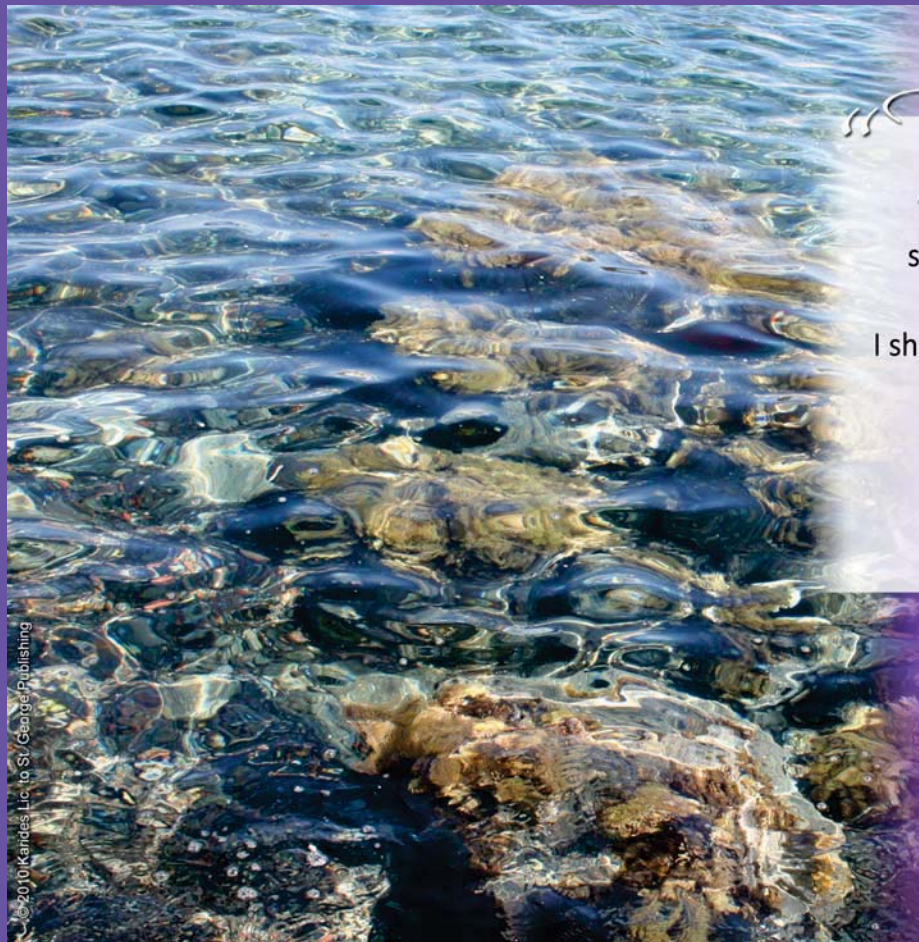


Third Sunday of Lent-March 8, 2026

# Apple Valley Catholic Community Two Parishes - One Mission



“But whoever drinks the water I shall give will never thirst; the water I shall give will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”

*John 4:14*

*3*  
Sunday of Lent

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 March 7, 5:00PM  
William Anthony Farrington Polanco

Sunday March 8, 10:45AM  
Joseph A Cuggino

Upcoming Events

March 20 - 16 Hours for the Lord  
at St Elizabeth

Apple Valley Catholic Collaborative

# FOOD DRIVE

Support the Stow and Acton Food Pantries this Lenten season

- \*Pick up a grocery bag after Mass the weekend of **March 14-15**
- \*Return bags with items to the back of the church the weekend of **March 21-22**
- \*Each bag will have a stapled list of current items the pantry has listed as most needed
- \*All non-expired, non-perishable items are welcome—any donation is greatly appreciated

ITEMS MOST IN NEED IN STOW:	ITEMS MOST IN NEED IN ACTON:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*RITZ CRACKERS</li> <li>*DICED TOMATOES</li> <li>*APPLESAUCE IN CUPS</li> <li>*SHAPE PASTA</li> <li>*MAYONNAISE</li> <li>*FEMININE HYGIENE PRODUCTS</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*KID SNACKS 5+ (GRANOLA BARS, SNACK BAGS, GOLDFISH)</li> <li>*ANY GLUTEN FREE ITEMS</li> <li>*BAKING ITEMS (OIL, FLOUR, SPICES)</li> <li>*PERSONAL TOILETRIES (SOAP, TOOTHBRUSH, SHAMPOO, DEODORANT, LOTION)</li> </ul>

**ONLINE AUCTION!**  
BENEFITS CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRIES!  
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Stations of the Cross

Experience the call to follow in the footsteps of Christ and how He walks in our footsteps with the Stations of the Cross

- Friday, March 13 at 7pm at St. Elizabeth of Hungary
- Friday, March 27 at 7pm at St. Elizabeth of Hungary
- Friday, April 3 (Good Friday) at St. Isidore 3pm - Family Friendly

What We Receive When We Confess

When we bring our sins to God in Reconciliation, we receive far more than absolution. We receive peace of heart, freedom from guilt, and the strength to begin again. The sacrament restores our relationship with God and renews the grace of our Baptism. It reminds us that we are never defined by our worst moments, but by God's unfailing love. Confession does not change how God sees us, it changes how we are able to live in His grace.

