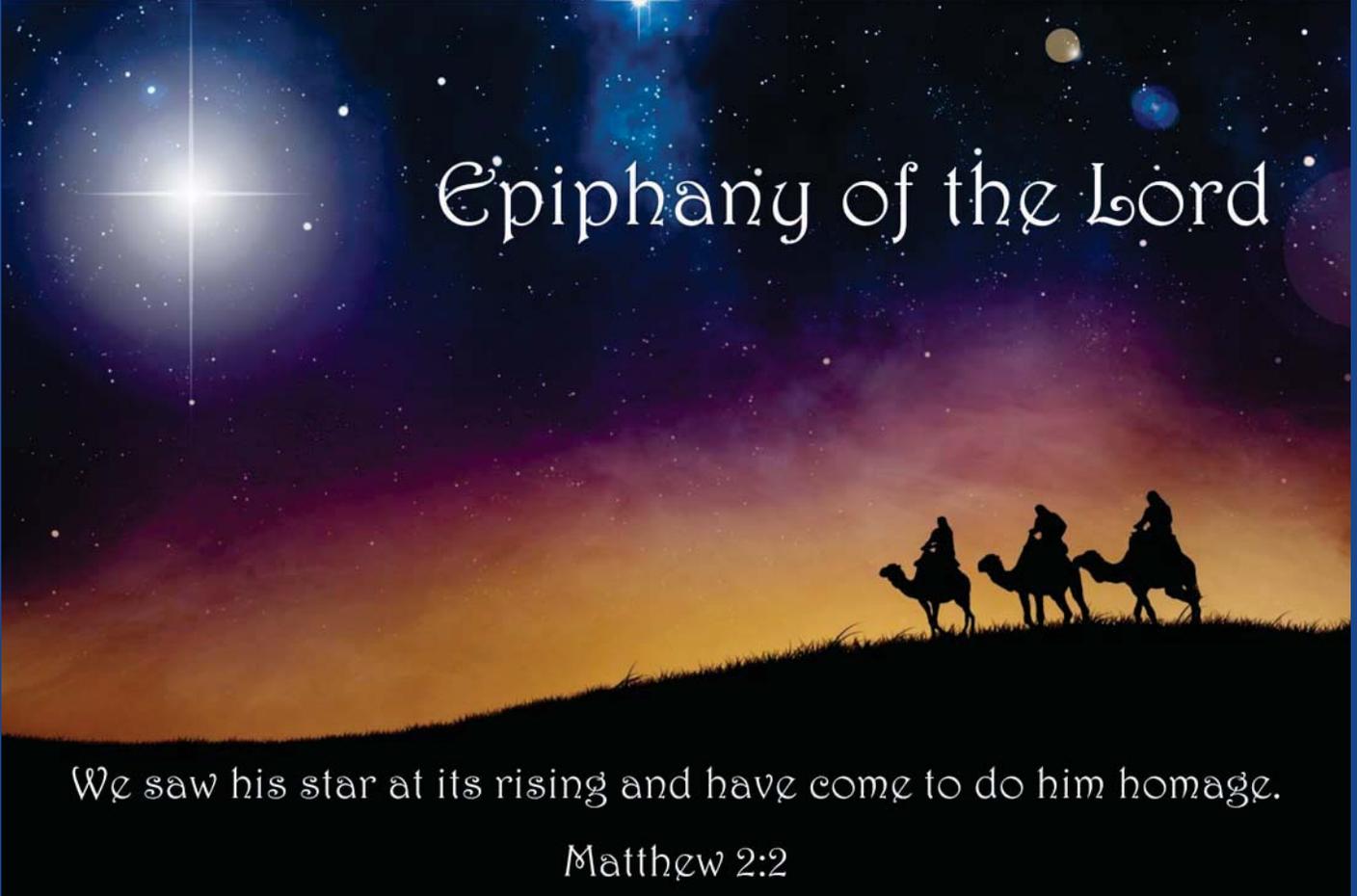


*The Epiphany of the Lord - January 4, 2026*

# Apple Valley Catholic Community Two Parishes - One Mission



## Epiphany of the Lord

We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage.

Matthew 2:2

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



St. Isidore Parish  
429 Great Rd. 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.

