

The Baptism of the Lord - January 11, 2026

Apple Valley Catholic Community Two Parishes - One Mission

*A*fter Jesus was baptized... he saw the Spirit of
God descending like a dove coming upon him.

Matthew 3:16

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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.

The Baptism of the Lord - January 11, 2026

Mass Intentions

Saturday January 10, 5:00PM
Andrew Peter Schmier

Sunday January 11, 8:45AM
James Dufault

Sunday January 11, 10:45AM
Blanche Cooke

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.

Upcoming Events

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

February 7 - Trivia night at St. Elizabeth to benefit Household Goods

Parish Finance Update

One of the wonderful traditions at AVCC is our Sunday Café hospitality ministry following each of our Sunday Masses. After all, who doesn't enjoy Dunkin' donuts and coffee on a Sunday morning? Our cafés are made possible by a dedicated team of volunteers who faithfully set up, prepare, and serve our parish community every week.



If you haven't visited yet, we invite you to stop by and spend time getting to know your fellow parishioners.

AVCC is proud to host the Sunday Café as a way for our parish community to socialize, build friendships, welcome new parishioners, and strengthen our sense of community. In FY2025, after donations were deducted, AVCC covered \$1,600 of the Sunday Cafés costs for both St Elizabeth and St Isidore locations.

A gentle reminder that the Sunday Café is a not-for-profit parish gathering, and any contributions go directly toward covering expenses. Please consider a donation the next time you stop in for those delicious donuts and coffee!

Thank You to everyone who made a donation toward enhancing our worship environment during the Christmas Season.

Your gift is greatly appreciated.

Listed here are the names of those for whom a contribution was made:



St. Elizabeth of Hungary:

Robert C. Alessio
John & Betty Halvey

St. Isidore:

William Sexton Sr & Laurence Sexton
Richard & Robert Bryce
John Thibeault, Edward & Jane Connor

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Today, the Church brings the Christmas season to a close by celebrating the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. This beautiful feast invites us to move from the manger to the river, from Bethlehem to the Jordan, and to reflect on who Jesus is and who *we* are because of Him.



In our Gospel (Matthew 3:13–17), we witness a powerful and surprising moment. Jesus, who is without sin, steps into the waters of the Jordan to be baptized by John. John hesitates, knowing that Jesus does not need repentance. Yet Jesus insists, not for His own sake, but for ours. By entering the waters, Jesus fully enters into our human story. He sanctifies the waters and reveals His deep solidarity with us.

As Jesus rises from the water, the heavens open. The Spirit descends like a dove. And the voice of the Father proclaims: “*This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.*” This moment is not only a revelation of Jesus’ identity, but a revelation of the loving heart of God. The Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, is made visible, reminding us that our faith is rooted in **relationship, love, and communion.**

Our first reading from Acts of the Apostles (10:34–38) helps us to understand the meaning of this moment even more deeply. Peter proclaims that “*God shows no partiality,*” and that Jesus was “*anointed with the Holy Spirit and power*” to bring healing, mercy, and peace to all. This tells us that Jesus’ baptism marks the beginning of His public mission, a mission not limited to a few, but offered to everyone.

Together, these readings remind us that the Baptism of the Lord is not just about something that happened to Jesus long ago. It is also about *our* baptism. Through our baptism, we were claimed as God’s beloved sons and daughters. The same Spirit that descended upon Jesus was poured into our hearts.

The same voice that named Jesus as beloved speaks over each of us, even when we struggle, even when we fall short, even when we feel unworthy. Baptism is not a certificate we store away; it is a living identity we are called to live every day.

As we begin Ordinary Time, this feast asks us a simple but profound question: *Do we live as people who know we are loved by God?*

May this celebration renew our gratitude for the gift of baptism. May it remind us that we are chosen, anointed, and sent, just as Jesus was, to bring God’s love, mercy, and justice into our homes, our parish, and our world.

With prayers for you and your family,
Fr. Jeff

FAMILY GAME DAY AND HOT COCOA BAR

GET YOUR GAME ON



**SUNDAY
JANUARY 18
FROM 3-5 PM**

RSVP to
kelleyc@avcatholic.org

We'll have tables set up with a variety of games for everyone to play. Think board games, card games, and who doesn't love a good game of TWISTER! Enjoy a game, or indulge in several trips to the HOT COCOA BAR! I'll even bring my signature LIQUID TRUFFLE (pure indulgence).

ST ELIZABETH'S PARISH CENTER HALL

Bring your whole family, big kids,
little kids, parents! Everyone
welcome!

AVCC PRESENTS

TRIVIA NIGHT

Prizes for the 1st & 2nd Place Teams!

**Saturday
February 7th**
St. Elizabeth Parish
Center Lower Hall
89 Arlington St Acton
Doors open at: 6:30pm
Trivia starts at: 7:00pm

\$20
per person

Cash Bar +
Snacks Available
Free Dessert Table

A Fundraising Event
All proceeds will be
donated to
Household Goods on
behalf of AVCC
www.householdgoods.org

Form teams of up to 8
people to get the
competitive edge!



Tickets available at avcatholic.org

CATHOLIC TEACHING:

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.

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

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

RSVPs are appreciated at
socialjustice@avcatholic.org

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

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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 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.

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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,
arlinec@avcatholic.org, (978) 263-4305 ext. 112

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:
Judy Richardson
judyr@avcatholic.org, 978 263-4305 ext. 119

Office Coordinator/Communications:
Kaitie Duhamel
kaitied@avcatholic.org, 978-263-4305 ext. 110

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 weeks ending 12/21/25 & 12/28/25

Cash & Check offertory	\$ 21,244
Electronic offertory (EFT & Online):	\$ 15,190
Total Parish Support	\$ 36,434
St. Vincent de Paul collection:	\$ 685

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR PARISH SUPPORT ST. ISIDORE

For the weeks ending 12/21/25 & 12/28/25

Cash & Check offertory	\$ 4,961
Electronic offertory (EFT & Online):	\$ 5,890
Total Parish Support	\$ 10,851
St. Vincent de Paul collection:	\$ 18

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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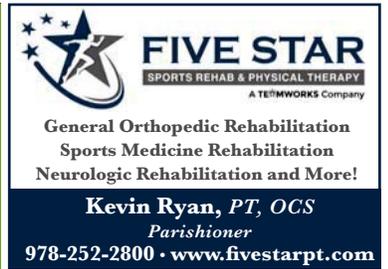
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ATTORNEYS AT LAW

MARK L. SCHEIER
mscheier@skactonlaw.com

REGINA H. BUCKLEY
rbuckley@skactonlaw.com

HEATHER L. DUMONT
hdumont@skactonlaw.com

BARBARA J. EPSTEIN
bepstein@skactonlaw.com

FRANCISCO C. MELON
cmelon@skactonlaw.com

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