Confession Schedule for Lent 2026



- Every Saturday afternoon: 4:00p-4:45 – St. Elizabeth
- Every 1 st Wednesday of the Month – 4:00p-6:00p – St. Isidore
- Friday March 6, 2026: 5:00p-7:00pm - St. Isidore
- Friday March 13, 2026 – 5:00p-7:00p – St. Elizabeth
- Friday March 20, 2026 – 4:30p-7:30p – St. Elizabeth

\*No Confessions on Wednesday April 1 OR Holy Saturday April 4, 2026

AVCC Adult Service Opportunity

Volunteer opportunity: All adults age 18 and over are invited to join AVCC Adult Christian Service volunteers at Household Goods in Acton on **Saturday March 14** from 8:45am - 12:00pm.

If you are available and interested in joining us or would like to be added to our email list, contact Mary at [amato.mg@gmail.com](mailto:amato.mg@gmail.com).



HOUSEHOLD GOODS™



First Communion class members displaying the Bible Jars they made this weekend

Prayer Schedule\*

- Exposition, Procession & Veneration - 4PM
- Children's Adoration 4pm
- CONFESSIONS - 4:30-5:30PM
- Rosary - 5pm
- Evening Prayer - 6pm
- Pray with prayer partners - 6:15-8pm
- Rosary - 7pm
- Prayer for Peace & Justice - 8pm
- Teen Hour with praise & worship music - 9pm. *Pray with prayer partners!*
- Readings - 10pm
- Night Prayer - 11pm
- Rosary -midnight
- Quiet Music - 1am
- Rosary - 2am
- Quiet music - 3am
- Divine Mercy Chaplet - 4am
- Readings - 5am
- Rosary 6am
- Morning Prayer, Benediction & Reposition - 7:30am

16 Hours WITH THE LORD

JOIN US FOR OVERNIGHT ADORATION  
MARCH 20TH BEGINNING AT  
4PM WITH A EUCHARISTIC PROCESSION  
ENDING THE NEXT MORNING AT 8AM  
ST. ELIZABETH OF HUNGARY

Prayer • Music • Quiet • Community

"So, you could not keep watch with me for one hour?" Matthew 26:40

There must be 2 adults in the church throughout this period. Follow this QR Code to commit to a time to sit with Jesus in Adoration



At the top of each hour, there will be a short period of community prayer with either the rosary, readings, or the Liturgy of the Hours. The rest of the time, there will be quiet music playing in the church. There will always be people in the church, so you will not enter an empty building no matter what time you come.  
*\*Subject to change*

Included in the 16 hours with the Lord will be The Social Justice Ministry's "Catholic Prayer Service: Peace Through Justice" from 7-8PM.

The service is designed to reflect the intrinsic link between justice and peace, drawing from scripture and Catholic Social Teaching. All are welcome.

2026 Catholic Appeal



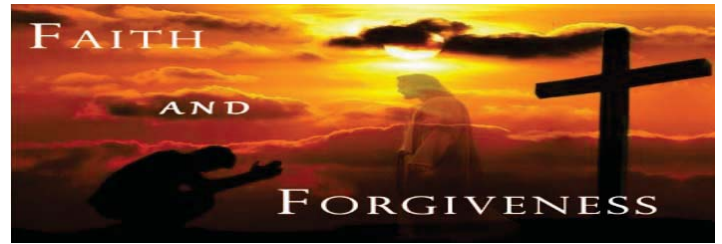
This year's Catholic Appeal theme, Together We Are One, is a reminder of our communion in the Lord Jesus Christ and our call to be united as the Body of Christ. Our diverse and complex Archdiocese is a family of faith with a shared mission to spread the Gospel. One of the most meaningful ways that we deepen the impact of our Archdiocese's schools, parishes, and ministries is by supporting the Catholic Appeal. Your partnership and participation carry Christ's love into our communities and spread hope. Many of you may have received a letter from Archbishop Richard Henning requesting your support of the 2026 Catholic Appeal. We hope that you will respond to his invitation with a generous gift, knowing that each contribution makes a difference. Your early support will help launch our parish campaign in a positive way.

The Appeal is a primary means by which we enfold our brothers and sisters into Christ's circle of care. On behalf of Archbishop Henning and all who benefit from your generosity, Thank you.

## Third Sunday of Lent-March 8, 2026

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This Sunday we hear one of the most powerful and tender encounters in all of Sacred Scripture: Jesus and the Samaritan woman at the well.



It begins simply enough. Jesus is tired. He sits at a well at noon, the hottest and most uncomfortable part of the day. A woman comes alone to draw water. She comes at noon because she does not want to come when others are there. She carries more than a water jar. She carries a past. She carries wounds. She carries shame.

And Jesus begins a conversation.