Mass Intentions

Saturday January 3, 5:00PM  
Peter Farmer

Sunday January 4, 8:45AM  
Hannah Wasserman

Sunday January 4, 10:45AM  
James & Pauline Walsh

As we move through the winter months and enter the peak of the cold and flu season, I want to share a brief update regarding the distribution of the Precious Blood during Mass



Out of an abundance of care for the health and well-being of our parish community, the Precious Blood will be **temporarily suspended** for the next few months. This is a precautionary measure that many parishes take during this time of year to help reduce the spread of illness, especially among our most vulnerable parishioners.

It is important to remember that Christ is fully present—Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity—under either form of Holy Communion. When you receive the Sacred Host, you are receiving the fullness of Christ. Nothing is lacking.

Please know that this is only a temporary pause. We look forward to the return of the Precious Blood in the months ahead, when the flu and cold season has passed.

Thank you for your understanding, your flexibility, and your continued care for one another.

Be assured of my prayers for you and your loved ones.

In Christ,  
Fr. Jeff

Upcoming Events

January 10 - Winter Potluck  
at St Isidore

January 18 - Family Games and Hot Cocoa  
at St. Elizabeth

January 22 - Social Justice Ministry presents -  
Promoting and Protecting Human Life with  
Msgr. Hehir at St Elizabeth

February 1 - Children's Mass  
at St Isidore

JOIN US  
FOR THE  
*Winter Wonderland*  
POT LUCK DINNER

JANUARY 10TH AT 6PM  
AT ST ISIDORE IN THE HALL

- BRING YOUR FAVORITE DISH TO SHARE
- BYO BEVERAGE - WE WILL PROVIDE WATER, COFFEE AND TEA

Any questions????? contact  
Tom Moroney - [t.moroney@comcast.net](mailto:t.moroney@comcast.net)  
or  
Susan Bleecker - [nutsey@comcast.net](mailto:nutsey@comcast.net)



In December, the children from our CARES program helped host the Center School All School Meeting and teach the students in school about gratitude!

## ***The Epiphany of the Lord - January 4, 2026***

Dear Sisters & Brothers in Christ,

Today we celebrate the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord a feast that reveals something essential about who God is and how God chooses to work in the world.



The Gospel presents us with the Magi: seekers from a distant land, outsiders to Israel, scholars who studied the heavens and followed a star they could not fully explain. They were not kings of power or people of privilege in Jerusalem. They were watchful hearts, attentive minds, and open souls. And to them God chose to reveal the birth of His Son.

That alone tells us something important about God.

God's first witnesses to the newborn Christ were not the expected ones. They were not the religious authorities or those closest to the center of power. God called those who were willing to look up, to notice, to wonder, and to move. The Magi remind us that God often speaks beyond our boundaries, outside our comfort zones, and in ways that require trust and courage.

The Magi followed a star but what they were really following was a longing placed in their hearts by God. Their journey was not easy or direct. It required effort, patience, and risk. And when they finally arrived, they did not find a palace or a throne. They found a child vulnerable, humble, and wrapped in simplicity. And there, they knelt. They offered their gifts. They offered their lives.

This is Epiphany: **God revealing Himself not in power, but in presence; not in control, but in love.**

So, what does Epiphany mean for us in the 21st century? Epiphany reminds us that God is still calling. God is still revealing. And God is still inviting us to seek.

Like the Magi, we live in a world filled with noise, distraction, and uncertainty. It can be easy to miss the quiet signs of God's presence. Epiphany challenges us to ask: ***What stars is God placing before us today?*** Where is God gently inviting us to move—to step out of routine, to deepen our faith, to offer our gifts, to change direction when necessary?

The Magi did not return home the same way they came. Scripture tells us they went home ***“by another way.”*** Encountering Christ always changes us. Epiphany invites us to trust that following Christ will always lead us forward, even when the road home looks different than the one we knew.

This feast also reminds us that the Gospel is for everyone. From the very beginning, Jesus is revealed not just to one people, but to all nations. Epiphany calls us to widen our hearts, to welcome the stranger, and to recognize Christ in those who may seem different from us. God's light was never meant to be hidden it was meant to be shared.

