (1)	<u>\$ 174,911</u>
Over (under) budget	\$ (3,106)

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 (41% of goal of 45k)	\$ 18,310
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St. Vincent de Paul collection	\$ -
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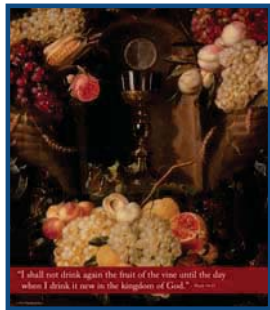
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"I WAS TIRED OF LIVING IN PAIN"

If you or a loved one are suffering from Fibromyalgia, you understand this sentiment all too well.

Local resident Elyse K. found herself at a turning point when she noticed her diagnosis started to take its toll on her marriage.

"I was angry all the time because of all the things I couldn't do anymore because of my Fibromyalgia. That anger cycled through to depression and affected everyone around me, my husband more than anyone. It made our lives miserable."

Fibromyalgia impacts the entire body, and it can impact everyone's body a little differently, making symptoms hard to manage and even harder to keep track of.

These symptoms can change on a daily basis—sometimes you're plagued with widespread muscle pain and fatigue, other days it's a headache and heightened sensitivity to touch. Fibromyalgia symptoms can interfere with every aspect of your life.

"I could barely stand to have the light weight of bedsheets touching me, much less a hug from my husband."
explains Elyse.

Your primary care doctor may suggest dietary changes and pain liniments and pharmaceuticals to the point where your life is no longer ruled by Fibromyalgia but instead it's ruled by a routine and pill regimen in order to avoid flare-ups. Elyse put it this way,
"My life was no longer my own."

In her own research, Elyse discovered that acupuncture can help ease pain and improve the quality of life of Fibro patients. She was determined to find the best in the field, which is how she discovered **AWC | Acupuncture & Wellness Clinic** and Acupuncturist Min K. Jeon.

Acupuncturist Min K. Jeon has spent over two decades successfully treating difficult to manage chronic pain conditions using the time-tested science of acupuncture integrated with modern medical advancements in healing and recovery.

"I feel like a new person. My husband comes with me to my appointments and spends most of it thanking Min for giving him back the woman he married. For the first time since we moved here, one of my neighbors told me I looked good! It's a miracle, I don't know how else to explain it."

If you're looking for a medical practitioner and a practice, Elyse describes AWC almost as enthusiastically as she does their treatments, who understands your diagnosis and has proven solutions for chronic pain then look no further than **AWC**.



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"God is Love" 1 John 4:8



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Fr. Tom Nestor has served as pastor at the Collaborative Parishes of Resurrection and Saint Paul in Hingham for the past ten years, and previously served at St. Eulalia's in Winchester for 17 years. A Harvard graduate and native of West Roxbury, Fr. Nestor is known for fostering a sense of community wherever he goes.

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Your primary care doctor may suggest dietary changes and pain liniments and pharmaceuticals to the point where your life is no longer ruled by Fibromyalgia but instead it's ruled by a routine and pill regimen in order to avoid flare-ups. Elyse put it this way,
"My life was no longer my own."

In her own research, Elyse discovered that acupuncture can help ease pain and improve the quality of life of Fibro patients. She was determined to find the best in the field, which is how she discovered **AWC | Acupuncture & Wellness Clinic** and Acupuncturist Min K. Jeon.

Acupuncturist Min K. Jeon has spent over two decades successfully treating difficult to manage chronic pain conditions using the time-tested science of acupuncture integrated with modern medical advancements in healing and recovery.

"I feel like a new person. My husband comes with me to my appointments and spends most of it thanking Min for giving him back the woman he married. For the first time since we moved here, one of my neighbors told me I looked good! It's a miracle, I don't know how else to explain it."

If you're looking for a medical practitioner and a practice, Elyse describes AWC almost as enthusiastically as she does their treatments, who understands your diagnosis and has proven solutions for chronic pain then look no further than **AWC**.



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"God is Love" 1 John 4:8



Fr. Tom Nestor has served as pastor at the Collaborative Parishes of Resurrection and Saint Paul in Hingham for the past ten years, and previously served at St. Eulalia's in Winchester for 17 years. A Harvard graduate and native of West Roxbury, Fr. Nestor is known for fostering a sense of community wherever he goes.

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