What unfolds is extraordinary. Jesus gently reveals that He knows her story, five husbands, and the man she now lives with is not her husband. He sees her brokenness clearly. But notice what He does not do. He does not condemn. He does not humiliate. He does not walk away.

Instead, He stays. He speaks. He offers living water.

This is the heart of the Gospel: Christ meets her exactly where she is, not where she should be, and He transforms her.

By the end of the encounter, she leaves her water jar behind. That small detail matters. The jar represents her daily routine, her old patterns, her ordinary life. He saw her completely and did not turn away. He spoke truth into her wounded life without condemning her, and in doing so He freed her from shame. He filled her with living water, restoring her dignity and giving her the courage to begin again.

What Christ did for her, He can do for us.

Many of us come to Lent carrying our own water jars: regrets from the past, wounds we hide, sins we have grown used to, and disappointments in ourselves. We may feel unworthy. We may feel spiritually dry. We may even avoid the “well” of grace because we are tired of facing our weakness.

But Jesus is already there, waiting. He knows our story completely. Nothing surprises Him. Nothing shocks Him. And yet He still says, “*Give me a drink.*” In other words, He desires a relationship with us. He desires our heart.

Lent is not meant to be a season of shame. It is a season of encounter.

In the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Christ does for us what He did for the Samaritan woman: names the truth, He offers mercy, He restores dignity, He sends us out renewed.

When we enter the confessional, we are not walking into a courtroom. We are walking back to the well. We are meeting the same Jesus who sat patiently and spoke gently to a wounded heart. He already knows our story. He already sees our struggles. Yet He waits for us to speak, not because He needs information, but because we need freedom.

continued...

### **Third Sunday of Lent-March 8, 2026**

In Confession, Christ names the truth, not to shame us, but to heal us. He offers mercy, not reluctantly, not conditionally, but generously. The absolution spoken by the priest is not a human encouragement; it is the very mercy of Christ poured into the soul. "I absolve you" means the burden is lifted. The past no longer defines you. Grace is restored.

Lent is the perfect time to bring our water jars to Jesus. Whatever we have been carrying: old habits, unresolved anger, hidden shame, spiritual dryness, a Confession long delayed, we do not have to carry it alone any longer.

Imagine placing your jar at His feet. Imagine hearing the words of absolution spoken over your life. Imagine walking away lighter, freer and renewed.

The Samaritan woman discovered that the Messiah was not waiting to condemn her but to save her. The same is true for us. Christ waits for you in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, not to dwell on your past, but to restore your future.

This Lent, I invite you, gently but sincerely, to come to the well. Bring your jar. Bring your thirst. Bring your truth. Let Him meet you there.

In Christ's peace,

Fr. Jeff



#### **A Note Regarding the Precious Blood**

As we move through the winter months and begin to see a welcome decline in cases of the flu and COVID, I would like to share a brief update regarding the distribution of the Precious Blood during Mass.

Out of continued care for the health and well-being of our parish community, the Precious Blood has been temporarily suspended during the height of the flu and COVID season. This precautionary measure was taken to help reduce the spread of illness, especially among our most vulnerable parishioners.

Thanks be to God, with the noticeable decrease in flu and COVID cases, the Precious Blood will return beginning the weekend of **March 14-15, 2026.**

As always, 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 receive the fullness of Christ. Nothing is lacking.

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

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

In Christ,  
Fr. Jeff

# Third Sunday of Lent-March 8, 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,  
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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:  
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Coordinator of Faith Formation K-4: Kelley Christie  
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Finance & Operations Administrative Assistant:  
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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  
daniel@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 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 2/22/26

Cash & Check offertory	\$ 3,698
Electronic offertory (EFT & Online):	\$ 6,784
Total Parish Support	\$10,482

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

For the week ending 2/22/26

Cash & Check offertory	\$ 2,121
Electronic offertory (EFT & Online):	\$ 2,889
Total Parish Support	\$ 5,010

St. Vincent de Paul collection:	\$ 15
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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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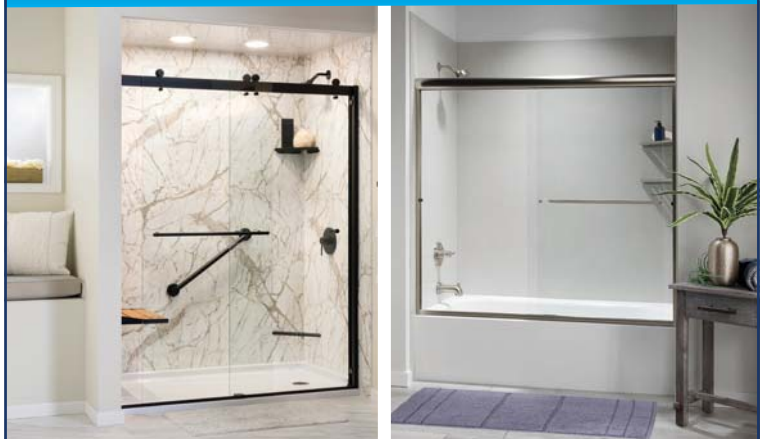
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