As we celebrate Epiphany, may we become modern-day Magi: people who seek Christ with sincerity, who follow the signs of God's grace in our daily lives, and who are not afraid to kneel in humility before the Lord who comes to meet us.

May we recognize the light of Christ not only in Bethlehem, but in our homes, our parish, our community, and our world—and may we have the courage to walk ***“by another way,”*** transformed by the love we have encountered.

With prayers for you and your family,  
-Fr Jeff

# Thank You



Thank You to everyone who made a donation toward enhancing our worship environments during the Christmas Season. Your gift is greatly appreciated. Listed below are the names of those for whom a contribution was made:

**Saint Elizabeth of Hungary:**

- Betty & John Saganich
- Edward J. Magee
- Paul & Tommy Hebert
- Wallace & Eleanor Turzyn
- David Saganich
- George Arnold Sutherland
- Higdon & Merritt Families
- Bassett & DuFresne Families
- Shaun Patrick Rogers
- Lionel J. (Leo) DeMers
- Eleanor & Ray Zoanetti
- Virginia Langelier
- Jerry & Samuel Magluilo
- Beverly Allard & Eleanor McMahon
- Donald A. Wilks
- Lauren Nardone

Mary Coffey McGuire

**Saint Isidore:**

- Murphy, Miano, Metivier & Driscoll Families
- Alejandrina Perez, Magdalena Agosto, Seth Agosto, Osvaldo Amarat, Luis Soto
- Julio & Mercedes Morales
- Mileski & Magda Families
- Kelly & Corley Families
- Agnes & Paul Senna
- Donald H. & Lenore J. Dichard
- Michael Paul Hester
- Marguerite Bourdon
- Christine Bisol
- Juliette Bitar
- Starner Family Members

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## Promoting and Protecting Human Life



THE SOCIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY WELCOMES

### MONSIGNOR BRYAN HEHIR

FOR A PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ON QUESTIONS RELATED TO PROMOTING AND PROTECTING HUMAN LIFE.

All are welcome and encouraged to come and engage in these important life issues with one of America's foremost scholars.

January, 22 @ 7pm  
St. Elizabeth of Hungary  
Parish Center Hall

MSGR. HEHIR CURRENTLY SERVES AS THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES FOR THE ARCHDIOCESE OF BOSTON. UNTIL 2021, HE WAS A PROFESSOR OF RELIGION AND PUBLIC LIFE AT HARVARD'S JFK SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT FOR 20 YEARS. HE LEAD THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS' INTERNATIONAL BRANCH OF THE OFFICE OF JUSTICE AND PEACE AND WAS ALSO THE HEAD OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES USA.

MSGR. HEHIR WILL DISCUSS THE EXPANSIVENESS OF THE CHURCH'S TEACHING THAT SPANS SEVERAL ISSUES THAT ALL RESPECT LIFE. DURING HIS PRESENTATION, YOU WILL HEAR HIM OFFER HIS THOUGHTS ON:

- "JUST" WAR TEACHING
- ECONOMIC JUSTICE
- ABORTION AND ASSISTED SUICIDE
- IMMIGRATION

RSVPs are appreciated at [socialjustice@avcatholic.org](mailto:socialjustice@avcatholic.org)

## ***The Epiphany of the Lord - January 4, 2026***

I am grateful for the many ways you support our parish community: through your presence at Mass, your prayers, your volunteer service, and your financial gifts. Because of your faithfulness, we are able to celebrate the sacraments, accompany families in difficult moments, form our young people in the faith, offer faith formation for adults through LIFT, support those who are struggling, and continue building a parish where all are welcome.



If your financial situation permits, I humbly invite you to consider making a special year-end donation to support our parish mission. Year-end gifts help sustain our operating needs, maintain our sacred spaces, strengthen our youth and adult faith formation programs, and assist us in responding to the pastoral needs of those who turn to the Church for hope. Every gift regardless of the amount makes a real and lasting difference.

As we prepare to celebrate Christmas, I ask God to bless you and your loved ones with peace, joy, and renewed hope. Thank you for being a vital part of our parish family.

In Christ's Love,  
Fr. Jeff

**To express our gratitude, all donors contributing to the 2025 year-end giving campaign will be automatically entered into a raffle to win a \$500 gift card to the Liberty Hotel in Boston.**



1. Online Giving – Donate to our Year-End Donation Fund using our Online Giving Program. This can be found on our website at [www.avcatholic.org/donate](http://www.avcatholic.org/donate) or by scanning the QR code. Select either St. Isidore or St. Elizabeth of Hungary Parish. Select our Year-End Donation Fund and make your donation.



2. One-Time Gift – Donate to our Year-End Donation Fund by writing a check made payable to St. Elizabeth of Hungary or St. Isidore and return via the basket at Mass or mail to the Parish offices at 89 Arlington Street, Acton, MA 01720. Please be sure to note on your check that this is for our Year-End Donation Fund.

3. Give from your investment portfolio - Some of your fellow parishioners have chosen to donate appreciated stock or mutual fund units for their offerings. It helps our parish meet its financial obligations and also reduces your capital gains tax. Others are donating a portion of their IRA Required Minimum Distributions (RMD), and for those over 73 years old, you can use a very tax efficient tool called a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) that counts toward your RMD. You should consult with a tax or financial advisor regarding your specific situation and other potential tools that are available to you such as charitable remainder trusts, Donor Advised Funds, and other planned giving methods. Be sure to specify which parish your donation is for.

# The Epiphany of the Lord - January 4, 2026

## Weekend Mass Times

**Saturday Mass, 5:00 p.m.— St. Elizabeth**  
**Sunday Mass, 8:45 a.m.— St. Isidore**  
**Sunday Mass, 10:45 a.m.— St. Elizabeth**

## Weekday Mass Times

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

**Confessions: Saturday, 4:00-4:45 p.m., St. Elizabeth**  
**1st Wednesday of the Month: St. Isidore 4:00-6:00 p.m.**

## Apple Valley Catholic Parish Team

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

Weekend Presider & Prof. of Philosophy and Theology at Pope St. John  
XXIII National Seminary: Msgr. Fay

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

Comptroller, Joe Nelson,  
joen@avcatholic.org, (978) 263-4305 ext. 111

Financial Consultant: Annmarie Mazzucotelli  
annmariem@avcatholic.org

Director of Evangelization - Baptism, LIFT, Communications:  
Tom Spataro toms@avcatholic.org, (978) 263-4305  
ext. 113

Director of Music - Arline Carboneau,  
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Director of Religious Education - Youth Ministry:  
Sheila Bauer, sheilab@avcatholic.org,  
(978) 263-4305 ext. 123

Coordinator of Faith Formation Grades 5-7:  
Adam Tocci  
adamt@avcatholic.org, (978) 263-4305 ext. 116

Coordinator of Faith Formation K-4: Kelley Christie  
kelleyc@avcatholic.org, (978) 26-4305 ext. 117

Finance & Operations Administrative Assistant:  
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judyr@avcatholic.org, 978 263-4305 ext. 119

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

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

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

Custodian: Daniel Farah  
danielf@avcatholic.org

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

## Thank You

"(Jesus said) This is the one about whom it is written: *Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way before you.*" ~ Matthew 11: 10

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 Lord, and your desire that our 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 12/14/2025

Cash & Check offertory	\$ 7,463
Electronic offertory (EFT & Online):	\$ 5,970
Total Parish Support	\$ 13,433
St. Vincent de Paul collection:	\$ 347

### CONTRIBUTIONS FOR PARISH SUPPORT ST. ISIDORE

For the week ending 12/14/2025

Cash & Check offertory	\$ 13,589
Electronic offertory (EFT & Online):	\$ 2,927
Total Parish Support	\$ 16,516
St. Vincent de Paul collection:	\$ 49

Please note that only online donations to Saint Vincent de Paul are recorded. Cash left in the door boxes and checks made out directly to Saint Vincent de Paul are not included in our records.

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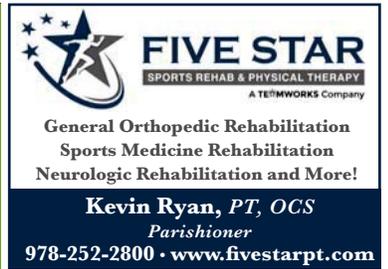
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